

extensively studied the role of epigenetics in melanoma, further elucidating the complex processes involved in gene regulation and expression. Other studies utilizing gene microarray analysis and other whole genome approaches reveal a wide array of genes and expression patterns in human melanoma. Several genes have been identified as potential prognostic markers of tumor progression and overall clinical outcome. High-throughput gene expression analysis has had a major impact in melanoma research. Several gene expression platforms have provided insight into the gene expression patterns in melanoma. Such data will provide foundations for the future development of prognostic markers and improved targeted therapies for patients with melanoma.

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#### Radiation therapy for refractory hidradenitis suppurativa

A. Garcia-Grande<sup>1</sup>, P. Herranz Pinto<sup>2</sup>, R. Diaz Diaz<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hospital Universitario La Paz, Oncología Radioterápica, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Hospital Universitario La Paz, Dermatología, Spain

<sup>3</sup>Hospital Universitario Infanta Sofia, Dermatología, Spain

E-mail address: [aggrande@seom.org](mailto:aggrande@seom.org) (A. Garcia-Grande).

Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic follicular occlusive disease (Hurley grade III and refractory) characterized by abscesses and draining sinus tracts in apocrine gland-bearing regions. HS is frequently refractory to conventional management with oral and topical treatments and may require surgical intervention. We report the outcomes of an exploratory study investigating the effectiveness of radiation therapy for patients with refractory HS who failed multiple other therapies. Ten patients with Hurley stage III and refractory were treated with radiation therapy to 25 affected sites (axillae, groin, perineal, perianal and infra/intermammary folds). Each area was treated with electron beam radiation to a total dose of 20 Gy in 4-5 Gy fractions over 4 or 5 consecutive days. The average age was 40 years old and 99% had HS for longer than 5 years. By Hurley stage, 9 were stage III and one was stage II. All patients previously failed topical and oral antibiotic therapy and other previous therapies included surgery and infliximab. All patients tolerated radiation well. Complete responses were observed  $\geq 50\%$  of the lesions and  $\geq 90\%$  had a partial response after radiation therapy determined by patient report and clinical exam. Radiation therapy may be a promising treatment for some patients with refractory HS. More basic research has to be initiated or strengthened and controlled clinical multicenter studies have to be conducted not only to confirm basic research data, but also to prove treatment efficacy and optimize treatment schedules (single and total dose, fractionation, and treatment time).

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#### Role of radiotherapy in melanoma. Experience of a regional department

M. Espinosa Calvo<sup>1</sup>, E. Rivin del Campo<sup>1</sup>, S. Garcia Cabezas<sup>1</sup>, A. Palacios Eito<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hu Reina Sofia, Oncología Radioterápica, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Complejo Hospitalario Reina Sofia, Oncología Radioterápica, Spain

**Introduction.** The expected yearly incidence of melanoma in the province of Cordoba is 51 cases. The optimal irradiation rate has been estimated as 23% by groups of excellency based on scientific evidence. Since 2006 the Reina Sofia Hospital has had a Melanoma Multidisciplinary Tumor Board.

**Materials and methods.** Descriptive retrospective study of the population of the province of Cordoba with skin melanoma referred to the Department of Radiation Oncology.

**Results.** Scientific evidence shows that 11 patients diagnosed with melanoma per year should receive radiation therapy in the province of Cordoba, which in 6 years would be 66 patients. During the period 2006–2011 the number of patients diagnosed with melanoma and presented in the tumor board was 339. Of these patients, 29 (8.5%) were referred to the Department of Radiation Oncology for evaluation. 58.6% were women. The median age was 71 years. Trunk (37.9%) and lower limbs (27.6%) were the most frequent locations. Stage distribution was 12% in Stage I, 48% in Stage II, and 16% and 24% in Stages III and IV respectively. Surgery was the standard treatment option (89%), resulting in R1 in 76.9%. In 72.7% margins were expanded. The sentinel node selective biopsy was performed in 26.1%, and resulted positive in 33.3%, provoking regional lymphadenectomy. Locoregional failure occurred in 72.7%, and distant metastases in 77.3% of patients at the time of analysis. The median relapse free survival and metastasis free survival were 9 and 26.5 months, respectively. Radiation therapy was administered in 62.1% of referred patients. It was palliative in 88.9%. The median overall survival of this subgroup was of 25 months. 88% had passed away at the moment of this study.

**Conclusions.** The number of patients diagnosed with melanoma referred for radiation treatment evaluation in the province of Cordoba is inferior to that estimated as optimal.

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