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A case of difficult to treat psoriatic arthritis: Is there a hope with switching Biologics ?

Ubhayasiri SK¹, Abeyasinghe D²

¹Senior Registrar in Rheumatology, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Hospital, Ragama

²Consultant Rheumatologist, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation Hospital, Ragama

Introduction

Psoriatic arthritis is a chronic immune mediated inflammatory disorder with heterogenous clinical presentations. Understanding of the disease pathogenesis has led to the use of biologics over the conventional treatment. But primary biologic failure is not uncommon and switching between biologics has become a therapeutic alternative.

Clinical presentation- 39 years old male with polyarticular psoriatic arthritis, poorly responded to conventional treatment was encountered. He was initially received 10 doses of Infliximab which had a poor response (DAPSA 54). He was subsequently switched to 11 doses of Golimumab and 12 doses of Secukinumab but the disease activity was persistently high (DAPSA 34 and DAPSA 29 consecutively at the end of each cycle). Finally, he was restarted on Golimumab for the second time nearly after 3 years of the initial doses, where a considerable clinical and biochemical response was detected (DAPSA 8.2 after 8 doses).

Conclusion

Switching between anti- TNF biologics in psoriatic patients with primary treatment failure seems a viable treatment strategy. But the interindividual variation in the treatment efficacy remains a therapeutic challenge.