

University of Groningen

## Improving clinical management in ANCA-associated vasculitis

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Stellingen behorende bij dit proefschrift.

- Rapid and reliable serum tests for the presence of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies directed against proteinase 3 or myeloperoxidase have an important role in detection of ANCA-associated vasculitis (this thesis).

- after the 'induction-therapy' period, renal function at 6 months after diagnosis and renal relapses are determinants for long-term renal survival in patients with AAV (this thesis).

- persistence of microscopic haematuria during therapy cannot be used as predictor for longterm renal function nor relapse during follow up in ANCA-associated vasculitis (this thesis).

- adding plasmapheresis in AAV-patients with progressive disease despite initial standard induction therapy improves outcome and does not increase side effects (this thesis).

- in patients with ANCA-associated vasculitis who are MPO-ANCA-positive, one should discuss the necessity of subsequent maintenance therapy after the first episode of disease (this thesis).

- the use of rituximab maintenance therapy could at least be considered but due to costs and only limited evidence for benefits, the mainstay of maintenance therapy in AAV continues to be azathioprine (this thesis)

- azathioprine maintenance therapy reduces relapse rates in AAV, but continuing treatment beyond 18 months after diagnosis does not significantly influence relapse free survival (this thesis).

- we cannot solve our problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them (Einstein).

- soms is toeval beter dan duizend afspraken (Arabisch spreekwoord)

- je kunt beter een kerk bouwen, dan proberen een mens te veranderen (mijn oma).

- voor een werkende moeder bestaat er niets ergers dan haar kind wakker te moeten maken om naar de dagopvang te brengen.

- de medische wetenschap zou dieren ook voor diagnostiek en (conservatieve) therapie op de werkvloer kunnen inzetten in plaats van slechts 'gebruiken' in medische laboratoria; dit zou op z'n minst het plezier van behandelaars en behandelde patiënten kunnen vergroten.