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Paediatric recurrent pericarditis: Appropriateness of the standard of care and response to IL1-blockade.

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Paediatric recurrent pericarditis: Appropriateness of the standard of care and response to IL1-blockade.

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Objective: to analyse, in a cohort of paediatric patients with recurrent pericarditis (RP) undergoing anti-IL-1 treatment: the agent and dosing used as first line treatment, the long-term efficacy of IL1-blockers, the percentage of patients achieving a drug-free remission, the presence of variables associated with drug-free remission.

Study design: Data were collected from patients' charts. Annualized relapse rate (ARR) was used for evaluation of treatment efficacy, bivariate logistic regression analysis for variables associated with drug-free remission.

Results: 58 patients, treated between 2008 and 2018, were included in the study (mean follow-up 2.6 years). 14/56 patients non-responsive to first line drugs were under-dosed.

57 patients were treated with anakinra: the ARR before and during daily treatment was 3.05 and 0.28, respectively ($p < 0.0001$); an increase to 0.83 was observed after the reduction/withdrawal of treatment ($p < 0.0001$). The switch from anakinra to canakinumab (5 patients) was associated to an increase of the ARR (0.49 vs 1.46), but without statistical significance ($p = 0.215$). At last follow-up only 9/58 patients had withdrawn all treatments. With the limits of a retrospective study and the heterogeneity between the patients enrolled in the study, a shorter duration of treatment with anakinra was the only variable associated with drug-free remission.

Conclusion: this study shows that most of the pediatric patients with RP needing IL-1 blockade received an inadequate treatment with first line agents. The effectiveness of anakinra is supported by this study, but few patients achieved drug free-remission. The different rate of response to anakinra and canakinumab may suggest a possible role of IL1 α in the pathogenesis of RP.

Data from a multicenter study described clinical characteristics and response to treatment consistent with what is observed in the adult population; of note, a high rate of recurrence after steroidal treatment was reported in this study (1).

In 2015, the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) published new guidelines for the management of acute and recurrent pericarditis in the adult population ; , an adaptation to the paediatric age was proposed, even though data about the effectiveness of the different treatments are lacking in this population (2). According to these guidelines, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) represent the first-line treatment for acute pericarditis together with low doses of colchicine (3,4,4). Steroids are not recommended as first-line treatment, increasing the risk of dependence and chronicity (5). Guidelines suggest the use of low doses of steroids (≤ 0.5 mg/kg/day of prednisone), together with colchicine, in patients not responding to NSAIDs (2). Various immunosuppressive drugs (high doses immunoglobulins, azathioprine, biological) were suggested as third-line treatment in non-responder patients, even though the evidence of their effectiveness was lacking (2).

The clear effect of Interleukin-1 (IL-1) inhibition with anakinra (the recombinant IL-1 receptor antagonist) has been described in children with RP resistant to colchicine and steroid-dependent in different series of paediatric and adult patients (1,6,7,8,9,10).

We performed a multicenter national study that retrospectively analysed paediatric patients with RP undergoing anti-IL-1 treatment and followed in centers with paediatric cardiology and rheumatology.

The aims of this study were to evaluate the appropriateness of the first line treatments (NSAIDs, colchicine) before anti-IL-1 treatment, to evaluate the long-term efficacy of different IL1- blockers and the modification of the schedule of administration during the follow-up period; to analyse the number of patients able to achieve complete control of the disease and discontinue all treatments; to identify, with the limits of a retrospective study, possible variables associated with higher probability to discontinue treatment without disease flares.

Methods

In 2019 a national survey in referral Italian centers of paediatric cardiology and rheumatology collected all patients with recurrent idiopathic pericarditis treated with IL1-blockers.

Pericarditis was diagnosed according to the ESC guidelines, in the presence of at least 2 among the following criteria: (1) typical pericardial chest pain; (2) pericardial friction rub; (3) typical electrocardiographic changes (widespread ST-segment elevation or PR-segment depression); (4) pericardial effusion at echocardiography (2).

Disease onset was considered the first 28 days from the beginning of the symptoms.

A disease flare (relapse) was defined as recurrence of chest pain along with ONE or more of the following signs: fever, pericardial friction rub, electrocardiographic changes, echocardiographic evidence of new or worsening pericardial effusion or elevation of acute phase reactants (11).

Patients with both idiopathic and post-surgical pericarditis were included in the study because, according to guidelines, the therapeutic approach is the same for both conditions; RPs developed in the context of a defined inflammatory systemic disease (such as systemic-onset juvenile idiopathic arthritis or monogenic autoinflammatory diseases) were excluded from the study.

The demographics, clinical, laboratory and procedural data were retrospectively collected from patients' charts.

A complete response to treatment was defined as the disappearance of disease-related symptoms and the normalization of cardiac ultrasonography and acute phase reactants, partial response as an amelioration of the clinical picture and radiologic and laboratory values but without a complete normalization, inadequate response as no significant changes occurred in the clinical picture with the treatment.

Drug-free remission was defined as the complete control of the clinical picture and laboratory findings despite the discontinuation of all ongoing treatment for at least 6 months.

Corticosteroid-dependence was defined as the need for continuous treatment to prevent disease relapses within 30 days from the withdrawal of steroids.

Treatment appropriateness with first (NSAIDs and colchicine) and second (steroids) line drugs was evaluated according to the ESC guidelines (2). For NSAIDs, ibuprofen was considered adequate at the dosage of 30-50 mg/kg/day (maximum 2400 mg/day), indomethacin 1-2 mg/kg/day (maximum 150 mg/day), naproxen 10-15 mg/kg/day (maximum 1500 mg/day) and ASA 30-50 mg/kg/day (maximum 3000 mg/day); colchicine was considered adequate at the dosage of 1-1.5 mg/day for children > 5 years and 0.5 mg/day for children ≤5 years. The correct dosage of steroids was considered ≤0.5 mg/kg/day of prednisone or equivalent.

Quantitative data are presented as medians (1st - 3rd quartile) or means (\pm standard deviation) unless otherwise stated, and categorical data as absolute numbers and percentages.

Relapse was annualized as Poisson outcomes using the total number of relapses observed out of the total person-time of follow-up before IL1-blockade, during full-dose treatment and after treatment tapering/discontinuation and was compared by a mixed effect negative binomial model accounting for the repeated measures analysis.

Comparisons of demographic and clinical characteristics between patients who withdraw all treatments and patients who did not withdraw were performed with Mann-Whitney U test for quantitative data and by means of the chi-square test, or the Fisher's Exact test, as appropriate, for categorical data.

A bivariate logistic regression analysis was used to identify possible factors associated to an increased probability to withdraw the biological treatment.

SAS 9.3 (Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA) was used for the computation.

Results

58 patients (M:F = 37:21) from 19 centers were included in the study. The demographic data and clinical characteristics of patients are reported in **Table I (available at www.jpeds.com)**.

54 patients (93%) had idiopathic and 4 patients (7%) post-pericardiectomy RP.

A concomitant genetic non-inflammatory disease was present in six (10%) patients: Mhyre syndrome, Melas syndrome, Rett syndrome, arrhythmogenic dysplasia, deletion in 16p11.2 chromosome and Sotos syndrome.

None of the patients had a clinical picture suggestive of an autoinflammatory disease or positive family history; 30 patients were screened for mutations in genes responsible for Hereditary Periodic Fever (HPF) syndromes, due to physician choice: none of them had a confirmatory genotype nor satisfied the new Classification criteria for recurrent fevers (**Table I**) (12).

The median age at disease onset was 12.6 years (range 4.5 – 17.5 years), while the median age at the beginning of treatment with IL-1 blockers was 13.5 years (range 6.0 – 25.4 years). The median duration of disease before anti-IL1 treatment was 0.5 years, with a wide range (4 days – 12.3 years), while the median number of relapses before treatment with IL-1 blockers was 3 (range 1 – 10).

The median duration of follow-up from disease onset in all patients included in the study was of 2.6 years (1.2 – 5.2).

In the first 28 days from disease onset, 25 patients (43%) received treatment with NSAIDs, 10 (17%) NSAIDs and colchicine, 2 (4%) steroids, 14 (24%) NSAIDs and steroids, while 7 patients (12%) NSAIDs, colchicine and steroids (**Figure 1, A**).

At the beginning of treatment with IL-1 blockers, 4 (7%) patients received treatment with NSAIDs, 8 (14%) NSAIDs and colchicine, 7 (12%) steroids, 5 (9%) NSAIDs and steroids, 12 (21%)

NSAIDs, colchicine and steroids, 13 (22%) colchicine and steroids, 5 (9%) colchicine, 2 (3%) steroids and methotrexate and 2 (3%) were off-therapy (**Figure 1, A**).

Overall, NSAIDs were used in monotherapy or in combination with other drugs in 56 patients (**Table II**).

Among the 25 patients who received NSAID as monotherapy, 10/18 patients (55%) without a complete response and 6/7 with complete response (85%) were receiving an adequate dosage according to the 2015 ESC guidelines. **Figure 2, A** displays the response to treatment with ibuprofen, the drug more frequently used, according to the appropriateness of the dosage.

49 out of the 58 patients received treatment with colchicine during the disease course. The median dosage was 1 mg/day (range 0.5 – 2) and the median duration of treatment was of 5 months (range 5 days – 4 years) (**Table II**).

The addition of colchicine to the ongoing treatment allowed achieving an initial complete control of the disease in 11 patients (23%), improved the disease but without a complete response in 29 (59%), while in 9 patients (18%) did not change the disease course. Of note, 5/9 non-responder patients (55%) were receiving an inadequate dosage of treatment, while this was the case for 1/29 partial responders (3%) and 1/11 complete responders (9%) (**Figure 2, B**).

Steroids were used in 48 out of the 58 patients (**Table II**). The median interval of time between the disease onset (first episode) and the beginning of treatment was of 1 month (range 1 day – 6.5 years). The median duration of treatment was 4 months (range 10 days – 6 years).

12 patients received intravenous steroidal treatment, followed by oral therapy: 4 patients received pulses (methylprednisolone 30 mg/kg/day – maximum 1 gr - for 3 days, then 2 mg/kg/day), while 8 patients received treatment with methylprednisolone 0.25 – 2 mg/kg/day in 1-2 doses. The other 36 patients received oral treatment with a median dosage of prednisone (or equivalent) of 1 mg/kg/day (range 0.2 – 2.5).

4 patients (2 complete and 2 partial responders) of the 48 patients received a low dosage (≤ 0.5 mg/kg/day of prednisone); the other 44 (92%) received a higher dosage that, of note, did not allow the complete control of the clinical picture (**Figure 2, C**).

Steroid-dependence was observed in 45 patients.

Seven patients were treated with third-line treatment before the beginning of therapy with IL1-blockers, without a persistent control of the disease (**Table II**): methotrexate (3 patients), immunoglobulins (2 patients), hydroxychloroquine (2 patients), azathioprine (1 patient) and micophenolate (1 patient).

57 patients received anakinra and 1 patient received canakinumab as the first anti-IL1 drug.

The median time between the disease onset and the beginning of IL1 blockade was of 0.5 years (0.3 – 1.1) with a cumulative number of disease flares of 203 in a cumulative time of 69.4 years (3 relapses/year).

At the last follow-up, 9 patients (15%) were in drug-free remission, while 49 were still receiving IL-1 blockade treatment: 27 patients (47%) anakinra, 19 (33%) anakinra with other first/second-line drugs, 2 (3%) canakinumab, 1 (2%) canakinumab and colchicine (**figure 1, B**).

The mean dosage of anakinra at the beginning of the treatment was 1.69 mg/kg/day (± 0.55) and the median duration of treatment was 1.3 years (0.5 – 2.3) (**Table III, available at www.jpeds.com**).

A complete response to treatment was achieved in 54 patients (95%) with complete control of clinical manifestations in a mean time of 2 days (± 1.64) and normalization of laboratory and echocardiographic variables in a median time of 7 days (range 2-45).

During daily treatment with anakinra the cumulative number of relapses was 2 within a cumulative duration of treatment of 36.9 years (0.01 relapse/year).

Of the 54 patients with a complete response to treatment with anakinra, 35 patients (65%) attempted a reduction of treatment and 21 of them (60%) experienced a flare (**Figure 3, available at www.jpeds.com**).

At first tapering attempt, 9 patients reduced progressively the number of injection per week, 24 patients moved to an administration every other day. 2 patient withdrew treatment without tapering. During the tapering/withdrawal period, the cumulative number of relapses was 65 with a cumulative time of 79.8 years (0.8 relapse/year). Daily treatment with anakinra was reintroduced in 17 of 21 patients with complete response; two patients were switched to canakinumab and two patients were treated with colchicine and short courses of steroids, with benefit.

The analysis of ARR showed that, concerning the pre-treatment period (ARR=3.05 (95%CI: 2.55-3.61), anakinra was effective in preventing the occurrence of relapses during continuous daily treatment (ARR=0.28 (95%CI: 0.12-0.53, $p < 0.0001$). However, an increase in the number of relapses was then observed after the reduction or discontinuation of treatment (ARR=0.83 (95%CI: 0.65-1.04), $p < .0001$ (**Figure 4, A**).

During treatment with anakinra 27/28 patients withdraw treatment with NSAIDs, 21/38 colchicine and 36/38 steroids. Despite the complete control of the clinical manifestations in 16/17 patients receiving colchicine together with anakinra, this treatment was maintained, due to physician choice; moreover, in 2 patients colchicine was reintroduced during anakinra tapering.

At last follow-up 46 patients were still in treatment with anakinra: 27 patients were in monotherapy, in 19 anakinra was associated with other drugs (**Figure 1, B**).

To evaluate the presence of predictive factors associated with the possibility to withdraw the treatment with anakinra without subsequent relapse, the 9 patients in drug-free remission at the last follow-up were compared with the 19 in which the withdrawal was not possible due to flare during tapering/withdrawal. The 19 patients in which the reduction of treatment was not attempted, the 7 patients who were tapering the treatment without relapse and the 3 patients with a persistent partial response to treatment were excluded from the statistical analysis. The chi-squared test for the categorical variables and the Mann-Whitney test for the continuous variables identified that the only variable associated with a statistically significant difference between the two groups was the duration of treatment with anakinra, which was shorter in the group of patients in drug-free

remission at last follow-up. The duration of follow-up from disease onset to anakinra withdrawal was also shorter in this group of patients (**Table IV, available at www.jpeds.com**). The bivariate logistic regression analysis identified that the shorter duration of treatment with anakinra was the only variable associated with the probability to withdraw treatment with statistical significance (**Table V, available at www.jpeds.com**).

Six patients were treated with canakinumab. In one patient the drug was the first IL-1 blocker used, while the other 5 patients received canakinumab after a switch from anakinra (**Table VI, available at www.jpeds.com**). The mean dosage at the beginning of treatment with canakinumab was 2.6 mg/kg (± 0.8) every 4 weeks.

At the last follow-up, 2 patients (33%) were still on treatment with canakinumab as monotherapy with complete response, while one patient (17%), with a previous partial response to anakinra, was on treatment with canakinumab and colchicine, without complete control of the disease (**Figure 1, B**).

Three patients (50%) withdrew treatment with canakinumab for a lack of response. In all of them, the restoration of anakinra treatment led to complete disease control.

The cumulative number of relapses during treatment with canakinumab was 9 with a cumulative time of 8,6 years (1 relapse/year).

The ARR of the 6 patients treated with canakinumab was 1.46 (95%CI: 0.67-2.61), during continuous treatment. In the 5 patients that switched from anakinra to canakinumab, the ARR during daily anakinra was 0.49 (95%CI: 0.03-2.14) and 0.78 (95%CI: 0.44-1.26) during anakinra tapering. Both were lower than the ARR observed during canakinumab treatment; however the difference was not statistically significant ($p=0.215$) (**Figure 4, B**).

The safety profile of both anakinra and canakinumab was good. 11/57 patients (19%) treated with anakinra and 0/6 patients treated with canakinumab displayed some adverse event during their follow-up. Seven patients treated with anakinra experienced a mild local reaction at the site of injection, not requiring the withdrawal of the drug, while in one patient the reaction was severe and

required the discontinuation of the treatment and subsequent desensitization, with success (13). Two patients complained of an increased frequency of infections (none severe) and one of dizziness and nausea; none of these patients discontinued the treatment due to the side effects. One patient showed a transient increase of transaminases and CK, requiring the withdrawal of the drug; due to a flare of the disease, anakinra was subsequently restarted without side effects.

Discussion

With conventional treatment in children with RP before the use of IL-1 blockers, most of the patients not responding to NSAIDs were under-treated, especially with ibuprofen, the most commonly used drug. The same phenomenon was observed for colchicine, indicating the need to consider an adequate dosage of NSAIDs and colchicine in children, before judging the drugs as ineffective.

An opposite trend was observed for the steroid treatment. Indeed, even high doses of steroids were not able to achieve a complete control of the flares of pericarditis in 33% of treated patients; moreover 94% of the treated patients presented a steroid-dependence.

This observation supports the concept to reconsider the role of steroids in paediatric RP. So far, data on IL-1 blockers were obtained in steroid-dependent and colchicine resistant children. However, the early use of IL1 blockers in patients resistant to adequate dosage of NSAIDs and colchicine, without a course of steroids, could lead to more rapid and effective control of the diseases avoiding severe side effects. Indeed, this was the case for 10 patients enrolled in the present study, who showed a prompt response to IL-1 blockers without the previous use of steroids.

In line with previous studies conducted in smaller series of patients, anakinra was confirmed as an effective treatment in controlling the disease flares with a daily administration (6,8,9). Moreover, in most patients anakinra was able to maintain remission despite the withdrawal of steroids.

Colchicine was maintained or introduced during anakinra tapering in 19 patients. However it was not associated with a reduced risk of relapse during the tapering of the drug or after discontinuation

(data not shown). This may be related to the small number of patients in the cohort and the prolonged treatment with first and second lines drugs before the beginning of treatment with anakinra.

This study provides more evidence on the role of canakinumab as a possible alternative anti-IL-1 treatment in recurrent pericarditis. In paediatric patients, a case of a child with idiopathic RP with an anaphylactic reaction to anakinra was recently described. In this case, high doses (5 mg/kg monthly) of canakinumab were able to maintain clinical remission in association with colchicine (15); however in 2 other cases this drug was not able to control disease activity (16).

Taken together, those data may support the relevance of IL-1 α in the induction and maintenance of the inflammatory response at the tissue level in recurrent pericarditis (18).

in the first national survey (7), a number of patients treated with anakinra displayed a flare of the disease during treatment tapering or withdrawal. These findings differ from what was observed in the registry of adult patients with RP treated with anakinra, in which 60% of patients could withdraw treatment with anakinra after 6 months and 74% of them were free from recurrence after 18 months from discontinuation (19).

Of note, in our cohort of patients the only variable associated with the probability of drug-free remission, identified through the multivariate analysis, was the shorter duration of treatment with anakinra. It's difficult to state if this observation could reflect a possible change in the homeostasis or the pericardial membrane or is only related to the variability of the cohort included in the study. Of note, the mean duration of treatment to achieve the drug free remission in our cohort of patients was 1.82 years and therefore much longer than what observed in the adults (19).

Unfortunately, the multivariate analysis was not able to identify other predictive variables associated with the possibility to withdraw anakinra without a relapse in our cohort of patients. This is likely due to the limitations related to the study: wide variability of the cohort included in the present study in terms of age and year at presentation, disease duration, previous treatment, steroid usage, duration of daily anakinra administration, modality of its tapering and concomitant

treatment. This study is multicenter and retrospective; moreover many patients had their disease onset before the availability of proper guidelines for this disease. Only a proper longitudinal study performed in a homogeneous group of patients from disease onset, using a common approach to assess disease activity, could address the best possible strategy to reduce the frequency of disease flare at anakinra withdrawal.

Anakinra has been demonstrated as effective, by a randomised trial, in patients with colchicine-resistant and steroid-dependant RP (9). Only a randomised trial in pediatric patients with RP not responsive to NSAIDs and colchicine could demonstrate that anakinra is more effective than steroids. Longitudinal studies should provide evidence on the best possible approach to prevent disease relapses during anakinra tapering or withdrawal.

Abbreviations: acute pericarditis (AP) recurrent pericarditis (RP), annualized relapse rate (ARR), European Society of Cardiology (ESC), non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), Interleukin-1 (IL-1), confidence intervals (CI).

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Figure legend:

Figure 1: treatment of the patients included in the study at disease onset (first 28 days from the beginning of symptoms), at the time of initiation of anti-IL1 treatment (1A) and at last follow-up (1B).

Figure 2: appropriateness of dosage and response to treatment with NSAIDs (Figure 2A), colchicine (Figure 2B) and steroids (Figure 2C). Treatment with first (NSAIDs and colchicine) and second (steroids) line drugs were considered adequate according to the ESC guidelines (2): ibuprofen was considered adequate at the dosage of 30-50 mg/kg/day; colchicine was considered adequate at the dosage of 1-1.5 mg/day for children > 5 years and 0.5 mg/day for children ≤5 years. The correct dosage of steroids was considered ≤0.5 mg/kg/day of prednisone or equivalent.

Figure 3, online only: outcome of the 58 patients included in the study. Figure 3A reports the outcome of the patients without a complete response to anakinra (ANK) and of the patient treated with canakinumab (CNK) with complete response. Figure 4B reports the outcome of the 54 patients who displayed complete response to anakinra.

Figure 4: Annualised relapse rate before treatment, during daily treatment and after tapering/discontinuation of the 35 patients treated with anakinra (Figure 4A); annualised relapse rate before treatment, during daily treatment with anakinra, during anakinra tapering/discontinuation and during full dose of canakinumab of the 6 patients treated with canakinumab (Figure 4B).

| Patient | Sex (M = male, F = female) | Idiopathic / post- surgery pericarditis | Concomitant disease | Genetic screening for AID (mutation possibly detected) | Age at disease onset (years) | Number of relapses/year before first IL-1 blocker | Age at beginning of treatment with IL-1 blocker | IL-1 blocker (ANK = anakinra CNK = canakinumab) | IL-1 blocker at last follow-up | Other drugs at last follow-up |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV</i> | 14.11 | 2.5 | 15.61 | ANK | ANK 1.3 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 2 | M | Idiopathic | Mhyre syndrome | - | 5.66 | 5 | 6.24 | ANK | ANK 1 mg/kg 2 days a week | |
| 3 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 13.45 | 3 | 16.75 | ANK | ANK 1.8 mg/kg 2 days a week | |
| 4 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 11.62 | 5 | 12.59 | ANK | ANK 1.3 mg/kg 3 days a week | |
| 5 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 9.48 | 1 | 9.56 | ANK | none | |
| 6 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>TNFRSF1A</i> | 6.32 | 0.75 | 10.40 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg every other day | |
| 7 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 12.20 | 3 | 12.62 | ANK | none | |
| 8 | F | Idiopathic | Melas syndrome | - | 10.59 | 3 | 10.89 | ANK | ANA 2.5 mg/kg 5 days a week | |
| 9 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 13.88 | 2 | 14.55 | ANK | none | |
| 10 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 14.44 | 1 | 14.47 | ANK | none | |
| 11 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 13.06 | 2 | 13.35 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg/day | |
| 12 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>TNFRSF1A</i> | 15.37 | 3 | 16.23 | ANK | ANK 1.3 mg/kg every other day | Colchicine |
| 13 | M | Post-surgery | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3, NLRP12</i> | 10.21 | 3 | 11.55 | ANK | ANK 1.2 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 14 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV</i> | 13.90 | 3 | 14.23 | ANK → CNK → ANK | ANK 1.2 mg/kg 2 days a week | |
| 15 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 13.55 | 3 | 13.83 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 16 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3</i> | 15.91 | 1 | 16.58 | ANK | ANK 2.2 mg/kg/day | |
| 17 | F | Post-surgery | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3</i> | 6.18 | 3 | 6.88 | ANK → CNK → ANK | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day | |
| 18 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV</i> | 10.16 | 2 | 12.15 | ANK | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 19 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 13.86 | 3 | 14.32 | ANK | ANK 1.8 mg/kg 6 days a week | Colchicine |
| 20 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV (I591T), TNFRSF1A</i> | 8.73 | 1.7 | 9.06 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg 3 days a week | |
| 21 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 14.85 | 3 | 15.62 | ANK | ANK 1.1 mg/kg/day | |
| 22 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3</i> | 12.02 | 4 | 12.97 | ANK | ANK 1.5 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 23 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A</i> | 13.49 | 5 | 13.86 | ANK | ANK 1.25 mg/kg 3 days a week | Colchicine |
| 24 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3</i> | 7.72 | 0.75 | 11.38 | ANK | ANK 1 mg/kg/day | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------|---|---|-------|------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 25 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK</i> | 6.98 | 4 | 8.07 | ANK | ANK 1.5 mg/kg every other day | Colchicine |
| 26 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 9.45 | 1 | 9.56 | ANK → CNK → ANK | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day | |
| 27 | M | Post-surgery | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3</i> | 13.05 | 3 | 13.58 | ANK | ANK 1.2 mg/kg/day | |
| 28 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV (E148Q), TNFRSF1A</i> | 15.87 | 2.17 | 18.28 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg 5 days a week | |
| 29 | M | Idiopathic | Rett syndrome | <i>TNFRSF1A</i> | 12.80 | 3 | 13.64 | ANK | none | |
| 30 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3</i> | 13.06 | 4 | 15.47 | ANK | ANK 1.8 mg/kg 4 days a week | Colchicine |
| 31 | M | Post-surgery | Arrhythmogenic dysplasia | - | 13.11 | 0.35 | 25.44 | ANK | ANK 1.3 mg/kg/day | Steroids and colchicine |
| 32 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3, NLRP12</i> | 16.64 | 8 | 17.44 | ANK | ANK 1.67 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 33 | M | Idiopathic | multiorgan syndrome (de novo deletion in 16p11.2) | - | 12.06 | 3 | 12.22 | ANK | ANK 1.6 mg/kg/day | |
| 34 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 11.11 | 1 | 11.12 | ANK | ANK 2.2 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 35 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 11.71 | 4 | 12.38 | ANK | ANK 1.5 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 36 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 13.78 | 2 | 13.85 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg/day | |
| 37 | M | Idiopathic | Sotos syndrome | - | 13.73 | 3 | 14.21 | ANK | none | |
| 38 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 8.75 | 3 | 8.81 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg/day | |
| 39 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 11.82 | 2 | 11.93 | ANK | ANK 1.5 mg/kg/day | |
| 40 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 16.00 | 4 | 16.65 | ANK | none | |
| 41 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 15.10 | 2 | 15.38 | ANK | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 42 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 12.56 | 4 | 12.81 | ANK | ANK 1.2 mg/kg/day | |
| 43 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 17.95 | 3 | 24.03 | ANK | none | |
| 44 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 17.15 | 4 | 18.28 | ANK | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day | |
| 45 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 12.38 | 2 | 12.42 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg 2 days a week | |
| 46 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 6.92 | 4 | 7.16 | ANK | ANK 2.3 mg/kg/day | |
| 47 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV</i> | 11.80 | 2 | 15.77 | ANK | none | |
| 48 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 11.55 | 0.5 | 16.98 | ANK | ANK 1.4 mg/kg every other day | |
| 49 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 5.80 | 2 | 6.00 | ANK | ANK 2.8 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------------|---|---|-------|------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 50 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 12.42 | 2 | 12.69 | ANK | ANK 1.2 mg/kg every other day | |
| 51 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 13.48 | 3 | 13.72 | ANK | ANK 2.3 mg/kg/day | Colchicine |
| 52 | M | Idiopathic | - | - | 12.58 | 3 | 12.88 | ANK | ANK 1.5 mg/kg every other day | |
| 53 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV</i> | 11.60 | 4 | 11.84 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg/day | |
| 54 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK, NLRP3, NLRP12</i> | 13.99 | 4 | 14.21 | ANK | ANK 2.2 mg/kg every other day | Steroids |
| 55 | M | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A, MVK</i> | 12.50 | 3 | 12.79 | ANK | ANK 2 mg/kg/day | NSAIDS and colchicine |
| 56 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>TNFRSF1A, MVK</i> | 4.48 | 1 | 11.56 | ANK → CNK | CNK 2.5 mg/kg every 10 weeks | |
| 57 | F | Idiopathic | - | - | 13.60 | 4 | 14.07 | ANK → CNK | CNK 2.6 mg/kg every 4 weeks | Colchicine |
| 58 | F | Idiopathic | - | <i>MEFV, TNFRSF1A (R92Q), MVK, NLRP3</i> | 16.24 | 0.65 | 24.09 | CNK | CNK 2.5 mg/kg every 8 weeks | |

Table I: Detailed demographic data and treatment with IL-1 blockers of the patients included in the study.

Legend: M (male), F (female), AID (autoinflammatory diseases), ANK (anakinra), CNK (canakinumab)

| | Patients in treatment with anakinra | Patients off-therapy | p-value |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Number of patients | 19 | 9 | |
| Duration of steroidal treatment (months), mean (SD) | 10.03 (8.54) N=16 | 9.66 (5.54) N=8 | 0.667 |
| Number of relapses before anakinra, mean (SD) | 3.84 (1.86) | 3.22 (2.05) | 0.210 |
| Distance between disease onset and initiation of anakinra (years), median (IQR) | 0.37 (0.25-0.97) | 0.48 (0.08-0.84) | 0.768 |
| Duration of treatment with daily anakinra (years), median (IQR) | 1.0 (0.62-1.26) N=18 | 0.94 (0.59-0.99) | 0.328 |
| Initial dosage (mg/kg/day), median (IQR) | 1.40 (1.10-2.00) | 1.20 (1.0-1.60) | 0.357 |
| Duration of follow-up from disease onset to withdrawal of anakinra (years), median (IQR) | 4.39 (2.49-8.28) | 2.56 (1.78-2.89) | 0.039 |
| Duration of treatment with anakinra (years), median (IQR) | 3.49 (2.10-7.02) | 1.91 (1.42-2.28) | 0.027 |
| Duration (years) of follow-up (disease onset – last visit), median (IQR) | 4.39 (3.02-8.28) | 4.84 (2.65-6.13) | 0.922 |
| C reactive protein at the beginning of treatment with anakinra, median (IQR) | 6.55 (4.80-14.90) N=18 | 13.35 (10.14-26.90) | 0.105 |
| Days to achieve complete response to treatment with anakinra, median (IQR) | 5.00 (3.00-7.00) N=17 | 7.00 (5.00-8.00) N=7 | 0.405 |
| Presence of disease related symptoms at the beginning of treatment with anakinra, n (%) | 16 (84.21) | 7 (77.78) | 1.00 [#] |
| Presence of pericardial effusion at the beginning of treatment with anakinra, n (%) | 13/18 (72.22) | 6/8 (75.00) | 1.00 [#] |
| Tapering modality, n (%) | | | 1.00 [#] |
| Progressive reduction of number of injection | 4 (21.05) | 2 (22.22) | |
| Administration every other day | 13 (68.42) | 7 (77.78) | |
| Withdrawal without tapering | 2 (10.53) | 0 (0.00) | |

[#]Fisher exact test;

Table IV: Comparison between the 9 patients that had withdrawn all treatments with the 19 in which the withdrawal of treatment was not possible, due to relapses of the disease. The T-test or Mann-Whitney test was used depending on the variables' distribution.

| | OR (95% CI) | p-value |
|---|--------------------|----------------|
| Duration of steroidal treatment (months) | 0.82 (0.49-1.35) | 0.425 |
| Number of relapses before anakinra | 0.80 (0.45-1.45) | 0.470 |
| Distance between disease onset and initiation of anakinra | 0.90 (0.50-1.61) | 0.721 |
| Duration of treatment with daily anakinra (years) | 0.36 (0.05-2.56) | 0.310 |
| Initial dosage (mg/kg/day) | 0.38 (0.07-2.22) | 0.284 |
| Duration of follow-up from disease onset to withdrawal of anakinra (years) | 0.66 (0.4 – 1.08) | 0.101 |
| Duration of treatment with anakinra (years) | 0.53 (0.27-1.04) | 0.066* |
| Duration of follow-up (disease onset – last visit) (years) | 0.98 (0.79-1.21) | 0.83 |
| C reactive protein at the beginning of treatment with anakinra | 1.10 (0.99-1.22) | 0.067 |
| Days to achieve complete response to treatment with anakinra | 0.99 (0.87-1.12) | 0.883 |
| Presence of disease related symptoms at the beginning of treatment with anakinra | 0.66 (0.09-4.84) | 0.679 |
| Presence of pericardial effusion at the beginning of treatment with anakinra | 1.15 (0.17-7.74) | 0.883 |

Table V: bivariate logistic regression analysis between the 9 patients that had withdrawn all treatments and the 19 in which the withdrawal of treatment was not possible due to the occurrence of relapses.

| Patient | Number of relapses before treatment with IL1-blockers | Response to treatment ANK | Number of relapses in daily ANK | Number of relapses after tapering/withdrawal ANK | Duration of treatment ANK (years) | Side effects ANK | Reason of switch from ANK to CNK | Disease activity at the beginning of treatment with CNK | Initial dosage of CNK (mg/kg every 4 weeks) | Response to treatment CNK | Number of relapses at full dose CNK | Number of relapses after tapering/withdrawal CNK | Duration of treatment CNK (years) | Side effects CNK | Treatment at last follow-up |
|---------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| 14 | 3 | Complete | 0 | 8 | 9.5 | None | Prolonged treatment with ANK | Active | 1.8 | Inadequate | 2 | - | 0.1 | None | ANK 1.2 mg/kg 2 days a week |
| 17 | 3 | Complete | 0 | 1 | 0.04 | Severe local reaction | Side effects | Active | 2.1 | Inadequate | 4 | - | 1.6 | None | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 26 | 1 | Complete | 0 | 1 | 0.1 | None | Poor compliance | Active | 4.0 | Inadequate | 1 | - | 0.1 | None | ANK 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 56 | 4 | Complete | 0 | 3 | 7.0 | None | Prolonged treatment with ANK | Inactive | 2.5 | Complete | 0 | 0 | 2.2 | None | CNK 2.5 mg/kg every 10 weeks |
| 57 | 4 | Partial | 1 | 1 | 0.2 | Mild local reaction | Partial response to ANK | Inactive | 2.6 | Partial | 1 | 1 | 0.3 | None | CNK 2.6 mg/kg every 4 weeks plus colchicine |
| 58 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | Active | 2.5 | Complete | 0 | 0 | 4.3 | None | CNK 2.5 mg/kg every 8 weeks |

Table VI: Response to treatment, number of relapses in anakinra (ANK) and canakinumab (CNK) in the 6 patients treated with canakinumab.

| Patient | NSAID | Duration of treatment with NSAIDs (months) | Adequate dosage of NSAIDs | Initial response to treatment (NSAIDs) | Colchicine | Duration of treatment with colchicine (months) | Adequate dosage of colchicine | Initial response to treatment (colchicine) | Steroidal drug (mg/kg/day) | Duration of treatment with steroids (months) | Initial response to treatment (steroids) | Other treatment |
|---------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|------------|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Indomethacin | 3 | Y | complete | Y | 18 | Y | partial | PDN (0.3) | 1 | complete | |
| 2 | Ibuprofen | NK | Y | partial | N | - | - | - | PDN (2) | NK | complete | Micophenolate |
| 3 | Naproxen | 3 | Y | abstent | Y | 6 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 33 | complete | Immunoglobulins. Methotrexate |
| 4 | ibuprofen | 5 | N | complete | Y | 4 | Y | partial | PDN (2.5) | 3 | complete | |
| 5 | ASA, ibuprofen | 0.1 | N | absent | N | - | - | - | PDN (1.7) | 4 | complete | |
| 6 | ibuprofen, indomethacin | 6 | Y | complete (ibuprofen) absent (indomethacin) | Y | 6 | Y | complete | - | - | - | |
| 7 | ASA, ibuprofen | NK | NK | absent | Y | 2 | Y | partial | PDN (2) | 18 | complete | Methotrexate |
| 8 | ibuprofen | 1 | N | absent | Y | 4 | N | absent | MPN (2) | 0.3 | partial | |
| 9 | - | - | - | - | Y | 1 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 15 | complete | |
| 10 | ibuprofen | 1 | N | partial | N | - | - | - | PDN (0.6) | 4 | complete | |
| 11 | ibuprofen | 2 | Y | absent | Y | 4 | Y | absent | PDN (1) | 2 | absent | |
| 12 | ibuprofen | 2 | N | NK | Y | 40 | Y | partial | PDN (0.65) | 11 | complete | |
| 13 | NK, ibuprofen | 2 | Y | partial | Y | 2 | Y | partial | PDN (0.2) | 0.75 | partial | |
| 14 | Naproxen | 4 | Y | partial | Y | 3 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 8 | partial | |
| 15 | Ibuprofen | 1 | Y | partial | Y | 6 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 4 | partial | |
| 16 | ibuprofen | 3 | N | partial | Y | 9 | Y | partial | PDN (1.1) | 6 | complete | |
| 17 | ibuprofen, indomethacin | 44 | N | partial | Y | 9 | Y | partial | MPN (0.6) | 20 | complete | |
| 18 | Naproxen | 13 | Y | partial | Y | 24 | Y | partial | PDN (2) | 10 | complete | |
| 19 | Ibuprofen | 2 | Y | partial | Y | 7 | Y | complete | PDN (1) | 4 | complete | |
| 20 | Ibuprofen, ASA, Indometacin | 4 | Y | complete | Y | 10 | Y | complete | PDN (1) | 5 | complete | |
| 21 | Ibuprofen | 3.5 | N | partial | Y | 14 | Y | partial | PDN (1.1) | 14 | complete | |
| 22 | Ibuprofen | 1 | Y | absent | Y | 15 | Y | partial | MPN (2) | 8 | complete | |
| 23 | Ibuprofen | 3 | N | partial | Y | 2 | Y | complete | PDN (1) | 3 | partial | Immunoglobulins |
| 24 | Ibuprofen | 24 | Y | absent | Y | 41 | Y | complete | PDN (1) | 1 | complete | |
| 25 | Ibuprofen | 2.5 | Y | partial | Y | 9 | Y | complete | PDN (1) | 2 | complete | |
| 26 | Ibuprofen | 0.5 | Y | partial | Y | 0.5 | N | partial | - | - | - | |
| 27 | Indometacin | 10 | Y | absent | Y | 12 | Y | complete | PDN (0.6) | 8 | complete | |
| 28 | ASA | 0.1 | Y | partial | Y | 5 | Y | complete | PDN (0.66) | 10 | complete | Hydroxichloroquine |
| 29 | ASA | 0.3 | Y | complete | Y | 12 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 15 | complete | |
| 30 | Ibuprofen, indomethacin | 5 | Y | partial | Y | 21 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 5 | partial | |
| 31 | ASA, indomethacin | | Y | complete | Y | 48 | Y | complete | PDN | 72 | complete | |
| 32 | Indomethacin | 2 | Y | complete | Y | 5 | Y | complete | PDN (0.5) | 3 | complete | |
| 33 | ibuprofen | 4 | N | partial | Y | 2 | Y | partial | - | - | - | |
| 34 | Ibuprofen | 0.25 | Y | absent | Y | 6 | Y | partial | - | - | - | |
| 35 | Ibuprofen, indomethacin, | 2 | Y | complete | Y | 2 | Y | partial | - | - | - | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|------|----|----------|---|------|---|----------|-------------|-----|----------|----------------------------------|
| 36 | ibuprofen | - | - | | N | - | - | - | PDN (1.1) | 0.6 | partial | |
| 37 | ASA | 1 | NK | absent | Y | 18 | Y | partial | PDN (1.5) | 4.3 | complete | |
| 38 | Ibuprofen | 0.25 | Y | complete | N | - | - | - | MPN (1) | 2 | complete | |
| 39 | ibuprofen | 0.16 | N | absent | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 40 | Indomethacin | 5 | Y | partial | Y | 3 | Y | absent | PDN (1) | 8 | complete | |
| 41 | ibuprofen, indomethacin | 2 | Y | partial | Y | 10 | Y | partial | - | | | |
| 42 | Ibuprofen | 0.75 | N | partial | Y | 1.5 | Y | partial | MPN (0.8) | 2 | complete | |
| 43 | Ibuprofen | 0.50 | N | partial | Y | 8.25 | Y | partial | MPN (1.3) | 8 | partial | |
| 44 | ASA, ibuprofen, indomethacin | 5.50 | N | partial | Y | 0.5 | N | complete | - | - | - | |
| 45 | Ibuprofen, indomethacin | 0.25 | Y | complete | Y | 0.01 | N | absent | MPN (bolus) | 1 | complete | |
| 46 | Ibuprofen | 0.25 | Y | complete | Y | 1 | Y | complete | MPN (bolus) | 4 | complete | |
| 47 | Indometacin | | N | absent | Y | NK | N | partial | MPN (bolus) | | partial | Hydroxichloroquine, Azathioprine |
| 48 | NK, ibuprofen | | Y | complete | N | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| 49 | Ibuprofen | 2.60 | Y | partial | Y | 5 | Y | partial | MPN (1.7) | 1 | partial | |
| 50 | Ibuprofen | 9 | N | absent | N | - | - | - | MPN (bolus) | 4 | complete | |
| 51 | Ibuprofen, naproxen | 1 | Y | partial | Y | 8 | Y | partial | MPN (1) | 3.5 | partial | |
| 52 | NK | 0.50 | NK | partial | Y | 0.25 | N | absent | PDN (2) | 3 | complete | |
| 53 | Ibuprofen | 1.50 | Y | partial | Y | 3 | Y | absent | - | - | - | |
| 54 | Ibuprofen | 0.75 | N | partial | Y | 2 | Y | partial | PDN (1) | 5 | partial | |
| 55 | Ibuprofen | 1 | Y | partial | Y | 3 | Y | partial | PDN (0.5) | 2.5 | partial | |
| 56 | Naproxen, indomethacin | 6 | Y | partial | N | - | - | - | PDN (2) | 7 | partial | Methotrexate |
| 57 | Ibuprofen, ASA, indomethacin | 7 | Y | partial | Y | 2 | N | absent | PDN (1.2) | 2 | complete | |
| 58 | ibuprofen, ketoprofen | 3 | Y | absent | Y | 5 | Y | absent | PDN (1) | NK | absent | |

Table II: Conventional, second and third lines treatments used in the 58 patients included in the study.

Legend: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), metilprednisolone (MPN), prednisone (PDN). Not known (NK), yes (Y), no (N).

| Patient | Duration of steroidal treatment (months) | Distance between disease onset and anti-IL1 treatment (years) | Number of relapses before treatment with anakinra | Initial dosage (mg/kg/day) | Response to treatment | Side effects | Duration of daily treatment (years) | Number of attempt of tapering/ withdrawal | Relapses after tapering/ withdrawal | Total duration of treatment with anakinra (years) | Anakinra at last follow-up |
|---------|--|---|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1 | 18 | 1.50 | 4 | 1.3 | complete | None | 1.03 (ongoing) | - | - | 1.03 | 1.3 mg/kg/day |
| 2 | - | 0.58 | 5 | 3.3 | complete | None | 1.00 | 2 | 1 | 1.05 | 1 mg/kg 2 days a week |
| 3 | 6 | 3.30 | 10 | 1.2 | complete | None | 0.04 | 9 | 8 | 10.92 | 1.8 mg/kg 2 days a week |
| 4 | 4 | 0.97 | 5 | 1.3 | complete | None | 0.50 | 7 | 6 | 7.30 | 1.3 mg/kg 3 days a week |
| 5 | - | 0.08 | 1 | 2 | complete | None | 0.77 | 1 | 3 | 1.96 | no |
| 6 | 6 | 4.08 | 2 | 2 | complete | None | 0.69 | 1 | 0 | 1.25 | 2 mg/kg every other day |
| 7 | 2 | 0.42 | 3 | 1.2 | complete | None | 0.30 | 3 | 2 | 2.46 | no |
| 8 | 4 | 0.30 | 3 | 2.5 | complete | None | 0.13 | 1 | 0 | 0.14 | 2.5 mg/kg 5 days a week |
| 9 | 1 | 0.67 | 3 | 1.3 | complete | None | 0.02 | 2 | 1 | 2.66 | no |
| 10 | - | 0.03 | 1 | 1.6 | complete | None | 0.59 | 1 | 0 | 1.42 | no |
| 11 | 4 | 0.29 | 2 | 2 | complete | None | 0.22 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.22 | 2 mg/kg/day |
| 12 | 40 | 0.86 | 3 | 1 | complete | Mild local reaction | 0.73 | 3 | 2 | 3.02 | 1.3 mg/kg every other day |
| 13 | 2 | 1.34 | 4 | 1.5 | complete | None | 0.30 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.30 | 1.2 mg/kg/day |
| 14 | 3 | 0.33 | 3 | 1.2 | complete | None | 0.2 | 9 | 8 | 9.87 | 1.2 mg/kg 2 days a week |
| 15 | 6 | 0.28 | 1 | 2 | complete | None | 0.27 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.27 | 2 mg/kg/day |
| 16 | 9 | 0.66 | 2 | 2.2 | complete | Mild local reaction. Upper airways infections | 1.03 (ongoing) | - | - | 1.03 | 2.2 mg/kg/day |
| 17 | 9 | 0.70 | 3 | 1.4 | complete | Severe local reaction | 0.05 | 1 | 1 | 0.91 | 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 18 | 24 | 1.99 | 4 | 2 | complete | None | 0.13 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.13 | 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 19 | 7 | 0.46 | 3 | 2 | complete | None | 0.16 | 1 | 0 | 0.37 | 1.8 mg/kg 6 days a week |
| 20 | 10 | 0.33 | 4 | 2 | complete | None | 1.01 | 2 | 1 | 2.10 | 2 mg/kg 3 days a week |
| 21 | 14 | 0.77 | 3 | 1.1 | complete | None | 0.37 | 1 | 1 | 2.16 | 1.1 mg/kg/day |
| 22 | 15 | 0.95 | 4 | 1.5 | complete | None | 0.59 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.59 | 1.5 mg/kg/day |
| 23 | 2 | 0.37 | 5 | 1.4 | complete | Mild local reaction | 1.06 | 3 | 2 | 4.20 | 1.2 mg/kg 3 days a week |
| 24 | 41 | 3.66 | 3 | 1 | complete | None | 0.53 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.53 | 1 mg/kg/day |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------|-------|---|-------|-----------------------|---|-------------------|---|---|------|------------------------------|
| 25 | 9 | 1.09 | 4 | 1.5 | complete | None | 0.28 | 1 | 0 | 0.32 | 1.5 mg/kg every other day |
| 26 | 0.5 | 0.12 | 1 | 1 | complete | None | 0.13 | 1 | 1 | 1.38 | 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 27 | 12 | 0.53 | 3 | 1.2 | complete | None | 0.40 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.40 | 1.2 mg/kg/day |
| 28 | 5 | 2.41 | 5 | 1 → 2 | Partial → complete | None | 0.80 | 6 | 5 | 0.62 | 2 mg/kg 5 days a week |
| 29 | 12 | 0.84 | 3 | 1 | complete | None | 0.52 | 1 | 0 | 0.61 | no |
| 30 | 21 | 2.41 | 8 | 1.8 | complete | None | 0.38 | 1 | 0 | 1.46 | 1.8 mg/kg 4 days a week |
| 31 | 48 | 12.34 | 4 | 1.3 | partial | Airways infections | 0.46 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.46 | 1.3 mg/kg/day |
| 32 | 5 | 0.80 | 8 | 1.7 | complete | None | 0.32 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.32 | 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 33 | 2 | 0.16 | 3 | 1.6 | partial | Mild local reaction | 0.50 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.50 | 1.6 mg/kg/day |
| 34 | 6 | 0.01 | 1 | 2.2 | complete | None | 0.50 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.50 | 2.2 mg/kg/day |
| 35 | 2 | 0.68 | 4 | 1.5 | complete | None | 0.52 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.52 | 1.5 mg/kg/day |
| 36 | - | 0.07 | 2 | 2.3 | complete | None | 1.29 (ongoing) | - | - | 1.29 | 2 mg/kg/day |
| 37 | 18 | 0.48 | 3 | 1 | complete | None | 0.94 | 1 | 0 | 1.30 | no |
| 38 | - | 0.06 | 3 | 2.4 | complete | None | 1.11 | 2 | 2 | 4.12 | 2 mg/kg/day |
| 39 | - | 0.12 | 2 | 2.2 | complete | None | 1.28 (ongoing) | - | - | 1.28 | 1.5 mg/kg/day |
| 40 | 3 | 0.65 | 4 | 1 | complete | None | 0.99 | 1 | 3 | 1.79 | no |
| 41 | 10 | 0.28 | 2 | 1.7 | complete | None | 0.79 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.79 | 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 42 | 1.5 | 0.25 | 4 | 1.2 | complete | Increase of CK and transaminase | 1.18 | 2 | 2 | 3.36 | 1.2 mg/kg/day |
| 43 | 8.25 | 1.08 | 3 | 1.7 | complete | None | 1.01 | 1 | 0 | 1.81 | no |
| 44 | 0.5 | 1.13 | 4 | 1.4 | complete | None | 1.88 | 1 | 1 | 3.49 | 1.7 mg/kg/day |
| 45 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 2 | 2.1 | complete | None | 1.26 | 3 | 2 | 5.20 | 2 mg/kg 2 days a week |
| 46 | 1 | 0.24 | 4 | 3.1 | complete | None | 0.35 | 1 | 1 | 2.25 | 2.3 mg/kg/day |
| 47 | NK | 3.97 | 8 | 1.2 | complete | None | 1.40 | 1 | 0 | 2.28 | no |
| 48 | - | 5.42 | 3 | 1.4 | complete | Mild local reaction. nausea. dizziness | 1.29 | 1 | 0 | 1.68 | 1.4 mg/kg every other day |
| 49 | 5 | 0.20 | 2 | 2.8 | complete | None | 0.24 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.24 | 2.8 mg/kg/day |
| 50 | - | 0.28 | 2 | 1.4 | complete | None | 1.36 | 3 | 2 | 5.84 | 1.2 mg/kg every other day |
| 51 | 8 | 0.24 | 3 | 2.4 | complete | None | 0.56 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.56 | 2.3 mg/kg/day |
| 52 | 0.25 | 0.30 | 3 | 1 | complete | None | 1.33 | 7 | 6 | 9.72 | 1.5 mg/kg every other day |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|---|-----|----------|---------------------|----------------|---|---|------|---------------------------|
| 53 | 3 | 0.24 | 4 | 2 | complete | Mild local reaction | 0.08 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.08 | 2 mg/kg/day |
| 54 | 2 | 0.22 | 4 | 2.2 | complete | Urticarial rash | 0.15 | 1 | 0 | 0.43 | 2.2 mg/kg every other day |
| 55 | 3 | 0.30 | 3 | 2 | complete | None | 0.18 (ongoing) | - | - | 0.18 | 2 mg/kg/day |
| 56 | - | 7.08 | 4 | 2 | complete | None | 1.42 | 4 | 3 | 7.03 | no |
| 57 | 2 | 0.47 | 4 | 2.1 | partial | Mild local reaction | 0.25 | 1 | 1 | 3.14 | no |

Table III: Clinical outcome, response to treatment, side effects, duration of treatment and attempts to reduce/withdraw treatment of the 47 patients treated with anakinra.

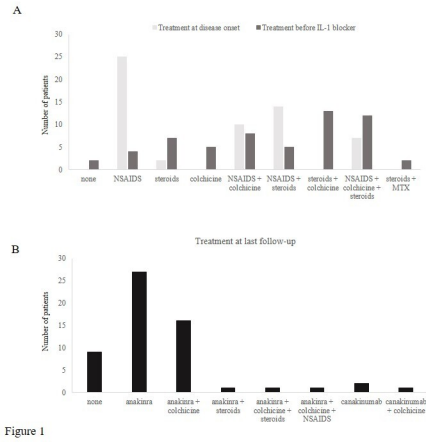


Figure 1

Journal Pre-proof

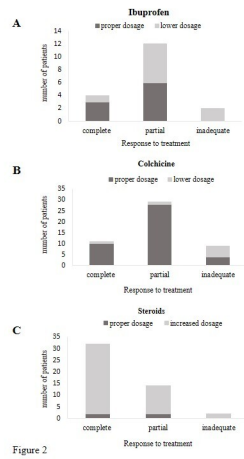
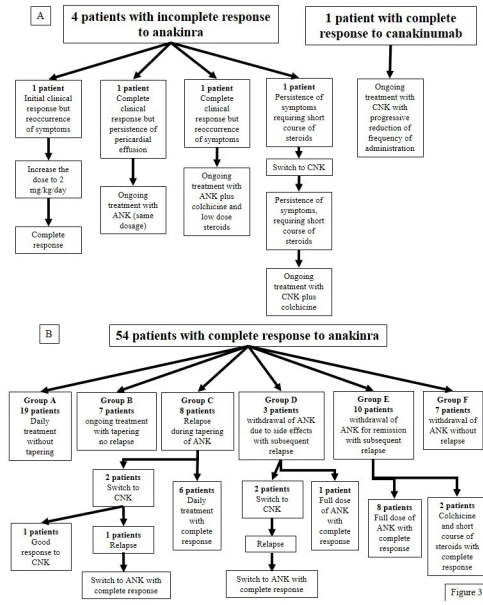


Figure 2



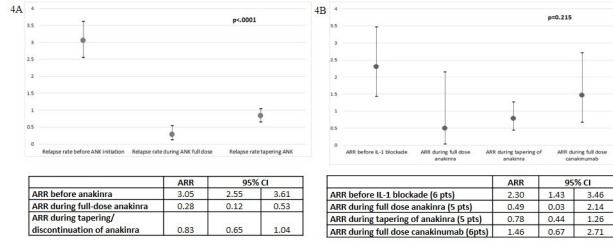


Figure 4

Journal Pre-proof