

Novel therapies in pediatric inflammatory bowel disease

Karen Frost

The Hospital for Sick Children, Canada E-mail: karen.frost@sickkids.ca

Abstract

The incidence and prevalence of pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) still rise. It's expected that earlier diagnosis lends to higher treatment and outcome of disease. Nearly 1 in 4 patients are diagnosed at the age of under 20 years old. There are two main tiers of IBD: Crohn's disease and colitis. The precise cause continues to be unknown however genetics and therefore the environment do play a job. There's currently no cure for IBD, but patients are usually managed with treatment. Treatments are often approached in a very step-up or top down algorithm. Within the past, patients required steroids to realize remission, or surgery was more imminent if lack of response made up my mind. At the current time, with more novel therapies in IBD, patients are able to achieve remission at a sooner time, thereby avoiding surgery.

To date, there are therapies that include 5ASA, immune-modulators and biologic therapies. Biologic therapies are still seen as novel in pediatrics. The role of monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) plays an enormous role within the current IBD treatment paradigm. The main target of this subject will review pediatric armamentarium of mAbs like anti TNF, anti ILs and gut selective mAbs, watching its targeted mechanism, the dosing recommendation, safety data and current practice.

Combination Therapy Vs Monotherapy .The potential good thing about combination therapy was first demonstrated within the landmark SONIC trial,⁷⁴ which showed higher rates of clinical and endoscopic remission with use of infliximab together with a thiopurine. The explanation for the improved efficacy with combination therapy remains unclear but is also associated with a synergistic effect between the two agents or the achievement of upper biologic concentration because of antidrug antibody suppression and decreased drug clearance. A post hoc ergo propter hoc analysis of the SONIC trial found that among patients with similar serum trough concentrations of infliximab, combination therapy wasn't significantly simpler than infliximab alone.⁷⁵ Although the employment of combination therapy was related to a lower risk of immunogenicity, no significant difference in rates of clinical remission between combination therapy and monotherapy was demonstrated. Similarly, within the pediatric setting, 2 logical fallacy analyses of the biologically naive) and showed no additional advantage of combination

therapy in terms of adalimumab pharmacokinetics, prevention of immunogenicity, or efficacy. Therefore, whether proactive TDM with monotherapy is up to or better than the employment of combination therapy as a technique to enhance the pharmacokinetic and treatment durability of anti-TNF α therapy remains in question. In a very pediatric prospective study of 77 children with CD starting infliximab therapy (55% monotherapy), Stein and colleagues suggested the advantage of individualized dosing adjustment using proactive TDM at week 10.⁶⁴ Patients who remained on infliximab at 1 year had a better median week 10 infliximab TL, as compared with patients who discontinued infliximab (20.4 μ g/mL vs 8.7 μ g/mL; $P=0.01$), no matter use of combination therapy. Subsequently, Lega and colleagues demonstrated in an adult cohort that early proactive optimization of infliximab monotherapy at week 10 was as effective as combination therapy at sustaining therapeutic TL and clinical remission at 1 year.

Until further pediatric data are available, the advantages of using combination therapy should be balanced with the potential for higher rates of adverse events like infection, malignancy, and toxicity.^{79,80} In pediatric IBD, the employment of combination therapy is also appropriate in children who exhibit a better risk of disease complication, children with immunogenic loss of response to previous anti-TNF α therapy, or children who may enjoy the synergistic effect between the two agents. This decision should take under consideration additional individual factors that the next risk of malignancies and infections has been suggested (eg, risk of hepatosplenic lymphoma in young men and proliferative disorder in patients naive to EBV. who were exposed to thiopurines). Finally, withdrawal of immunomodulators after 6 months in patients achieving therapeutic drug levels has been advocated because the optimum time to realize long-term By virtue of the central role of TNF α in macrophage activation, neutrophil recruitment, and formation of granulomas, anti-TNF α therapy use has been linked to an increased risk of infection.⁸⁵ supported a meta-analysis of 65 pediatric studies (9516 patient years of follow-up [PYF]), the speed of significant infections in children with IBD exposed to anti-TNF α agents has been suggested to be

significantly under the speed in adults.⁸⁶ This risk has been estimated to be 3.5 per 100 patient years (PYs) and almost like that of kids receiving immunomodulator monotherapy.⁸⁶ Notably, the speed of great infections related to anti-TNF α agents represents half the speed of great infections for youngsters receiving corticosteroids (7.3/100 PYs). Additionally, a better risk of infections has been reported within the adult and pediatric literature when using anti-TNF α therapy together with an immunomodulator or corticosteroid. Prevention and surveillance should be key elements within the management of patients on any immunosuppressive therapy, and care should be guided by the most recent pediatric evidence-based recommendations.

Finally, while immunosuppressive therapies may increase the danger of infections, also predispose patients with IBD to infections. Prior reports have raised concerns for an increased risk of immunosuppressive therapies, most notably thio purines and anti-TNF α therapies. However, these initial data were largely limited to case series or retrospective studies with small sample sizes and short durations of follow-up. No case of hepatosplenic. Overall, while the chance for malignancies appears low across the available pediatric literature, the average length of treatment exposure and follow-up reported in those studies is brief compared to real-world experience, and, therefore, pediatric patients should still be monitored closely as more safety data accumulate over time.

This work is partly presented at 18th World Gastroenterologists Summit