



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

COMPLETE HEALING OF BASAL CELL CARCINOMA UNDER BENDAMUSTINE THERAPY IN A PATIENT WITH CUTANEOUS LYMPHOMA

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Background: Conventional chemotherapy is seldom used in the treatment of basal cell carcinoma (BCC), as the preferred agent is vismodegib for extensive or metastatic cases. Bendamustine is a relatively new nitrogen mustard derivative alkylating agent.

Observation: We observed complete healing of BCC under bendamustine therapy in a 63-year-old male with primary cutaneous CD30 positive anaplastic T-cell lymphoma. The patient had been treated with methotrexate, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy in a seven-year follow-up period; responding to all, but relapsing eventually. When the patient presented with relapsing disseminated skin lesions of lymphoma, we also noticed a BCC on the right temporal area. As the patient refused surgery, he was followed closely. Brentuximab vedotin treatment was initiated for lymphoma, and all lesions regressed after a few infusions. Within a six month follow-up period, BCC remained stable. Due to partial relapse of lymphoma, after the twelfth cycle of brentuximab vedotin, bendamustine chemotherapy was added. Interestingly, BCC started to regress immediately following this. The tumor completely regressed by the sixth cycle of bendamustine, leaving an atrophic scar. Although BCC healed under combination therapy, the rapid response following bendamustine application, and the lack of response to brentuximab vedotin in the prior six months led us to attribute the resolution of BCC to bendamustine chemotherapy. In the subsequent one year follow-up, no relapse was observed.

Key message: To our knowledge, this is the first report of a BCC healing under bendamustine. Classical systemic chemotherapy in the treatment of BCC is used sparingly, both due to the side effects and the lack of curative effect in most cases. However as in our case with BCC using an alkylating chemotherapeutic agent for another malignancy, withholding surgery for a short period may be a viable option.

