HIGH-DOSE INTRAVENOUS IMMUNOGLOBULIN THERAPY IN MULTIFOCAL NEUROPATHY

E. Nobile-Orazio, N. Meucci, S. Barbieri, M. Carpo, and G. Scarlato

Neurology 1993;43:537-544

We treated five consecutive patients with multifocal motor neuropathy (MMN) with high-dose intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg). Four patients had increased levels of anti-asialo-GM₁ IgM and two of anti-GM₁ IgM as well; one patient had no reactivity. We treated them twice with 0.4 g/kg IVIg for 5 consecutive days at a 2-month interval, followed by maintenance infusions up to 6 to 12 months. All patients with high anti-asialo-GM₁ had a consistent clinical improvement starting 3 to 10 days after the first IVIg course; in one patient, recovery was complete and persistent for 12 months without additional treatment, while in three patients, improvement only lasted 20 to 30 days. There was a similar improvement in these patients after the second course of IVIg which was maintained by periodic 2-day IVIg infusions. Clinical improvement in these patients was associated with a reduction of conduction block in most, but not all, motor nerves, while antibody titers were not consistently modified by treatment. There was no clinical or electrophysiologic improvement in the patient without antiglycolipid activity after 6 months of IVIg. IVIg may be a safe and effective therapy for MMN.

Free Access to this article at www.neurology.org/content/43/3_Part_1/537

Comment from Andrew G. Engel, MD, FAAN, Associate Editor: Reported clinical and EMG improvement in 4 of 5 patients treated with IVIg that could be maintained by the additional use of low-dose oral cyclophosphamide. The paper underlined the importance of distinguishing multifocal neuropathy from ALS.

Neurology®

High-dose intravenous immunoglobulin therapy in multifocal neuropathy

E. Nobile-Orazio, N. Meucci, S. Barbieri, et al.

Neurology 2011;77;131

DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000399814.95976.b7

This information is current as of July 11, 2011

Updated Information & Services

including high resolution figures, can be found at:
<http://n.neurology.org/content/77/2/131.citation.full>

Permissions & Licensing

Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
http://www.neurology.org/about/about_the_journal#permissions

Reprints

Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
<http://n.neurology.org/subscribers/advertise>

Neurology® is the official journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Published continuously since 1951, it is now a weekly with 48 issues per year. Copyright © 2011 by AAN Enterprises, Inc.. All rights reserved. Print ISSN: 0028-3878. Online ISSN: 1526-632X.