

INTRALESIONAL BLEOMYCIN INJECTION FOR THE TREATMENT OF WART

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SUMMARY

Previously podophyllin was used for the treatment of warts but because of its non-availability, some other alternative has to be thought specially when they are found to be unresponsive to other modalities. Intralesional bleomycin, under such circumstances has been found to be quite effective.

Introduction

Bleocin, antitumour antibiotic is commonly used for skin, head neck, lung, oesophagial or cervical cancer. It is also used for malignant lymphoma and brain tumour, specially glioma. But the drug can also be used effectively in small dosage in non-malignant condition like vulval warts.

Material and Methods

Intralesional Bleomycin was tried in 8 cases of vulval warts. Bleocin (Bleomycin Hydrochloride, 15 mgm, Khandelwal Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.) Solution was prepared by dissolving the powder into 15 ml. of sterile normal saline solution.

Six of these cases had medium sized warts about 7.5 mm in diameter (Fig. 1). While other two had small warts of about 4 mm in diameter.

The dose of the drug was adjusted as per lesion. In case of small warts the dose administered was 0.1 ml. (equivalent

to 0.1 mgm.). While for medium size warts the dose was increased varying between 0.2 to 0.3 ml. (0.2 to 0.3 mgm.) depending on the size of the wart.

No anaesthesia was used. A tuberculin syringe was used for injection since it could deliver the recommended small dose. The desired dose was injected beneath the warts.

Patients were called for check up after two weeks. When examined small warts were found to have totally disappeared while 4 of the cases of medium sized warts required a second course of therapy which was repeated after 4 weeks of initial therapy, although only few warts remained uneradicated (Fig. 2), they disappeared after 4 weeks.

A final check up after 12 weeks, did not show any evidence of the pathology and healing was without scarring, atrophy or pigmentary change. There was no evidence of systemic toxicity.

Discussion

Bleocin offers a promising method in treatment of warts. Apparently the treatment may appear to be costly (15 mgm

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of Bleomycin costs Rs. 175) but in reality it is inexpensive, since only a small dose is required. The remaining solution can be stored in refrigerator at 4° for 2 months. The exact mechanism of action is not clear, but probably the local in-

jection causes microthrombosis, resulting in haemorrhagic necrosis and subsequent reduction and detachment of warts. This form of treatment specially for resistant warts is reliable safe and acceptable to patients.

See Figs. on Art Paper II