

Prevention of Oral Mucositis in Cancer Patients Clinical application of an anti-inflammatory agent (**Mucosyte®**)

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INTRODUCTION:

The aim of this project was to evaluate an anti-inflammatory bio-adherent mucosal agent in a new protocol for the prevention and treatment of oral mucositis in cancer's patients undergoing radio and chemotherapy.

About 75% of all patients undergoing bone marrow transplant develop symptomatic oral mucositis (Bellm et al., 1999); chemotherapy produces oral mucositis in an estimated 40% of patients, while radiation therapy for tumors of the head and neck affects approximately 80% of patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The application of a new protocol treatment in a group of patients hospitalized at San Raffaele's Hospital (Milano) to prevent onset of oral mucositis. Two groups of patients were selected:

- 50 patients for randomization to the control group, which were given only the instruction of oral hygiene
- 50 patients, always chosen for randomization, for the experimental group to which we have given **Oralis®** enzymatic alcohol free mouthwash to use one week before radio or chemotherapy, associated always with the instructions for oral hygiene.

A week later the treatment both groups were undergoing to control, extended for 3 months. Moreover the patients of both groups that presented oral mucositis, were treated with **Mucosyte®** until the complete healing.

RESULTS:

Positive results were reported during the treatment with **Mucosyte®** because the formulation was devised to guarantee synergy amongst its components:

- Reduction of inflammation and pain relief
- By forming a protective film that covers and protects the oral mucosa
- Promotion of re-epithelialization of the oral mucosa.

The preliminary results are very interesting because they show the ability of Verbascoside (**Mucosyte®**) to act on transcription factors and regulatory DNA sequences involved in the inflammatory process. This new experimental protocol, still under study, is proving useful in the reduction of oral complication caused by radio and chemotherapy treatments.

CONCLUSIONS:

The use of anti-inflammatory agents continues to be a promising strategy for the prevention and treatment of oral mucositis associated with oral hygiene instructions. However, we must wait the outcome of further research to demonstrate the efficacy of the use of **Oralis®** mouthwash and **Mucosyte®** in preventing the onset of further complications at the level of the oral cavity in these patients who are already at increased risk of super infection.



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