

**P203**

**“It Is Not Just Vasculitis Alone, The Medications Too!” TBF A Inhibitor Induced Demyelination- A Case Report**

**Reem Ahmad Alsuwaidi<sup>1</sup>, Pournamy Sarathchandran<sup>1</sup>, Jihad Said Inshasi<sup>1</sup>**

**<sup>1</sup>Rashid Hospital, Dubai, UAE**

**“It Is Not Just Vasculitis Alone, The Medications Too!” TBF A Inhibitor Induced Demyelination- A Case Report**

**Reem Ahmad Alsuwaidi<sup>1</sup>, Pournamy Sarathchandran<sup>1</sup>, Jihad Said Inshasi<sup>1</sup>**

**<sup>1</sup>Rashid Hospital, Dubai, UAE**

Background: Tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) inhibitors including Etanercept have been approved for treatment of moderate to severe active rheumatoid arthritis. It has been reported that Etanercept rarely cause central nervous system demyelination and peripheral neuropathy, especially in children.

Objective: To report a case of longitudinally extensive transverse myelitis induced by Etanercept.

Design & Method: Case report.

Results: A 59 year-old Arab woman, known to have rheumatoid arthritis since 20 years and maintained on Methotrexate and Etanercept since 8 years, presented with acute onset of neck pain associated with quadriparesis, paraesthesias of lower limbs and urinary incontinence. Physical examination revealed asymmetric sensorimotor quadriparesis with sensory level at T1. Cervical and thoracic spinal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) showed enhancing T2/FLAIR hyper intense lesion extending from C4-C7 level in addition to long segment non enhancing lesion extending the whole of the spinal cord. Vitamin B12 and folate levels were normal. Rheumatoid factor was positive, but the vasculitis work up was negative. ESR was normal and CRP was negative. Etanercept was stopped and she was treated with pulse intravenous methylprednisolone. The patient improved rapidly and was able to ambulate independently shortly thereafter.

Conclusion: Anti-TNF therapy should be avoided in patients with a history of predisposing conditions, such as multiple sclerosis or peripheral neuropathy. Careful monitoring of neurological symptoms during treatment is recommended and discontinuation of anti-TNF therapy should be considered if CNS complications arise.