INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

INTRALESIONAL SODIUM STIBOGLUCONATE UNDER INHALED ANESTHESIA FOR THE TREATMENT OF CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS IN CHILDREN: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT

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Introduction: Cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) is endemic in Israel. Limited data are available regarding therapies for CL in children, and there are no guidelines for treatment.

Objective: To assess the efficacy and safety of intralesional (IL) sodium stibogluconate (SSG) injections under general anesthesia in the pediatric population.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed cases of childhood CL treated with IL SSG under general anesthesia by inhaled sevoflurane.

Results: 48 children with a total of 133 lesions received IL SSG under general anesthesia. Mean age was 6.4 ± 3.2 years. 94% of children had facial lesions.35% failed other prior therapies, such as topical paramomycin, day-light photodynamic therapy, intravenous liposomal amphotericine B and oral miltefosine. Response rate was 94% (45 out of 48 patients). An average of 4.6 ± 1.7 treatments were needed for complete response. Adverse effects were uncommon and included temporary facial swelling and lymphangitic spread, which resolved with further treatments.

Conclusions: In endemic areas, there is high disease burden of CL in children, in whom facial lesions pose a special therapeutic challenge. Our experience suggests IL SSG injections under general anesthesia by inhaled sevoflurane are an effective and well-tolerated mode of treatment for these disfiguring lesions.