Efectividad y seguridad de la terapia fotodinámica en cancer de piel no melanoma

[Photodynamic therapy effectiveness and safety in nonmelanoma skin cancer]

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Citation

Authors' objectives
Nonmelanoma skin cancer is the most frequent malignant tumour within white skin population. Its incidence has increased in the last years. It includes mainly two types of tumours: basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. Basal cell carcinoma is a low growth skin tumour, locally invasive that rarely metastasizes. Squamous cell carcinoma originates in epidermal keratinocytes, it can be locally invasive and can metastasize. At present surgery is the main therapy for these tumours, however, there are another non-surgery therapies as photodynamic therapy (PDT). Photodynamic therapy (PDT), involves the light activation of a photosensitizer that causes local tissue destruction via oxidation reactions. The photosensitizer which is selectively absorbed in higher concentrations by the tumour than by the surrounding tissue. Later the photosensitizer is activated through the irradiation of the tumour with laser light of a determined wavelength; this leads to the destruction of the tissue. The administration of photosensitizing agents can be systemic or local. PDT is an innovative therapy with increasing use in the last years. The main aim of this review is to assess the effectiveness and safety of PDT in the treatment of nonmelanoma skin cancer.

Authors' conclusions
Cosmetic results in superficial basal cell carcinoma lesions were better after topical PDT compared with cryotherapy. However there is not evidence about which is the best treatment for the lesions remission. There is not enough evidence about PDT effectiveness in nodular basal cell carcinoma lesions. Studies showed better clinical results for surgery compared with topical PDT. With respect to PDT use in patients with squamous cell carcinoma, scientific evidence has not been found to recommend that application. The main complication of systemic PDT is photosensitivity. Neither serious nor systemic adverse events have been reported after topical PDT, only mild or moderate local reactions have been described.

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