



PSORIASIS

PSORIATIC ARTHRITIS INDUCED BY INTRAVESICAL BACILLUS CALMETTE-GUERIN INFUSION FOR BLADDER CANCER : SUCCESSFULL TREATMENT WITH APREMILAST

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Background : Intravesical administration of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) a live attenuated strain of Mycobacterium Bovis, has become a mainstay of adjunctive therapy for in situ bladder cancer. In patients with underlying psoriasis, BCG therapy could aggravate the disease.

Observation : A 83 year-old man was diagnosed with in situ bladder cancer and after surgical excision received treatment with intravesical BCG immunotherapy. His dermatological history was positive for mild plaque psoriasis. One year later, presented psoriatic arthritis without any response to methotrexate, along with serious side effects use. He started treatment with apremilast after urologist and rheumatologist consideration.

Key message : The use of apremilast controlled successfully psoriatic arthritis and plaque psoriasis without causing any problem in the underlying malignancy. For patients with a prior neoplastic disease it is crucial to choose an appropriate immunosuppressive agent for an autoimmune disease, in order to avoid resurgence or a second primary malignancy. Apremilast appears to be a safe pharmaceutical option since it doesn't completely suppress the immune system, on contrary it offers considerable anti-inflammatory effects.

