

Conclusions

Treatment with Electrochemotherapy is appropriate for patients suffering with head and neck cancer. It is an effective tool for radical local disease control and can be used as a neo-adjuvant treatment.

It can also be a first line treatment for locally advanced, challenging head and neck cancers.⁽⁴⁾

Local control of the disease has an important effect on quality of life.

Electrochemotherapy can be considered an effective addition to the cancer treatment armamentarium.

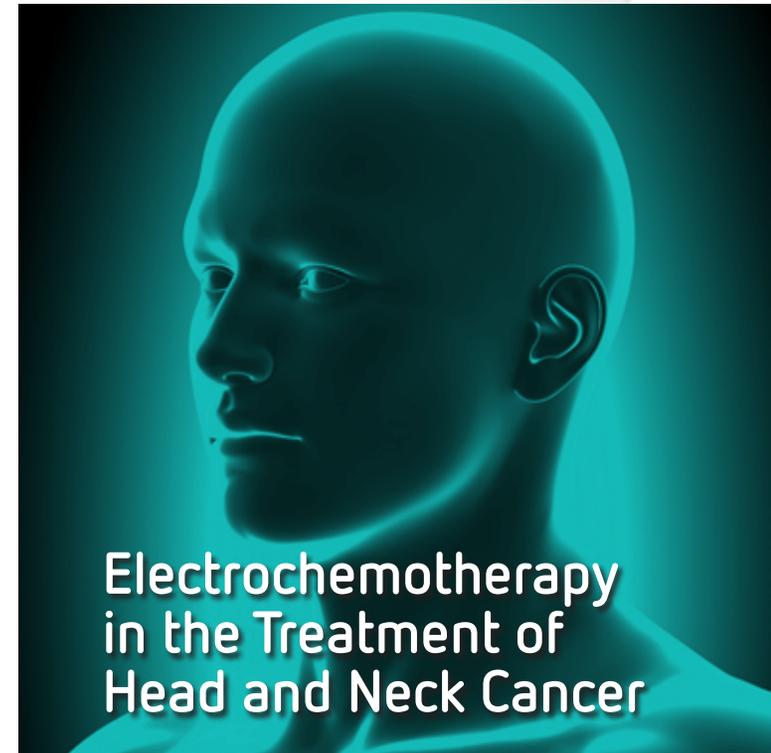


References

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Further reading

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**Electrochemotherapy
in the Treatment of
Head and Neck Cancer**

Rationale

Head and neck cancers are most often associated with squamous cell carcinoma. Patients often suffer with locally aggressive lesions and are at high risk of relapse. Current treatments can be disfiguring, invasive and can also involve loss of function.

IGEA Medical have developed specific electrodes for treating head and neck cancers with the CLINIPORATOR™. These include Finger and Adjustable electrodes to treat narrow areas and to prevent needle penetration of important nerves and vessels in the head and neck region.

Electrochemotherapy for head and neck cancer patients

Reference	Patient	OR [%]
Plaschke C, Eur J Cancer, 2017 ⁽¹⁾	37	56
Bertino G, Eur J Cancer, 2016 ⁽²⁾	99	82
Montuori G, Ital Dermatol Venereol, 2016 ⁽³⁾	15	100
Rotunno R, G Ital Dermatol Venereol, 2015 ⁽⁴⁾	55	91
Campana LG, BJOMS, 2014 ⁽⁵⁾	39	59
Mevio N, Tumori, 2012 ⁽⁶⁾	15	93
Gargiulo M, Ann Surg, 2012 ⁽⁷⁾	25	100
Skarlatos I, in vivo, 2011 ⁽⁸⁾	14	93

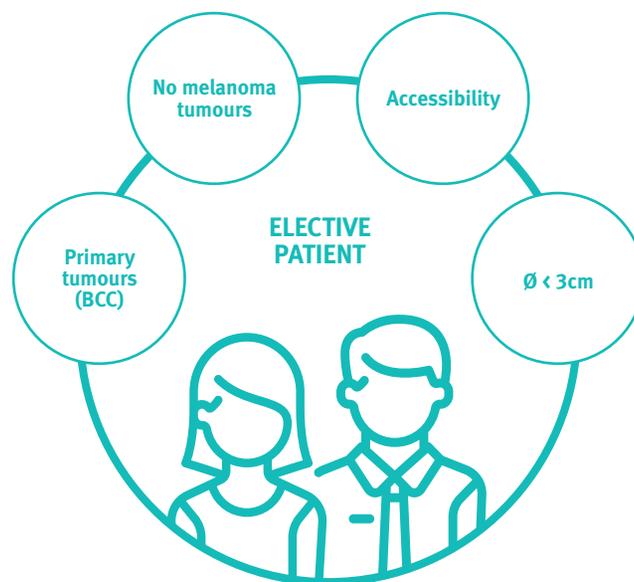
How effective is Electrochemotherapy?

The effectiveness of Electrochemotherapy appears to be driven by many factors, amongst these Campana et al and colleagues identify:

- **Number and size of the lesions**
- **Anatomical location and accessibility**

These considerations help to define which eligible patients could respond the best to the treatment and who will have better local progression-free survival and improved overall survival.

Patients who show the best response to Electrochemotherapy



NICE guidelines

NICE published guidance on Electrochemotherapy in March 2013, saying that it may reduce symptoms and improve quality of life for appropriately selected patients.

NICE has said that this procedure can be:

“offered routinely as a palliative treatment option for people with metastases in the skin from tumours of non-skin origin or melanoma...the procedure may reduce symptoms and improve quality of life for people with disease that cannot be treated with, or doesn’t respond to, other treatments.”

Electrochemotherapy in clinical practice



Figure A: Before the treatment Figure B: 2 months post ECT⁽³⁾

These clinical images show treatment response in a patient with a large squamous cell carcinoma of the cheek (above) and in a patient with a recurrent carcinoma in the retromolar trigone (below).



Figure A: Before the treatment Figure B: 2 months post ECT⁽¹⁾