

Role of Liv.52 in Cyclophosphamide-induced Alopecia

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INTRODUCTION

Alopecia is one of the most disconcerting side effects of Cyclophosphamide treatment in females. Though the effect is reversible, the amount of hair falling from the scalp can at times be alarming to the patient.

Various methods have been tried to prevent alopecia but without any success. We started a study on patients undergoing Cyclophosphamide treatment, either singly or in combination with other anti-neoplastic chemotherapeutic agents, to evaluate the effect of Liv.52 as a protective agent against this side effect.

The protective mechanism of Liv.52 treated irradiated mice versus untreated irradiated mice in skin denudation has been experimentally proved and this prompted us to put our patients on Liv.52 concurrently to establish its efficacy against alopecia.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Six female cancer patients undergoing Cyclophosphamide therapy, singly or in combination form, were given Lvi.52, two tablets thrice a day, simultaneously at the beginning of treatment and continued thereafter for three months. The results of the effect of Liv.52 in alopecia were compared with those in the control group.

OBSERVATIONS

All the six patients getting Liv.52 showed "minimal" to "no alopecia" effect due to Cyclophosphamide, whereas the control group showed varying degrees of alopecia. It was also observed that the recovery of hair growth was quicker in the treated patients than in the untreated control group. It is thus safely concluded that Liv.52 has a protective mechanism to save the hair follicles from the side effect of Cyclophosphamide and the treatment has to be instituted preferably before the commencement of Cyclophosphamide therapy and continued for 6-8 weeks after completion of Cyclophosphamide therapy.

DISCUSSION

Cyclophosphamide therapy entails loss of scalp hair as a major side effect especially in females. The patients at times may stop taking treatment for fear of permanently losing all their hair. In order to prevent alopecia, it is suggested that the patients be put on Liv.52 therapy simultaneously and continued for a period of 6-8 weeks after the cessation of Cyclophosphamide therapy. The patients undergoing this regimen proved the efficacy of Liv.52 in preventing alopecia.