SULFASALAZINE TREATMENT IN PREVENTING RECURRENCES OF ANTERIOR UVEITIS ASSOCIATED ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

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Purpose: To assess the efficacy of sulfasalazine in preventing recurrences of anterior uveitis associated with ankylosing spondylitis.

Method: We studied 18 patients with anterior uveitis associated with ankylosing spondylitis who use sulfasalazine and followed by Marmara University Medical School Ophthalmology Uvea Department between 1999-2011. Minumum follow up duration was 6 months.

Results: There were three groups. The first group included 8 patients used sulfasalazine during all the follow up time. The second group included 7 patients whose treatment changed due to frequency and severity of anterior uveitis. The third group included 3 patients whose treatment changed due to systemic manifestations. The yearly attack frequency was 1.5 before sulfasalazine and 0.37 with sulfasalazine in the first group and only 1 patient had persistant systemic symptoms of ankylosing spondylitis. The yearly attack frequency was 2 before sulfasalazine and 2.4 with sulfasalazine in the second group. In those patients, 4 patients had systemic signs of ankylosing spondylitis. The yearly attack frequency was 1.3 before sulfasalazine and 0.22 with sulfasalazine in the third group despite worsening of systemic manifestations. In all patients the yearly attack frequency was 1.66 before sulfasalazine and 1.11 with sulfasalazine.

Conclusion: Sulfasalazine have reduced the recurrence and severity of anterior uveitis associated with ankylosing spondylitis especially in those patients whose ankylosing spondylitis was controlled with slz. According to our study we can say that if slz doesn't control anterior uveitis it doesn't control AS either.