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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

CHEMOTHERAPY AND THE EYE

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Purpose: To investigate if there is any ocular surface change after chemotherapy. Material and methods: For this study 39 patients, 17 male and 22 female, were selected, with ages ranging from 23-74 yrs (average age 63 yrs). Two groups were studied: A (with mucositis) and B (without mucositis) Before and during the chemotherapy, they underwent a complete ophthalmological evaluation, including BUT, Schirmer I test, impression cytology, microbiological and cytological studies. Both exams were compared in order to investigate any possible changes. Two patients discontinued the protocol because of health impairment. Results: Keratoconjunctivitis sicca symptoms were reported by 13 patients and its signs were observed in 26 patients after the treatment. The Schirmer test results decreased in 36 eyes of 20 patients and the BUT results decreased in 51 eyes of 29 patients, in comparison to the tests before the treatment. The IOP and the refraction did not show significant changes. Bacterioscopy on smears identified Gram + bacillus in three patients with positive culture for *C. xerosis*. The slides showed changes in the impression cytology after the treatment in 35 eyes of 24 patients, including metaplasia, hyperplasia and decrease in the goblet cell number. Conclusions: Chemotherapy may be related to ocular surface changes, mostly represented by keratoconjunctivitis sicca signs and symptoms. Impression cytology once again proves to be very useful in establishing a histopathological method to confirm the clinical findings.