UPADACITINIB IN ACUTE SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS: A POSSIBLE SECOND-LINE RESCUE THERAPY

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Three male patients with acute severe ulcerative colitis who failed intravenous corticosteroids and infliximab showed clinical improvement by day two of upadacitinib 45 mg daily and were discharged within five to ten days, avoiding planned colectomy.

KEY POINTS

- All three patients were anti-TNF experienced (one secondary loss of response, two primary non-response to infliximab) and were hospitalized with Mayo scores of 2, 3, and 3.
- After failing intravenous corticosteroids and facing planned colectomy, patients received upadacitinib 45 mg daily and showed significant clinical improvement as early as the second day of treatment.
- Repeat endoscopy around day ten showed normalization of mucosal vascular pattern with focal healing in patient one, and improvement to Mayo scores of 1 with focal areas of 2 in patients two and three.
- All three patients remain in excellent condition on maintenance therapy with upadacitinib 30 mg daily.
- The authors conclude that upadacitinib may represent a reliable alternative rescue therapy option in acute severe ulcerative colitis, particularly in anti-TNF experienced patients.

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