Is there evidence for anti-TNF drugs in joint involvement in sarcoidosis?

A letter in response to: Banse C, Goëb V. Do not forget the joint involvement of sarcoidosis. *Immunotherapy* 7(6), 599–600 (2015).

Keywords: adalimumab • infliximab • sarcoid arthritis • sarcoidosis • TNF

We read with great interest the letter written by Banse *et al.* regarding our paper ‘Anti-TNF therapeutics for the treatment of sarcoidosis’ [1]. We agree that musculoskeletal involvement is a very interesting manifestation of sarcoidosis with many questions remaining unanswered. Our review focused on treatment results of anti-TNF drugs in manifestations of sarcoidosis with most published literature. Unfortunately, very little is known on the effect of anti-TNF drugs on musculoskeletal sarcoidosis [2].

The lack of knowledge on the effect of anti-TNF drugs in sarcoid arthritis may partly be the result of good response to first- or second-line treatment in patients requiring treatment: studies have reported high response rates up to 100% to prednisone, NSAIDs or methotrexate in patients with sarcoid arthritis [3,4]. Chronic sarcoid arthritis is rare, only occurring in 1–4% of sarcoidosis patients [5].

We agree with the authors that more research is needed on efficacy of anti-TNF treatment in patients with musculoskeletal involvement in sarcoidosis. However, with our current knowledge anti-TNF drugs should only be used when first- and second-line treatments have failed.

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