



Oral Targeted Therapy-induced Cutaneous Toxicity: Life Experience of Patients with Advanced Lung Cancer in Taiwan

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Background

- In Taiwan, around half of patients with advanced lung cancer receive targeted therapy as the first-line treatment.
- Many patients reported cutaneous toxicity such as papulopustular eruption, dry itching, mucositis, and hair and nail changes.
- However, few studies explore this issue about cutaneous toxicity related to life experience.

Study Aims

- The purpose of this study was to describe cutaneous toxicity related to life experiences of advanced lung cancer patients receiving oral targeted therapy in Taiwan.

Methods

- The qualitative interview by using phenomenological approach was conducted in this study.
- The data in this study was collected at a medical center in northern Taiwan. The subject was patients with advanced lung cancer (stage IIIB & IV).
- An inductive data-driven thematic analysis was applied to analyze transcripts.

Results

- A total of 15 advanced lung cancer patients received at least once targeted therapy (e.g., Iressa, Tarceva, Giotrif and Tagrisso).
- **Five major themes** emerged that were related to the participants' cutaneous toxicities related life experience during receiving oral targeted therapy, including
 1. **changes in daily life:** All the patients mentioned that cutaneous toxicities had an effect on their daily life or household chores.
 2. **changes of social relationships:** two-thirds of patients were afraid of discrimination resulted from the appearance and the worrisome interaction with people. Thus, they may felt embarrassing and difficult to explain what the toxicity cause.
 3. **emotional and psychological impact:** two-thirds of patients experienced distress.
 4. **unknown future:** Over 40% of the patients feel the side effects are endless and questionable.
 5. **insufficient and inconsistent information in cutaneous self-care:** Over 70 % of patients' claimed they didn't get sufficient and complete information. Their source of information was diverse, but most of information was anecdotal.

Conclusions

- These findings provide professional health help to patients with cutaneous toxicity when they discuss with their concerns in clinical setting.

Themes	Category
changes in daily life	Impacts on daily life and effects on household chores Difficulties in taking care other affairs
changes of social relationships	Fear of discrimination Protective shield Concern over the exacerbate of symptoms Symptoms making patients going out inconveniently
emotional and psychological impact	Distress The appearance of symptoms influences patients' mentality and emotional condition Gradual acceptance of the reality Symptoms persist beyond expectations
unknown future	Doubts about the effects of skin related medical treatment Endless treatment cycles and side effects
insufficient and inconsistent information in cutaneous self-care	Insufficient information Inconsistent source of information Anecdotal information



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