PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

INTRALESIONAL MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA VACCINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE AND RECALCITRANT EXTRAGENITAL CUTANEOUS WARTS IN CHILDREN: A PROSPECTIVE, UNCONTROLLED, OPEN-LABEL STUDY

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Introduction: Treatment of multiple extragenital warts in children remains a challenge. Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine has been successfully used for treatment of extragenital warts in adults.

Objective: To evaluate the safety and efficacy of MMR vaccine for the treatment of multiple and recalcitrant extragenital cutaneous warts in children.

Materials and Methods: This was a prospective, uncontrolled, open label study. Sixty four children with five or more extragenital cutaneous warts that had not responded to at least one mode of conventional therapy over the previous 6 months were enrolled. After obtaining an informed consent from a parent, a test dose of 0.1 ml of MMR vaccine was injected intradermally on the volar aspect of the left forearm. Test dose was read at 48 hours and based on the reading size, MMR vaccine was injected intradermally into the larger warts every 3 weeks until complete clearance or for a maximum of 5 sittings. All patients were followed up for 12 months after treatment completion.

Results: Sixty children aged 4 to 17 years completed the study. Four children discontinued the treatment for various reasons. The male:female ratio was 1:1.105 The average number of warts was 12.5. All patients showed response to treatment. Fifty three patients (88.33%) had a complete clearance of the warts whereas 7 patients (11.66%) had a partial clearance. The average number of doses required for complete clearance was 3.4. Side effects of this treatment included pain during injections, erythema and urticaria at the injection sites. At 12 month follow up, there were no recurrences.

Conclusion: MMR vaccine is a promising novel treatment modality for multiple and

recalcitrant extragenital cutaneous warts in children. To the best of our knowledge this is the first study evaluating the safety and efficacy of MMR vaccine for the treatment of warts in children.