

Long-term rituximab may aid in antibody-associated vasculitis

3 June 2020



relapse-free survival estimates were 100 versus 87 percent, respectively. At least one serious adverse event occurred in 24 and 30 percent of [patients](#) in the rituximab and [placebo](#) groups, respectively. There were no deaths in either group.

"The authors make a convincing argument that long-term rituximab should be the standard of care for antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis," write the authors of an accompanying editorial. "However, an unanswered question is, how long should long-term treatment continue in any patient?"

The study was partially funded by Hoffmann La-Roche, which also provided [rituximab](#) for the study.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)
[Editorial \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

For patients with granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA) or microscopic polyangiitis (MPA), extended therapy with rituximab is associated with a reduced incidence of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis (AAV) relapse, according to a study published online June 2 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Pierre Charles, M.D., from Cochin Hospital in Paris, and colleagues examined the efficacy of prolonged [rituximab therapy](#) for preventing AAV relapses in patients with GPA or MPA who achieved complete remission with an 18-month maintenance regimen. A total of 68 patients with GPA and 29 with MPA were randomly assigned to receive either rituximab (50 patients) or placebo (47 patients) infusions every six months for 18 months.

The researchers found that at month 28, relapse-free survival estimates were 96 and 74 percent in the rituximab and placebo groups, respectively, with a hazard ratio of 7.5. At month 28, major

Copyright © 2020 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

APA citation: Long-term rituximab may aid in antibody-associated vasculitis (2020, June 3) retrieved 14 November 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-long-term-rituximab-aid-antibody-associated-vasculitis.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.