We sought to determine the LTBI conversion rate among HS patients on the TNFis adalimumab or infliximab and identify factors associated with seroconversion.

We reviewed 269 charts of HS patients initiated on adalimumab or infliximab between 2000 and 2023. Included patients had treatment for 3+ months and a baseline Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test or tuberculin skin test (TST) plus at least one test after treatment or multiple tests 4+ months apart if no baseline. Patients with positive baseline tests or no IGRA results were excluded.

We collected patient age, sex, TNFi, treatment duration, concomitant immunosuppressives, prior treatment with biologics, TB risk factors, and additional chronic inflammatory disease or follicular occlusion tetrad diagnoses.

Results

Study cohort: 92 patients (median age at TNF-inhibitor start: 35.5 years)

Average total observation time on adalimumab and/or infliximab: 37.4 months (3.1 years)

Median IGRA tests per patient: 3

Out of 269 QFTs reviewed, 268 were negative, 1 indeterminate, and 0 positive.

No positive TSTs

Positive conversion rate: 0%

Conclusion

In our single-center study, no HS patients on adalimumab or infliximab had positive LTBI results.

Our results can inform clinicians in weighing the clinical utility of serial LTBI screening in HS patients treated with TNFis, with consideration of individual risk factors and local TB prevalence.

This central Virginia patient population is likely very low risk.

Further studies on larger populations are needed to develop evidence-based screening guidelines to optimize resource use and reduce harm posed by possible over-screening.

References


Dr. Flowers serves as a principal investigator for Abbvie, Acelyrin, Regeneron/Sanofi and Sun Pharmaceuticals. He has served on advisory boards for Argenx, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Janssen. Author Byrnes has no conflicts of interest to declare.