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Title: Challenges in the management of patients with ANCA- associated vasculitides

Dr. Ionela Nicoleta 23786 Belaconi onitza2000@yahoo.com MD [1], Dr. Claudia Lucia 23787 Toma claudiatoma@yahoo.co.uk MD [1], Dr. Stefan 23788 Dumitrache-Rujinski srujinski@yahoo.com MD [1], Dr. Cornelia 23789 Tudose ctudose@yahoo.com MD [1], Dr. Diana 23790 Leonte dianaleonte@yahoo.com MD [1] and Prof. Miron Alexandru 23796 Bogdan miron_a_bogdan@yahoo.com MD [1]. [1] Pneumology 4, "Marius Nasta" Institute of Pneumology, Bucharest, Romania, 050159 .

Body: Background: Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (Wegener's) and microscopic polyangiitis are antineutrophil cytoplasm antibodies (ANCA) – associated vasculitides with significant morbidity and mortality. Objective: We evaluated the evolution of 12 patients diagnosed in our clinic between 2000 and 2011, treated with conventional treatment (prednisolone and pulse cyclophosphamide initially, and in remission with prednisolone and azathioprine). Results: We evaluated 12 patients (10 females), median age of 46 years (range 20-74), with a median duration of follow up of 5.2 years (range 1-12 years).

Six patients had relapses (50%), 1 developed subglottic stenosis, 1 retro-orbital pseudo tumor and 2 patients developed lung abscesses inside a cavity which imposed lobectomy after unsuccessful antibiotic treatment. Two patients developed lung tuberculosis (one multi-drug-resistant) and 1 pulmonary nocardiosis linked to the immunosuppressive therapy. Two patients needed peritoneal dialysis for renal failure. Two patients died of stroke (1) and severe active vasculitis (1). Older age and renal failure were predictors of death. Conclusions: The management of patients with ANCA-associated vasculitides is difficult, and marked by significant adverse effects of the therapy.