Pure red cell aplasia due to persistent B19 parvovirus infection in patient infected with human immunodeficiency virus type 1. Recovery with alpha-interferon therapy.

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Source
Sangre (Barc) 1998 Feb; 43(1) :67-9.

Abstract
B19 parvovirus (PV) infection is ordinarily resolved with the production of specific antibodies that neutralize virus infectivity for erythroid host cells. Nevertheless persistent infection with B19 PV and pure red blood cell aplasia have been documented. A 27 year-old male, i.v. drug abuser, HIV+ and HCV was diagnosed of pure red cell aplasia. Six months later we had serologic evidence of persistent parvovirus infection. Interferon therapy, started for HCV infection, showed a marked improvement of anaemia and anti parvovirus IgM became negative. It is discussed the possible role of interferon therapy in persistent parvovirus infection.

Mesh
Adult
Antibodies, Viral
Blood Transfusion
Combined Modality Therapy
HIV Infections
Hepatitis C
Humans
Immunologic Factors
Interferon Alfa-2b
Male
Parvoviridae Infections
Parvovirus B19, Human
Red-Cell Aplasia, Pure
Substance Abuse, Intravenous

Language
eng

Pub Type(s)
Case Reports Journal Article

PubMed ID
9577184