

# RESULTS

## Results

Our results showed that 11 of the 14 treated BCC lesions cleared completely after using IFN- $\alpha$ 2b (Intron A) alone without further therapy (78.5%). There was no relapse during the observation period (average 8 months). The size of cured BCC was less than 20 × 20 mm in diameter. In spite of mild improvement (in some lesion) with early injections (first three injection with decrease in crusting), and marked improvement one month after the last injection, the definite clinical evaluation was determined 4 months after last injection. During the treatment course and follow-up, an initial inflammatory response was observed at the treatment sites followed by diminished erythema, improvement in overall appearance and a decrease in size of lesion. This slow disappearance continued leaving very little redness and scaling, but without scar. The healing in noduloulcerative lesion by flattening of lesions which is beginning more on lower site of lesion.

On the other hand, three (21.5%) of the 14 treated BCCs did not improve clinically. Non-healing tumors were large > 20 × 20 mm. The site of these BCCs were occipital region, scalp and nose.

The evaluation of drug safety usually included, *first*: local reactions at the injection site as an erythema occurring in 6 patients and marked with edema on eyelid lesion, *second*: flu-like symptoms including fever, rigors, myalgia, headache, and nausea in 8 patients. Both these two items were the most frequent side effects occurred in patients given IFN. These reactions were almost always mild or moderate and transient, and mostly occurred during the treatment period. Two patients complained of pruritus of unknown cause in the first week of injection. All these adverse experiences except for the local reactions decreased as treatment progressed.



Fig. 1: before treatment



Fig. 2: One month after last injection

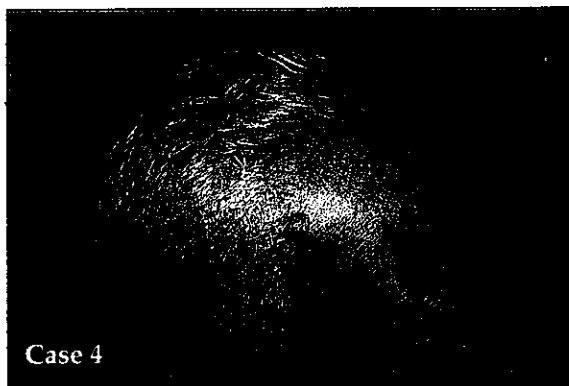


Fig. 3: before treatment



Fig. 4: One month after last injection

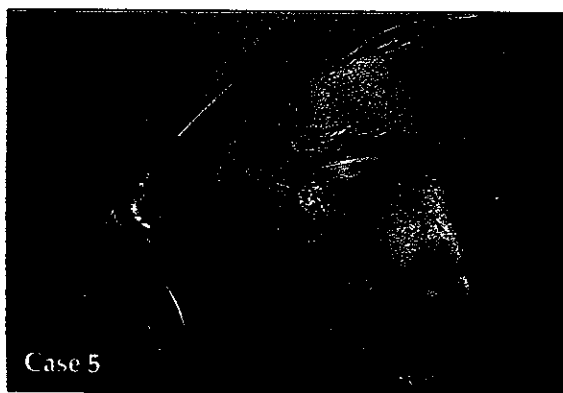


Fig. 5: before treatment



Fig. 6: One month after last injection

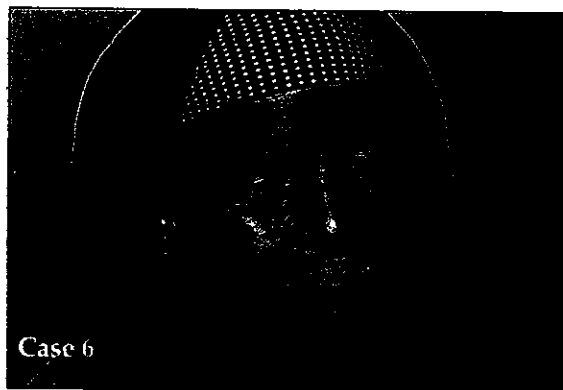


Fig. 7: before treatment

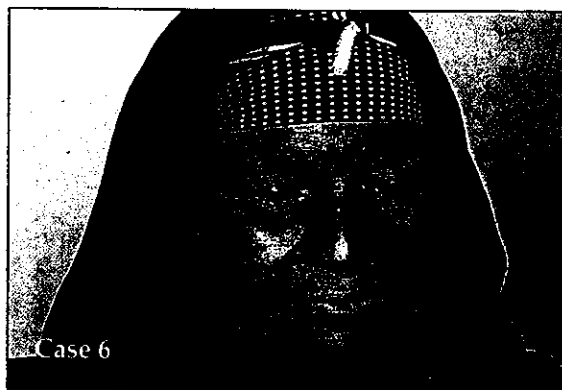


Fig. 8: One month after last injection

Table 17. Characteristics of cases.

Case	Age	Sex	Type, size (mm), & site of BCC	Flue-like symptoms	Erythema	Pruritus	N° of inj. (each 1.5 M IU)	Results after 4 mos
1	45	M	Nodular, 20 × 20, Rt side of occipital region.	+	-	-	11	Slight dec. in size (18 × 18)
2	52	F	Noduloulcerative, 15 × 15, Lt cheek.	-	+	-	9	Cure
3	55	M	Nodular, 15 × 15, Rt side of nose.	-	-	-	11	Failure
4	76	M	Noduloulcerative, 10 × 10, Rt side of forehead.	-	-	-	9	Healing
5	30	F	Noduloulcerative, 10 × 20, beneath the Rt eye.	+	+	-	9	Healing
6	50	F	Nodular, 10 × 10, Rt cheek.	+	-	+	10	Healing
7	44	M	Nodular, 18 × 15, Lt side of occipital region.	+	-	-	9	Healing
8	30	F	Superficial, 12 × 10, forehead.	+	+	-	9	Decrease in size (6 × 4)
9	50	F	Nodular, 12 × 10, Lt cheek.	-	-	-	9	Healing
10	72	F	Noduloulcerative, 12 × 14, Lt cheek.	-	-	-	9	Healing
11	53	M	Nodular, 20 × 22, Lt cheek.	+	-	-	10	No change
12	28	F	Noduloulcerative, 12 × 18, beneath Lt eye.	+	+	-	9	Healing
13	53	F	Nodular, 10 × 15, Lt side of forehead.	+	+	+	9	Healing
14	45	M	Superficial, 10 × 10, forehead.	-	+	-	9	Healing

Table 18. Summary of studies using intralestional interferon therapy of BCC.

Reference	N° of parts	Single dosage (units × 10 <sup>6</sup> )	Cumulative dosage	Duration of		CR	FA	SPF	NOD
				Therapy (weeks)	Follow-up (months)				
Greenway et al ., (1986).	8	1.5	13.5	3	2	8	0	5	3
Tank et al ., (1989).	7	0.2	1.6	4	2-3	0	7	0	7
Reitamo et al ., (1989).	6	3.0	27.0	3	5-7	2	4	-	-
Boneschi et al ., (1989).	27	1.5	13.5	3	4	14	13	14	13
Wickramasinghe et al ., (1989).	11	0.9	8.1	3	2	0	11	-	-
Thestrup-Pedersen et al ., (1990).	10	1.5	13.5	3	3.21	6	4	8	2
Cornell et al ., (1990).	123	1.5	13.5	3	16-20	103	20	57	66
Present study.	14	1.5	13.5	3	2-8	11	3	2	7

CR=complet clearing, FA=failure, SPF=superficial type of BCC, NOD=nodular type of BCC. dec. = decrease.