Pediatric Rheumatology



Poster presentation



# Infliximab to treat chronic uveitis in juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

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## Background

Uveitis occurs in 10%–15% of patients with JIA and is still one of the most frequent causes of acquired blindness in the developed world. Female sex, oligoarticular onset, serum antinuclear antibodies (ANA) and early onset of uveitis seem to increase the development of chronic uveitis. If topical treatment fails, second-line agents may be used, but not all patients respond. Infliximab has been reported to be effective in some of these cases. This study aims to assess the response and side effects associated with infliximab in JIA patients with uveitis

## Methods

Fourteen patients, (3 male and 11 female) aged from 6 to 26 years, were treated with infliximab between January 2005 and April 2008. Mean age at the beginning of therapy was 9 years and 8 months.

All patients received also methotrexate (15 mg/mq weekly). Infliximab was administered at 5 mg/kg dose at 0, 2, 4, 6 weeks and then every two months. Uveitis activity was evaluated as number of anterior chamber cells every month.

## Results

Infliximab was well tolerated and no immediate adverse effects were recorded. Three patients achieved a complete remission of uveitis for more than one year and stopped anti-TNF treatment. Eight patients showed a good response with improvement of inflammatory ocular activity and decreased episodes of uveitis. Those patients are still on infliximab. Two patients were unresponsive to the drug after one year.

## Conclusion

In our experience infliximab was effective in 85% of patients and none developed any serious systemic adverse events attributable to infliximab.

## References

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