

**SYMBIOSIS MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
SYMBIOSIS UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE
Symbiosis International (Deemed University)**

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Founder: Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, M. Sc., Ph. D. (Awarded Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri by President of India)

Title of the Practice

Injection Rituximab in Pemphigus

Objectives of the Practice

- To provide a safe and effective biologic therapy for patients with moderate-to-severe pemphigus vulgaris and foliaceus.
- To achieve rapid disease control and minimize dependence on long-term corticosteroids.
- To reduce disease relapse and improve quality of life in affected patients.
- To align treatment with updated Indian and international guidelines for pemphigus management

The Context

Pemphigus is a chronic autoimmune blistering disorder. Conventional therapy with steroids/immunosuppressants carries significant risks. Rituximab, a targeted biologic, offers effective long-term remission with fewer side effects.

The Practice


- Patient selection: Moderate-to-severe pemphigus.
- Protocol: Rituximab infusion (RA or lymphoma protocol) with premedication.
- Monitoring: Infusion reactions, infections, relapse.
- Steroid tapering with/without minimal adjuvant therapy.

Evidence of Success

- High rates of clinical remission (complete healing of skin/mucosal lesions).
- Significant reduction in cumulative corticosteroid dose.
- Reduced frequency of relapses compared to conventional therapy alone.
- Improved patient-reported quality of life (less hospital visits, fewer side effects).
- Practice adopted as first-line biologic therapy in pemphigus in many tertiary centers across India.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- Problems: High cost, infusion reactions, infection risk, need for long-term follow-up.
- Resources: Trained staff, infusion facilities, monitoring labs, emergency support, financial assistance schemes.


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