Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor Therapy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
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Contents

VIII Preface
Rogler, G. (Zurich); Herfarth, H. (Chapel Hill, N.C.); Hibi, T. (Tokyo); Nielsen, O.H. (Copenhagen)

Physiological Role of TNF in Mucosal Immunology

1 The Effect of TNF-α on the Regulation of Epithelial Function in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Tsuchiya, K. (Tokyo)

9 Physiological Role of TNF in Mucosal Immunology: Regulation of Macrophage/Dendritic Cell Function
Rivollier, A. (Frederiksberg); Marsal, J. (Lund); Agace, W.W. (Frederiksberg/Lund)

27 Physiological Role of TNF in Mucosal Immunology: Regulation of T-Cell Function
Scharl, M. (Zurich)

Pathophysiological Role of TNF in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

35 Pathophysiological Role of TNF in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: TNF and Its Impact on Barrier Function
Schumann, M.; Kühnel, A. (Berlin)

49 Pathophysiological Role of TNF in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: TNF and Its Effect on Innate Immune Defense
Scharl, M. (Zurich)

56 TNF and Its Impact on Adaptive Immune Mechanisms and Chronic Inflammation
Siegmund, B. (Berlin)

Mechanism of Action of Anti-TNF Antibodies

62 Binding of Membrane-Bound TNF
Atreya, R.; Billmeier, U.; Rath, T.; Neumann, H.; Neurath, M.F. (Erlangen)

73 Apoptosis of T Cells and Monocytes
Kucharzik, T. (Hamburg)

83 Neutralisation of Soluble Tumor Necrosis Factor
Dreesen, E.; Gils, A. (Leuven)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td><strong>Recommended Screening Procedures before Treatment with Anti-TNF Agents</strong></td>
<td>Maaser, C. (Lueneburg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td><strong>The Risk of Formation of Neutralizing Antibodies</strong></td>
<td>Clark, J.; Sakuraba, A. (Chicago, Ill.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td><strong>TNF Antagonist Trough Concentrations and Treatment Efficacy in Inflammatory Bowel Disease</strong></td>
<td>Vande Casteele, N. (Leuven/La Jolla, Ca.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Biosimilars</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td><strong>What Is a Biosimilar?</strong></td>
<td>Neri, D. (Zurich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td><strong>Is Extrapolation of Safety and Efficacy Data Possible?</strong></td>
<td>Ainsworth, M. (Herlev)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td><strong>Potential Concerns and Questions</strong></td>
<td>Rogler, G. (Zurich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Side Effects of Anti-TNF Therapy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td><strong>Psoriasis-Like Lesions and Skin Reactions</strong></td>
<td>Herfarth, H.H.; Long, M.D.; Sayed, C. (Chapel Hill, N.C.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td><strong>The Elicitation of Rheumatic Symptoms at Vascular Sites</strong></td>
<td>Geyer, M.; Müller-Ladner, U. (Bad Nauheim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td><strong>Serum Reaction, Lupus-Like Syndrome</strong></td>
<td>Schnitzler, F. (Munich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Risks of Anti-TNF Therapy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td><strong>Risk of Non-Hematologic Malignancy with Anti-TNF Therapy in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases</strong></td>
<td>Jain, A. (Baltimore, Md.); Herfarth, H.H.; Long, M.D. (Chapel Hill, N.C.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td><strong>Risk of Lymphoma</strong></td>
<td>Nagahori, M.; Watanabe, M. (Tokyo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td><strong>Risk of Serious Infection</strong></td>
<td>Naganuma, M. (Tokyo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td><strong>Risk of Post-Operative Infections with Anti-TNF Therapy</strong></td>
<td>Cohen, B.L. (New York, N.Y.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Anti-TNF Therapy in Crohn’s Disease</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td><strong>Predictor of Treatment Response</strong></td>
<td>Tanaka, H.; Motoya, S. (Hokkaido)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
169 Step-Up or Top-Down, Combination with Immunosuppression or Not?
Barthel, C.; Stange, E.F. (Stuttgart)

Anti-TNF Therapy in Ulcerative Colitis

178 The 'Ideal' Anti-TNF Patient: Indications for Anti-TNF Therapy in Ulcerative Colitis
Hisamatsu, T. (Tokyo)

185 Predictors of the Treatment Response
Kim, H.J. (Seoul)

190 What Is the Right Dosage?
Michetti, P. (Lausanne)

Anti-TNF Therapy in Special Inflammatory Bowel Disease Situations

195 Fistulizing and Strictureing Crohn's Disease
Schoepfer, A.M. (Lausanne)

201 Postoperative Anti-TNF Therapy in the Management of Crohn's Disease
Barrie, A.; Regueiro, M. (Pittsburgh, Pa.)

206 Anti-TNF-α Therapy for Extraintestinal Manifestations of Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Nielsen, O.H. (Herlev); Bendtzen, K. (Copenhagen); Pedersen, J. (Herlev)

Anti-TNF Therapy in Special Situations of the Patient

214 Anti-TNF Alpha Agents and Breastfeeding
Al-Sum, H.; Maxwell, C.V. (Toronto)

219 Anti-TNF Therapy before Surgery
Vavricka, S.R.; Scharl, M.; Rogler, G. (Zurich)

When and How to Stop Anti-TNF Treatment in Inflammatory Bowel Disease

224 When and How to Stop Anti-TNF Treatment in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Predictors of Relapse after Stopping Treatment
Louis, E. (Liège)

229 Treatment Options after Anti-TNF Failure
Kobayashi, T. (Tokyo)

234 Author Index
235 Subject Index
Preface

The introduction of anti TNF antibodies into the treatment of patients with inflammatory bowel disease about fifteen years ago has dramatically changed the field of IBD therapy. This treatment option has significantly improved the quality of life for patients with severe Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. Extensive research has been performed analyzing the mode of action of anti TNF antibodies in vitro and in vivo, positioning this therapeutic approach in current treatment strategies and analyzing the side effects of anti-TNF strategies and various other aspects, such as monitoring of therapy. With the introduction of anti-TNF antibody biosimilars the field has become more complex and new questions have been raised.

Surprisingly so far there have been no attempt to provide a comprehensive overview on all aspects of TNF action, mechanisms of anti TNF therapy, treatment strategies, side effects, monitoring, biosimilars and many other aspects that are important with respect to anti TNF therapy.

This monograph for the first time makes the effort to cover all those important aspects and answer questions that are associated with them. It is the first text book written by experts in the field that tries to bridge basic research on TNF action and on properties of the different antibodies to frequent questions regarding treatment strategies, stop options, etc. The authors have included newest results; the single chapters are focused and to the point; and the information given is helpful and precise.

We hope that this wide-ranging overview on anti-TNF therapy in inflammatory bowel disease will help clinicians and guide them to the optimal treatment decision. At the end we hope to improve the quality of life of patients with inflammatory bowel disease with the information provided in this monograph.

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