

# Local Recurrence of Basal Cell Carcinoma and Cisplatinum Containing Chemotherapy

Kirsten Moeholt, Per Pfeiffer, Henrik Aagaard and Olfred Hansen

From the Department of Oncology, Aalborg Municipal Hospital, Aalborg (K. Moeholt), and Department of Oncology, Odense University Hospital (P. Pfeiffer, H. Aagaard, O. Hansen), Odense, Denmark

Correspondence to: Dr. Kirsten Moeholt, Department of Oncology, Vejle Municipal Hospital, Kappeltoft 25, DK-7100 Vejle, Denmark

Acta Oncologica Vol. 36, No. 1, pp. 87, 1997

Submitted 29 December 1995

Accepted 19 January 1996

A small number of basal cell cancer (BCC) of the skin behave aggressively by recurring repeatedly in spite of reiterated and increased extensive local therapy (1, 2). To achieve curative or palliative tumour control or to avoid mutilating surgery in these cases cisplatinum-containing chemotherapy may be of value (3, 4).

*Case report.* A 40-year-old woman was admitted in August 1983 with a 5.3 × 2.8 cm BCC localized behind and below the right ear. The lesion was treated with radiotherapy 100 kv, 51 Gy in 17 fractions. Due to severe skin reactions treatment was postponed days 13–32. In February 1987, the BCC recurred and in March and June local excision and skin transplantation was performed.

In October 1990, a recurrence in front of the right tragus occurred with paresis of right facial nerve. Cerebral and cranial CT-scans were normal. The recurrence was treated with radiotherapy 12 MeV electrons 60 Gy in 20 fractions overlapping part of the former irradiated area. In this area a permanent skin deficiency with underlying necrosis of the bone and increasing pain problems developed. The paresis of the facial nerve persisted.

In November, 1992, a cavity of 4 × 4.5 cm with exposition of bone had developed below the right ear. Extensive surgery was performed and BCC was found in the parotic gland, in the facial nerve, which was resected, and in the meatus of the ear. Visible tumour tissue has to be left around the upper part of the internal carotid artery, below the mastoid process, and in the depth of the meatus just in front of the pars tympanica. As tumour tissue persisted, cisplatinum 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> i.v. on day 1 and 5-FU 1 000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> days 1–5 as a 24 h infusion every third week was introduced. Cytotoxic therapy was completed in February 1993 after 5 courses and a CT-scan showed no sign of tumour. The pain was considerably reduced. The patient was followed with frequent clinical controls without any sign of recurrence for 20 months, but in August 1994 MR-scan and histological biopsy verified a local recurrence. The patient was still alive with disease in November 1995.

*Discussion.* The patient did not have evaluable tumour at the introduction of chemotherapy and no objective response can be evaluated. However, histologically verified tumour had to be left during surgery, and cisplatinum-containing chemotherapy has probably prolonged the local tumour control. The chemotherapy was introduced as a palliative treatment and must be considered successful with respect to disease-free interval, reduced pain and improved quality of life.

Chemotherapy is usually not considered an efficient treatment in BCC, but in the small series and the few in number case reports published in literature (5) platinum containing chemotherapy seems promising.

## REFERENCES

- Haynes HA, Mead KW, Goldwyn RM. Cancers of the skin. In: DeVita VT, Hellman S, Rosenberg SA, eds. Cancer. Principles and practice of oncology. JB Lippincott, 1985; 1343–69.
- Costanza ME, Dayal Y, Binder S, Nathanson L. Metastatic basal cell carcinoma: review, report of a case, and chemotherapy. Cancer 1974; 34: 230–5.
- Pfeiffer P, Hansen O, Rose C. Systemic cytotoxic therapy of basal cell carcinoma. A review of the literature. Eur J Cancer 1990; 26: 73–7.
- Guthrie Th Jr., Porubsky ES, Luxenberg MN, Shah KJ, Wurtz KL, Watson PR. Cisplatin-based chemotherapy in advanced basal and squamous cell carcinomas of the skin: Results in 28 patients including 13 patients receiving multimodality therapy. J. Clin Oncol 1990; 8: 342–6.
- Moeholt K, Aagaard H, Pfeiffer P, Hansen O. Platinum-based cytotoxic therapy in basal cell carcinoma. A review of literature. Acta Oncol 1996; 35: