

A Case of Radiation and Drug-induced Alopecia and Premature Greying Cured with Liv.52

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A case of radiation-and anti-cancer drug-induced alopecia and premature greying of hair which was cured by Liv.52 reported.

Mr. A.K. D., an 18-year male patient with Osteosarcoma of the right jaw was referred to the Medical Outdoor from the Radiotherapy Department for his premature greying of hair and alopecia. He had hemimandibulectomy with cobalt irradiation and Actinomycin-D injection for the last 6 weeks. Meanwhile the patient also developed jaundice. Laboratory investigations showed normal blood count, serum bilirubin 6.5 mg%, total protein 7g%, A:G ratio 3.1 : 1.5 and serum alkaline phosphatase 36 K.A. His SGOT and SGPT were 130 units and 200 units respectively. The rest of the investigations were within normal limits. Australia antigen was absent in the serum.

He was put on Liv.52, 2 tablets three times a day, with glucose administered orally. All his anti-cancer drugs were stopped. After 15 days, his bilirubin came down to 1.5 mg% and his alopecia started improving. After one and half months he completely recovered from alopecia and his hair became jet black. His serum bilirubin had come down to 0.5 mg% by then.

The patient has been under our strict follow-up. He is continuing the therapy, and there has been no recurrence of alopecia in spite of subsequent use of anti-cancer drugs.

DISCUSSION

Anti-cancer drugs and irradiation therapy are known to produce alopecia and greying of hair, but usually they improve after stopping the treatment. The condition may be due to the malignancy itself. So far no drug is known which can prevent this complication during anticancer therapy.

Our patient also had a similar problem further complicated with cholestatic jaundice. We gave Liv.52 for the hepatitis but his alopecia also improved, in spite of the continued use of anti-cancer drugs. We do not have substantial evidence as to how Liv.52 helped to correct premature greying and alopecia. However, this case report might open a new field for research, which would be of interest to dermatologist, oncologist and physicians.