



MEDICAL THERAPIES AND PHARMACOLOGY

## TREATMENT OF FACIAL ANGIOFIBROMAS WITH ISOTRETINOIN: A CASE REPORT

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**Background:** Tuberous sclerosis complex is an autosomal dominant genodermatosis characterized by the presence of benign hamartomas in different organs, skin lesions, and cognitive disability. One of the dermatological hallmarks is the presence of facial angiofibromas that are associated with disfigurement and negative impact in quality of life.

**Observation:** 17-year-old male affected by tuberous sclerosis. As skin manifestations he presented ash-leaf spots, facial angiofibromas and ungual fibromas. In addition, he had epilepsy and a mild intellectual disability. In 2016, topical rapamycin ointment was applied to treat angiofibromas with a partial response and recurrence of lesions when it was discontinued. Then laser therapy was indicated. A partial improvement was achieved after the first session but the patient decided to stop the treatment. In 2017, he was started on minocycline, topic clindamycin 1% and benzoyl peroxide for acne lesions. Because of unresponsiveness to minocycline, isotretinoin 40mg/day was introduced. He completed 9 month of treatment with an accumulated dose of 150mg/kg. At the end of the treatment, acne resolution was achieved and also there was a great improvement of angiofibromas. Finally bigger angiofibromas were treated with electrodesiccation.

**Key message:** Multiple treatments for facial angiofibromas have been proposed. Laser surgery, cryotherapy, chemical peel, dermoabrasion are traditional treatments but this procedures may lead to scarring and have high recurrence rates. Also medical therapy as tranilast, rapamycin and podophyllotoxin can be used. 13-cis-retinoic acid has been described as an alternative for angiofibromas but there is limited information about it in the literature and only one case report, probably due to the low incidence of this pathology. The aim of the presentation is to show the good response to isotretinoin in a patient with facial angiofibromas and propose this treatment as a safe alternative that must be consider especially in refractory cases.

