SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Clinical management of verruca is a challenging issue for both dermatologists and patients. Multiple visits for treatment are usually required, and recurrence is common. Consequently, the cost of treatment can be quite high. Intralesional bleomycin injection is effective demonstrating success rates of 47–83%. However, the general acceptance of intralesional bleomycin in routine dermatological practice remains low.

The present study was done to compare the efficacy of intralesional 5-FU with that of intralesional bleomycin in treatment of warts. The plantar and periungual warts were selected as an example of refractory and resistant warts.

This study was conducted on 43 patients attending the Dermatology and Andrology clinic, **Benha University Hospital**, having 52 plantar warts and 34 periungual warts. Two symmetric plantar or two symmetric periungual warts were selected for treatment in each patient. In the same patient, one wart was injected with 5-FU and the second wart was injected with bleomycin solution (1U/ml) randumlly. Patients were followed up at 2-weeks intervals to a maximum of four sessions. Clinical response was defined in terms of complete response (complete absence of clinically apparent wart), partial response (greater than 50% reduction in wart size**)** and no response (less than 50% reduction in wart size).

Complete response was observed in 73.1% of plantar warts treated with 5-FU, and in 82.4% of periungual warts treated with 5-FU. While complete response was observed in 73.1% of plantar warts treated with

bleomycin, and in 82.3% of periungual warts treated with bleomycin. Thirty two patients found 5-FU more painful during injection than bleomycin.

As regard the side effects, minimal local side effects as hyperpigmentation, ulceration, itching and mild to moderate pain occurred in both bleomycin and 5-FU treated warts except 2 cases showed haemorrhagic bullae that occurred with bleomycin and 2 cases showed blackening of the nail that occurred with 5-FU.

In conclusion, It was found that intralesional 5-FU has the same efficacy as intralesional bleomycin with a high success rate in treatment of plantar and periungual warts regardless of patient's age, sex and disease duration. However 5-FU injection was found to be more painful than bleomycin injection. On the other hand the 5-FU cost in one session of a single wart treatment is nearly 1/6 Egyptian pound while the bleomycin cost in one session of a single wart treatment is nearly 8.5 Egyptian pounds. Five-FU cost is much lower than bleomycin so 5-FU cost is economically tolerable by the patient than bleomycin.