Is angiogenesis a valid therapeutic target for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis?

Up until recently, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) was an insidiously progressive pulmonary fibrotic condition with a median survival of 2–3 years.1 There was no specific therapy that altered the relentless progression of this disease.2,3 With the recent publication of two seminal clinical trials of pirfenidone and nintedanib, respectively—this is no longer the case.4,5 Both agents were shown to significantly slow pulmonary disease progression. Pirfenidone is thought to work, in part, via its inhibition of TGFβ activity. Nintedanib is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that has been shown to have significant anti-fibrotic activity. In this brave new world for clinicians, patients and their families—are there further candidate drug targets for this disease? In this issue of the journal, Barratt and colleagues from the University of Bristol provide a timely overview of vascular remodelling and angiogenesis in IPF. It is their conjecture that targeting angiogenesis in IPF represents an additional complimentary therapeutic strategy.

ANCA vasculitis and renal replacement therapy—what is the clinical prognosis for patients?

Historically with the advent of tailored immunosuppressive therapy, there has been a marked improvement in survival in patients with ANCA-associated vasculitides (AAV). As patients live longer, renal failure and the requirement for dialysis becomes a necessity for up to 30% of patients. Does the requirement for dialysis alter their prognosis? Romeu and colleagues from the French Rein Registry provide important outcome data on this important group of patients. They report on an impressive number of over 400 patients and compared outlook with a non-vasculitides patient group requiring dialysis. In essence, mortality was comparable between both groups. As one might expect, infectious episodes were more prevalent in the AAV group; 14% received a renal allograft and 4% recovered renal function and no longer required renal replacement therapy.

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References


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