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SAFETY OF INTRAVENOUS METHYLPREDNISOLONE IN REFRACTORY AND SEVERE PEDIATRIC UVEITIS

Oral

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Purpose:

To evaluate the safety of intravenous high-dose pulse methylprednisolone succinate (IVHDM) in the management of severe or refractory non-infectious pediatric uveitis.

Methods:

We reviewed all uveitis patients who were ≤ 16 years of age and who received IVHDM with a dose of ≥ 500 mg per day (1–3 days a month) for at least 3 months during their management at a tertiary care eye hospital.

Results:

Twenty pediatric patients with severe or refractory uveitis who received IVHDM were identified. Six patients were excluded, the remaining 14 patients received IVHDM for at least 4 months. Age (mean \pm SD) was 11.9 \pm 2.4 years and 50% were female. Duration of treatment was 14.2 \pm 7.5 months. Thirteen patients received IVHDM in combination with other immunomodulatory therapy. Except for two outliers, IVHDM was given at a dose of 8–25 mg/kg per infusion. Three major adverse events (AEs) occurred in two patients and the number of AEs (major and minor) strongly correlated with duration of treatment ($p=0.004$) and moderately correlated with the cumulative dose/weight ($p=0.051$).

Conclusions:

IVHDM may be a valid therapeutic option for aggressive/refractory pediatric uveitis. The reported AEs in this series can also be attributed to the concurrent IMT or the underlying disease itself.