WOUND HEALING

METHYLPREDNISOLONE ACETATE-AN EFFECTIVE BUT AFFORDABLE OPTION FOR INTRALESIONAL KELOIDAL MANAGEMENT IN RESOURCE-POOR COMMUNITIES

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BACKGROUND: Keloids present an excessive tissue response to dermal injury characterised by local fibroblast proliferation and overproduction of collagen.Keloids may cause functional impairment,cosmetic disfigurement and compromised quality of life.A universally effective treatment for keloids remains elusive.The most common approach is intralesional corticosteroid injections alone or in combination with other modalities.Data from observational studies indicate response rates to intralesional injections alone of 50 to 100% with a recurrence rate of up to 50% at 5 years.Triamcinolone acetonide (TAC)remains the household name in this regard,but could methylprednisolone acetate (MPA)be an equally effective but cheaper option in low income nations?

OBSERVATION: This is a case of a 28 year old black female who presented with a 3 year history of keloid scars on her back measuring 2,5cm in widest diameter.Development of lesions was gradually progressive and interestingly was over the area where her bra straps rubbed against the skin.She did not recall any history of injury.The keloids were painful and itchy..There was a positive family history of keloids.Our initial approach was to inject intralesional TAC,but because it is expensive and not easily accessible in our country,we decided to inject MPA.40mg/ml of MPA was injected into the scars at 3 weekly intervals.Improvement in pruritus and pain was reported within 2 weeks of first injection and at 3 months the keloid scars evidenced full flattening.Its now 1 year since last injection and no recurrence has been reported.

KEY MESSAGE: The above case demonstrates an excellent response of keloids to MPA but paucity of literature and lack of randomised studies limit its use in keloids.Has a particular advantage of TAC over MPA been demonstrated?In some resource poor nations,acquiring TAC or receiving other treatment modalities is beyond the reach of many patients and studies in the safe use of MPA would impact positively in these underprivileged populations.