

W-1 [14:50 ~ 15:00]

Overview of Anti-Rheumatoid Drugs

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According to the recent epidemiological data, the numbers of patients of Rheumatoid Arthritis(RA) in the world are reported to be 350million and 700,000 in the world and in Japan, respectively. For the treatment of RA, NASIDs as the first choice drug have been widely used worldwide, and more than 50 NSAIDs have been in market up to today in Japan. Early 1990s, DMARDs as the new drug for RA treatment came into market, and the number of DMARDs has been increased every year. These drugs are recognized to have several advantages in treatment of RA, however, disadvantages are also reported, i.e., (1) high incidence of side effects, (2) high non-responder population, (3) decreased efficacy in chronic treatment, and (4) slow starting of the efficacy. For example, Methotrexate which has been widely used as the immunosuppressant has been recently used for treatment of Rheumatoid. However, this drug has several disadvantages such as 60-70% improvement of the disease, 80% incidence of side effects, and 2-4 weeks to recognize the efficacy after treatment. In addition to these two

categories of drugs for treatment of Rheumatoid, the protein drugs targetting TNF α are expected as the new drugs in this field. Recently, Enbrel which is a soluble TNF receptor and Remicade which is an anti-TNF α monoclonal antibody, have been discovered and came into market. These drugs have been reported to have significant efficacy in the clinical use.

In this session, two distinguished speakers, Professor Yasuhiko Yamada from Japan and Dr. Joanne van Ryn from Germany, are invited to present the recent progress in the development and clinical use of Anti- Rheumatoid drugs.

Disadvantages of DMARDs

- * Slow start of efficacy
 - * High incidence of side effects
 - * High non-responder ratio(<30%)
 - * Decreased efficacy in chronic treatment
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Drugs	Time to Efficacy	Improvement (%)	Incidence of Side Effects (%)
Immunosuppressants			
Mizoribine	2M	25	24
Azathioprine	2M	unknown	40
Methotrexate	2-4W	60-70	80
Gold Preparations			
Gold Na thiomalate	2-3M	50	30-40
Auranofin	2-3M	40	41
SH drugs			
D-Penicillamine	2M	66	35-50
Bucillamine	2M	50	30
Sulfa drugs			
Sulfasalazine	1-2M	58	31
Miscellaneous			
Lobenzarit 2Na	2M	30	24
Actarit	2M	38	18

M: Months, W: Weeks