



Capecitabine Induced Palmoplantar Hyperpigmentation - A Rare Adverse Effect

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Introduction

Capecitabine is a nucleoside metabolic inhibitor frequently used in the treatment of metastatic breast and colorectal cancers. It is an orally administered chemotherapeutic prodrug that selectively acts in the tumor, after the enzymatic conversion to 5-fluorouracil [1]. This selectively acting property causes less systemic toxicity. The most common FDA reported adverse effects associated with Capecitabine includes diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, hand-and-foot syndrome, abdominal pain, fatigue/weakness, and hyperbilirubinemia [2,1]. Cutaneous hyperpigmentation is rare and only few cases are reported so far [3,4]. Here in, we report hyperpigmentation as a rare adverse effect in a 77-year-old female with triple negative breast cancer after 3 cycles of Capecitabine.

Case summary

A 77-year-old female with left breast cancer diagnosed in 2017 s/p adjuvant chemo with TC (Taxotere and Cyclophosphamide) x 4 cycles, s/p radiation and was on hormonal therapy with tamoxifen for 2 years developed right breast mass and serous discharge from nipple in August 2020. She was diagnosed with right breast triple negative invasive ductal carcinoma. She received neoadjuvant chemotherapy with Adriamycin, Cyclophosphamide (AC) followed by paclitaxel and radiation. Furthermore, she got the right mastectomy and was started on adjuvant therapy for triple negative breast cancer with Capecitabine. After receiving 3 cycles of Capecitabine, the Patient presented to clinic with hyperpigmentation of palms and soles not associated with any itching, pain, redness, abdominal symptoms.



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Discussion

As Capecitabine can be taken orally, it is more convenient for patients to get their chemotherapy at home [1]. The clinician awareness and patient education of rare but adverse side effects of Capecitabine is required for the successful management. Here, we emphasize that the Capecitabine related Hyperpigmentation is usually self-resolving and the cessation of chemotherapy is not indicated.

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