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 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.