Treatment of Factor VIII Inhibitor Patients

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We will report on the therapeutical approach to the treatment of 17 inhibitor patients classified by us as 'high responders'. The therapy was performed with a combination of highly purified Factor VIII concentrate and Fraction Feiba.

We first treated acute haemorrhages in 8 patients with this combination therapy model and observed a sinking of the inhibitor titer if we sustained the treatment over several weeks. This observation led us to develop a therapy model of continuous treatment with the intention of reaching a reversal of the titer, possibly to its complete disappearance, a normalization of the recovery and all in all an improvement of the clinical situation. With this model of continuous combination therapy, the elimination of the inhibitor and the normalization of the recovery and half-life could be achieved in 14 cases. 2 patients died during the treatment period; in 1 patient the therapy had to be interrupted. As a result, the inhibitor titer rose. After resuming the treatment, the titer could be brought down to 0.3 U/ml. The patient remains under continuous combination treatment.

In none of the 14 cases could a booster-ing of the inhibitor be observed although in the meantime several bleeding episodes had to be treated with Factor VIII concentrates. The longest observation period after the elimination of the inhibitor amounts to 2 years.