

OROPHARYNGEAL MUCOSITIS PROPHYLAXIS IN COMBINED RADIOIMMUNOCHEMOTHERAPY WITH CETUXIMAB OF HEAD & NECK CANCER

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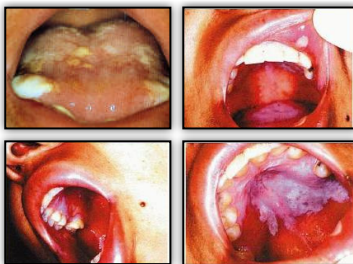
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Introduction

Past experience with the treatment of head & neck cancer patients showed that nearly every patient displays strong oropharyngeal adverse reactions (grade 3/4) additional to the known skin reactions (rash) caused by cetuximab. In severe cases the mucositis leads to a therapy interruption or even to a discontinuation caused by secondary local or systemic infections with associated pain symptoms.



Sample of oral mucositis

Purpose

To prevent or reduce the mucositis we treated 72 patients starting in 2007 additionally with a polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) and sodium hyaluronate containing oral gel (Gelclair®).

Material & Methods

Beginning with radiotherapy the oral gel was applied 3 times daily as a mouth rinsing solution until 4 weeks after the end of the radiotherapy.

Results

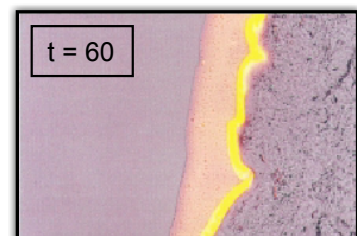
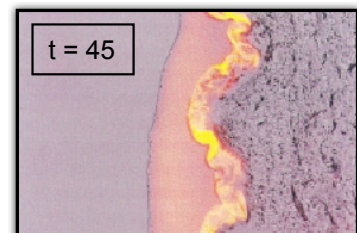
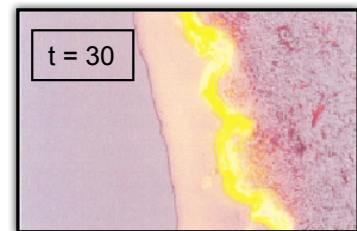
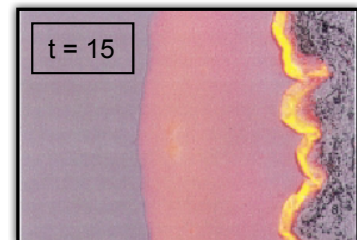
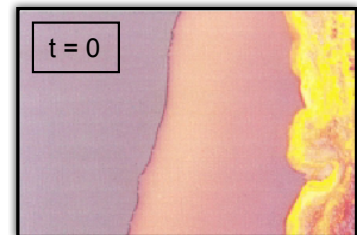
In consequence we observed in all 72 patients only mild cases of mucositis. There were no specific side effects of the oral gel observed and all patients were compliant. No therapy had to be interrupted or stopped because of a severe mucositis. 7 patients had therapy interruptions or discontinuation for other reasons (e.g. rash).

Conclusion

A prophylactic treatment of head & neck cancer patients receiving a combined radioimmunotherapy with a polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) and sodium hyaluronate containing oral gel should therefore be considered.

References

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Protection layer