The role of Electrochemotherapy in the treatment of cutaneous marginal zone B-cell Lymphomas
The role of Electrochemotherapy in the treatment of cutaneous marginal zone B-cell Lymphomas

Introduction

Electrochemotherapy is a treatment combining a low dose of a chemotherapy drug and an electrical pulse (electroporation) applied directly to the cancer cells using an electrode.

This low level dose of chemotherapy drug is not normally effective against the cancer, as it is difficult to get inside the cells. When the electrical pulse is applied, the cells form pores allowing the drug to enter and be active against the cancer.

Electrochemotherapy for B-cell Lymphoma patients

In a recent study, Gatti et al. described the use of Electrochemotherapy as an alternative therapy for primary cutaneous marginal zone B-cell Lymphomas in patients unsuitable for surgery or radiotherapy. Their experience referred to three patients with primary cutaneous...
Our results stress that Electrochemotherapy could be considered not just as a palliation, but also as an appealing alternative to standard anti-cancer options.\[2\]

Clinical Experience

- Electrochemotherapy is known to be an efficient loco-regional therapy for treatment of unresectable recurrent tumor nodules\[2\].
- Patients with B-cell Lymphomas do not usually require treatment with systemic chemotherapy\[3,4\].
- By electroporation, permeability of the cancer cells to anti-tumour drugs is increased up to a hundred-fold\[5\].
- Side effects in their patients were limited to hyperpigmentation in the Electrochemotherapy site.
- A complete response was obtained after 4 weeks, and no relapses were observed during 18-month follow-up.

Conclusion

This is the first report describing the use of Electrochemotherapy for the treatment of primary cutaneous B-cell Lymphoma. Whilst the number of treated cases is limited, these results stress that Electrochemotherapy could be considered not just as a palliation, but also as an appealing alternative to standard anti-cancer options\[2\].
References


