Novel Therapies for Ankylosing Spondylitis

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Abstract: Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory disease primarily affecting the spine. Its long term consequences are associated with high direct and indirect cost for society. Unfortunately, until recently, there have been only a few studies on treatment with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs in AS and none of them have been shown to be clearly efficacious in axial disease. In the past few years, novel therapies, which alter the natural course of AS through targeted influence on the pathogenesis, have emerged. Among them, it is largely accepted that the cost/benefit ratio of the treatment with anti-TNFα is favourable and advantageous for most patients. However, it should be remembered that the holistic approach to managing patients with AS should remain unchanged. Close collaboration among various medical and paramedical personnel continues to be of primary importance in the successful management of AS.

Keywords: Biologics, rheumatic, spondyloarthropathy, therapeutics