NFD May Respond to Thalidomide

by Colin Nelson

Boston — Thalidomide appears promising for the treatment of nephropathy, according to the results of a small, open-label trial. If larger trials show thalidomide to be more effective than placebo, other therapies, patients who have the intractable condition with few treatment options will need to weigh its benefits against associated risks, which include an increased incidence of fetal abnormalities if taken during pregnancy, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, hypotension, and peripheral neuropathy. Side effects of thalidomide include fatigue and drowsiness.

Jonathan Kay, M.D., and colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston treated nine men and women with chronic renal failure and a diagnosis of nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy (NFD) confirmed by biopsy. All patients in the off-label trial received 10 mg of thalidomide daily. Duration of therapy was from 18 days to more than 13 months. Overall, “the majority of patients experienced improvement in the hardness and tending of their skin; some also experienced improvement in their joint contractures,” Dr. Kay said at a meeting on rheumatology sponsored by Harvard Medical School.

NFD typically involves hyperpigmentation and tethering, as shown on the lower legs of this patient.

Geriatric Use

As with all NSAIDs, caution should be exercised in treating the elderly (65 years and older).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Gastrointestinal

Diarrhea

Gastrointestinal symptoms such as dyspeptic signs and symptoms (dyspepsia, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, flatulence, abdominal discomfort, belching, heartburn), dyspeptic disorders (nervous system such as increased drowsiness, nervousness, anxiety, irritability, diziness, ataxia, headache), dyspeptic symptoms (hypersensitivity, nausea, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, abdominal pain, diarrhea, belching, flatulence), dyspeptic syndromes (abdominal pain, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, belching, flatulence, diarrhea), dyspeptic symptoms and disorders (abdominal pain, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, belching, flatulence, diarrhea), dyspeptic syndromes (abdominal pain, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, belching, flatulence, diarrhea).

Liver and Biliary System

Liver injury, hepatitis, hepatic disorders (nervous system such as decreased libido, increased drowsiness, nervousness, anxiety, irritability, diziness, ataxia, headache), hepatic syndromes (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), hepatic syndromes and disorders (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), hepatic alcoholic syndromes (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), hepatic alcoholic syndromes and disorders (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), hepatic syndromes (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), hepatic syndromes and disorders (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), hepatic alcoholic syndromes (abnormal liver function tests, hepatitis, hepatic failure, clinical jaundice, jaundice), 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