

ANTI-CD 20 ANTIBODY AS INITIAL TREATMENT FOR PRIMARY CONJUNCTIVAL MUCOSA-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOID TISSUE LYMPHOMA

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Purpose: Investigation of Anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody as an initial and single regiment to treat conjunctival mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma (MALT lymphoma)

Methods: Case report.

Results: A 53-y/o female patient with bilateral conjunctival MALT lymphoma in stage IV A (bone marrow aspiration showing increased lymphocytes) was treated with anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (Rituximab 530mg per dose for 9 times). After the fifth injection of Rituximab, the lymphoma of the left eye achieved complete remission and remained stable. The lymphoma of the right eye reduced in size but the residual tumor persisted. No side effect was noted during the course of anti-CD20 antibody treatment. Twenty-nine months after diagnosis, she received an incomplete course of chemotherapy: CEOP (Endoxan, Epirubicin, Vincristine and prednisolone) in combination of rituximab due to suspected bone marrow involvement. The treatment ceased due to abnormal liver function. At 73 months after diagnosis, the right conjunctival biopsy revealed negative tumor cells.

Conclusion: Anti-CD20 alone exhibits a marked effect of treating primary conjunctival MALT lymphoma without systemic side effect.

Key words: anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody, rituximab, conjunctiva, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma

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