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SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

BASAL CELL CARCINOMA AND ELECTROCHEMOTHERAPY: THE INSPECT EXPERIENCE (2008-2018)

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Introduction: Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is one of the most common skin malignancies worldwide. Electrochemotherapy (ECT) has been demonstrated to be a possible alternative to standard treatments for BCC. The International Network for Sharing Practices on Electrochemotherapy (InspECT) group gathers informations on treatment outcome in a common database with defined, outcome parameters in order to improve and guide the use of ECT.

Objective: This study was a cumulative analysis of the InspECTdatabase over a 10 year period (2008-2018) of the BCC treated.





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Materials and Methods: Fourteen treatment centers across Europe participated and uploaded data of 305 patients affected by primary or recurrent BCC and submitted to ECT. Treatment outcomes of 261 patients with a follow up of 60 days or more were analysed. Tumor response was evaluated per se and in relation to lesion presentation (primary or recurrence), size, previous treatments, pain score and side-effects.

Results: Seven patients were excluded due to lost follow-up, death (unrelated to treatment), other treatments, or unable/unwilling to continue control; 254 patients were finally analysed. The overall response rate (OR) was 94.1% (complete response (CR) 78.3%). Primary presentation, small nodules (\leq 3 cm) and naïve lesions were associated with higher CR rates (p<0.005). Ulceration and hyperpigmentation were the most common side effects, whilst pain intensity after the ECT session and during follow-up remained significantly low (p<0,005). The one-year local progression free survival was 94%; 21 patients (8.0%) had a recurrence or a post-treatment local progression within a median of 312 days.

Conclusions: ECT is a safe and effective treatment in patients with BCC; the evidence that tumour response is significantly higher in small, primary and not previously treated nodules could lead to ECT being considered as a first-line treatment option in selected cases, such as the elderly or other patients not suited to standard therapies.





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