First hemoadsorption using CytoSorb in a pediatric patient with toxic epidermal necrolysis

Gabriella Bottari¹, Di Nardo Matteo², Marco Marano¹, Stoppa Francesca², Perrotta Daniela³, Genuini Leonardo¹, Nunziata Joseph³, Bochicchio Chiara³, Federica Cancani³, Guzzo Isabella ³, El Hachem May³, Corrado Cecchetti ¹

Background/Aims. Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) is an adverse drug reaction associated with the separation of skin and mucous membranes at the dermal-epidermal junction. TEN is characterized by widespread keratinocyte apoptosis and necrosis. The major histocompatibility complex class I leads to clonal expansion of CD8+, which infiltrate the skin while soluble factors (TNF-α, INF-γ and INOS) induce apoptosis. (Figure 1). The disease is extremely rare but particularly serious: mortality is 20 to 25% during acute phase, and from 30-35% at one year. Treatment is essentially supportive, as no effective etiological treatment has been identified.

Methods. We describe a case of a child 8 years-old with an extremely severe clinical picture of TEN (>95% of BSA), SCORTEN score 5 (estimated risk of death ≥90%) Figure 2.

Results. The child was admitted in emergency department for purpuric macules in the upper trunk and in the face with a rapid spread to a confluent erythema. The family reported oral intake of cephalosporins a week ago. After 24 hours the child developed a progressive respiratory distress and he was transferred in PICU with need of tracheal intubation. The dermatological picture evolved to a extensive detachment of sheets of epidermis associated to an erosive and hemorrhagic mucositis and he became deeply hypotensive with need of high doses of catecolamines (Adrenaline 0,15 mcg/kg/min, Noradrenaline 0,25 mcg/kg/min, Vasopressin 0,07/UL/kg/h) associated to iperlactatemia (4,5 mmol/l) and metabolic acidosis.

Conclusion. Considering that the pathophysiological process of TEN is by drug-induced cytotoxic T lymphocytes, hemoperfusion can remove soluble mediators without the potential risks of the transfusion-associated therapies of plasma-exchange. Previously positive experiences of intermittent hemoperfusion in TEN has been already described. We describe the first use of CytoSorb in a pediatric patient with TEN: CytoSorb offered the opportunity to perform a continue hemoperfusion along 24 hours showing beneficial effect on hemodynamic stabilization. Our clinical case was characterized by an extremely severe clinical picture of TEN requiring also an ECMO support, although he died for an infectious complication correlated with the high surface of denuded skin, the patient overcome the acute phase with the combination of supportive and immunomodulatory treatment, based primarily on the hemoperfusion with CytoSorb.

Figure 1. Proposed pathogenic mechanism in TEN

Figure 2. Scorten score

Figure 3. Progressive evolution of the skin lesions from purpuric macules to flaccid bullae and complete detachment of the epidermis from the dermis

Figure 4. Vasopressors and inotrope trend during extracorporeal blood purification

Bibliography