Are skin tests to Rituximab a risk market for Rituximab hypersensivity?

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RATIONALE: Rituximab hypersensitivity confers a limitation to use this drug as the first line treatment for many diseases. Nonetheless, the desensitization to Rituximab is able to provide the appropriate medical care for allergic patients. We aim to describe the experience in Rituximab desensitization carried out in our center.

METHODS: We performed a retrospective study in 25 Rituximab allergic patients that underwent 85 drug desensitizations in total, taking into account the type of reaction and tolerance to this procedure.

RESULTS:

Desensitization 85 (25 patients)

- High risk: 19
  - Reaction: 6
    - 5/6 during 1º desensitization
      - 90% was tolerated
    - 60% skin test positive

- Low risk: 66
  - Reaction: 8
    - 6/8 during 1º desensitization
      - 95% was tolerated

CONCLUSIONS: Patients assessed as high risk, have a greater chance to develop a reaction during their first desensitization to Rituximab, so skin tests should be likewise considered as a risk marker. The high rate of successful desensitizations to Rituximab, offers a solution for Rituximab allergic patients.