Selective Whole Blood Lipoprotein Apheresis to Prevent Pancreatitis in Drug Refractory Hypertriglyceridemia

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ABSTRACT

Context Severe hypertriglyceridemia is a known cause of acute pancreatitis, and apheresis treatment, most commonly plasmapheresis, has for more than 30 years been used to treat patients with drug refractory hypetriglyceridemia. Case report We report a case in which a woman with Crohn’s disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus developed recurrent episodes of acute pancreatitis due to extreme hypertriglyceridemia. After initiation of lipoprotein apheresis from whole blood, a marked reduction of triglycerides and lipoprotein levels was observed. Some inflammatory parameters were increased even if most of the cytokines were not detectable, indicating good biocompatibility of the filter. Conclusions Triglyceride levels were lowered after initiating selective lipoprotein apheresis. More importantly; the patient did not experience any relapses of pancreatitis after the treatment was started. Hence this treatment is feasible in drug refractory hypetriglyceridemia, but the treatment concept needs testing in further studies.