



SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

VISMODEGIB FOR THE TREATMENT OF LOCALLY ADVANCED BASAL CELL CARCINOMA

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Introduction: Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) is the most common human malignancy. In certain cases, BCCs can progress to advanced tumors that can not be cure with surgery or radiotherapy (locally advanced [LA] BCC). Vismodegib is the first selective inhibitor of the hedgehog pathway approved for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic BCC.

Objective: To describe the clinical characteristics of patients with LABCC and to evaluate efficacy and safety of vismodegib in daily clinical practice.

Materials and methods: A retrospective, observational and descriptive study was conducted. A total of 14 patients with LABCC, that attended at the Dermatology Department of the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires in the period between January 2015 and April 2018, were included. The following variables were studied: sex, age, tumor location, histological subtype, response to treatment and adverse events.

Results: Between January 2015 and April 2018, vismodegib was indicated in 14 patients due to LABCC. 13 patients received the treatment, 9 were male and 5 female. The mean age was 76 years [51-94]. The most frequent histological subtype was morpheaform (N = 9, 64%). The most frequent tumor location was lower limbs (N = 5, 29%), followed by scalp and eyelid (N = 4, 23% each location). 10 patients (71%) had been previously treated. Complete clinical response was observed in 3 cases (23%), partial response in 9 cases (69%) and progression in 1 case (7%). The mean duration of treatment was 5.7 months [1-24].

Adverse events of any grade were present in 12 patients (92%). Muscle cramps were the most common, followed by dysgeusia and alopecia.

Conclusion: Vismodegib represents a new alternative in a field where treatment options were limited. Although a high percentage of patients with adverse events was observed, clinical benefit was substantial in the majority of treated patients.

