

Squamous cell carcinoma of the umbilicus: management of an unusual localization

Giuseppe Macripò¹, Virginia Caliendo¹, Marcella Grassi¹, Patrizia Lista², Simone Ribero¹, Elena Giacone¹, Enrica Milanese², and Libero Ciuffreda²

¹Department of Oncology and Hematology, Dermatologic Surgery, AOU San Giovanni Battista-Molinette, Ospedale San Lazzaro, Turin; ²Department of Oncology and Hematology, Section of Medical Oncology, Centro Oncologico Subalpino (COES), AOU San Giovanni Battista-Molinette, Turin, Italy

ABSTRACT

We describe the case of a squamous cell carcinoma spreading to the skin and regional lymph nodes from the umbilicus. Bilateral inguinal lymphadenectomy and a session of electrochemotherapy with bleomycin 15 mg/m² were performed. However, because of the development of new cutaneous nodules in the abdominopelvic region, we performed targeted palliative therapy with erlotinib 150 mg/day. Targeted adjuvant therapy was preferred to the use of a major cytotoxic agent because of the high risk of superinfection and heart failure. Erlotinib produced a partial clinical response with reduction of the number and size of the skin nodules. CT scan performed after 60 days of treatment did not show any new lesions.

To our knowledge, this is the first report of an umbilical metastatic squamous cell carcinoma treated with modern targeted therapy. This therapeutic strategy can be considered a valid palliative option in the management of metastatic cutaneous nodules of this rare primary site.

Key words: squamous cell carcinoma, umbilicus, erlotinib, electrochemotherapy.

Acknowledgments: A special thanks to Mrs Silvana Storto and Mrs Nives Piccin for their help in nursing care.

Correspondence to: Marcella Grassi, AOU San Giovanni Battista-Molinette, Ospedale San Lazzaro, Via Cherasco 23, Torino, Italy.
Tel +39-011-6335876;
fax +39-011-6335877;
e-mail marcellagrassi@yahoo.it

Received December 22, 2009;
accepted October 21, 2010.