



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

DEVELOPMENT OF POLIOSIS CIRCUMSCRIPTA IN METASTATIC MELANOMA PATIENT: AN UNCOMMON IMMUNE-RELATED CUTANEOUS EVENT FROM NIVOLUMAB

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Background: Poliosis circumscripta is a localized patch of white hair in a group of hair follicles of any hairy area on the body including scalp, eyebrows, eyelashes and it depends on decreased or absent melanin in affected area. It occurs in many genodermatosis and genetic syndrome, but it has been also describes in association with benign and malign neoplasms, therapies and medications.

Nivolumab is an immune checkpoint inhibitor that targets the programmed cell death (PD)-1 receptor and is effective for treating stage IV melanoma. Common cutaneous adverse side-effects have been described, including vitiligo and other cutaneous manifestations.

Observation: Here we describe a 71 year old man with stage IV melanoma with bone and pulmonary metastasis. He was treated with Nivolumab as first line therapy. After 7 months of immune checkpoint inhibitors he suddenly developed poliosis of the eyebrows and eyelashes. Except for poliosis, his physical examination was normal, and treatment with nivolumab was well tolerated. Immunotherapy was continued without further expansion of poliosis. Follow up with computed tomography scan showed a reduction of pulmonary nodules and knee metastasis.

Take home message: The occurrence of vitiligo-like depigmentation during immunotherapy in patients affected by melanoma is not uncommon but, to the best of our knowledge, this case is the first reported instance of PD-1 inhibitor associated poliosis in a patient with metastatic melanoma. It's known that spontaneous vitiligo represents a good prognostic factor in stage III and IV melanoma patients, but it's still unclear how much vitiligo like depigmentation and other hypomelanosis conditions during immunotherapy can modify the disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS).

