

Role of Azathioprine in steroid resistant non infectious ocular inflammatory diseases Eficacia de la azatioprina en la enfermedad ocular inflamatoria no infecciosa resistente a tratamiento esteroideal sistémico

Cuchacovich, Miguel

Pacheco, Patricio

Díaz, Gonzalo

Rojas, Basilio

Stoppel, Juan

Merino, Guillermo

Verdaguer, Juan Ignacio

Verdaguer, Juan

Villarroel, Francisco

Background: Topical and systemic steroids are the first line of treatment of non infectious inflammatory ocular disease. Immunosuppressants are reserved as a second line treatment. **Aim:** To evaluate the role of Azathioprine (AZA) as a coadjuvant immunosuppressive treatment for non infectious ocular inflammatory diseases (OIDs) resistant to systemic steroid therapy in a retrospective, noncomparative interventional case series. **Patients and methods:** Patients using oral Prednisone due to an active or recurrent OID, without clinical response, and not receiving any other immunosuppressive treatment were studied. A standard protocol of oral Prednisone (0.5 mg/kg/day) and oral AZA (2-3 mg/kg/day) during one year was used. Ocular and systemic monthly evaluations were done including relapse rate, steroid dosage, inflammatory score and visual acuity. **Results:** Thirty patients (10 male) aged 18-75 years (mean 44 years) were studied. Three had bilateral anterior uveitis, one had pars planitis, four h