Review Article

A review of imiquimod in the treatment of non-lymphoma cutaneous malignancy

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Imiquimod is a topical immune response modifier. It is licensed for genital warts, actinic keratosis, and recently basal cell carcinoma. Studies showed that it had potent anti-tumour activity by enhancing both innate and acquired immunity. A growing number of evidences are found to support the use of imiquimod in various kinds of cutaneous malignancies, especially in basal cell carcinoma. Imiquimod was also documented as a useful treatment option for squamous cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinoma in-situ, lentigo maligna, and extramammary Paget's disease, in immunocompetent and immunosuppressed patients. Imiquimod may be a novel treatment option worthy of consideration for carefully selected patients in whom traditional therapy is not considered feasible. This article reviews the published articles in English literature with keywords-imiquimod, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma in-situ, lentigo maligna, extramammary Paget's diseases. Lymphoma, lymphomatoid or lymphomatous malignancy/cies were excluded in the literature search.

Keywords: Basal cell carcinoma, extramammary Paget's diseases, imiquimod, lentigo maligna, squamous cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma in-situ

Introduction

Surgical treatment is the standard treatment in most cutaneous malignancies. However, the risk of scarring, loss of body function and unsightly cosmetic outcome is hard to eliminate. Topical immunomodulators is a potentially useful