



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

## PUVA PLUS INTERFERON $\alpha$ 2B THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH MYCOSIS FUNGOIDES AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE DISEASE: A SEVEN-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE STUDY IN RUSSIA

O. Yu. Olisova<sup>(1)</sup> - M. Megna<sup>(2)</sup> - E. V. Grekova<sup>(1)</sup> - D. V. Zaslavsky<sup>(3)</sup> - L. G. Gorenkova<sup>(4)</sup> - A. A. Sidikov<sup>(3)</sup> - E. A. Timoshchuk<sup>(3)</sup>

*Department Of Skin And Sexually Transmitted Diseases, I.m. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Moscow, Russian Federation<sup>(1)</sup> - Section Of Dermatology, Department Of Clinical Medicine And Surgery, University Of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy<sup>(2)</sup> - Department Of Dermatovenereology, Saint Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation<sup>(3)</sup> - National Medical Hematology Research Center, National Medical Hematology Research Center, Moscow, Russian Federation<sup>(4)</sup>*

**Background:** Interferon (IFN)- $\alpha$ 2b plus psoralen + ultraviolet A (PUVA) for mycosis fungoides (MF) has been described in only few small studies.

**Objective:** The aim of our survey was to evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of PUVA + IFN- $\alpha$ 2b therapy for patients with MF.

**Materials and Methods:** A 7-year retrospective prospective study involving patients with advanced or early stage MF, refractory to PUVA, and treated with combined PUVA and IFN- $\alpha$ 2b therapy was performed. IFN- $\alpha$ 2b was administered at a dose of 3 MU thrice weekly increasing dose according to patient's tolerance up to 6 MU. For PUVA therapy, 0.8 mg/kg oral 8-methoxypsoralen was given 1.5 hours before UVA radiation, three times a week starting from a dose of 0.5-2 J/cm<sup>2</sup>.

**Results:** The overall response rate was 93%, including complete response (CR) (73%) and partial response (PR) (20%). CR was found in 100% stage IIB-IIIA group respect 0% in stage IIIB-IV,  $P < 0.05$ . Patients with early stage disease had a 2-year progression free survival of 100% vs. 82% for the advanced stage group ( $P < 0.001$ ). Adverse events were seen in 73.3% with flu-like symptoms being the most common side effect.

**Conclusions:** IFN- $\alpha$ 2b + PUVA treatment seemed to be an efficacious and tolerated therapy option for MF patients refractory to PUVA, especially in patients with IB-IIIB stage.

