Azathioprine in the management of autoimmune uveitis

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Purpose: To evaluate the role of azathioprine as an immunosuppressive for steroid-resistant autoimmune uveitis (AIU). Methods: Patients using oral prednisolone for active AIU without clinical response were recruited. A standard protocol of oral prednisolone and azathioprine was used. Results: Twenty-seven patients participated in the study: 3 with anterior uveitis, 1 pars planitis, 4 idiopatic panuveitis, 8 Vogt-Koyonagi-Harada syndrome, 3 Behcet disease, and 8 choroidoretinopathies. Complete response was observed in 92%. Eleven patients had well-tolerated minor side effects. Conclusion: Azathioprine is safe and effective in controlling steroid-resistant AIU. Copyright © Informa Healthcare USA, Inc.