



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

## **BASAL CELL CARCINOMA OF THE PERIAURICULAR REGION TREATED WITH ORAL ITRACONAZOLE AND TOPICAL 5% IMIQIMOD CREAM.**

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**Background:** Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common skin cancer of currently increasing incidence and decreasing average age of onset. Locally advanced and metastatic BCCs are a manifestation of prolonged, neglected disease and make 1-2% of all cases.

**Observation:** We report 67-year old female with ulcerated nodule of dimensions 4,1 x 1,2 cm, located on the left earlobe and periauricular region which was diagnosed as BCC in histopathological examination. The CT examination has not pointed at any signs of osteolytic destruction. However, analysis indicated a soft-tissue lesion up to 5mm in the medial part of the external auditory canal. Neither surgical treatment (ear amputation) nor radiotherapy nor vismodegib treatment was accepted by the patient due to aesthetic concerns and possible adverse events. The patient was treated with combination therapy of oral itraconazole 100mg twice daily for 12 weeks and topical 5% imiquimod cream for 18 weeks. This treatment led to clinical remission, however the control CT scan revealed the growth of the auditory canal tumor to 8 mm in diameter. The patient was directed to the Otolaryngology Department to perform biopsy to exclude more advanced disease. We are currently expecting the histopathological result and considering brachytherapy or short-term vismodegib treatment in order to achieve both the control of the neoplastic process and a good aesthetic outcome.

**Key message:** This case presents difficulties of non-surgical approach in the high risk area. Since there are more concerns regarding aesthetic outcome of the surgical excision in the difficult to treat areas sometimes off label treatment is implemented. Strict monitoring of the process of treatment and the disease extension as well as supervision of the patient's compliance is crucial in obtaining successful result.

