

Colposcopic Evaluation of the Role of Albothyl (Polycresulin) in the Treatment of Cervical Erosion

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Summary

The purpose of above study was to evaluate the therapeutic effect of albothyl in cases of cervical erosion.

The nonpregnant patients attending the OPD of UISE Maternity hospital were included in the study. After a detailed history and examination pap smear was taken. Patients with a normal pap smear but the appearance of cervical erosion on naked eye examination were examined colposcopically. One hundred & eight patients with colposcopically confirmed ectopy were included in the study. Albothyl concentrate was applied over the cervix of these patients.

This was repeated weekly for 4-6 weeks. The patient was instructed to apply albothyl gel per vaginum on alternate days herself. The followup of patients was done by colposcopy performed every week.

The cure rate after 4-6 applications of albothyl gel was 79.6% which is comparable to that obtained by other investigators.

Introduction

When the columnar epithelium of the endocervical canal is present on ectocervix replacing the squamous epithelium it is known as cervical erosion. Erosion or ectopy as it is now called is physiological and may be present at puberty during pregnancy and when patient is taking oral contraceptive pills.

Ectopy is usually asymptomatic. However it may present with persistent discharge per vaginum or contact bleeding. When secondary infection of the columnar epithelium forming the ectopy takes place, vaginal discharge, dyspareunia, post coital bleeding etc. may result.

Clinicians all over the world have been trying

various treatment options for ectopy. These include diathermy, cryosurgery, electrocautery etc. Local application of various chemical substances is also widely used. Albothyl (polycresulin) is a condensation product of metacresol sulfonic acid in formaldehyde possessing a high degree of acidity, one gram concentrate containing 360 mg of polycresulin. Its pharmacological action include astringence and it is a fungicidal and bactericidal agent. It is also a vasoconstrictor and hemostatic. Albothyl has been found, to have selective action on pathological tissue and does not interfere with healthy epithelial cells. Apart from a few side effect no toxic reaction has been found on local application. Albothyl is available in gel and concentrate forms.

The purpose of our study was to evaluate the therapeutic effect of Albothyl concentrate and gel in cases

of cervical erosion.

Material & Methods

Patients attending the OPD of UISE maternal hospital with various gynaecological complaints were included in the study. Pregnant patients were excluded. After a complete history examination a pap smear was taken using Ayre's spatula. Patients with normal smear but appearance of erosion on naked eye examination were referred for colposcopy.

One hundred & eight patients with colposcopically confirmed ectopy were included in the study. Albothyl concentrate was applied over the cervix with a cotton tipped swab and held for 2-3 minutes. This was repeated weekly for 2-6 applications according to patients response. The patient was instructed to apply Albothyl gel vaginum on alternate days herself.

Before each weekly application of Albothyl concentrate colposcopy was done to see the response. On each visit the erosion was mapped on a diagram representing the cervix. Results were tabulated according to following criteria.

Good: Lesion completely healed

Fair: Lesion decreased by 50%

Poor: No perceptible change in the lesion.

In cases of poor response biopsy was taken and sent for histopathological examination to find out type of lesion.

Table-I
Results of treatment of Albothyl

Results	No of Cases	%
Good	80	79.6%
Fair	14	12.9%
Poor	08	7.4%
Total	108	100%

Table-II
HPE of Failed Cases (N=8)

Histopathological Examination	No of Cases
Benign endocervical hyperplasia	3
Chronic Cervicitis	4
Cervical Dysplasia	1

Table-3
Adverse Reactions

Symptoms	No of Cases	%
Burning Sensation	12	11.1%
Pruritis	16	14.8%
None	80	74%

Observation & Discussion

Cure rate after application of Albothyl concentrate was 79.6% which is comparable to that obtained by Sayeda Firoza (1981) who found 78% cure rate with use of Albothyl. In India Phool Chandra and Walia (1999) in a study of 100 patients documented a good, fair and a poor response in 80%, 10% and 7.4% respectively.

Of the cases in which there was poor response, the histological examination revealed endocervical hyperplasia in 3 cases, chronic cervicitis in 4 and mild - moderate dysplasia in one case. Various authors have documented relief in these cases of Albothyl concentrate applied for 8 weeks and daily application of Albothyl gel by the patient herself. (Phool Chandra 1999) Further studies are needed to confirm this.

Albothyl is generally well tolerated. Only complaints were burning sensation in 11% cases and itching in 14% of cases. However these complaints were transient.

Conclusion

Weekly application of Albothyl gel is an effective and safe treatment modality in the cases of cervical erosion. However further studies are needed to elucidate its role especially in pregnant patients.

References

1. Sayeda Firoza Begum, Bangladesh Medical Journal; 10 (2), 1981.
2. Phool Chandra, Walia D.K., Asian J of Obst & Gyn practice, vol-3, No-2, March-May, 1999.