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PLENARY LECTURES

Rifampicin in the treatment of psoriasis

N.K. Tsankov

Institute of Dermatology and Venereology, Bulgarian Academy of Medicine, I Georgi Sofiiski Street, Sofia – 1431, Bulgaria, tsankn@abv.bg

Background The efficacy of traditional systemic therapies for psoriasis is limited by various side effects toxicity, drug-drug interactions, and the need for frequent laboratory monitoring. In animal models, rifampicin causes immunosuppression and in conventional doses it suppresses the T-cell functions.

Materials and methods A total of 76 patients (34 men and 42 women) aged between 12 and 68 years) with eruptive psoriasis were enrolled in the study. They were divided into two groups.

Objective To show that rifampicin has a therapeutic effect in eruptive psoriasis and to try to explain its mode of action, according to the evidence of a concomitant streptococcal infection. Rifampicin was administered orally in a 600 mg daily dosage for at least 60 days. Only emollients were given for topical therapy.

Results A statistical (chi-squared test) analysis was carried out and it could be concluded that improvement in the two groups was statistically indistinguishable ($P = 0.892$), while comparison with the control group showed a significant difference ($P = 0.00082$).

Conclusion The results express that there is no statistically significant difference between the treating groups and the effect of rifampicin could not be related only to its antimicrobial properties. Its therapeutic effect most probably is due to its immunosuppressive properties.