TITLE: Rituximab for Dermatomyositis: Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 3 March 2010

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of rituximab for the treatment of patients with dermatomyositis?

2. What is the evidence regarding validated outcome measures of disease improvement for patients with dermatomyositis?

3. What is the evidence regarding the optimal treatment duration for disease improvement for patients with dermatomyositis?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2020), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. The search was limited to English language articles published between 2005 and February 2010. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval of general articles on dermatomyositis to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, and observational studies. Articles on rituximab in dermatomyositis were not limited by study type. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, controlled clinical trials, and observational studies.
Research question 1: No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, or controlled clinical trials were identified that evaluated the clinical effectiveness of rituximab for the treatment of adult patients with dermatomyositis. Six case series and four case reports described the use of rituximab in adults with dermatomyositis.

Research question 2: No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, or controlled clinical trials were identified that addressed this research question. Four observational studies were identified that evaluated outcome measures of disease improvement in adult patients with dermatomyositis.

Research question 3: No health technology assessments, randomized controlled trials or controlled clinical trials were identified that addressed the optimal treatment duration for disease improvement for adult patients with dermatomyositis. Two systematic reviews were found which evaluated treatments other than rituximab for dermatomyositis. A number of case series and case reports were also found that described other treatments for dermatomyositis. These reports however, have not been included in this summary due to the lack of a control group.

Additional articles that may be of interest were included in the appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**


**Randomized controlled trials**
No literature identified

**Controlled clinical trials**
No literature identified

**Observational studies**

**Case series**


**Case reports**


**Outcome measures**


PREPARED BY:
Health Technology Inquiry Service
Email: htis@cadth.ca
Tel: 1-866-898-8439
APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review articles – outcome measures


Review articles – management of dermatomyositis


Additional references – Outcome measures in juvenile dermatomyositis


