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A Review on Glucocorticoids and Risk of Opportunistic Infections

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ABSTRACT:

Glucocorticoids are one of the most commonly used medication in the treatment of any diseased condition involving inflammation as well as an immune-modulator in organ transplant recipients. It has good anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive activities. In patients administered with glucocorticoids with moderate to high doses and with chronic used to it can leads to decreases immune responses. Thereby, there are higher chances of exposing to opportunistic infections in such patients which can further complicate the underlying diseased conditions. Some of the opportunistic infections like listeria, pneumocystis jirovecci pneumonia, herpes zoster, and tuberculosis aspergillosis, nontuberculous mycobacterial disease, candidiasis, and cryptococcosis, can increase the mortality rate in severe immunocompromised patients. Thus, according to the severity of the under-lying condition, the use of glucocorticoid should be limited to lowest possible dose and not more than 21 days. Thereby, reducing the prolong immunosuppressant effect of glucocorticoids, thus decreasing the risk and chances of opportunistic infections.

KEYWORDS: Glucocorticoids, opportunistic infections, anti-inflammatory, immune-modulator, immune-compromised, immunosuppressant.

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