

CONCLUSION

Patients with PPGL, especially those with SHDB mutation, require monitoring at regular intervals to screen and detect metastasis to reduce mortality and morbidity.

PA-A-53

A CASE OF HASHIMOTO'S THYROIDITIS IN A PATIENT WITH HEPATITIS C: THE EFFECT OF DIRECT-ACTING ANTIVIRAL (DAA)

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INTRODUCTION

The first discovery of a Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) association was found in mixed cryoglobulinemia. Multiple organs and systems were then affected including the thyroid. HCV may interfere with the functions and mechanisms of self-recognition of both the immune system and thyroid cells and may directly destroy thyroid tissue or mimic the structure of some components of the thyroid gland, thereby initiating autoimmune disease. Interferon (IFN) is a drug used in treating HCV, and studies have shown that IFN-induced thyroid autoimmunity can cause both hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism.

CASE

A 45-year-old Malay male with underlying diabetes mellitus was admitted for difficulty of breathing and was diagnosed with Hashimoto's thyroiditis with positive anti-TPO and anti-thyroglobulin antibodies complicated with pericardial effusion in 2018. His liver enzymes were abnormal and investigations revealed that he had HCV with liver cirrhosis secondary to heroin use in 2018. He was treated with DAA for 6 months in 2019. Repeated investigations showed that he achieved sustained virologic response (SVR).

After SVR, his thyroxine dosage remained at 1.4 mcg/kg/day, ensuring compliance to medication timing. No antibodies were repeated. In terms of upper gastrointestinal bleeding, ascites, or bleeding tendency, the development of hypothyroidism did not seem to worsen liver cirrhosis.

CONCLUSION

The above case shows that DAA had no impact on thyroid autoimmunity in preexisting Hashimoto's thyroiditis with HCV. Nonetheless, variations in the accuracy of the test techniques and other variables, such as iodine consumption and drugs, contribute to this discrepancy. Patients with HCV infection and autoimmune thyroid disease are influenced by a complex network of cytokines, chemokines, and their receptors. To determine how beneficial these mediators may be as thyroiditis prognostic indicators in the follow-up of HCV positive patients, more research with bigger populations are required.

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POOR KNOWLEDGE BUT GOOD ATTITUDE TOWARDS ANABOLIC ANDROGENIC STEROIDS AMONG STUDENTS IN A LOCAL TERTIARY INSTITUTION

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INTRODUCTION

Non-medical use of anabolic androgenic steroids (AAS) is a widespread public health concern, with up to 8% of university students using it for aesthetic purposes. Studies have reported poor knowledge and attitude towards AAS among university students. Our study aims to study the knowledge and attitude on AAS among male undergraduate students in University Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

METHODOLOGY

One thousand three hundred eight (1308) male university students were recruited via convenience sampling and given an online self-administering questionnaire between December 2021 – February 2022. The questionnaire documented their socio-demographic parameters, as well as assessed their knowledge and attitude towards AAS.

RESULTS

68.6% of our respondents had poor knowledge on AAS; students from the urban campus or those who spent >30 minutes in the gym had significantly higher knowledge. Interestingly, the level of knowledge on AAS was lower among students who participated in competitive sports. Most of the students were not aware that AAS abuse may affect their mental health or even result in other complications such as gynaecomastia. On the contrary, 83% of the students had a good attitude towards AAS. There was a significant association between family history of AAS use and poorer attitude. Most of the students (79.1%) admitted they would not use AAS in the future, while only 7.7% agreed that AAS should be used freely among athletes. Only 35% agreed that the public should be allowed access to AAS under medical supervision. There is a significant but mild positive correlation between the knowledge scores and attitude scores among the participants.

CONCLUSION

Our study is the first in Malaysia that depicts poor knowledge but good attitude of male university students towards AAS. Hence, there is a need for university students to be exposed to information regarding AAS abuse and its complications.