Analogues of somatostatin in preoperative treatment of rare NET

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Introduction

• Analogues of somatostatin are widely used in management of neuroendocrine tumors. The “classic” indications for this treatment are: acromegaly and NETs of midgut to diminish symptoms caused by hormonal overproduction and slow down the tumors’ growth.

However, we consider the use of this medication also in the other cases in which we confirm the presence of somatostatin receptors in tumor by somatostatin receptor scintigraphy.

• We would like to present three cases of symptomatic, resistant to „classic” pharmacological therapy, neuroendocrine tumors, in which only preoperative treatment with long-acting Octreotide enabled successful surgery.

Case 1

40-years-old man with profound hypophosphataemia caused by GF-23 secreting tumor in the right maxillary sinus (glomangiopericytoma).

The treatment with phosphorus and active vitamin D metabolites was ineffective. The improvement of phosphorus concentration was necessary for safety of anesthesia and proper function of respiratory muscles after the extubation, so waiting for surgery, the patient was treated initially with Octreotide, then with long acting Octreotide. Phosphorus level increased to proper values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before injection</th>
<th>2nd day after the injection</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus 0,41 - 0,50 mmol/l</td>
<td>Phosphorus 0,68 – 0,76 mmol/l</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ref val 0,75-1,4]</td>
<td>[ref val 0,75-1,4]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intense pain of the pelvis</td>
<td>Pain decreased</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waddling gait</td>
<td>Normal walking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Case 2

44-years-old woman with paroxysmal tachycardia and hypertension up to 200/140 caused by catecholamine secreting tumor localized in mediastinum (paraganglioma).

The preoperative treatment with alpha, beta and calcium channel blockers and also ACI and diuretics was ineffective. The second day after the Octreotide injection the blood pressure fell down and directly before surgery only the alpha and beta blockers were used.

Case 3

50-years-old woman with paroxysmal sweating and hypertension up to 240/140 caused by pheochromocytoma of the left adrenal gland.

The preoperative treatment with alpha, beta and calcium channel blockers and also ACI and diuretics was ineffective. She was twice disqualified from the operation due to blood pressure >200/120.

After the Octreotide injection the blood pressure fell down (<140/90), however, the reduction of the medications before surgery was impossible.

Conclusions

These cases exemplify possibility of unconventional use of somatostatin or its long acting somatostatin analogues in preoperative treatment of rare neuroendocrine tumors.