



# A case report of lentigo maligna treated with imiquimod applications



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## INTRODUCTION

Lentigo maligna (LM) - melanoma in situ, which is characterized by a slow-growing brown, greyish-black pigmented macule, that typically occurs in sun-damaged skin of the face and neck, where important, easily disruptive anatomical structures are located. Usually older patients, who usually have many co-morbidities, are effected. LM tends to spread subclinically. The main difficulty with LM treatment is frequent local relapses. Excision or radiotherapy leads to high success rates and are therefore first and second choices of treatment, however both have their own disadvantages, for example they may cause disfiguring scars and are not suitable for every patient. Treatment with topical imiquimod is an alternative for patients with LM, who can't be treated with these two methods. The use of imiquimod as a non-surgical LM method is described in 2000. Many studies have highlighted a range of benefits, however there is no standardized use of imiquimod for LM.

## CASE REPORT

A 76-year-old man presented with an enlarging atypical pigmented lesion on the scalp. In 2013, excision and plasticity of the same area was performed. The punch biopsy was performed and the histological examination confirmed the diagnosis of LM. The patient refused surgical treatment or treatment with radiotherapy. The treatment was complicated by the large area of the lesion, repeated intervention, and thin atrophic skin on the scar. We decided to treat our patient with imiquimod 5% cream for 5 days a week. During the treatment as a result significant inflammatory reaction in the lesion and surrounding skin, marked reduction in pigmentation were seen. The patient was followed up to date every 1 month for 12 weeks. 4 month after the treatment clinical resolution is achieved.

## PICTURES



Fig. 1 LM before the treatment

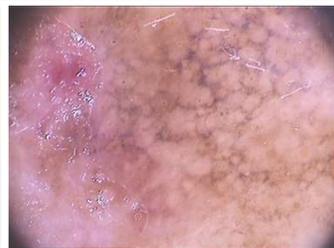


Fig. 2 Dermatoscopic view



Fig. 3 After 40 applications



Fig. 4 After 70 applications



Fig. 5 1 month after treatment



Fig. 6 4 months after treatment

## CONCLUSIONS

Treatment with imiquimod is an alternative effective therapy for LM. Standardization of treatment, more research are required.