

EFFICACY OF ANTI-TUMOR NECROSIS FACTOR ALPHA THERAPY IN INTESTINAL BEHÇET'S DISEASE

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A retrospective study of 46 patients with refractory intestinal Behçet's disease treated with anti-TNF alpha therapy found clinical response rates of 76.1% initially, with previous high-dose corticosteroid use and multiple ulcers predicting relapse.

KEY POINTS

- Among 46 patients with refractory moderate to severe intestinal Behçet's disease selected from 667 registered patients at Severance Hospital Seoul, anti-TNF alpha therapy achieved initial clinical response rates of 76.1% by intention-to-treat analysis.
- Previous corticosteroid use exceeding 20 mg per day (HR 4.781) and multiple ulcers (HR 8.599) were associated with higher relapse risk, while clinical response at 1 month (HR 0.189) was associated with lower relapse.
- Adverse events included one case each of severe sepsis, pneumonia with herpes zoster, and otitis externa.
- The authors concluded that anti-TNF alpha therapy could be a useful therapeutic option for refractory intestinal Behçet's disease with acceptable efficacy and tolerability.

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