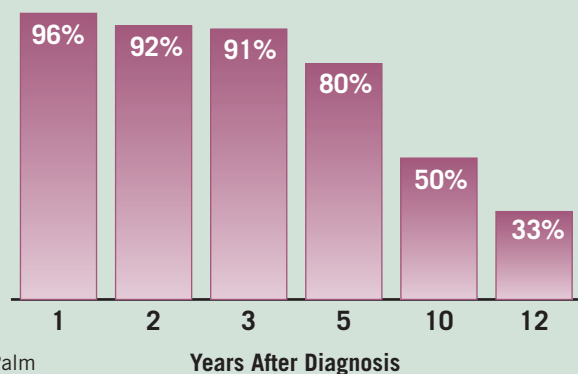


Survival Rates for 30 Patients With Antisynthetase Syndrome



Source: Dr. Palm

Years After Diagnosis

ELSEVIER GLOBAL MEDICAL NEWS

Ten-Year Survival Poor in Antisynthetase Syndrome

BY NANCY WALSH
New York Bureau

BARCELONA — A review of 30 patients with antisynthetase syndrome found that only half survived 10 years after diagnosis, Dr. Oyvind Palm reported at the annual European Congress of Rheumatology.

This idiopathic inflammatory myopathy is characterized by the presence of anti-

bodies directed against tRNA synthetase. The most common antibody is anti-Jo-1, which is found in 80% of cases.

Other antibodies sometimes found include anti-SSA, anti-PL-7, and anti-PL-12.

Clinical manifestations of the disease include interstitial lung disease, which can be severe, arthritis, Raynaud phenomenon, and the hyperkeratotic rash known as mechanic's hands, according to Dr. Palm of the department of rheumatology, Rikshospitalet-Radiumhospitalet Medical Center, Oslo.

With the aim of characterizing the disease's clinical and serologic features, researchers reviewed all hospital records of patients diagnosed with an inflammatory myopathy and analyzed the charts of those who had antisynthetase antibodies and pulmonary disease.

The mean age of these 30 patients was 45.5 years, and in one-third of the group,

the disease onset was before age 40. Two-thirds of the patients were women.

Most patients had histologic evidence of inflammatory myopathy and elevated serum creatine kinase, but only four had elevations of creatine ki-

nase exceeding 3,000 IU/mL.

Muscular manifestations rarely caused significant patient disability and were present at the onset of disease in only six of the cases.

Anti-Jo-1 antibodies were detected in 90%. Anti-SSA autoantibodies, commonly found in patients with Sjögren syndrome, were detected in 50% but only rarely were they associated with dry eyes and mouth, Dr. Palm wrote in a poster session.

Pulmonary involvement was classified as follows:

► Type I (acute): Found in 24%; rapid onset of dyspnea or cough with development of hypoxemia within 1 month after the onset of disease.

► Type II (subacute): Found in 64%; gradual onset of pulmonary symptoms.

► Type III (asymptomatic): Found in 12%; coincidentally detected pulmonary abnormalities on x-ray or CT scan with subsequent slowly developing pulmonary symptoms.

Honeycombing with end-stage pulmonary disease was found in 30.4%.

All but one patient had received treatment with immunosuppressive drugs including corticosteroids, cyclophosphamide, and rituximab.

Four patients died, two having type I pulmonary involvement. "While approximately 90% survive the first 3 years of disease, thereafter the mortality increases sharply, and new treatment strategies are clearly warranted," he concluded. ■

Brief Summary

Duac® Topical Gel
(clindamycin, 1% - benzoyl peroxide, 5%)

For Dermatological Use Only.
Not for Ophthalmic Use.

Rx Only

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Duac Topical Gel is indicated for the topical treatment of inflammatory acne vulgaris.

Duac Topical Gel has not been demonstrated to have any additional benefit when compared to benzoyl peroxide alone in the same vehicle when used for the treatment of non-inflammatory acne.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Duac Topical Gel is contraindicated in those individuals who have shown hypersensitivity to any of its components or to lincomycin. It is also contraindicated in those having a history of regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis, pseudomembranous colitis, or antibiotic-associated colitis.

WARNINGS

ORALLY AND PARENTERALLY ADMINISTERED CLINDAMYCIN HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SEVERE COLITIS WHICH MAY RESULT IN PATIENT DEATH. USE OF THE TOPICAL FORMULATION OF CLINDAMYCIN RESULTS IN ABSORPTION OF THE ANTIBIOTIC FROM THE SKIN SURFACE. DIARRHEA, BLOODY DIARRHEA, AND COLITIS (INCLUDING PSEUDOMEMBRANOUS COLITIS) HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF TOPICAL AND SYSTEMIC CLINDAMYCIN. STUDIES INDICATE A TOXIN(S) PRODUCED BY CLOSTRIDIA IS ONE PRIMARY CAUSE OF ANTIBIOTIC-ASSOCIATED COLITIS. THE COLITIS IS USUALLY CHARACTERIZED BY SEVERE PERSISTENT DIARRHEA AND SEVERE ABDOMINAL CRAMPS AND MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PASSAGE OF BLOOD AND MUCUS. ENDOSCOPIC EXAMINATION MAY REVEAL PSEUDOMEMBRANOUS COLITIS. STOOL CULTURE FOR *Clostridium difficile* AND STOOL ASSAY FOR *Clostridium difficile* TOXIN MAY BE HELPFUL DIAGNOSTICALLY. WHEN SIGNIFICANT DIARRHEA OCCURS, THE DRUG SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED. LARGE BOWEL ENDOSCOPY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO ESTABLISH A DEFINITIVE DIAGNOSIS IN CASES OF SEVERE DIARRHEA. ANTIPERISTALTIC AGENTS SUCH AS OPIATES AND DIPHENOXYLATE WITH ATROPINE MAY PROLONG AND/OR WORSEN THE CONDITION. DIARRHEA, COLITIS AND PSEUDOMEMBRANOUS COLITIS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED TO BEGIN UP TO SEVERAL WEEKS FOLLOWING CESSATION OF ORAL AND PARENTERAL THERAPY WITH CLINDAMYCIN.

Mild cases of pseudomembranous colitis usually respond to drug discontinuation alone. In moderate to severe cases, consideration should be given to management with fluids and electrolytes, protein supplementation and treatment with an antibacterial drug clinically effective against *Clostridium difficile* colitis.

PRECAUTIONS

General: For dermatological use only; not for ophthalmic use. Concomitant topical acne therapy should be used with caution because a possible cumulative irritancy effect may occur, especially with the use of peeling, desquamating, or abrasive agents.

The use of antibiotic agents may be associated with the overgrowth of nonsusceptible organisms, including fungi. If this occurs, discontinue use of this medication and take appropriate measures.

Avoid contact with eyes and mucous membranes.

Clindamycin and erythromycin containing products should not be used in combination. *In vitro* studies have shown antagonism between these two antimicrobials. The clinical significance of this *in vitro* antagonism is not known.

Information for Patients: Patients using Duac Topical Gel should receive the following information and instructions:

1. Duac Topical Gel is to be used as directed by the physician. It is for external use only. Avoid contact with eyes, and inside the nose, mouth, and all mucous membranes, as this product may be irritating.
2. This medication should not be used for any disorder other than that for which it was prescribed.
3. Patients should not use any other topical acne preparation unless otherwise directed by their physician.
4. Patients should report any signs of local adverse reactions to their physician.
5. Duac Topical Gel may bleach hair or colored fabric.

6. Duac Topical Gel can be stored at room temperature up to 25°C (77°F) for up to 2 months. Do not freeze. Keep tube tightly closed. Keep out of the reach of small children. Discard any unused product after 2 months.

7. Before applying Duac Topical Gel to affected areas, wash the skin gently, rinse with warm water, and pat dry.

8. Excessive or prolonged exposure to sunlight should be limited. To minimize exposure to sunlight, a hat or other clothing should be worn.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Benzoyl peroxide has been shown to be a tumor promoter and progression agent in a number of animal studies. The clinical significance of this is unknown.

Benzoyl peroxide in acetone at doses of 5 and 10 mg administered twice per week induced squamous cell skin tumors in transgenic TgAC mice in a study using 20 weeks of topical treatment.

Genotoxicity studies were not conducted with Duac Topical Gel. Clindamycin phosphate was not genotoxic in *Salmonella typhimurium* or in a rat micronucleus test. Benzoyl peroxide has been found to cause DNA strand breaks in a variety of mammalian cell types, to be mutagenic in *Salmonella typhimurium* tests by some but not all investigators, and to cause sister chromatid exchanges in Chinese hamster ovary cells. Studies have not been performed with Duac Topical Gel or benzoyl peroxide to evaluate the effect on fertility. Fertility studies in rats treated orally with up to 300 mg/kg/day of clindamycin (approximately 120 times the amount of clindamycin in the highest recommended adult human dose of 2.5 g Duac Topical Gel, based on mg/m²) revealed no effects on fertility or mating ability.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with Duac Topical Gel or benzoyl peroxide. It is also not known whether Duac Topical Gel can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. Duac Topical Gel should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

Developmental toxicity studies performed in rats and mice using oral doses of clindamycin up to 600 mg/kg/day (240 and 120 times the amount of clindamycin in the highest recommended adult human dose based on mg/m², respectively) or subcutaneous doses of clindamycin up to 250 mg/kg/day (100 and 50 times the amount of clindamycin in the highest recommended adult human dose based on mg/m², respectively) revealed no evidence of teratogenicity.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Duac Topical Gel is secreted into human milk after topical application. However, orally and parenterally administered clindamycin has been reported to appear in breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness of this product in pediatric patients below the age of 12 have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

During clinical trials, all patients were graded for facial erythema, peeling, burning, and dryness on the following scale: 0 = absent, 1 = mild, 2 = moderate, and 3 = severe. The percentage of patients that had symptoms present before treatment (at baseline) and during treatment were as follows:

	Local reactions with use of Duac Topical Gel % of patients using Duac Topical Gel with symptom present Combined results from 5 studies (n = 397)					
	Before Treatment (Baseline)			During Treatment		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Mild	Moderate	Severe
Erythema	28%	3%	0	26%	5%	0
Peeling	6%	<1%	0	17%	2%	0
Burning	3%	<1%	0	5%	<1%	0
Dryness	6%	<1%	0	15%	1%	0

(Percentages derived by # subjects with symptom score/# enrolled Duac subjects, n = 397).

HOW SUPPLIED

Duac™ (clindamycin, 1% - benzoyl peroxide, 5%) Topical Gel is available in a 45 gram tube - NDC 0145-2371-05.

Prior to Dispensing: Store in a cold place, preferably in a refrigerator, between 2°C and 8°C (36°F and 46°F). Do not freeze.

Dispensing Instructions for the Pharmacist: Dispense Duac Topical Gel with a 60 day expiration date and specify "Store at room temperature up to 25°C (77°F). Do not freeze."

Keep tube tightly closed. Keep out of the reach of small children.

U.S. Patent Nos. 5,466,446, 5,446,028, 5,767,098, and 6,013,637
Patent Pending



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833185 Rev. 0504

REFERENCES:

1. IMS Data, Oct. 2006.
2. Duac [Prescribing Information]. Stiefel Laboratories, Inc., 2004.

Duac is a registered trademark of Stiefel Laboratories, Inc. Your Choice is Clear, Make the Clear Choice, and Research in Dermatology are trademarks of Stiefel Laboratories, Inc.