



Remission Rate of Pemphigus Vulgaris and Foliaceus at a Tertiary Skincare Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand: A 7-year Retrospective Study

Araya Sasiwilasakorn^{*1} and Oraya Kwangsukstid²

¹College of Medicine, Rangsit University, Bangkok, Thailand

²Institute of Dermatology, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand

*Corresponding author, E-mail: Beam_araya@hotmail.com

Abstract

Pemphigus is an intermittent disease with a period of relapse and remission. Moreover, pemphigus requires long-term treatment and usually destroys a patient's appearance. The objectives of this research were to evaluate the remission rate and compare the remission rates for pemphigus vulgaris and foliaceus, as well as the prognostic factors at the Institution of Dermatology. Regarding the methodology of research, the authors conducted a retrospective study of four hundred twenty-six patients who were diagnosed with pemphigus vulgaris and foliaceus and then treated at the Institute of Dermatology (Tertiary Skincare Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand) between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2022. Patients were assessed for complete remission off and on minimal therapy by Consensus statement definition at 1, 2, and 5 years. Multivariate analyses were utilized to evaluate the prognostic factors of remission rate. The results of the research showed that the patients' average age was 56 ± 15 years, while their average age at onset was 51 ± 15 years and the ratio of females to males was 1.6:1.0 (females: 264, males: 162). Two hundred seventy-five patients with PV (64.6%), 151 with PF (35.4%), and Complete remission rate for PV was 3.3, 17.5, and 48.4% at 1, 2, and 5 years after diagnosis, respectively. Complete remission rates for PF were 7.9%, 33.1%, and 61.6% at 1, 2, and 5 years, respectively, following diagnosis. There was a difference in time to remission between PV and PF. Time to remission was 60 months for PV (95% confidence interval 58.6-61.3) and 36 months for PF (95% confidence interval between 23.1-48.8). This study found a significant difference in remission rate for PF, which was greater than for PV at 1, 2, and 5 years ($p < .001$). Additionally, the results showed prognostic factors for complete remission were age (p -value 0.046), age at onset ($p = .032$), underlying disease control ($p < .001$), disease severity ($p < .001$), site of primary involvement ($p = .014$) and initial mucosal involvement ($p = .018$). In summary, the remission rates for pemphigus vulgaris and foliaceus were 48.4, and 61.6% after five years, respectively. PF achieved a greater complete remission rate than PV. For PV and PF, a better prognosis was associated with good control of an underlying disease, no initial mucosal involvement, and mild severity of the disease.

Keywords: *Pemphigus Vulgaris (PV), Pemphigus Foliaceus (PF), Remission Rate of Pemphigus, Oral Prednisolone Treatment, Anti-CD-20 Monoclonal Antibody, IVIG*