Natural history study of idiopathic multicentric Castleman disease identifies effective treatments for a large proportion of patients but treatment-refractory patients remain

Sheila K. Piersson1, Yue Ren1, Johnson Khor1, Eric Haljasmaa2, Jasira Ziglar3, Katherine Floss1, Erin Napier1, Faizaan Akhter1, Amy Liu4, Damilola Gibson5, Karen Kanha2, Rabecka Martin2, Amy Chadburn1, Jordan Srkalovic1, Corey Casper2, Megan Lim3, Thomas S Uldrick4, Elaine S. Jaffe5, Frits van Rhee6, Hongzhe Liu7, Mark Hempstead1
1University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; 2EUSA Pharma, Hemel Hempstead, UK; 3EUSA Pharma, Boston, MA; 4Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY; 5Sparrow Herbert-Herman Cancer Center, Lansing, MI; 6Infectious Disease Research Institute, Seattle, WA; 7Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA; 8Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA; 9Laboratory of Pathology, Center for Cancer Research, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda; 10Myeloma Center, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

INTRODUCTION

• Human herpes-virus 8-negative idiopathic multicentric Castleman disease (iMCD) is a rare inflammatory disorder involving multicentric lymphadenopathy with characteristic histopathology.
• Clinical presentation is heterogeneous and includes cytokine-driven constitutional symptoms, cytopenias, systemic inflammation, and multi-organ dysfunction.
• International consensus treatment guidelines are based on a large cohort of case studies and a few clinical trials, but the available evidence is limited.
• Siltuximab, an anti-IL-6 therapy, is the only FDA-approved treatment for iMCD; 34% of patients achieved durable symptomatic and tumor response in the phase II trial. 1
• Tocilizumab, an anti-IL-6 receptor therapy, is frequently used off-label.
• The treatment guidelines recommend siltuximab +/- corticosteroids (CS) as first-line therapy for all iMCD patients and tocilizumab as a substitute when siltuximab is not available.
• Rituximab, a CD20 antibody, is recommended as an alternate first-line therapy; however, it has never been systematically evaluated.
• Better understanding of treatment effectiveness is urgently needed.

OBJECTIVES

• To describe the most frequently used treatments and response to treatment in a real-world cohort of iMCD patients.

METHODS

• Data were collected and abstracted for 90 patients enrolled in an ongoing IRB-approved natural history study of Castleman disease.
• Diagnosis is graded by an expert panel of clinicians and pathologists on an ongoing basis; patients unlikely to have iMCD were excluded from analysis (N=21).
• Of the 69 patients included, 43 (62.3%) are expert panel-confirmed and 26 (37.7%) are awaiting confirmation.
• Durable response is defined as achieving ≥50% improvement in the proportion of abnormal iMCD minor clinical and laboratory diagnostic criteria sustained for ≥1 year.
• The best response was selected for patients with more than one response outcome to a given regimen.

RESULTS

• Median age at diagnosis is 37 years (range: 1-67 years). The cohort is 44.9% female, 63.8% white, and 4 (5.8%) patients died.
• 33 unique drugs have been administered across the 69 patients.
• Rituximab is the most frequent targeted therapy (N=47, 68.1%), followed by siltuximab (N=40, 57.8%) and tocilizumab (N=21, 30.4%).
• Response to siltuximab and tocilizumab is comparable in this cohort.

CONCLUSIONS

• These data reveal that despite there being one FDA-approved treatment, iMCD is treated with a variety of agents.
• Among the full cohort, siltuximab ± CS demonstrated a 58% durable response. This may reflect differences in response criteria and/or disease activity of patients in clinical trials versus real world settings.
• Siltuximab and tocilizumab have never been systematically compared; in this cohort they demonstrated similar response.
• Considering the morbidity and mortality of iMCD, additional agents are needed for refractory patients, who have few options and are at risk of death due to disease progression. Further data are needed to compare groups and identify optimal treatment protocols.

REFERENCES


CONTACT INFORMATION

Sheila Piersson, MS
University of Pennsylvania
Sheila.Piersson@pennmedicine.upenn.edu
1-215-349-5713