DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TOPICAL 5-FLUOROURACIL, TOPICAL CALCIPOTRIOL, AND CRYOSURGERY IN SEBORRHEIC KERATOSIS

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Introduction: First-line therapy for seborrhoeic keratosis (SK) is cryosurgery, but most patients are uncomfortable thus desiring topical therapy. There is no effective topical therapy for SK to date. The effectiveness of topical 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) and calcipotriol on SK has not been widely studied.

Objective: To compare the efficacy of topical 5-FU and topical calcipotriol with standard cryosurgery for the treatment of SK.

Material and methods: We enrolled 18 patients with 54 SK lesions that divided into three groups. Group I was treated with topical 5-FU twice daily, group II was treated with topical calcipotriol twice daily, and group III was treated with one 10-second freeze-thaw cycle of cryosurgery. The effectiveness of therapy was evaluated based on decreasing of baseline size of lesion, and observations were performed every two weeks for three months.

Results: This study showed that on the 12th week, the mean percentage of decrease in lesions size in group I was 34,06%, group II was 6,18%, and group III was 100%. Improvement with more than 80% decrease in the lesions size to complete resolution in group I were 3/18 SK lesions, group III were 18/18 SK lesions, while there were no improvement with more than 80% decrease in the lesions size in group II. Statistically, there was a significant difference of decrease in lesions size in groups treated with cryosurgery (p value<0,001).

Conclusion: The effectiveness of topical 5-FU and topical calcipotriol in SK were lower than cryosurgery based on decreased in lesion size. However, between the two topical treatments, topical 5-FU caused a greater decrease in lesions size than topical calcipotriol.