

Dermatological reactions during antitumor therapies: Introduction of a skin assessment

Nursing, supportive & palliative care, rehabilitation & survivorship and integrative oncology

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1 Background and Objectives

Dermatological reactions affect 75 – 90 % of patients undergoing certain antitumor therapies (Dermatological reactions in oncological therapies, 2023). These skin changes can cause psychosocial burdens and functional impairments, potentially leading to therapy interruptions. Collaboration within the multi-professional oncology team is essential. Besides patient education and symptom management, qualified nursing staff are responsible for assessing and documenting skin conditions. However, at Cantonal Hospital Baden AG (KSB), skin conditions were not standardly recorded. This study examined whether introducing a basic dermatological assessment would ensure consistent documentation of skin findings, evaluation of personal hygiene habits, and provision of appropriate skin care kits.

2 Methods

As part of an MAS thesis, a basic dermatological assessment was developed based on the «Dermatotoxicity in Oncology» course by Oncology Nursing Switzerland. It was finalised by a multi-professional team at the KSB oncology outpatient clinic and introduced in November 2021. A retrospective data analysis in the hospital information system (KISIM) recorded all patients who received the substances: Erbitux, Taxotere, or Vectibix between December 2021 and December 2024. The study assessed documentation of the dermatological assessment, provision of skin care kits, and recording of skin findings.

3 Results

Among 139 patients, seven received Erbitux, 14 Vectibix, and 118 Taxotere. The dermatological assessment was performed in 87 cases (63 %), and 76 patients (55 %) received appropriate skin care kits.



4 Conclusion

The introduction of the basic dermatological assessment led to standardised documentation, discussion of personal hygiene, and provision of suitable care kits. Patients thus receive targeted skin care advice. Literature shows early detection and systematic documentation improve symptom control and reduce therapy interruption (Dermatological Reactions in Oncology Treatments, 2023).

5 References

- Kern Fürer, C., Titzer, H., Bachmann-Mettler, I. (Hrsg.). (2023). *Dermatologische Reaktionen bei onkologischen Therapien* (1. Aufl.). Springer-Verlag.
- Wernli Kalt, K. (2022). *Bericht zu einem Qualitätsprojekt anhand des FAKTS-Modells und dessen Anwendung im Onkologischen/Hämatologischen Ambulatorium Kantonsspital Baden. Leistungsnachweis zum Modul Qualitätsmanagement*. Careum Hochschule Gesundheit.

Skin assessment during antitumor therapies

Datum & Visum	
Therapie	
Zu erwartende, dermatologische Reaktionen	

Gewohnheiten	Nein	Ja	Häufigkeit der Anwendung
pH-hautneutrales Duschmittel			
pH-hautneutrale Lotion			
Andere Lotion			
Handcreme			
Fusscreme			

Gibt es Auffälligkeiten (beispielsweise Trockenheit, Rötung) an folgenden Körperregionen?

Körperregion	Nein	Ja	Welche Auffälligkeiten
Haut			
Schleimhäute (Auge /Nasen /Mund)			
Genital- und Analbereich			
Hände			
Füsse			
Nägel			
Haare			
Kopfhaut			

Sind Sie mechanischer, chemischer oder thermischer Belastung ausgesetzt (z.B. Arbeit mit den Händen, Gehstöcke, Sonnenexposition, etc.)? Gibt es relevante Informationen zum Körperbild oder andere Bemerkungen?

☐ Ja	☐ Nein	Bemerkung
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Empfohlene / abgegebene Pflege- und Medizinalprodukte bei Therapiebeginn:
Cave: bei gleichzeitiger Strahlentherapie Abgabe nur in Rücksprache mit Arztdienst!

Abgegeben	Pflegesets	Empfohlen / Diverses
☐ Excipial® Lipolotion ☐ Excipial® Hydro lotion	☐ Erbitux / Vectibix	☐ Duschmittel & Lotion pH-hautneutral
☐ Sonnenschutz (Muster)	☐ Taxotere Nagelset	☐ Nagelhärter
☐ Mundspülung KSB	☐ Intimset	☐ Anderes:
☐ Coryt ® Care ☐ Coryt ® Desqua ☐ Coryt ® Protect	Probiersets:	Diverses:
☐ Nutraplus ® Urée 100mg/g	☐ Probierset Meme	☐ Zweithaarberatung aufgegleist
☐ Bepanthen ® Nasenpflege	☐ Probierset LaRoche	☐ Look Good Feel Better Flyer abgegeben

Basic dermatological assessment used at KSB, October 2025