ORAL PRESENTATIONS 1

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LESS CONVENTIONAL USE OF INTRAVENOUS METHYLPRÉDNIISONOLONE IN CHILD NEUROLOGY

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Objective: High dose steroid in the form of intravenous methylprednisolone (IVMP) is an established treatment in child neurology, and is the mainstay treatment in some inflammatory, autoimmune and demyelinating diseases such as acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), transverse myelitis and cerebral lupus vasculitis. However, its uses in other similar conditions are rather limited, with clinicians preferring other immunomodulatory modalities such as oral steroids and immunoglobulin. We aim to share our experience in treating a number of neurological conditions using IVMP in children whereby IVMP itself is not the usual choice of treatment in practice, although its usefulness in those conditions has been described in literatures.

Method: We present a case series consisting of different neurological diagnoses in which the instituted treatment included the use of IVMP either as a first choice or add-on therapy.

Results: Five cases were described; a 10 year-old child with severe rheumatic chorea, an 8 year-old girl with Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS), a 5 year-old girl with protracted post varicella cerebellitis, and 2 infants with infantile spasms due to lissencephaly. In all these cases, varying degrees but significant clinical improvements were observed following the treatment.

Conclusion: In cases that we described, in which the pathogenesis was postulated to involve autoimmune or inflammatory mechanisms, as well as in severe symptomatic epilepsies in young infants, IVMP therapy could be beneficial, especially when an aggressive mode of treatment is preferred.