

THE USE OF PHOTOPROTECTION REDUCES CUTANEOUS SIDE EFFECTS OF PATIENTS UNDERGOING ANTI-CANCER TREATMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Some anti-cancer treatments are photosensitizing and requires broad spectrum UV protection against UVB and UVA rays. Even indirect exposure to sunlight requires protection, and the use of anti-UVB and anti-UVA sunscreens is an easily accessible way to prevent these reactions.

MATERIAL & METHODS

To evaluate skin acceptability in patients undergoing anti-cancer treatment, a real-life study was conducted in 59 male and female patients aged 18 years and older who were undergoing cancer treatment and who received a photoprotection product (a daily sun protector with SPF100 UVA-PF36).

RESULTS

Fifty-six patients were analyzed (mean age of 60.2 ±12.8 years). The sex ratio was in favour of women (71% of our sample). A total of 72.7% had received chemotherapy, 5.5% had received radiotherapy, and 18.2% had received chemotherapy combined with radiotherapy. Thirty-six percent initiated the sunscreen at the beginning of their cancer treatment period. Forty-six percent had used the photoprotection product before the appearance of any skin changes; 45% used the product daily and 34% used the product regularly (Fig. 3). The mean duration of use was 15.5 ± 8.9 days. In all, 58% and 39% reported one or two daily applications, respectively. Ninety-five percent stated that they applied the product to the face, while 77% applied the product to the neck (Fig. 2). Of all patients, 46%, 30%, 20% and 16% complained of dryness, photosensitivity, redness and irritation, respectively which is aligned with the anticipated adverse events of the anti-cancer treatments according to HCPs (Fig. 1). A total of 82.7% [72.4; 93.0] of patients described improvements in the condition of their skin and signs associated with cancer treatment (Fig. 5) ; 97.4 % of the population felt that the product used was better suited to their skin's needs than products that were previously used. 58.9% declared that they were very satisfied overall, and 37.5% were satisfied with the sunscreen used (Fig. 4).

Fig. 1 Cutaneous side effects caused by anti-cancer treatment

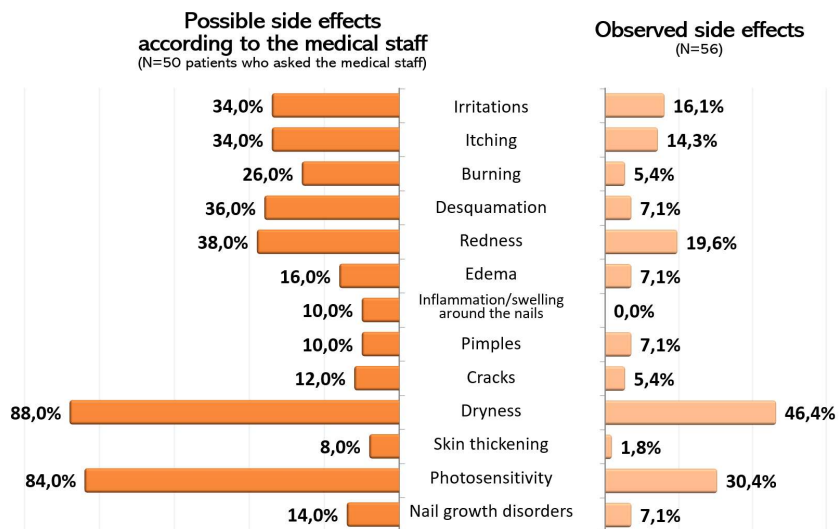


Fig.2 Zones of application

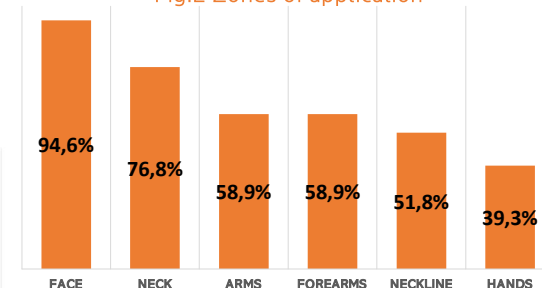
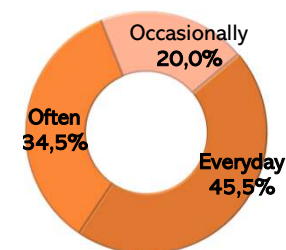


Fig.3 Frequency of application



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

If most of the subjects protected their face, it's interesting to note that only 49% of the patients protected their hands, and 77% their neck, despite the product being provided to the subjects. The lower limbs appear to have been either neglected or covered by clothes. It would be useful to mobilise health professionals so that they alert or educate their patients to be more vigilant regarding voluntary or involuntary sun exposure during daily activities. Two pieces of information seem essential to share:

- 1° Certain anti-cancer treatments photosensitize, and in the event of even indirect exposure, protection is necessary;
- 2° The often-forgotten areas of the extremities, such as the hands or feet, should not be neglected and must be covered with suitable products, paying particular attention to scars.

Fig. 4 Product satisfaction

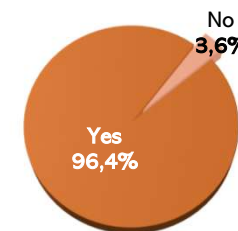


Fig. 5 Improvement of the skin condition

