INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES

Targeted anticancer drugs are increasingly becoming the mainstay for a variety of cancers. A wide array of previously unreported cutaneous adverse effects are being observed. This study attempts to sensitize the august audience with newer cutaneous adverse effects.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the department from June 2016 to July 2017, on patients undergoing chemotherapy who were referred to our department due to development of one or more cutaneous lesions, unrelated to their cancer, during the course of their treatment. Detailed history including age, gender, indication and duration of drug intake etc were noted. General and systemic examinations, relevant biochemical investigations and histopathological evaluations were done, as and when required.

RESULTS

Fourteen patients (28%) on EGFRI’s developed papulo-pustular lesions while four (8%) reported features of PRIDE complex (Papulopustules and/or Paronychia, Regulatory abnormalities of hair, Itching, Dryness). Thirteen patients (26%) on sorgenib/imatinib developed hand foot syndrome. Ten patients (20%) showed nail changes like melanonychia, onychorhexsis and onychodystrophy while on platinum based chemotherapy. Eight patients (16%) on imatinib developed lichen planus. Five patients on bleomycin combination chemotherapy developed flagellate dermatitis while two patients on paclitaxel developed acneiform lesions.

CONCLUSION

Newer chemotherapy has changed the outcome of cancer patients drastically. However, cutaneous adverse effects of these drugs are not uncommon. The development of such lesions also indicate that the chemotherapeutic drug is acting on their target cells. During the course of our study fifty patients showed uncommon cutaneous adverse effects which were managed with conventional therapy and withdrawal of the offending lifesaving chemotherapeutic drug was not required. Thus, it is vital to timely recognize and identify these cutaneous toxicities and report them to the pharmacovigilance authorities of our country.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST- NIL