

Anti-cancer drug safe and effective for treating light chain (AL) amyloidosis

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There's a new treatment option available for patients with AL amyloidosis: daratumumab.

Studied in a prospective clinical trial, only one of the two clinical trials of this agent in AL amyloidosis worldwide, researchers have found this [anti-cancer drug](#) to be well tolerated and effective in [patients](#) with relapsed AL amyloidosis when used with appropriate pre- and post-infusion medications.

AL amyloidosis is a disease related to bone marrow cancer; multiple myeloma. AL amyloidosis is considered life threatening due to amyloid fibril deposition in various organs of the body leading to organ failure.

According to the researchers, daratumumab infusion in myeloma patients can cause infusion related reactions in almost half of the cases so it was important to study this drug with appropriate premedications in AL amyloidosis.

Twenty-two patients with previously treated AL amyloidosis were enrolled in a prospective study. The majority of the patients had received [high-dose](#) melphalan and stem cell transplantation (HDM/SCT) and/or treatment with a proteasome inhibitor. The researchers found daratumumab to be safe, tolerable and successful in treating these patients. In addition, due to its favorable toxicity profile, they believe daratumumab is an attractive treatment option for patients with advanced cardiac involvement with AL amyloidosis.

"Only one dose of [daratumumab](#) can decrease the amyloidogenic precursor immunoglobulin light chain protein rapidly and can lead to reversal of organ dysfunction in patients with AL amyloidosis," explained corresponding author and principal investigator of this clinical trial Vaishali Sanchoralwala, MD, director of the Boston University/Boston Medical Center Amyloidosis Center.

Despite therapeutic advances in the treatment of relapsed AL amyloidosis, it remains a challenging disease to treat. "Effective

alternative therapies are needed both for patients ineligible for HDM/SCT and for those with persistent or progressive disease following such treatments," added Sanchorawala, who also serves as professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine.

More information: Vaishali Sanchorawala et al, Safety, Tolerability, and Response Rates of Daratumumab in Relapsed AL Amyloidosis: Results of a Phase II Study, *Blood* (2020). [DOI: 10.1182/blood.2019004436](https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2019004436)

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