

One case of refractory condyloma acuminatum in children with persistent HPV51 infection treated by Chinese medicine paiteling

Yang Meng^{1,2*}, Huang Yaohui¹, Zhu Qinghuan², Lin Xiujuan¹, Pan Yanbin¹, Li Jianmin¹ and Liao Chifeng^{3*}

¹Department of Dermatology, the third affiliated hospital of Guangxi Medical University, 13 Dancun Road, Nanning 530031, Guangxi, China

²Department of Dermatology, the second affiliated hospital of Kunming Medical University, Kunming, 650101, Yunnan, China

³Institute of Dermatology and Department of Dermatology, No.1 Hospital, Anhui Medical University, Anhui, China

Abstract

A 3-year-old female presented with neoplasms on the perianal for 1 month. Physical examination: Multiple needle tips appearing around the anus to millet size. A few vegetations are seen at the vaginal opening. Human papilloma virus (HPV) typing: HPV51 positive. HIV, TPPA, and RPR tests were negative. Histopathology of skin lesions: hyperkeratosis of the epidermis with incomplete keratosis, hyperplasia and hypertrophy of the spinous layer, papilloma-like hyperplasia, vacuolated cells seen above the spinous layer; Diagnosis: Condyloma acuminatum. Treatment: 4 times of photodynamic therapy was ineffective, HPV-51 continued to be positive, and then switched to the Chinese medicine Paiteling three-stage therapy. No new warts were found after follow-up for 1 year, and the HPV-51 turned negative.

Introduction

Condyloma acuminata (CA), or anogenital verrucae, is a common sexually transmitted disease associated with human papilloma virus infection. It is principally transmitted through sexual intercourse and frequently occur in adolescents or adults. In the last decades, cases of CA in children gradually have increased that may be related to sexual abuse, vertical transmission and close contact with infected individuals. Guidelines for the treatment of CA in adults are available in the United States, but little has been published about the treatment in children [1]. At present the treatment options include destructive therapies such as cryotherapy and trichloroacetic acid, surgical excision, and topical modalities such as podophyllin, imiquimod, and sinecatechins [2]. But we know little about the safety and efficacy of these therapies in preadolescent children, there are not a consensus treatment guidelines of CA in children. The clinical treatment be directed based on the specific symptoms included the size, location and number of lesions. Paiteling is a pure traditional Chinese medicine preparation that has been used for the treatment of HPV infections in recent year [3]. Here, we report a case of refractory condyloma acuminata in a child treated with paiteling successfully.

Case report

A 3-year-old female was admitted to our department with hyperplasia on the perianal for 1 month on June 12, 2018. A month ago, the mother of the child found several papules of needle-tip size around the anus when bathing her, without any special discomfort such as pruritus and pain. She did not pay attention to them. Later papules gradually increased and enlarged. She applied ointment such as "Dacron Cream" on her own, but there on any regression. The child's skin lesions kept increasing, so she came for diagnosis and treatment. There is nothing special about past and personal history. There was no similar lesions on her family members. The child often plays in public swimming pools recently.

Systematic physical examination showed no abnormality. Dermatological conditions found multiple needle-tip to millet size light pink hyperplasia around the anus and which were soft quality and partial fusion. A few vegetations were seen around the vaginal opening (Figures 1,2). Laboratory examination revealed the acetic acid white test was positive. Human papillomavirus test showed that HPV51 was positive and HPV11, HPV16, HPV18, etc were all negative. No abnormality was found in blood, urine, stool, HIV, TPPA and RPR examination. The histopathology of the skin lesions showed hyperkeratosis of epidermis with parakeratosis, acanthosis, papillomatosis and vacuolated cells in the upper part of stratum spinosum (Figures 8,9). The histopathological diagnosis was condyloma acuminata.

Initially, treatment was started with regular disinfection of local skin, wet application of 20%ALA solution on skin lesions, phototherapy after wrapping with plastic wrap for 3 hours, irradiation of skin lesions with 635nm LED light source with energy density of 100 ~ 120 J/cm² and irradiation time of 20 ~ 30 min. The interval between the two treatments was 7 ~ 10 days. After four consecutive treatments, the warts did not disappear, and the re-examination of HPV51 was still positive. Therefore, the patient was treated with chinese drug paiteling for three-stage therapy [4]. In the first stage, the wart body and its surrounding area were wet application with gauze soaked in original solution for 15min each time, and stopping the drug after 3 consecutive days for 4 days was a course of treatment. In the second stage, after the warts

*Correspondence to: Liao Chifeng, Institute of Dermatology and Department of Dermatology, No.1 Hospital, Anhui Medical University, Anhui, China, E-mail: amigoliao@gmail.com

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body fell off and the wound healed (Figures 3,4), another 2~3 courses of treatment were repeated to further remove the subclinical virus. In the third stage, wet application with 4~6 layers of gauze soaked in 1:50 diluent of petaline (1ml of stock solution plus 50ml of distilled water) on the original damage parts to prevent recurrence (Figures 5,6), each time for about 10min. Once a day in the first month and once every two days in the second and third months. No new warts were found during follow-up for 1 year (Figure 7), and the re-examination was negative for HPV51.



Figures 1,2. Skin lesions at the first consultation



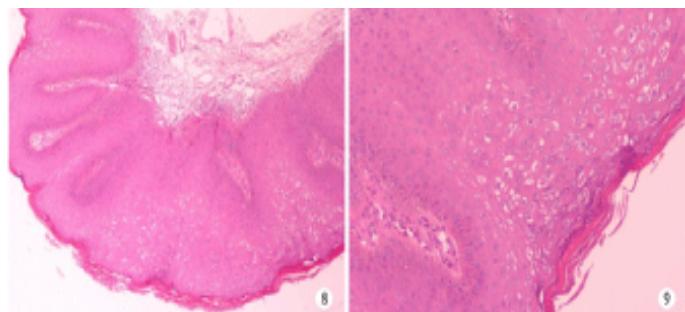
Figures 3,4. After the first stage of wart wound healing of Petrin



Figures 5,6. Phase III prevention of recurrence



Figure 7. Follow-up after 1 year



Figures 8,9. Skin lesion pathology

Discussion

CA is a proliferative lesion of anogenital region caused by HPV infection, which is mostly found in young people aged 18~35 years old [5]. However, in recent years, with the increasing number of adults, the incidence of CA in children has been increasing year by year, and it is more common in girl patients [6]. The route of transmission, HPV genotype, treatment, outcome and prognosis are different from those of adults. Perianal region is the most common site of CA lesions in children. Its transmission routes are various, mainly non-sexual transmission, among which indirect infection in close contact with affected parents is more common [7]. Here reported case was no condyloma acuminatum in the child's family. Before the onset of the disease, the child used to play in a public swimming pool. The child has a high possibility of indirect infection due to contact with the swimming pool contaminated by CA patients.

The most common genotypes of HPV in children were HPV6 and HPV11. HPV genotyping in some children is unclear and the test results are negative [8]. The HPV genotype of the child in this case is high-risk HPV51, which is rarely reported at present. At present, there are many different methods for the treatment of childhood CA, with the goal of completely removing wart and reducing the recurrence. The treatment methods mainly include physical photoelectricity, surgical resection and topical application. However, the recurrence rate of childhood CA is still high, so comprehensive consideration is needed to ensure the safety, effectiveness and tolerability of the treatment. The treatment methods mainly include physical photoelectricity, surgical resection and topical application. However, the recurrence rate of childhood CA is still high, so comprehensive consideration is needed to ensure the safety, effectiveness and tolerability of the treatment.

Previous research showed that 5-aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy (ALA-PDT) was effective in the treatment of condyloma acuminatum in children, and the recurrence rate was low, which indicates that ALA-PDT is a safe and easily tolerated effective method for the treatment of CA in children and the prevention of recurrence [9]. In this case, the warts did not disappear after 4 times of consecutive treatment with ALA-PDT, and the curative effect was poor, which may be related to the infection of high-risk HPV51 genotype.

Huang Gengshi [10] found that condyloma acuminatum patients with high-risk HPV genotype infection are more likely to develop persistent infection with a longer course of disease. In addition, the children's immune system is not perfect, which is difficult to effectively remove HPV virus, so the efficacy of ALA-PDT therapy is poor.

Paiteling is a pure Chinese medicine preparation for external use developed and produced by Beijing Paite Biotechnology Limited Company, China. Its main components are Hedyotis Diffusa, Folium Isatidis, Radix Sophorae Flavescentis, Fructus Bruceae, Fructus

Cnidii, etc. It is effective in the treatment of high-risk HPV infection and has a high cure rate for recurrent condyloma acuminatum [11]. Its pharmacological mechanism is mainly to inhibit the proliferation of tumor cells through cytotoxicity, and promote the exfoliation of epidermal cells of warts and surrounding latent viruses by accelerating the metabolism of epidermal cells [12]. Children have large fear, low tolerance to pain and poor compliance, so they are often unable to cooperate with treatment. Compared with local treatment methods such as cryotherapy, laser and electrocautery, external use of paiteling for children with CA has the advantages of high cure rate, easy tolerance and low side effects [4], especially for children with high-risk HPV infection. The application of paiteling may provide a new therapeutic method for clinical treatment of refractory condyloma acuminatum in children.

Conflict of interest

The authors have no proprietary interest in any aspect of the study.

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