

GRANULOCYTE APHERESIS IN REFRACTORY ULCERATIVE COLITIS: COMPARISON BETWEEN TWO THERAPEUTIC REGIMENS

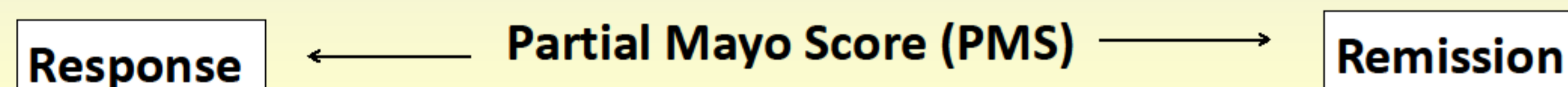
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INTRODUCTION

- Granulocyte apheresis (GMA) is used in the treatment of Ulcerative Colitis (UC). However, the most adequate treatment regimen has not been established yet.
- Short regimen:** 5 sessions. It is the conventional regimen, but presents high rates of recurrence.
- Long regimen:** > 5 sessions. Novel technique, with better results but not standardized

METHODS

- 12 patients with UC refractory to conventional treatment. Two regimens:
 - A) **SHORT regimen:** 4 patients. Weekly session for 5 consecutive weeks
 - B) **LONG regimen:** 8 patients. Two phases:
 - Induction phase (Weekly session for 11 consecutive weeks) +
 - Maintenance phase (monthly session)
- Evaluation of remission/response: At week 6 (SHORT regimen). At week 12 and every 3 months (LONG regimen)



AIMS

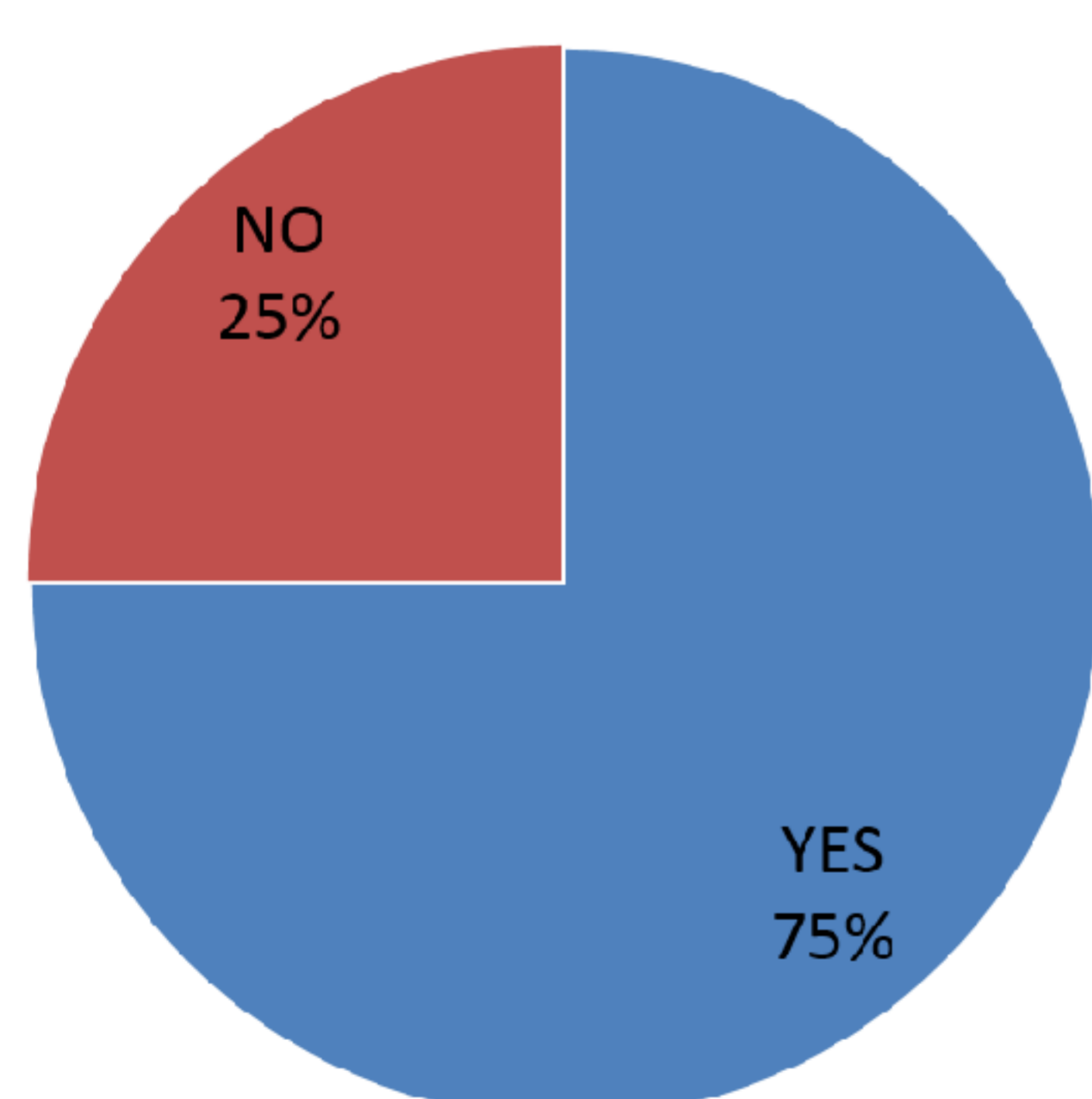
To analyze the response to two treatment regimens with GMA in severe UC with indication for colectomy.

Variables	Short regimen	Long regimen	p
Age (years)	46,5 (± 17,17)	40,13 (± 16,45)	ns
Sex	50 % males	62,5 % males	ns
Extension	- 50% Pancolitis - 25% Left Colitis - 25% Extensive Colitis	- 62,5% Pancolitis - 25 % Left Colitis - 12,5% Extensive Colitis	ns
Time since diagnosis (years)	10,5 (± 9,29)	6,63 (± 4,24)	ns

Results

- A) **SHORT regimen:** 50% response to treatment or remission, but all patients suffered from recurrence after 3-6 months.
- B) **LONG regimen:** 75% remission. Out of these, 40% suffered from recurrence and the technique was discontinued, but the rest maintained remission. In a patient recurrence was treated by intensification of sessions with good results.

REMISSION AT WEEK 12



SHORT REGIMEN

Patient	Previous treatment	Initial Partial Mayo Score	Final Partial Mayo Score	Response/Remission	Follow-up
55-year old male	CS AZA	6	0	Remission	Recurrence after 6 months
52-year old male	CS AZA	5	3	No	
21-year old female	CS AZA	5	6	No	Colectomy
58-year old female	CS INFLIXIMAB	5	2	Response	Recurrence after 3 months

LONG REGIMEN

Patient	Previous treatment	Initial PMS	Final PMS	Response/Remission	Follow-up
52-year old male	CS AZA	7	0	REMISSION	10 months 14 sessions Colectomy
20-year old female	CS AZA Infliximab	5	0	REMISSION	62 months 52 sessions
23-year old male	CS, AZA Infliximab	5	1	REMISSION	16 months 22 sessions
40-year old male	CS, AZA, MTX, Infliximab	5	2	RESPONSE	9 months 24 sessions
23-year old male	CS, AZA, MTX	6	-	NO	1 month 5 sessions
49-year old male	CS, AZA, CyA, Infliximab	7	5	NO	2 months 8 sessions
47-year old female	CS, AZA	5	0	REMISSION	55 months 94 sessions
66-year old female	CS, AZA	4	0	REMISSION	22 months 41 sessions

CONCLUSIONS

- GMA is a treatment option that can prevent colectomy in patients with severe colitis refractory to medical treatment.
- In those who respond to induction a maintenance regimen is necessary.
- In short regimens the risk of recurrence is very high.

