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Autologous stem cell transplantation in juvenile idiopathic arthritis : regaining immunological tolerance and arresting disease progression

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Autologous stem cell transplantation in juvenile idiopathic arthritis Regaining immunological tolerance and arresting disease progression

1. Autologous stem cell transplantation (ASCT) emerged as the first opportunity to offer patients with refractory juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) a potentially curative treatment (this thesis).
2. Immunomodulation rather than immunosuppression may explain the efficacy of ASCT in JIA (this thesis).
3. To eliminate autoimmunity and reinduce self tolerance lymphoablative rather than myeloablative conditioning is sufficient and possibly safer (this thesis).
4. "To TBI or not to TBI?" that is the question (this thesis).
5. The immune system functions as a team of cells communicating with each other. It is this communication, not an individual cell per se, which may be pathologic in environmentally induced autoimmune diseases. (Burt RK et al. Arthritis Rheum. 2006;54(12):3750-3760).
6. Rabies is an ancient disease that remains a modern problem. (Plotkin SA. Clin Infect Dis 2000;30:4-12)(this thesis).
7. Er zijn meerdere wegen naar (jeugd)reuma.
8. It is important to determine prognostic (genetic and epigenetic) factors in JIA once intensive treatments like ASCT are available.
9. The recent development of "validated criteria for definition of inactive disease and clinical remission in JIA" reflects the advances in treatment strategies in the last decade. (Wallace CA et al J Rheumatol. 2004;31(11):2290-2294).
10. The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts as to discover new ways of thinking about them. (Sir William Bragg 1862-1942).
11. Artists are good observers and they could record diseases and syndromes long before scientists described their observations in medical journals. (Dequeker J. Acta Reumatol Port. 2006;31(1):11-13).
12. Pregnancies during a PhD study may finally increase the number of publications.
13. Everything that can be counted does not necessarily count; everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted. (Albert Einstein 1879-1955).

**Danielle M.C. Brinkman
Leiden, 14 november 2007**