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Cryosurgery plus interferon alfa-2b versus cryosurgery alone in the treatment of condyloma acuminata

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Introduction: Although many options are available to eliminate condiloma acuminate lesions, none of them prevents relapses. Patients and method: A prospective, open, controlled study was carried out to compare the therapeutic effectiveness of cryosurgery plus interferon alfa-2b (IFN) versus cryosurgery alone in the treatment of condiloma acuminata. We included 170 adult patients with this diagnosis. There were two groups of 85 patients each. Patients from group I received IFN 3×106 IU three times a week plus fortnightly application of cryosurgery. Patients in group II received fortnightly application of cryosurgery alone. Treatment duration was the same (six weeks) in each group. Therapeutic effectiveness was assessed two weeks after treatment completion by comparing the initial and final state of the lesions. Patients showing complete treatment response were followed up guarterly for five years to detect

possible relapses. Relapse was the main outcome variable of this study. Adverse events were monitored throughout the study.

Results: Relapse rates were significantly lower in group I. The start-end comparative analysis showed a significantly better response to the treatment in group I. The most common adverse effects were: fever, headache, chills, and myalgias due to IFN and burning due to cryosurgery. None of these events was serious.

Conclusions: Cryosurgery plus IFN is more effective than cryosurgery alone. The combined treatments decreased the relapse rate from 100% to 5.1%. Adverse effects were mild or moderate and not serious.

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