

Blepharitis and trichomegaly induced by cetuximab

Blefarite e tricomegalia induzidas pelo cetuximabe

Paulo Ricardo Criado ¹

Aline Angélica Porto Rocha Lima ²

Abstract: This report describes the case of a 41-year old woman in treatment for advanced colorectal cancer who developed severe bilateral blepharitis and trichomegaly after the second dose of cetuximab. Cetuximab-related eyelid toxicity has been described previously; however, its pathogenesis has not yet been clearly established.

Keywords: Blepharitis; Colorectal neoplasms; epidermal growth factor receptor

Resumo: Nós descrevemos uma mulher de 41 anos em tratamento de câncer colorretal avançado que, após a segunda dose de cetuximabe, desenvolveu intensa blefarite e tricomegalia bilateral. A toxicidade ocular decorrente do cetuximabe tem sido relatada, porém ainda tem mecanismos fisiopatogênicos incertos.

Palavras-chave: Blefarite; Neoplasias colorretais; Receptor do fator de crescimento epidérmico

This report describes the clinical case of a 41-year old female patient with advanced colorectal adenocarcinoma who developed an intensely pruriginous eruption on her eyelids with a marked edema, erythema and desquamation following the second infusion of cetuximab (Figure 1). Examination

using a DermLite DL100 dermatoscope revealed details of the desquamation and the presence of squamous, crusted, true perifollicular concretions, suggesting that the process had originated as a follicular reaction in the eyelashes. Onset of trichomegaly in the eyelids was also found (Figures 2



FIGURE 1: Note the erythema and palpebral edema with presence of meliceric crusts adhered to the bases of the lashes and trichomegaly



FIGURE 2: Detail of the eyelid and eyelashes with the use the DermLite DL 100 dermatoscope where a clear predilection of the crusts for the ciliary unit is observed

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¹ PhD in Sciences (Dermatology) from the School of Medicine, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. Physician at the Department of Dermatology, Teaching Hospital, School of Medicine, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil.

² Masters degree in Science from the Department of Oncology, School of Medicine, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. Oncologist at the ABC Medical School, São Paulo, Brazil.



FIGURE 3: Localization of the inflammatory process in the ciliary unit (image magnified using non-contact epiluminescence microscopy – DermLite 100)

and 3). Non-contact epiluminescence light microscopy permitted the dermatologist access to details that would have been impossible to obtain without visual aid.

Cutaneous side effects occur in 80% of patients in use of cetuximab of which 15% are severe.¹ They generally appear during the first week of treatment.¹ The principal manifestations include acneiform eruptions, seborrheic dermatitis, paronychia, trichomegaly and maculopapular exanthemas.^{2,3} □

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MAILING ADDRESS / ENDEREÇO PARA CORRESPONDÊNCIA:

Paulo Ricardo Criado
Rua Carneiro Leão 33 Vila Scarpelli
09050430 Santo André - São Paulo, Brazil
Phone.: 55 11 4426 8803
E-mail: prcriado@uol.com.br

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