Thus anakinra therapy is warranted in patients with inflammatory disorders associated with mutation in CIAS1, but physicians must be aware of the increased risk of infection associated with this drug.

The authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

B. GRANEL, J. SERRATRICE, P. DISDIER, P.-J. WEILLER

Service de Médecine Interne, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Marseille (AP-HM), Centre Hospitalier Timone, 264 rue saint-Pierre, 13385 Marseille, France

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Correspondence to: P. Disdier, CHU de la Timone, 264 rue Saint-Pierre, 13385 Marseille, France. E-mail: pdisdier@ap-hm.fr


[18F]FDG-PET of giant-cell aortitis

SIR, A 74-yr-old woman was admitted to hospital with a 6-month history of weakness, decreasing appetite, vomiting, abdominal pain and weight loss of 14 kg. Laboratory studies showed that the white..
cell count was 12,100/mm³, the haemoglobin concentration was 9.4 g/dl, the haematocrit was 29.1%, the platelet count was 494,000/mm³ and the C-reactive protein was 141 mg/l. Gastroscopy, colonoscopy and CT scanning showed no abnormalities.

For further evaluation, the patient was admitted for [18F]FDG-PET, which clearly demonstrated pathologically elevated glucose uptake within the vessel wall of the whole aorta (Fig. 1A, arrow) and its main thoracic and abdominal branches. The diagnosis of large-vessel vasculitis was subsequently confirmed by the finding of giant cell infiltration (Fig. 1B, arrow) with thickening of all temporal artery layers and consecutive stenosis of the lumen. The patient was treated with prednisone and recovery was unremarkable.

Due to its high sensitivity, especially in the state of active inflammation [1], [18F]FDG-PET might become a valuable diagnostic tool in the management of large-vessel inflammation.

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Institute of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital Basel, 1Division of Rheumatology, University Hospital Basel and 2Institute of Clinical Pathology and Cytology, Basel, Switzerland

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Correspondence to: M. A. Walter, Institute of Nuclear Medicine, University Hospital, Petersgraben 4, CH-4031 Basel, Switzerland. E-mail: m.a.walter@gmx.net


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Congenital heart block associated with a maternal anti-HsEg5-like autoantibody

Sir, Congenital heart block (CHB) is a rare (1:20,000) disease, and in 70% of cases there are no coexisting cardiac malformations [1]. In this subsect, up to 90% [2, 3] are associated with, if not directly caused by, maternal autoantibodies (Abs) against SSA/SSB (cardiac manifestation of neonatal lupus erythematosus), independently of whether maternal SLE or SS is manifested. Via active placental transfer (increasing after 16 weeks’ gestation), IgG antibodies (Abs) gain access to the fetal heart during a vulnerable phase (from week 16 until shortly after birth), when the main cardiac development is complete and physiological apoptotic...