

ALBUMIN PHERESIS IN A WOMAN WITH THROMBOTIC THROMBOCYTOPENIC PURPURA

INTRODUCTION

Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) is a rare hematological disorder characterized by thrombotic microangiopathy, thrombocytopenia, and elevated LDH. The treatment for acute TTP is exchange transfusion or intensive plasma pheresis using fresh frozen plasma. Could albumin pheresis be equally successful as plasma pheresis in a patient who refused blood transfusion?

CASE PRESENTATION

The patient in this case was a 45-year-old female with TTP who presented with a stroke.

The treatment regimen included: Albumin pheresis; Decadron (high dose), IVIG, Cytotoxan, Vincristine, Rituxin, Erythropoietin and IV Iron.

RESULTS

Albumin pheresis is rarely used in TTP, however in this case it was successful. During the course of treatment, normal levels returned and the patient made a full recovery. The patient has not experienced further events 1 year after her hospital discharge.

CONCLUSION

Research does not support the successful treatment of patients using albumin phereses in the literature. It is unclear why this patient survived, given the current knowledge base. Plasma exchange is associated with an 80% survival rate. As a result of the unusual but positive results realized in this patient, more trials are recommended using albumin pheresis as an alternative to plasma pheresis. This is especially important in more patients that present to us that do not want blood transfusions.