

Diagnosis and clinical response to sulfasalazin in Iranian inflammatory low back pain (iLBP) patients

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Objective: to understand the prevalence, diagnosis and response to therapy [non steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAIDS), Sulfasalazin, Methotrexate(MTZ)] in patients with iLBP.

Method: In a semi-experimental study we followed 118 iLBP patients during 4 years (2008-2011) to evaluate prevalence, diagnosis and clinical response to sulfasalazine.

Result: In 1779 patients with LBP only 118 were inflammatory (6.63%) with mean age 36.2 ± 9.00 years old, (62 men, 56 women).

Diagnosis of them were ankylosing spondylitis(24.6%), reactive arthritis(9.3%), psoriatic arthritis(4.3%), entropathic arthritis (0.8 %) and undifferentiated spondyloarthropathy-USPA(61%).

3.4% of 118 had good response to only NSAIDS, 57.6% had response to both NSAIDS and Sulfasalazin, 26.3% had response to adding MTX and 12.7% were on biologic agents. Responses to Sulfasalazin in reactive arthritis and undifferentiated spondyloarthropathy were 54.5% and 69.4% respectively.

Conclusion: In Iranian patients, prevalence of iLBP is more than the others but USPA is a common diagnosis. Clinical response to Sulfasalazin in reactive arthritis and USPA is great and should be considered.

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