

## FÜR MICH EIN TRIUMPH:



## PSO<sup>\*</sup>+ PSA<sup>\*</sup>

TREMFYA°– der erste IL-23-Hemmer, der beides kann!



### HEISSE NEWS aus der GUIDE-Studie. Hier mehr erfahren ...

\* TREMFYA® ist indiziert: 1) für erwachsene Patienten mit mittelschwerer bis schwerer Plaque-Psorlasis, die für eine systemische Therapie in Frage kommen; 2) allein oder in Kombination mit MTX für die Behandlung der aktiven Psorlasis-Arthritis bei erwachsenen Patienten, wenn das Ansprechen auf eine vorherige nicht-biologische krankheitsmodifizierende antirheumatische (DMARD-)Therapie unzureichend gewesen ist oder nicht vertragen wurde! # PASI 90: 84% (Wo 48; n=534) Non Responder Imputation (NRI)<sup>5</sup>; PASI 100: 52,7% (Wo 252; n=391) Treatment Failure Rules (TFR)<sup>3</sup>; Signifikante Überlegenheit vs. Placebo in Bezug auf ACR20 (64% vs. 33%, p<0,0001; NRI) nach 24 Wochen</p>

In der 8-Wochen-Dosierung (n=248) in bionalven Patienten mit aktiver PSA.<sup>4</sup> 1. Aktuelle Fachinformation TRE/MFYA<sup>9</sup>. 2. Reich K et al. Lancet. 2019;394(10201):831–839. 3. Reich K et al. Br J Dermatol. 2021 Jun 9. doi: 10.1111/bjd.20568. 4. Mease P et al. The Lancet 2020; https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30263-4 (Supplementary)

V Dieses Arzneimittel unterliegt einer zusätzlichen Überwachung. Daher ist es wichtig, jeden Verdacht auf Nebenwirkungen in Verbindung mit diesem Arzneimittel zu melden.

STUDIE

TREMFYA\*100 mg Injektionslösung Ineiner Fertigspritze/ In einem Fertigsen. Wirkstoff: Guselkumab. Zusammensetz.: Fertigspritze/Fertigpenenth. 100 mg Guselkumab. Sonst. Bestandt.: Histidin, Histidinmonohydrochlorid-Monohydrat, Polysorbat 80, Sucrose, Wasser f. Injektionszw. Anw.geb.; Für d. Bhdlg. erw. Pat. m. mittelschwerer bis schwerer Plaque-Psorlasis Indiziert, d. für e. syst. Therapie in Frage kommen. Als Monotherapie od. in Komb. m. Methotrexat für d. Bhdlg. erw. Pat. m. Psorlasis-Arthrits indiziert, d. aufe. vorherige nicht-biolog. kranheitsmodifiz. antitheumat. (DMARD)-Therapie unzureich. angesprochen od. diese nicht vertragen haben. Gegenanz: Schwerweige. Überempfindl. gg. Guselkumab Sonst. Bestandt., klin. relew. aktive Infektionen (einschl. aktive Tuberkulose), Schwangersch, Stillzeit. Bes. Warnhinw. u. Vorsichtsmaßn.: Um d. Rückerdfolgbark. b. biolog. Arzneim. zu verbessern, sollten Name u. Ch.-Bez. d. verabreich. Prod. deutl. protokoll. werden. Vors. b. Infektionen, Tuberkulose, Impfungen (vor Anw. v. Lebendimpfst. muss d. Bhdlg. m. Tremfya nach d. letzt. Gabe f. mind. 12Wo. ausgesetztwerden). B. Erhöh. v. Leberazymwerten (ALT/AST) u. Verdacht auf arzneimittelinduz. Leberschädig. sollte d. Bhdlg. vorüberg. unterbr. werden. B. schwerwieg. Überempfindl.reakt. sollte d. Anw. v. Tremfya unverzügl abgebrochen u. e. geeign. Bhdlg. eingel. werden. Frauen im gebärfäh. Alter sollen währ. u. f. mind. 12 Wo. nach d. Bhdlg. e. zuverläss. Verhütgs.meth. anw.. Arzneim. f. Kdr. unzugångl. aufbewahren. Nabemvirke: Sehr häufig (e1/100) bis <1/10), *Berempfindl.reakt.*, Anaphylaxie, Urtikaria, Hautausschlag, Neutrophilenzahlerniedr. Verschreibungspfilchtug. Pharmazeut. Unternehmer: JANSSEN-CILAG International NV, Turnhoutseweg 30, B-2340 Beerse, Belgien. Örtl. Vertreter für Deutschland: Janssen-Cilag GrnbH., Johnson & Jo



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Clinical Letter

Successful treatment of non-uremic calciphylaxis with bisphosphonate

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Dear Editors,

A 67-year-old obese woman (BMI 33.9) was hospitalized four months ago due to cardiac decompensation. As a result of the diuretic therapy with spironolactone 50 mg (1-0-0)and furosemide 20 mg (1-0-0), she reported a weight loss from 89 kg to 78 kg within a few days. Shortly thereafter, multiple, painful ulcerations developed on the buttocks and thighs. Initial treatment by surgical debridement and vacuum therapy had no positive effect and all skin lesions increased rapidly in size. We were astonished to find, upon her presentation in our outpatient clinic, eight partially necrotic ulcerations, reaching in part into the subcutaneous tissue and with a diameter of up to 12 cm.

The results of a routine blood analysis were Hb 5.3 mmol/l (ref 7.2–9.6 mmol/l), CRP 39.16 (ref. < 5 mg/l) and GFR 82.8 (> 90 ml/min/1,73 m<sup>2</sup>). Microbiological analyses of the skin lesions revealed colonization with *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Histopathological examination of a skin specimen from the periphery of an ulceration and spanning the cutis and subcutis showed lobular panniculitis with calcification of small and medium-sized arterioles (Figure 1). In addition, a pronounced intimal fibroplasia and thrombotic occlusion of the small vessels was seen. Based on the characteristic histological picture, the patient was diagnosed with calciphylaxis.

Calciphylaxis is a rare vascular disease characterized by the initial appearance of severely painful, subcutaneous indurations and nodules with accompanying livedo racemosa. Due to chronic local ischemia, ulcerations and necrosis develop during the course of the disease especially on the lower extremities, buttocks and abdomen. Vascular calcifications



**Figure 1** Lobular panniculitis with calcification of arterioles (hematoxylin-eosin-staining, overview; scale 1.5 mm) (a), intraluminal calcification (arrow) and thrombosis of a vessel (scale 100  $\mu$ m) (b), panniculitis with lymphocytes and granulocytes (scale 100  $\mu$ m) (c).



**Figure 2** Clinical picture of multiple, partially necrotic and superinfected ulcerations of the left buttock before (a) and after (b) therapy with pamidronate i.v. (30 mg, every 14 days) for three months.

have also been reported in muscle tissue, the gastrointestinal tract or the lungs [1]. Calciphylaxis occurs almost exclusively in chronic end stage renal disease, during dialysis or after kidney transplantation, and is therefore also referred to as uremic calciphylaxis or calcifying uremic arteriolopathy. In rare cases, patients with normal renal function are also affected. To date, about 70 cases of this non-uremic form have been described in the literature [2, 3]. As shown in a study on 36 patients from 2008, primary hyperparathyroidism is the main risk factor (27.8 %) for the development of non-uremic calciphylaxis (NUK). In 22.2 % of the cases a malignant, underlying disease such as chronic myeloid leukemia or metastatic breast cancer was diagnosed [2]. Other statistically proven risk factors include female gender, obesity, alcoholic liver disease, diabetes mellitus, systemic steroid administration and hypoalbuminemia [2, 4]. The administration of the vitamin K antagonist warfarin has been linked to the occurrence of non-uremic calciphylaxis in several cases [5]]. Due to the lack of association with kidney disease, NUK is often diagnosed late in these patients. Histological examination of a tissue sample is obligatory, and can be used to exclude potential differential diagnoses such as pyoderma gangrenosum, necrotizing vasculitis or cholesterol embolism.

The pathogenesis of calciphylaxis is not fully understood. One possible cause is a change in calcium and phosphate metabolism, which supports the calcification of small cutaneous arterioles and subcutaneous adipose tissue [6]. A lack of calcification inhibitors such as fetuin-A or matrix Gla protein (MGP) have been suggested as possible triggers. MGP is carboxylated in a vitamin K-dependent manner and then inhibits pro-calcifying proteins 2 and 4 (BMP-2/-4). As a result of MGP deficiency, there is an increased precipitation of calcium phosphate in the serum and tissue of patients with calciphylaxis [7, 8]. The microthrombosis that occurs during calciphylaxis can be explained by a lack of endogenous anticoagulants such as protein C and S [9, 10]. Severe weight loss within a short period of time at normal calcium phosphate levels, as in our patient, is a very rare cause of non-uremic calciphylaxis [2]. In one case report, increased matrix metalloproteinase levels in serum were described as potential triggers [11], but the pathomechanism has not been conclusively clarified.

Calciphylaxis in patients with end-stage renal failure is characterized by a rapidly progressive course with a high 1-year mortality of 45–80 %. In non-uremic calciphylaxis, the prognosis is better with a 1-year mortality of 25–45 %. In most cases, patients died of sepsis as a result of bacterial superinfections of the cutaneous lesions [1]. Therapy depends on the patient's individual situation, but in all cases local antiseptic wound care with removal of necrotic tissue is of central importance.

In our patient the diuretic therapy and associated weight loss might be discussed as possible triggers for non-uremic calciphylaxis. There was no underlying malignant disease or treatment with warfarin. Based on positive case reports on the use of chelating agents such as sodium thiosulfate and bisphosphonate [12], we started an i.v. therapy with pamidronate (30 mg, every 14 days) over three months in our outpatient clinic. We also supplemented calcium carbonate and cholecalciferol 1500 mg + 400 IE (1–0–0) orally. In combination with regular debridements and daily dressing changes with silver-containing dressings, skin lesions were slowly regressive over a five-month period (Figures 2).

#### Conflict of interest

None.

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