SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

EFFECTIVENESS OF A CLASS I MEDICAL DEVICE (MD) FOR ACTINIC KERATOSIS PREVENTION AND TREATMENT IN ORGAN TRASPLANT RECIPIENTS

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Background: Actinic Keratoses (AKs) are considered "in situ" neoplasms and represent a precursor of squamous cell carcinoma, that develops on chronically sun damaged skin, actually known as field cancerization. In patients with high-risk to develop AKs, prevention and effective treatments are fundamental.

Objective: We evaluated the effectiveness of a Medical Device (MD) consisting in physical and chemical UVA-UVB filters and the DNA repair complex with antioxidant and repairing action, versus traditional sunscreens alone in a group of Organ Transplant Recipients (OTRs).

Matherials and Methods: 28 OTRs with AKs (grade I-II) on face and scalp were assigned to topically apply (twice in a day) to the sun-exposed areas of the MD or sunscreen (SPF 50+) alone for 6 months. At baseline visit (T0) we collected the number and site of visible lesions. The patients were scheduled after three (T3) and six (T6) months and we signed the number of AKs still visible.

Results: At T0, mean number of AKs in OTRs assigned to MD use was 6.43±6.24 and 3.50±3.74 in OTRs assigned to use of traditional sunscreen; at T3 in first group mean number was 5.5±5.61 (14,5% reduction) and in the second group was 3.69±3.82 (5.4% increase); at T6 mean number of lesions after MD use was 4.07±5.59 and 3.00±2.83 after sunscreen use. Overall the reduction of AKs was of 36.7% in the first group compared to 14.3% in the second group.

Conclusion: These data are very encouraging because in OTRs, the prevention and treatment of AKs is of primary importance, and show a greater efficacy of this product compared to the traditional sunscreen. The use of this MD is safe and doesn't cause changes in the immunological profile, since it is not a drug. Our results suggesting that this product could be more effective in immunocompetent patients (further study).