

Understanding Medications

Robert L. Wortmann, M.D.

Professor of Medicine

Dartmouth Medical School

Impact of Cortisone on Myositis

- Changed the mortality from over 50% to less than 10%
- Steroid therapy may prove curative to 50%
- Corticosteroids are the first agents used to treat the IIMs.

Controlled Trials

- Azathioprine + Prednisone
 - Bunch, 1981, 20 patients
- Plasma and leukopheresis
 - Miller, 1992, 39 (26) patients
- IV immune globulin
 - Dalakas, 1993, 15 patients
- Methotrexate/azathioprine – IV methotrexate
 - Villalba, 1997, 30 patients
- Infliximab, 2008, 16 patients
 - Miller

Other agents used to treat IIM

- Methotrexate
- Azathioprine
- Cyclophosphamide
- Chlorambucil
- Etanercept
- Infliximab
- Intravenous immune globulin
- Mycophenolate
- Plasmapheresis
- Rituximab
- Tacrolimus
- Cyclosporine

