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Advances in Cellular and Molecular Treatment of Autoimmune Diseases

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Message from the Guest Editors

Lately, there is a world-wide increase in the prevalence and incidence of autoimmune diseases. Treatment of autoimmune diseases has been the subject of fruitful research in recent years. Corticosteroids may be applied as early treatment. Disease modifying non-biologic drugs such as methotrexate, leflunomide, sulfasalazine and hydroxychloroquine have been used and may alter disease prognosis. Biologic agents targeting cellular and molecular targets have been introduced in the treatment of autoimmune diseases and have induced disease remission and may have altered disease progression and long-term disease prognosis. Biologic agents may be used either intravenously or subcutaneously. However, biologic agents are related with a high cost. Therefore, biosimilars of these agents have been introduced in the treatment of autoimmune diseases. The concurrent application of non-biologic disease modifying agents and biologics is discussed. Currently, there is availability of diverse effective agents targeting cellular and molecular targets in the treatment of autoimmune diseases and has enabled the modification of treatment regimens to the needs of each individual patient.



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