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A Review of Oral Immunosuppressive Drugs

Dr. Puneet Kumar[1], Dr. Chandni Batra[2]*

[1]Professor, Department of Public Health Dentistry, Santosh Dental College & Hospital, Santosh Deemed to be University, Ghaziabad.
[2*]Reader, Department of Oral Medicine, Diagnosis & Radiology, Santosh Dental College & Hospital, Santosh Deemed to be University, Ghaziabad.

Corresponding Author: [2]*Dr. Chandni Batra

ABSTRACT
Background:
Due to their chronic condition, immunologically mediated mucocutaneous illnesses represent a sizable group of oral mucosal disorders that negatively impact patients' quality of life. Treatment for these conditions should aim to address the underlying immunological dysregulation, stop recurrences, and maintain organ integrity and function in addition to relieving symptoms. Immunosuppressants are mostly used to treat certain illnesses. Existing comorbidities, recurrent relapses or brief disease-free intervals, long-term pharmaceutical use, and its consequences provide challenges in the treatment of these disorders. This study focuses on more recent immunosuppressants and how they relate to conditions of the oral mucosa.

Keywords: Immunosuppressants, Oral Mucosal Diseases, Biologics, Steroid-Sparing Medications

1. INTRODUCTION

The majority of oral mucosal disorders are immunologically mediated mucocutaneous diseases, which are characterised by recurring, chronic cellular or humoral reactions that are directed against connective or epithelial tissues. [1] They can be classified into the following groups: [1,2]

Disorders/allergies related to hypersensitivity: hypersensitive reactivity to exogenous antigens, such as medications, healing medicines, and food ingredients, defines this condition. Additional classifications include Type 1 (immediate hypersensitivity), Type 2 (antibody-mediated), Type 3 (immune complex-mediated), and Type 4 (cell-mediated or delayed hypersensitivity).

Secondary or primary immunodeficiencies: Immunological systems that are unable to mount a typical immune response describe these illnesses.

Disorders of immunoproliferation: Immunologic system cancers (multiple myeloma, lymphoma, leukemia, etc.).

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Autoimmune disorders: Identify a condition that has lymphocytic infiltration in a target cell and indications of an immunological response against self-antigens caused by either autoantibodies or immune cells.

Immune dysregulation is the defining feature of immune-mediated inflammatory diseases, which can lead to acute or chronic inflammation and ultimately organ damage. Adequate immunological response is one cause of immune dysregulation. Expression of proinflammatory cytokines like tumour necrosis factor-alpha, interleukin-1, and interleukin-6. [3] The oral cavity is frequently the first area where these crippling recurring diseases show symptoms. This impairs the patient's quality of life by forcing them to give up several oral tasks, including eating. Treatment for these conditions should focus on addressing the underlying immunological dysregulation, preventing recurrences, and maintaining organ integrity and function in addition to relieving symptoms.

Immunomodulators

Immunomodulators, which are described as natural or synthetic compounds that assist in regulating or normalising the immune system, can be used to control immunological dysregulation. [4] In other words, they boost weakened immune systems or control overactive immune systems to restore immune systems to a proper state of equilibrium.Immunostimulants and immunosuppressants are additional categories for immunomodulators.

Immunosuppressants

Immunosuppressants are substances that are used to stop the immune system from overreacting and harming the host, as in cases of autoimmunity or hypersensitivity. They can be generically categorised as classic immunosuppressants, steroid sparing medications, and biologics depending on their mode of action and place of origin.Further details are provided regarding the various groups' modes of operation and warning signs.

Corticosteroids

Glucocorticoids are conventional immunosuppressive drugs that have anti-inflammatory effects both systemically and topically. Glucocorticosteroids intervene at several moments during the immune response and seem to have an impact on many different facets of inflammation. In reality, corticosteroids have developed and become a mainstay of treatment for a variety of inflammatory, allergy, and immunologic-based disorders that affect the mouth. [5]

Response mechanism These medications prevent the release of inflammatory mediators from a variety of inflammatory cell types, including macrophages, T lymphocytes, mast cells, dendritic cells, and neutrophilic leukocytes.

By inhibiting the phospholipase A2 enzyme, glucocorticoids also lower prostaglandin synthesis.

Glucocorticoids' most notable impact is their ability to suppress the expression of numerous inflammatory genes that code for cytokines, chemokines, inflammatory enzymes, receptors, and adhesion molecules.

Proinflammatory transcription factors including nuclear factor B (NFB) and activator protein 1 (AP1) control changes in gene transcription.By enlisting transcriptional coactivator proteins

and altering chromatin alterations such histone acetylation, these proinflammatory transcription factors activate inflammatory genes.

A cytoplasmic glucocorticoid receptor is bound and activated by glucocorticoids, which then have an anti-inflammatory impact on sensitive cells. Proinflammatory transcription factors and the active glucocorticoid receptor may combine to cause histone deacetylation and the suppression of inflammatory genes. [6, 7]

Indications

Several ulcerative, vesiculobullous lesions involving the oral cavity and perioral areas, including recurrent aphthous stomatitis(RAS),Bechet'ssyndrome, pemphigus vulgaris, bullous pemphigoid, mucous membrane pemphigoid, erythematous and ulcerative lichen planus, SLE, DLE, linear IgA disease, epidermolysis bullosa, mucositis, erythema multiforme, and Stevens–Johnson syndrome.

Intralesional injections for giant cell granuloma, vascular abnormalities, and oral submucous fibrosis

Orofacial granuloma

Tempromandibular conditions

Orofacial discomfort causes, such as temporal arteritisPost-herpetic neuralgia, Bell's palsy, and Ramsay-Hunt syndrome

Utilization during third molar removal surgery

Conditions affecting the salivary glands, including Sjogren's syndrome, sarcoidosis, uveoparotid fever, mucoceles, ranulas, and allergic salivary sialadenitis

Oral hypersensitivity conditions such lichenoid eruptions, angioedema, oral allergy syndrome, and plasma cell stomatitis. [5]

Negative effects

However, prolonged use of corticosteroids, which is necessary to treat these disorders, has a number of negative side effects, such as upper gastrointestinal bleeding, myopathy, osteoporosis, altered stress response, adrenal insufficiency, opportunistic infections, Cushingoid habitus, cataract, and glaucoma. [8] The use of steroid sparing pharmaceuticals, which allow for partial withdrawal of corticosteroids, came about as a result of the search for alternative medications. [6]

Steroid-free medications

In order to reduce the dosage of steroids required and avoid some of the unfavourable side effects of steroid therapy, immunosuppressive drugs are occasionally given in addition to or instead of steroid therapy. As a result, these medications are commonly referred to as "adjuvant" pharmaceuticals or "steroid-sparing" drugs. Steroid sparing therapy is hence the term used to describe non-steroid immunosuppressive medications that allow for partial or complete removal of corticosteroids. [10] Based on their unique mechanisms of action, these medications can be further split into the following categories: alkylating (cyclophosphamide and chlorambucil), antimetabolite (methotrexate, mycophenolate mofetil, and azathioprine), and antibiotic/calcineurin inhibitor (cyclosporine, tacrolimus, and sirolimus). [9]

Oral symptoms

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Rheumatoid arthritis, Behcet's disease, erythema multiforme, lichen planus, pemphigus, pemphigoid, epidermolysis bullosa, and other immunologically induced diseases are only a few examples.Wegener's granulomatosis and Sjogren's syndrome
Conditions affecting the connective tissues, like SLE and scleroderma
In situations of sudden or persistent transplant rejection. [13-14]

Biologics

Any medication created in or derived from a biological source is referred to as a biopharmaceutical, also known as a biologic, biological, or biological agent (BA). Biologics frequently target immunocytes or their byproducts, hence focusing on particular proinflammatory cascade steps. [18] They work by obstructing particular pathways that are implicated in the pathophysiology of immune-mediated and malignant illnesses. Compared to corticosteroids and traditional corticosteroid-sparing immunosuppressants, these drugs promise a more focused anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressive effect. As a result, they likely constitute a pathogenesis-based treatment rather than just palliative care and could include cytokines, antibodies, or fusion proteins. [15]
Biologics fall into one of three categories chemically: [11,12]
Biologics: Almost exact replicas of important signalling proteins, such as biosynthetic human insulin, erythropoietin, colony stimulating factors, or growth hormone.
Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are antibodies that are "custom-designed" utilising hybridoma or other technology. They are intended to inhibit or counteract a specific biological substance or to target and harm a certain cell type. The fusing of various genes encoding the same protein results in receptor constructions or fusion proteins.
To lessen negative reactions, chimerization entails changing the parts of a mouse-produced antibody that make it distinct from a human antibody; this is demonstrated by adding the symbol xi to the name.

Nomenclature

The term "biologics" refers to a variety of monoclonal antibodies, such as those that are human (suffix "mab"), humanised (suffix "zumab"), chimeric (mouse-human; suffix "ximab"), or different fusion proteins (suffix "cept"). [11]

Response mechanism

The use of biologics to target immunocytes or their byproducts, and consequently particular proinflammatory cascade steps, is common. In order to accomplish this, biologics may bind directly to immune mediators such as cytokines, chemokines, growth factors, and complement components or immunocytes such as T lymphocytes, B cells, granulocytes, antigen-presenting cells (APCs), dendritic cells (DCs), macrophages, or other immunocytes.
Reduce their impact
Stop them from homing to inflammatory areas and lymphoid organs
Create a state of anaesthesia (immune unresponsiveness)
Reduce the cell count. [12-15]

Biologics' oral indications for use

RAS, Behcet's disease, pemphigus, pemphigoid, and lichen planus are examples of ulcerative conditions. TNF alpha inhibitors like eteranacept and adalimumab work well for patients with refractory ulcerative lesions.

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Orofacial granulomatosis, also known as Crohn's disease, and related disorders, such as Melkersson-Rosenthal syndrome (MRS), as well as a more constrained granulomatous cheilitis are among the extraintestinal manifestations of Crohn's disease that biologics (TNF alpha inhibitors) may also be able to treat.
Rituximab, however, has relieved several Sjogren's syndrome symptoms (xerostomia, etc.), boosted salivary gland function, and MALT has subsided in some individuals. In systemic extraglandular consequences of SS (fatigue, cryoglobulinemia, lung disease, polysynovitis, arthralgia, and peripheral neuropathy), rituximab appears to have a positive therapeutic effect.

Symptoms and safety measures

They carry a built-in risk of immune-mediated adverse medication reactions include cytokine storms, infusion reactions, tiredness, arthralgia, immunosuppression, infections, possible malignancies, and other illnesses.The use of strict eligibility criteria that include (a) severe disease, as measured by objective measurements, and (b) use only where patients are refractory to/intolerant of conventional systemic therapy or where such therapy is contraindicated are precautions that are taken include screening for coexisting medical disorders.[14]

2. CONCLUSION

Steroid sparing medications and biologics are a novel class of treatment options for treating steroid resistant or persistent oral lesions. To clarify the risk-benefit ratio in the treatment of individuals with oral lesions, more randomised control trials utilising these more recent medications need to be carried out.

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