

## **Interferon Alpha In Eye Drops For Conjunctivalcarcinoma In Situ**

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### **I. Introduction**

Squamous cell carcinoma of the conjunctiva is a rare, malignant epithelial tumor that usually affects the elderly. The purpose is to recall the importance of histological examination before any suspicious lesion in the diagnosis, therapy and prognosis as well as the interest of topical chemotherapy in the prevention of recurrence.

### **I. Material and methods**

We report the case of a 55-year-old woman who had a conjunctival tumor of her right eye. The biopsy showed conjunctival squamous cell carcinoma in situ.

### **II. Observation**

This is a patient aged 55, without particular pathological ATCD, who presented a conjunctival tumor of the right eye for 3 months of progressive installation without any associated signs. (Figure 1-A). An excisional biopsy of the lesion was performed. Pathological examination revealed conjunctival squamous cell carcinoma in situ. The patient received topical Interferon alpha treatment with good progress (Figure 1-B)

### **III. Discussion**

Squamous cell carcinoma of the conjunctiva is a rare tumor, it is more common in elderly patients, but may occur earlier in patients with xerodermapigmentosa or HIV-positive patients. [1] The main risk factor for the disease is exposure to ultraviolet light.

Clinically, the examination finds a tumor most often located near the limb, which can be pedunculated or sessile. The diagnosis of certainty is histological and based on exeresis biopsy. The extension of the CEC is done primarily locally more surface than deep. Invasive carcinomas can be complicated by a metastatic (<10%) progression that can be locoregional (cervical ganglia) or distant (lungs, liver). [2] Treatment is based on early excision of the tumor with healthy margins followed by cryotherapy or topical chemotherapy, using either interferon Mitomycin C or 5-Fluorouracil or interferon alfa in eye drops. [3]

This treatment can be administered in the form of eye drops or intraconjunctival injections. Mitomycin is the eye drops used most frequently in the treatment of carcinoma in situ [4]. It can even be used as a first-line treatment [5]. The protocols vary according to the indications: in complementary treatment after complete surgical excision of a carcinoma in situ, the use of eye drops with Mitomycin must be dosed at 0,02% with two cures of 15 days (a drop 4 times / day ), the two courses being spaced 15 days off. In the event of relapse, or incomplete excision, the use of Mitomycin eye drops will be 0.04% in 8-day courses spaced 8 days apart, but the corneal toxicity is greater and will require close ophthalmological monitoring. [6]

Interferon alpha has been used since 1994 [7]. The recommended dose in general is 1 million units per milliliter is 4 times / day, the duration of treatment will be 3 months for carcinomas in situ .. Interferon alpha may be sometimes associated with retinoic acid [ 8] in carcinomas in situ is reported by several authors.

Brachytherapy and proton therapy are also recommended to complete the surgical treatment. In case of very large tumors, the reconstruction may require the use of an autologous graft or an amniotic membrane.In case of deep tumor extension, enucleation or exenteration are advocated.

#### IV. Conclusion

Squamous cell carcinoma is a rare, but serious pathology, only biopsy with pathological examination allows the diagnosis of certainty. Hence the need to perform a biopsy, before any suspicious lesion. Early diagnosis to allow a better prognosis.

#### Référence

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#### Legend:

- Figure 1:

image A: patient presenting paralingual conjunctival tumor

image B: after biopsy excision and treatment with Interferon alpha eye drops



#### Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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