Abstract

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Treatment of Deep-Seated Candidosis with Itraconazole: Multicentre Study in Japan

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Abstract

A multicentre clinical trial of itraconazole for deep-seated mycoses was carried out in 25 hospitals in Japan. The clinical efficacy and safety of itraconazole administered to 31 patients with candidosis are reported here. The diagnosis was confirmed by microscopy, culture, histology, serology, biopsy, radiology and/or endoscopy. Of the patients, 7 had candidaemia, 4 had pulmonary candidosis, 13 had oesophageal candidosis and 7 had urinary tract candidosis. The mean age of the patients was 57.8 years (range, 18-87 years). They had underlying diseases, such as haematological malignancy, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and cancer, leading to immunocompromise. The patients received itraconazole, 50-200 mg/day for 4-60 days (mean, 18.8 days). The overall clinical efficacy of itraconazole was 90% (27/30); in candidaemia it was 83.3% effective (5/6); in pulmonary candidosis, 100% (4/4); in oesophageal candidosis, 84.6% (11/13); and in urinary tract candidosis, 100% (7/7). Eradication of *Candida* spp. was observed in 24 of the 31 patients. Itraconazole was well tolerated; eosinophilia and elevation of serum alanine aminotransferase and γ -glutamyl transferase were each observed in 1 patient. Determination of the serum levels of itraconazole confirmed that effective concentrations were reached. In conclusion, oral administration of itraconazole once or twice a day was well tolerated by all the patients, and satisfactory responses were obtained.