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### **Use of high-dose intravenous immunoglobulin in systemic lupus erythematosus: report of three cases.**

Corvetta A, Della Bitta R, Gabrielli A, Spaeth PJ, Danieli G.

Istituto di Clinica Medica Generale e Terapia Medica, Università degli Studi di Ancona, Italy.

Three patients with life-threatening manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), unresponsive to conventional high-dose corticosteroid and/or immunosuppressive therapy were treated with intravenous polyspecific IgG (IVIG). Following IVIG infusion, lupus encephalitis in the first patient quickly resolved and the impressive improvement of the clinical status was associated with a transient increase in C1q-binding activity. The daily infusion of IgG had to be suspended after three days in the second patient with encephalitis and nephritis, because the renal function rapidly deteriorated; subsequently, six plasma exchanges led to an almost complete recovery. Finally, leukocyte and platelet counts increased and remained within normal range following IgG therapy in the third patient having SLE-associated leuko- and thrombocytopenia. In all three patients a decrease in anti-DNA antibody levels and an increase in total complement hemolytic activity were detected after therapy.

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Publication Types, MeSH Terms, Substances

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