

RESPONSE OF INFANTILE HEMANGIOMA TO TOPICAL TIMOLOL

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Background: Most of infantile hemangioma (IH) undergo spontaneous involution, watchful waiting is recommended for uncomplicated IH due to the side effects of corticosteroids. Many authors have reported successful treatment of IH with topical timolol.

Objectives: To study the effectiveness and side effects of topical timolol maleate 0.5% solution for IH .

Methods: A retrospective descriptive study of IH treated with topical timolol maleate 0.5% solution during June to December 2011 was performed. The response was determined by the reduction of size and color of IH after 4 months of treatment with twice daily use of topical timolol maleate 0.5% solution.

Results: Data of 25 patients with 28 IH lesions were analyzed in this study. The mean age was 10 months (range 2-29 months). Twenty two lesions (78.6%) were superficial type, 6 lesions (21.4%) were mixed type. Nineteen lesions (67.8%) were on face and neck and 9 lesions (32.2%) were on trunk and extremities. At 16 weeks after treatment, fourteen lesions (50%) had size reduction and one lesion (3.6%) had complete resolution. Color resolution occurred before size reduction. Predictors of better response were periorbital lesions and superficial type of IH. There were no side effects found from this study.

Conclusion: Topical timolol maleate 0.5% solution provided a safe and effective alternative to systemic use in the treatment of superficial hemangioma, especially periorbital area.

Reference

Pope E, Chakkittakandiyil A. Topical timolol gel for infantile hemangioma: A pilot study. Arch Dermatol 2010;146:564-5.

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