

Drug Interaction of Methotrexate with its Adjuvant Drugs for Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis

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Abstract

Methotrexate (MTX) is used as a DMARDs for some autoimmune illnesses, inclusive of rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile dermatomyositis, psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and plenty of sorts of vacuities. Low-dose, weekly MTX (10 to 25 mg/week) used as both monotherapy or in mixture with other drugs, has an advanced efficacy profile as defined in placebo-managed trials and comparable efficacy to different medicines which include anti-TNF remedy. Patients suffering from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) may have some comorbid conditions that require a combination of a lot of medicinal drugs. For these comorbidities, prescription show polypharmacy and these medicines may additionally regulate the efficacy or growth of the toxicity of methotrexate (MTX). Interactions among drugs (DDIs) among the prescribed drugs are the reason behind the ADRs and these adverse effects are commonly seen in the aged patients (above 65) due to poly-pharmacy in prescription. In truth, poly-therapy boom the complexity of the therapeutic management and thereby the risk of a clinically applicable drug interaction. In this review, we report the interactions between MTX and the other tablets commonly used in the control of rheumatoid arthritis. The usage of google scholar, PubMed, PCM, NCBI website and reference lists. we studied the study material posted until 2019 and file the most common drug-drug interaction founds in the prescription of RA patients treating with MTX. In the context of a cure for MTX and NSAIDs like COX-1, COX-2 inhibitor, and among glucocorticoids or immunosuppressive medicinal products e.g., azathioprine, and cyclosporine, clinically important DDIs are identified. DDIs play a major role in both the production of ADRs and therapeutic failure in the treatment of MTX and specific medications.

Keywords: Methotrexate (MTX), Rheumatoid Arthritis, Drug-Drug Interaction, Poly-therapy, ADRs.

Background

There are numerous kinds of rheumatic diseases, but rheumatoid arthritis is probably the maximum commonplace. In rheumatoid arthritis, human beings typically have numerous inflamed joints. This causes the joints to gradually end up deformed and stiff. The first signal of rheumatoid arthritis is frequently the swelling of joints, causing pain and stiffness, especially inside the finger joints. Other signs typical of rheumatoid arthritis may additionally develop over the years, consisting of muscle weakness. Rheumatoid arthritis is autoimmune. Because of this, our immune system attacks our body. The immune system mistakenly identifies our body's cells as foreign substances and assaults them. This reasons an inflammatory response that specifically affects the joints in humans who have rheumatoid arthritis [1].

Table 1: Drugs used for the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis

On the bases of newly developed criteria, patients suffering

from arthritis with the involvement of at least one joint may require DMARD therapy with appreciate to a different component of standards. Rheumatoid arthritis can be taken into consideration a probably curable situation all through the evolutionary procedure (from inflammatory arthritis to established condition) and the disease path can be modified with the aid of early suitable competitive treatment. Particularly DMARDs (ailment-modifying antirheumatic arthritis capsules), NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pills), Immunosuppressive retailers like cyclosporine, azathioprine and so forth and agent that block the proinflammatory cytokine tumour necrosis factor- α (anti-TNF- α) can be used (table 1). NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) are generally used to deal with rheumatoid arthritis. They help control the continual pain, inflammation, and swelling which might be characteristic of RA however now not the disorder's progression: but long-term use of NSAIDs as a monotherapy cause unfavourable drug reactions (ADRS) [2-4].

Drugs for Symptomatic treatment		DMARDs		Immuno-suppressants		
NSAIDs	Topical	Corticosteroids	Opioids	Nonbiological	Biological	
Etoricoxib	Capsaicin	Prednisolone	Tramadol	Hydroxychloroquine	Anti-TNF- α agents	Cyclosporine
Celecoxib	Diclofenac 1%	Prednisone	Oxycodone	Leflunomide	Anti-CD20	Azathioprine
Ibuprofen	Diclofenac 2%	Methylprednisolone	Meperidine	Methotrexate	Anti-CD80/86	
Naproxen		Dexamethasone	Hydrocodone	Sulfasalazine	Anti-IL-1	
Aspirin		Betamethasone		Minocycline	Anti-IL-6	
Diclofenac						

Although some controversy exists in the medical sciences about the function of topical NSAIDs, current treatment guidelines endorse topical NSAIDs as a first choice and even first-line therapy for the treatment of knee OA, mainly among elderly sufferers [5]. Capsaicin is a remarkably selective and powerful exogenous agonist (low nanomolar affinity) for the TRPV1 receptor, a complex transmembrane-ion pathway, offering integrated temperature, PH and endogenous lipid responses [6]. Corticosteroids are steroidal medicines given to RA patients to reduce inflammation and help alter the autoimmune activity. Corticosteroids were used for over 5 many years to help deal with RA symptoms [7-9]. Many corticosteroids known as glucocorticoids can be detected. In

or clinical or radiographic disease development). Biologic DMARDs are exceptionally particular and goal a particular pathway of the immune machine. Methotrexate is the maximum generally used agent as an initial treatment. RA treatment is complex, with a variety of decision-making considerations including the occurrence and severity of illnesses, co-morbidities and patient preferences (including costs, administration routes and monitoring frequencies). RA treatment may be either monotherapy or combination therapy, although some randomized controlled trials demonstrated a biological DMARD combination therapy dominance with traditional DMARD such as methotrexate over either agent alone [13-16].

Drugs	Uses	Doses	Adverse Effect	Mechanism
Infliximab	Moderate or severe Rheumatoid Arthritis with MTX	3mg/kg iv	Rashes, headache, fever, vertigo, asthenia and higher plasma transaminases level	Anti-TNF- α
Adalimumab	Severe Rheumatoid Arthritis	40mg sc.	Myositis, rash, headache, hypertension, vomiting	Anti-TNF- α
Anakinra	As monotherapy in moderate to severe RA	100mg/die sc.	ABD pain, increase gut mobility, fever, asthma	Anti-IL-1
Rituximab	Moderate to severe RA	1000 mg IV infusion	Angioedema, Asthenia, chills, dizziness, fever, headache, Pruritus, Rash, Abdominal Pain, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting	Anti-CD20
Tocilizumab	Severe RA	162 mg sc.	UTI infection, Nasopharyngitis, Headache, Hypertension, ALT increased, Bronchitis, Rash, Dizziness	Anti-IL-6
Abatacept	Monotherapy in moderate to severe RA	500/1000 mg iv	Headache, blood hypertension, infection, vertigo and severe infection	Anti-CD80/86

conjunction with NSAIDs and DMARDs, many RA therapies tend to use corticosteroids because inflammation no longer decreases, but they can help protect joint and organ against damage to destiny as well. DMARDs are one of the main medication groups for many forms of arthritis such as RA (Rheumatoid Arthritis), PSA (Psoriatic Arthritis) and so many, and they are used for many purposes in the treatment of arthritis [10-12]. DMARDs are immunosuppressive and immunomodulatory drugs and are categorized into two categories, one is traditional DMARDs or other is biologic DMARDs. Usually used traditional DMARDs include methotrexate, leflunomide, hydroxychloroquine, and sulfasalazine. Biologic DMARDs were introduced within the early 1990s and are normally prescribed after the failure of traditional DMARDs remedy (ongoing ailment pastime,

Table 2: List of disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs)

Although maximum traditional DMARDs have comparable adverse outcomes, there are several adverse effects results precisely to each agent. (Table 2) Bacterial infection, fungal infection and viral infections are the not unusual and extreme infections are caused by the uses of or are the most common adverse effect of all biologic DMARDs. Several other drugs used to treat RA can affect, or enhance the effectiveness of, the pharmacokinetic effect or pharmacodynamic effect of DMARDs and can also enhance the risk of adverse effects, with non-steroid anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs), Corticosteroids, antacids, calcium supplements, PPI and sulfasalazine. [17-20].

Material and Methods

Our objective became to decide what medicines are used with the DMARDs for the remedy of rheumatoid arthritis may boom the aspect effect or toxicity of methotrexate or lower its efficacy. Making use of applicable key phrases, we perform systematic literature seek using google scholar, PubMed, PCM, NCBI net site. The secondary search protected articles mentioned in reference lists identified by using the number one search. Data were first screened earlier than entire text papers for eligibility evaluation by title/abstract. Papers are considered eligible if the type of sentences is protected: "Rheumatoid arthritis", "RA", "DMARDs", "organic DMARDs", "drug-drug interaction". "NSAIDs in rheumatoid arthritis". All citations had been downloaded inside the Endnote software version x9.3.3, and duplicates were deleted.

Methotrexate Pharmacology

Pharmacokinetic

A couple of older research styles supporting the proper absorption at low doses of MTX have stressed that the absorption of this drug after oral use will be relatively weak and unpredictable[21, 22]. Methotrexate is a drug that is folate analogue that after absorption, distribute to various cell and tissue mainly in the non-fatty tissue of the body[23, 24]. Transport of MTX across the capillary and cellular membranes of the liver, kidney, and pores and skin is speedy so that equilibrium ratios of tissue to plasma concentrations (plasma concentrations > 1 μm) are established on a time scale regular with plasma flow limitation. The essential metabolite of MTX, produced by way of the action of hepatic aldehyde oxidase, is 7-hydroxy MTX (7-OH-MTX)[25,26]. 7-OH-MTX is only 1% as powerful an inhibitor of DHFR as is MTX[27]. This metabolite is also less water-soluble than MTX and can make a reason for the renal toxicity regularly seen after excessive doses of the antifolate[28]. The clearance of the MTX from the body is done by both biliary and urinary routes. Maximum of the drug excreted into the bile passes through the intestine and is excreted focally, but the drug likewise issues to partial intestinal reabsorption and metabolism via enteric microorganism[29,30]. MTX also undergoes hydroxylation utilizing liver aldehyde oxidase to form 7-hydroxymethotrexate, a metabolite with a long half-life-the existence of 24 h in human beings.

Pharmacodynamics

RA patients acquire polyamines from synovial tissues, synovial fluid, PBMCs and urine, sperm and spermidine. Polyamines can be converted into hydrogen peroxidase and ammonia lymphotoxins by using monocytes. Methotrexate depletes tetrahydrofolate and methyl-tetrahydrofolate (5-CH₃-THF) with the aid of the inhibiting DHFR. Both compounds typically act in the form of methionine and s-adenosylmethionine (SAM) and polyamines as methyl donors[31]. The following: This mechanism proposes that MTX, by inhibiting the DHFR, decrease the downstream mediators and also decrease the methionine and SAM, for this reason, decrease the process of methylation and the next step of formation of polyamines and consequently lymphotoxins.

But research has shown that the inhibition of polyamine is much less

likely to justify the effectiveness of methotrexate in RA. Transmethylation inhibitor 3-deoxyadenosine has not shown any therapeutic efficacy in RA. It is also well-known that by way of methionine but inverted by the use of folinical acid plus sam, methotrexate inhibits chemotaxis and the formation of superoxide in monocytes [32]. Hence, polyamine inhibition should possibly make a contribution to methotrexate efficacy in a few manners but does no longer seem like the predominant mechanism.

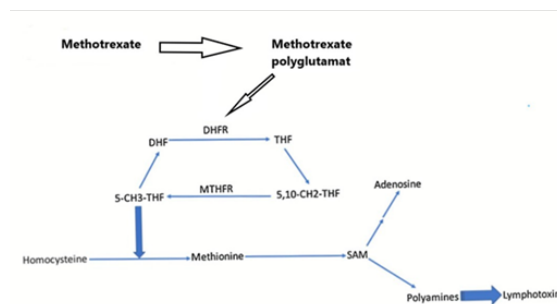


Figure 1: Mechanism of Action of Methotrexate in the inhibition of polyamine and lymphotoxin formation. Source [31]

Methotrexate's Interaction with Drugs Commonly Used In Ra Treatment

Drug-drug interactions (DDIs) are considered preventable medication-associated troubles; however, in scientific exercise, DDIs are regularly chargeable for adverse drug reactions (ADRs) and can lead to an extended hazard of hospitalization and better health care charges [33–37].

MTX with NSAIDS

A cohort takes a look at became carried out in Denmark and display that concomitant use of low/dose methotrexate and NSAIDs turned into associated with a notably extended chance of significant adverse activities. [38] however, a few observe indicates that excretion of methotrexate from the body is inhibited, when MTX is given with the NSAIDs like indomethacin, aspirin several studies have confirmed the efficacy of low-dose methotrexate in treating patients who have rheumatoid arthritis[39-40]. Inside the early ninety's numerous case reports describing poisonous and on occasion deadly interactions between NSAIDs and methotrexate had been posted. [41-44] A case report shows co-management of MTX and NSAIDs may also result in extensive toxicity. Clinical manifestations, inclusive of pancytopenia and renal failure, have been proven while patients received both high-dose or low-dose MTX collectively with NSAIDs[45]. Some recent studies show that Etoricoxib which is a selective COX-2 inhibitor is also capable of inhibiting the human organic anion transporter-3 (HOAT-3) in the human body with a dose-dependent manner [46]. The document demonstrates that the affected person was re-evaluated and become identified with stevens-johnson syndrome-poisonous epidermal necrolysis (SJS-TEN) whilst she becomes below the remedy with methotrexate and etoricoxib[47].

A few observe indicates that celecoxib, a cyclooxygenase (COX-2) inhibitor, shows inhibitory effects on methotrexate accumulation in S2-HOAT3 cells. Celecoxib inhibited the methotrexate accumulation mediated by using HOAT3 in a concentration-based manner. [48]

however, celecoxib does not affect the PK of MTX[49]. Some studies indicate that rofecoxib does not affect MTX plasma concentrations and the MTX renal clearance in patients with RA at a dosage of 12.5-50 mg OD[50].

Drugs	Effect/MOA	Reference
NSAIDs (COX-1 Inhibitor)	Increased chance of severe negative effects, NSAIDs minimize body excretion of MTX, Human Organic Anion Transporter 349 Inhibited	[38]
Etoricoxib	Reduce MTX excretion by inhibiting HOAT-3	[39,40]
Celecoxib	Inhibition of deposition of methotrexate in S2-HOAT3 cells	[46]
	Tubular secretion competition through the organic renal anion transporter 3 (OAT3) Competition	[48]

Table 3: Drug-Drug Interaction between MTX and NSAIDs

MTX with Non-biological DMARDs:

An examine explains the multiplied efficiency of the MTX-HCQ aggregate over MTX as a single agent and additionally the sustained outcomes of MTX while administered with HCQ. In addition to this, during the co-administration lessening of the adverse effect of the liver may be explained by the reduction of Cmax of methotrexate observed during the co-administration. Greater vigilance for MTX detrimental consequences at some point of aggregate remedy with HCQ is usually recommended, specifically if the renal characteristic is thought to be reduced[51]. The threat of pancytopenia at some point of leflunomide remedy seems to be elevated when the drug is mixed with methotrexate and in older sufferers. Onset can be behind schedule, and ongoing monitoring of blood counts is important [52]. Use of methotrexate with leflunomide will increase the threat of pancytopenia compared with the use of leflunomide alone [53-55]. We concluded that the combinations of MTX with G, HCQ, SASP and MNC in RA have been pretty properly tolerated. No boom in toxicity as compared with MTX by myself became discovered. The lowest rate of facet effects was noted in group 1, even as institution four offered the best discontinuation rate[56]. The exposed patients had substantially more risks of developing renal, gastrointestinal and pulmonary activities, and drastically extra fitness care aid utilization and fees[57] [58].

Drugs	Effect/MOA	Reference
Hydroxychloroquine	The increased capacity of the MTX raised mean AUC for the MTX and lowered average MTX concentration	[51]
Leflunomide	Inhibits lymphocyte and other cells that are easily divided and are rarely associated with life-threatening pancytopenia pyrimidine synthesis	[52-55]

Sulfasalazine	No interaction	[56]
Minocycline	No interaction	[56]
Cyclosporine	Renal impairment, GIT disturbance	[57-58]

Table 4: Drug-Drug interaction between MTX and other Non-biological DMARDs

MTX with Corticosteroids:

Hepatocellular impairment occurs due to decrease in the elimination of the MTX from biliary and due to this there is an increase in the concentration of MTX in the liver and this condition contribute in the hepatotoxicity of the MTX while administrated with dexamethasone. Furthermore, the influence of dexamethasone on protein expression of anionic capsules transporters inside the liver and kidney changed into confirmed[59-61]. The impact of methotrexate and betamethasone on a following phototoxic reaction to 8-methoxy psoralen and lengthy-wave ultraviolet light (PUVA) was studied within the mouse. Excessive PUVA doses had been no longer inspired by way of the two drugs examined. Each methotrexate and betamethasone tended to decrease the PUVA response while psoralen becomes given in a medium dose[62]. Using methotrexate collectively with methylprednisolone can increase the blood level or upload to the adverse effects of methotrexate[63]. However some studies don't show any interaction and side effect[64].

Drugs	Effect/MOA	Reference
Dexamethasone	Hepatocellular impairment	[59-61]
Betamethasone	Diminish the PUVA response	[62]
Methylprednisolone	No Interaction	[63-64]
Prednisolone	No data found	[65]

Table 5: Drug-Drug Interaction between MTX and Corticosteroids

MTX with Biological DMARDs:

A 69-year-vintage English man laid low with rheumatoid arthritis with a record of type-2 diabetes mellitus turn out to be mentioned the hospital for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. We describe a patient with RA who developed pancytopenia complicated by disseminated Cryptococcus neoformans while receiving low dose MTX and infliximab[66] [67]. Throughout the etanercept treatment (subcutaneous dose) plus MTX (oral dose), no pharmacokinetic DDIs were nevertheless recorded[72]. Many medical studies have ended with improved RA signs and symptoms in patients who have energetic RA without adequate MTX-response with the addition of adalimumab without improving pharmacokinetic DDIs [73]. Under the modern MTX management, the absence of pharmacokinetic DDI, plus rituximab, tocilizumab, certolizumabpegol or golimumab have been recorded in different evidence [74-76]. The t-lymphocyte activation modulator, approved to cure lively RA, for DMARD non-response sufferers was recommended along with MTX and anti-TNF- α [77].

Drugs	Effect/MOA	Reference
Infliximab, Adalimumab,	Increased risk of infections	[66-67]
Golimumab		
Etanercept	No DDIs	[68]
Adalimumab	No DDIs	[69]
Tocilizumab, certolizumabpegol, and golimumab	No DDIs	[70-72]
Abatacept	No DDIs	[73]

Table 6: Drug-Drug Interaction between MTX and Corticosteroids

Conclusion

The loss of folate and cell inability to synthesize DNA at the same time describe the antirheumatic and anti-inflammatory effects of MTX. Specific parameters are necessary to control the suppressive effects of MTX on the hematopoietic system and the risk of fibrosis, cirrhosis or gastric ulcers. Folic acid supplementation helps reduce the toxicity of the MTX [74]. The importance of pharmacovigilance in MTX patients is also associated with the dangers of DDIs that can boom MTX toxicity. Upon absorption of MTX, it is confined to the blood serum albumin for dissemination into various body parts and thus can be transferred through various MTX medications. The remediation risk for livers and bone marrow repression can be improved by using NSAIDs or DMARDs, with pills with comparable ADRs [74, 75]. The remedy the enhance kidney clearance with NSAIDs. In short, for the period of treatment with MTX, it should be taken into account the possibility of DDIs that may raise the risk of hepatotoxicity, nephrotoxicity and other toxic effects.

Discussion

It is very critical that you are safe against developing ADRs or therapeutic failure. MTX is a low-dose medication for patients with RA who are taking other anti-Rheumatic drugs because certain DDIs may occur. An increase in MTX toxicity may be linked to the relationship MTX + NSAIDs. The liver toxicities and/or blood toxicity may also result from the MTX + leflunomide or the sulphasalazine association. Very little detail has been made available on the relationship of MTX to organic DMARDs. To order to ensure that you boost DDIs, it is important to raising the MTX or co-administered medication dose. With ADRs at some stage during the procedure, the plasma concentration of the drug can be measured in miles.

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