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Title: Corticosteroid (CS) therapy does not influence immune reactivity in patients with non-specific interstitial pneumonia (NSIP)

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Body: Aim. To assess the influence of CS therapy on immune reactivity in patients with NSIP. Patients and methods. 27 patients (8 male 19 female, average age 57,3±2,3 yrs) with hystologically proved NSIP were included. In 11 patients of group 1 the diagnosis was recently established and treatment was not yet started. 16 patients of group 2 received CS during 2-10 yrs. Blood level of IL-1β, IL-2, IL-8, TNF-α basal and after FGA stimulation was assessed by solid-phase immune-enzyme assay. CD20, CD4, CD8, CD3, CD16 in blood were detected by means of monoclonal antibodies. Results. Basal IL-1, IL-2 and TNF were increased (171,0±55,5 pg/ml, 14,5±3,2 pg/ml, 101,3±43,3 pg/ml, correspondingly) and basal level of IL-8 was normal (777,8±140,8 pg/ml) in patients of group 1. In patients of group 2 basal IL-2 (16,3±2,7 pg/ml) and TNF (86,4±40,6 pg/ml) were increased and IL-1 (62,1±21,6 pg/ml), IL-8 (590,4±127,0 pg/ml) were normal. IL-1, IL-2, IL-8, TNF levels after stimulation were not increased in patients of both groups. There was no difference of CD20, CD4, CD8, CD3, CD16 cells quantity in patients of both groups. Conclusions. Continuous treatment by low doses of corticosteroids does not influence immune reactivity in patients with NSIP.