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## **Treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus by prolonged administration of high dose intravenous immunoglobulin: report of 2 cases.**

Winder A, Molad Y, Ostfeld I, Kenet G, Pinkhas J, Sidi Y.

Department of Medicine D, Beilinson Medical Center, Petah Tiqva, Israel.

Two patients with life threatening manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), unresponsive to corticosteroid and immunosuppressive therapy, were treated with high dose intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG). Following IVIG therapy, lupus pneumonitis and encephalitis in the first patient, and lupus nephritis in the second patient, resolved. Continuous treatment with IVIG, every 4 weeks for up to 20 months induced a prolonged clinical and laboratory remission. Treatment with cytotoxic agents was stopped, and the dosage of corticosteroids lowered. Exacerbation of lupus nephritis occurred in the second patient after 10 months of IVIG therapy. We suggest that prolonged use of high dose IVIG may be a useful therapy for acute exacerbations of SLE and for inducing prolonged remissions.

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