Does immunotherapy combined with conventional therapy give beneficial effects on viral warts?

Department of Dermatology, Seoul National University Boramae Hospital  

Jae Woo Choi, So Young Cho, Jong Hee Lee

The cryotherapy has been accepted as a mainstay in treating warts, located on periungual and palmoplantar area. The pain during the cryotherapy is the major drawback. The purpose of this study is to investigate any beneficial effects of immunotherapy on viral wart when it is combined with the cryotherapy. Retrospective chart review was performed on 124 cured periungual and plantar wart patients visiting the hospital from January to December 2009. We analyze how combination of immunotherapy affects the number of cryotherapy required for curing out warts by adjusting the various confounding factors. Of the 124 patients, immunotherapy using Diphenylcyclopropenone (DPCP) was applied to 14 patients (11%) together with cryotherapy. The average applied number of cryotherapy was 5.64 ± 3.62 for immunotherapy group and 4.84 ± 3.75 for cryotherapy alone group, although there was no significance (p = 0.4). After adjusting the factors related with therapeutic difficulty, the average number of cryotherapy for immunotherapy-combined treatment group (3.58 ± 1.25) were lower than that for cryotherapy group (5.10 ± 0.44 ) (p = 0.026). Meanwhile there were no differences in the treatment sessions of cryotherapy whether the patients used topical 5-FU/salicylic acid agents or not. Immunotherapy combined with cryotherapy could help decrease the required number of unbearably painful cryotherapy sessions.

Key Words : Wart, Cryotherapy, Immunotherapy