



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

VISMODEGIB FOR ADVANCED BASAL-CELL CARCINOMA: REPORT OF TWO PATIENTS

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Background: Basal-cell carcinoma is the most common skin cancer worldwide. Surgery is the treatment of choice in most of the patients, although in some locally advanced tumors, it is not the most recommended option. We report the case of two patients with successful treatment with vismodegib.

Observation: Case 1: A 65-year-old male was followed in Dermatology department for several years due to a basal-cell carcinoma of the scalp. He underwent several surgical interventions, with persistence of the lesion. Given the failure of the surgical treatment, vismodegib 150 mg daily was proposed. After 6 months of treatment, there was complete healing of the area. The drug was discontinued 1 month later. There is no clinical recurrence of the tumor after 5 months of follow-up.

Case 2: A 70-year-old female was followed in Dermatology department for several years due to a basal-cell carcinoma of the nose. After multiple surgeries, there was persistence of the tumor. Vismodegib 150 mg daily was initiated with clinical improvement. After 3 months of treatment, there is no sign of tumor recurrence.

Disgeusia was the only complain related to the treatment in both patients.

Key message: Vismodegib, an oral inhibitor of the Hedgehog signalling pathway, is an increasingly recognized therapeutic option in locally advanced and metastatic basal-cell carcinomas without indication to surgery or radiotherapy.

Our reports evidence the efficacy of vismodegib in the treatment of advanced basal-cell carcinomas, with despicable side effects. Future investigations may help to determine if this drug will also be a viable option in less advanced tumors.

