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Drug Therapy

Version of 2016

2. Cyclosporine A

2.1 Description

Cyclosporine A is an immunosuppressive drug, initially used to prevent organ rejection in patients who underwent transplant operations, but now also used for paediatric rheumatic diseases. It is a potent inhibitor of a group of white blood cells that have a fundamental role in the immune response.

2.2 Dosage/modes of administration

It can be given in liquid or pill form at a dosage of 3-5 mg per kg per day in 2 doses.

2.3 Side effects

Side effects are quite frequent, especially at high doses, and may limit the use of the drug. They include renal damage, high blood pressure, liver damage, gum enlargement, hair growth over the body, nausea and vomiting.
Treatment with cyclosporine therefore requires regular clinical and laboratory check-ups to assess drug side effects. Children must check blood pressure regularly at home.

2.4 Main paediatric rheumatic diseases indications

Macrophage activation syndrome.

Juvenile dermatomyositis.