DR. ANUPA KHASTGIR, M.D.
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73112
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Office
Fax [redacted]

Dear Mr. Drash,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding your questions and concerns on Acthar. Acthar is a FDA approved and indicated drug for the treatment of Idiopathic Nephrotic Syndrome and Lupus class 4.
When it became available in 2012 to the nephrology community we were sceptical of its use and mechanism of action. More research into the matter revealed that Catalina at all reported in 2005-2006 that there are five Melanocortin Receptors that are present in the body to which ACTH binds to. ACTH is the parent compound of Acthar. ACTH binding to the MC1 receptors maybe the mechanism for improved proteinuria. ACTH binding to MC2 receptors on the Adrenal Glands causes the side effects. Further studies regarding the mechanism of actions are currently on going.
Patients who had been treated with the other drugs such as (Steroids, Tacrolimus, MMF, Rituximab etc) were given a trail of this drug and some of them responded. Response meant a decrease in protein spillage, a slowing down, or even arresting kidney decline, a stalling or even preventing the need for dialysis and or transplant down the road. Although expensive, it is worth trying on a selective group of patients either resistant or non-responders or otherwise not a candidate to other therapy. Anything to keep these patients from going down the ominous road to Dialysis.
I have lost patients to side effects to other drug regimens for Nephrotic Syndrome like the Ponticilli Regimen. This drug appears to be relatively safe. I have collaborated with five other physicians across the country

using "MedVal" to do a retrospective study and Mallincrodt funded that study. I am a speaker for the company and will talk to Nephrologists on lunch or dinner programs presenting the data on the drug. My expenses are paid for by the company. The contract with Mallincrodt is in line with other consultant/speaker agreements done in the past.

May I ask, what you would do if you had Nephrotic Syndrome resistant to other drug therapy and your only hope was an expensive drug or an expensive organ replacement/dialysis. And what would you do if your 18 year old daughter gets diagnosed with a rare form of Nephrotic Syndrome and the choice is to use drugs that will cause Infertility for life and possible Blood Cancers down the road or use an expensive drug with minimum side effects?

Thanks again for reaching out to me regarding questions on this drug. If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,

Anupa Khastgir

Anupa Khastgir, M.D.