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PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF PERIANAL WARTS IN AN 18-MONTH OLD GIRL WITH IMIQUIMOD

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Background: The incidence of anogenital warts (AGW) in children has increased dramatically in the past decade, in parallel with the increasing incidence of AGW in the adult population. The treatment options for AGW include cryotherapy, laser treatment, surgery, and chemical treatment. These regimes can be painful, variably effective and recurrence rates are high. Originally approved for the treatment for AGW in adults, imiquimod, a topical immune modifier, has also been used in the treatment of a number of cutaneous viral infections in children. We report a case of extensive perianal warts in an 18-months-old girl who was successfully treated with topical 5%Imiquimod.

Observation: A healthy 18-month -old girl presented with one month history of perianal lesions, which gradually increased in number and size. The dermatological examination revealed the presence of skin-colored, solitary and cauliflower-like, verrucous papules 1 to 5mm in diameter. The lesions extended circumferentially around the anus in a width of 2 to 3 cm. Several clustered papules were also found in the intergluteal fold. There were no genital or extragenital warts either in the parents, however, genital warts were found in a female, part-time caregiver, suggesting a non-sexual indirect transmission of AGW. Application of 5%Imiquimod 2 times weekly showed no significant improvement after 3 weeks. We therefore stepped up the treatment to 3 applications weekly. This regime showed a remarkable improvement, with complete regression at the end of the second month of the treatment.

Key message: Topical imiquimod has been used successfully to treat anogenital warts in children;however,

very few reports of use of imiquimod for infant younger than 2 years of age exist. The dosing schedule and duration of treatment in infants and young children requires further evaluation.





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