SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

EFFICACY OF TOPICAL PIROXICAM 0.8% AND SUNSCREEN 50+ ON ACTINIC KERATOSIS LESIONS IN HYPERTENSIVE SUBJECTS WITH OR WITHOUT THIAZIDES DIURETIC TREATMENTS

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Introduction: Thiazide diuretics (TD) increase the risk of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) and Actinic Keratosis (AK). Topical piroxicam, alone or in combination with sunscreens, has shown to be effective in the treatment of AK and could interfere with AK pathogenesis in TD subjects.

Objective: To evaluate in a prospective cohort assessor-blinded study the efficacy of topical piroxicam 0.8% and sunscreen 50+ (ACTX) in the treatment of AK in hypertensive subjects with or without TD treatment.

Subjects and Methods: 119 hypertensive subjects with multiple AK (39 under chronic TD treatment; and 80 treated with other non-TD antihypertensive drugs) were enrolled after their informed consent in a 6-month observational trial. All subjects were treated with ACTX twice daily. Primary end-point was the evolution of AK lesion at baseline after 3 and 6 months. Secondary endpoint was the clearance of AK target lesions and field of cancerization by dermoscopic evaluation using a score evaluating Erythema, Scaling, Pigmentation, and Follicular Plugs (ESPFP score). An investigator, unaware of type of antihypertensive treatment (TD or non-TD), performed both the evaluations.

Results: At baseline AK mean (SD) lesion number in TD group was 14.1(4) and 14.6(4) in the non-TD group. ESPFP mean(SD) score at baseline was 5.8(1.2) in both groups. A significant reduction of AK lesions was observed in both groups, however a statistically significant greater reduction was observed in TD in comparison with non-TD group (-54% vs. -32%). Also, ESPFP score was reduced in a greater proportion in the TD group in comparison with non-TD group (-60% vs. -37%, respectively). ACTX treatment was very well tolerated.

Conclusion: In hypertensive subjects with multiple AK, the topical use of ACTX is associated with a significant reduction of lesions with an improvement in the field of cancerization. The clinical efficacy is more pronounced in subjects under TD treatment.