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SKIN CANCER (OTHER THAN MELANOMA)

CURRENT CONCEPTS IN CD30+ LYMPHOPROLIFERATIVE DISORDERS

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CD30 lymphoproliferative disorders (LPD) are a spectrum of disease whose polar ends are lymphomatoid papulosis (LyP) and CD30+ anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL). The disease is considered indolent with a 5-year overall survival ranging from 70%-100%, depending on the series. The diagnostic hallmark is the expression of CD30 molecule in > 75% of atypical elements. Despite the different clinical presentation, histological and immunophenotypic characteristics of the primary cutaneous form can be overlapping leading to a diagnostic dilemma. Furthermore, secondary cutaneous involvement by CD30+ ALCL may have identical histological and immunophenotipic features. As a consequence, a careful clinico-pathologic analysis of the patient, accurate staging procedures and a strict follow-up are mandatory. Different studies have highlighted that the expression of CD30 molecule is not restricted to CD30+ LDP. Indeed, transformed mycosis fungoides (TMF), peripheral T-cell lymphoma not otherwise specified (pTCL-NOS) show a high CD30 expression within the neoplastic infiltrate. The differential diagnosis between such entities is not trivial, owing to the different prognostic outcome (bad in TMF and pTCL-NOS) and a careful clinico-pathologic correlation (i.e. history of previous patch and plaque lesions in TMF and fast-growing nodules in pTCL-NOS) is necessary. Furthermore, based on immunophenotype, new primary cutaneous B/T-cell lymphomas variant, expressing CD30, have been described (i.e. CD30+ T cell enriched primary cutaneous CD4+ small/medium sized pleomorphic T-cell LPD and primary cutaneous B-cell lymphoma). In addition, CD30 molecule can be highly expressed in various inflammatory and infective disease, simulating a CD30 LPD and posing new challenges for differential diagnosis. Genetic and immunohistochemical studies have recently tried to analyse microenvironment changes and gene expression profile in order to identify possible prognostic or therapeutic factors. Finally, CD30 molecule has been the target of recent monoclonal antibodies, which have provided rather encouraging results.





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