



PHOTOTHERAPY, PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY

OFF-LABEL USE OF 5-AMINOLEVULINATE-PATCH AND RED LIGHT PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF BASAL CELL CARCINOMAS AND BOWEN'S DISEASE.

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BACKGROUND: 5-aminolevulinate (ALA) patches with red light photodynamic therapy (PDT) with 5-aminolevulinate (ALA-PDT) patches is an effective treatment approved for grade I-II actinic keratosis (AK) of the scalp and face. Currently, there are no efficacy data on ALA-PDT in the treatment of other types of epithelial neoplasms.

OBSERVATION: We describe 4 patients (3 males and 1 female, mean age: 70.5 years), affected by superficial basal cell carcinomas (BCCs) and/or Bowen's disease, successfully treated with red light ALA-PDT. The overall number of lesions was 11. Five of 11 lesions were BCCs and 6 were Bowen disease. As far BCCs are concerned, one patient presented two lesions on the lower limbs, and one patient had three BCC on the trunk. The anatomic location of the 6 Bowen lesions were the lower limb (2), upper limb (1) and trunk (3). All lesions were treated with application of ALA patches for 4 hours, followed by illumination of the lesion with a narrow band red light source with a spectrum of 630 nm and a total light dose of 37 J / cm². The treatment was repeated after one week. Treatment was well tolerated by all patients and no adverse events occurred. After a follow-up of 3 months, a complete resolution of 6 lesions (4 Bowen and 2 BCC), was achieved and a partial remission of 5 lesions (2 Bowen and 3 BCC) was observed.

KEY MESSAGE: Red light ALA-PDT with patches has been shown to be effective and safety also in patients affected by superficial BCCs and Bowen's disease.

