Erythrodermic Psoriasis Treated with Secukinumab with Rapid and Sustained Resolution

Chouela E¹* and Cesaroni E²
¹Centro Chouela Dermatología y Estética. Uriburu 1590, CP 1114, caba. Argentina
²Clinica Privada del Buen Pastor, Argentina

Abstract

Psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease. Generally, it has a negative impact in quality of life. New treatment options for moderate-to-severe psoriasis are available with the development of IL-17 inhibitors. Secukinumab is a fully human monoclonal immunoglobulin G1 κ antibody that selectively inhibits the ligand IL-17A. It seems to be more effective than other biologic medications and safe, in cases of moderate-to-severe plaque type psoriasis. In this article we report a 68-years-old male patient showing an erythrodermic psoriasis with rapid and sustained response to secukinumab.

Keywords: Erythrodermic Psoriasis; Secukinumab; IL-17; Therapeutic Options in Psoriasis; Biologic Treatment for Psoriasis

Introduction

Erythrodermic psoriasis (EP) is a rare, severe form of psoriasis. Its prevalence in psoriatic patients is 1-2%. EP affects more than 90% of the body surface and is associated with increased morbidity and mortality [1]. Some patients present an acute course that requires systemic, rapid-onset treatments; other experiences a chronic course with frequent relapses. No therapeutic guidelines are available for these patients, in whom the use of biologics may be an alternative [2]. Secukinumab, a human monoclonal anti-IL-17A antibody has been shown to be effective in moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, with sustained long-term efficacy after 4 years of treatment [3].

Case Presentation

A 68-year-old male patient presented with psoriatic plaques extending in a few days until developing erythroderma with no triggering factors been reported. His physical exam revealed chills, disseminated erythema and scales, bilateral ectropion and a psoriasis area severity index (PASI) index of 28, with 90% of the body surface area (BSA) affected, and a psoriasis global assessment (PGA) of 4 (Figures 1 and 2).

His personal history included alcohol and tobacco abuse, obesity, diabetes, arterial hypertension, and mild plaque psoriasis for the past 2 years treated with topical corticosteroids. His usual medication included hydrochlorothiazide, verapamil and imidapril started 5 years ago.

Laboratory tests showed normal hematology, normal renal and liver function tests, negative Mantoux, purified protein derivative (PPD) test, and negative serologic tests for hepatitis B and C and human of the immunodeficiency virus (HIV). His chest X-ray was normal.

Induction therapy with secukinumab 300mg subcutaneously every 7 days was initiated, with significant improvement after 30 days. He continued with maintenance doses of 300mg every 4 weeks.

After 15 months of maintenance treatment with secukinumab 300mg, the patient continued in remission, with 100% decrease in PASI and a PGA of 0.

Discussion

Although rare and uncommon, erythrodermic psoriasis is a severe form of psoriasis [2,4].
severe cases, treatments of choice usually include cyclosporine and infliximab because of the rapid onset of action [5]. For sub-acute cases, methotrexate and acitretin may be used [5]. Second-line therapies include etanercept, adalimumab and ustekinumab [5,6,7]. Activated T-cells, especially Th-1, Th-17 and Th-22, are responsible for the secretion of different immunomodulating factors such as TNF-α, IFN-γ, IL-22 and IL-17, which are largely responsible for neutrophil attraction, cytokine release from keratinocytes, antimicrobial peptide expression and production of other proinflammatory cytokines in the skin [3,8,9]. Recently, the IL-17 pathway has been described as the predominant pathway in erythodermic psoriasis [10]. These findings suggest that secukinumab, a human monoclonal antibody of the IgG1 type, selective against IL-17A, may be considered a therapeutic option for erythodermic psoriasis because of its rapid onset of action and favorable safety profile [3]. Secukinumab has been approved for the treatment of severe plaque psoriasis and has been shown to be very useful for resolving generalized pustular psoriasis [3,4].

In conclusion, this patient showed a rapid and favorable response to secukinumab that was maintained after 15 months of treatment. Our observation allows supporting secukinumab as a first-line alternative for the treatment of erythodermic psoriasis.

Acknowledgements

Technical assistance with editing, translation and styling of the manuscript for submission was provided and funded by the medical team of Novartis Argentina. The authors were fully responsible for all content and editorial decisions and received no financial support or other form of compensation related to the development of this manuscript. The opinions expressed in the manuscript are those of the authors and Novartis Argentina had no influence on the contents.

Conflicts of Interest

Edgardo Chouela: PI/Consultant/Speaker of Galderma, Lilly, Novartis. No shareholder of pharmaceutical companies.

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