Cold Agglutinin-Induced Haemolysis in SLE Patient: A Case Series

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Abstract

Introduction: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause hemolytic anemia, usually linked to warm antibodies. Cold agglutinin disease (CAD) in SLE is rare. This report presents three cases of severe anemia in SLE patients, emphasizing diagnosis, treatment, and the role of corticosteroids and immunosuppressants in management. Case Series: This case series presents three female patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) complicated by cold agglutinin disease. Severe anemia was confirmed with positive direct antiglobulin tests. Treatment included corticosteroids, immunosuppressants, and transfusions when necessary. All patients showed hematological improvement, emphasizing individualized therapy for effective management of SLE-associated hemolytic anemia. Conclusion: Thesecases effectively highlight the rarity of cold agglutinin disease in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and emphasize the importance of tailored treatment strategies. The positive response to methylprednisolone and Rituximab underscores their therapeutic value, while safe RBC transfusion practices help mitigate complications.

Key words: Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Cold agglutinin disease (CAD), Autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA), Immunosuppressants, Antiglobulin test