Further Experience of Immunosuppressive Therapy on Patients with Factor VIII Inhibitor

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Acquired Factor VIII inhibitor may occur in haemophiliacs as well as normal persons. The presence of acquired Factor VIII inhibitor still poses a difficult problem in the management of bleeding episodes. At this Center, eradication of circulating Factor VIII inhibitor with immunosuppressive therapy has been attempted in 10 patients with acquired Factor VIII anticoagulant in 5 normal subjects and 5 haemophiliacs. The immunosuppressive therapy used consisted of vincristine (0.03 mg/kg, i.v. on day 1) cyclophosphamide (8 mg/kg, i.v. on day 1, and 3 mg/kg/day, p.o. on days 2–5), and prednisone (2 mg/kg/day, p.o. on days 1–5) following the infusion with a dose of Factor VIII concentrate between 50 and 100 U/kg. The same treatment was repeated at the interval of 4 weeks for 2–3 additional cycles. 4 out of 5 normal persons with inhibitor responded with complete disappearance of the Factor VIII inhibitor and normalization of Factor VIII inhibitor; this patient was found to have Factor VIII inhibitor again after he was challenged with Factor VIII concentrate 2 years later. This data suggests that the inhibitor developing in normal persons responds more satisfactory to combined Factor VIII and immunosuppressive therapy than that occurring in haemophiliacs.