

MITOXANTRONE IN THE TREATMENT OF NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA: A CASE REPORT

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Background: The treatment of Optic Neuritis is a situation that remains without consensus. However the use of mitoxantrone has been used as a solution for this problem. Objective: To report the use of mitoxantrone in a case of Neuromyelitis Optica. Case Report: We report the case of a 58 year-old woman with a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis since the year of 1991. Throughout her history, She had suffered many relapses (optic neuritis and myelitis) from her disease, reaching a hard clinical situation of tetraplegia and bilateral blindness. In 2008 She had her case revised, and received the diagnosis of Neuromyelitis Optica. The new brain and spine MRI revealed few atypical MS lesions in the brain MRI, and a long (more than 3 vertebral segments) demyelinating lesion in the cervical spine MRI, fulfilling the criteria for the diagnosis of Neuromyelitis Optica. As this patient had begun her treatment for the previous diagnosis of Secondary Progressive MS (SP-MS) with Mitoxantrone, after 3 cycles She partially recovered the movements from her left arm. In spite of having her diagnosis changed from MS to NMO, we decided to keep the treatment with Mitoxantrone. This patient completed the treatment course (total dose of Mitoxantrone: 120 mg), and not remained only stable, but had some arm movements improved. Conclusion: As there are few case reports on Mitoxantrone therapy for NMO in The Medical Literature, this is an important case report in order to make us consider carrying out some trials with this drug in this disease when other safer treatments (prednisone plus azathioprine or rituximab) fail.