

Treatment of HIV Related Facial Lipoatrophy

Incidence of Subcutaneous Papules Resulting from Poly lactic Acid Treatment Decreases with Facial Massage

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Background

Poly lactic acid (PLA) injections for treatment of HIV-related facial lipoatrophy has shown early promise with good toleration (Perry 2004; Burgess et al 2005), although multiple studies have cited subcutaneous papule (often erroneously called subcutaneous nodules) formation as a possible side effect (Valantin, Aubron-Olivier et al. 2003). We examined papule formation in HIV+ facial lipoatrophic patients treated with PLA injections.

Methods

This project was a single-center open-label treatment trial with target enrollment of 25 HIV+ patients with moderate to severe facial lipoatrophy.

Patients were given monthly injections of PLA until provider and patient were satisfied. Resultant papules formed were tallied and photographed at treatment visits. Ten minute intervals of massage over involved areas post-procedure twice a day for four weeks were added to protocol after study initiation.

Results

24 HIV+ male patients received PLA injections. All results reported are medians with 25-75% quartile ranges. Median age, CD4+ count and viral load were 50.5 years (33 to 72 years), 487 cell/mm³ (306.5 - 786 cell/mm³), and 822 copies/mL (163 - 8675 copies/mL). Patients received 8 treatments (5.25-10.75 treatments) and had a total of 66.5 cc (45.88-91.25 cc) PLA injected. Median papule formation overall was 0.045 papules/cc PLA injected (0 to 0.11 papules/cc PLA injected). Median papule formation prior to vs. after massage was significantly different at 0.14 papule/cc (0 to 0.25 papule/cc), vs 0.0 (0.0 to 0.0357) p <0.001 respectively. Notably, the

five patients enrolled after massage was added to protocol had a total of 6 subcutaneous papules, or 0.028 papules/cc PLA injected. No adverse events were reported.

Conclusions

Massaging the involved area immediately after injection and daily thereafter for at least four weeks post treatment significantly decreases incidence of subcutaneous papule formation.

Author Disclosure Block: P. Unemori, Dermik Labs provided drug for this study N.

Sculptra Technique

- Dilute Sculptra with 5cc Bacteriostatic water and 1cc 2% Xylocaine.
- Prepare 12 – 24 hours before injection and refrigerate.
- Administer with 3cc syringe and 25 gauge needle.
- If needle is obstructed change needle to void bolus.

- Inject 1.5cc in temples (if needed) below muscle.
- Inject 5cc in chin (if needed) at dermal-fat junction.
- Inject 3cc – 5cc in cheeks.
- Injections must be small drops (0.05cc) at multiple sites. One cc = 20 drops. It is not a filler. It is a matrix for collagen formation.
- Massage very firmly to spread out Sculptra after injections for 5 minutes at each site. Vibrator helps.
- Have patient massage for 10 minutes twice a day for 1 month or 5 minutes 5 times a day for one month.

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I do NOT have any off-label use(s) to disclose.: True