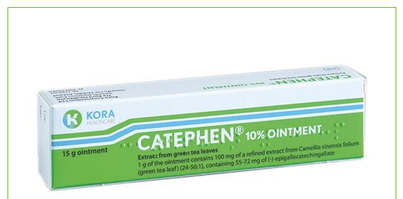
Where there's tea, there's hope! – experience of green tea extract for treatment of genital warts

Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast

Mr Brian O'Donnell, Dr SJ Megarity, Dr EJ McCarty, Dr W W Dinsmore

Introduction

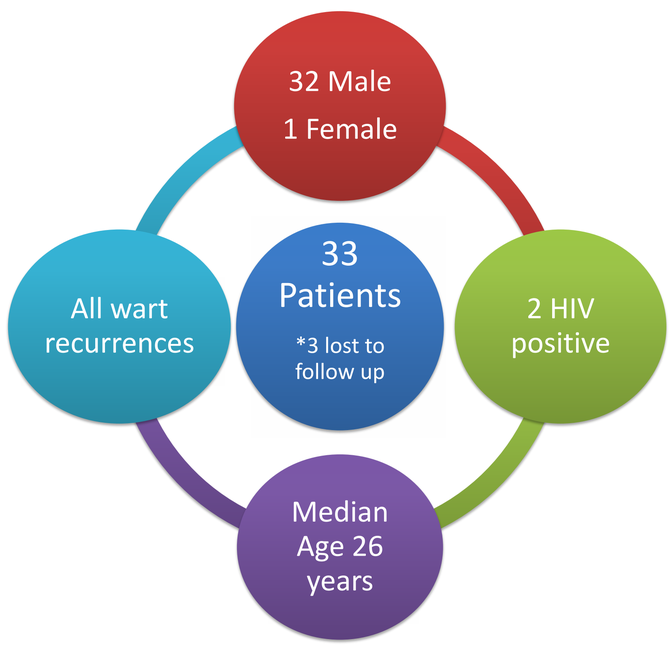
Catephen® 10% ointment is a novel treatment for external genital and perianal warts (condylomata acumunata) in immunocompetent patients from the age of 18 years. Catephen® received a marketing authorisation in the UK in 2015. It is an extract of the leaf of the green tea plant Camellia sinensis, containing epigallocatechingallate . Catephen® has been recommended as a treatment option in BASHH UK National Guidelines on the Management of Anogenital Warts (2015). Recommended application is 3 times daily for 16 weeks. We present real life data from our experience with Catephen®.



Methods

Review of patients treated with Catephen® and adjuvant cryotherapy between August 2016 and February 2017. Clinical outcomes and tolerability data collected from face to face and/or telephone consultants. As per clinic policy, patients prescribed Catephen® should have either failed to achieve clearance with or were intolerant of imiquimod 5% cream and/or podophyllotoxin 0.15% cream.

Results



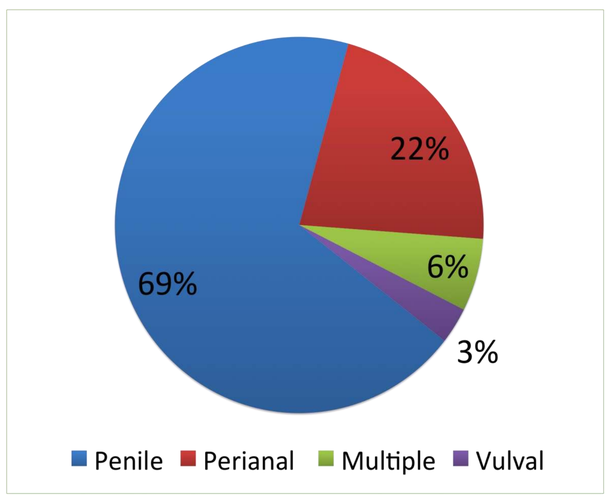


Chart 1 - Site Affected

To date 20/30 have completed a 16-week course of Catephen® or achieved full clearance prior to this (Outcomes are still awaited for 2/30 patients and 8/30 discontinued treatment early).

Outcomes

14/20 (70%) achieved total clearance.
6/20 (30%) achieved partial clearance.

Mean time to clearance was 8 weeks with penile warts appearing to respond better than perianal.

Tolerability

Catephen® was well tolerated with 43% of patients stating they had fewer side effects than with previous treatments.

Discontinuation

Overall discontinuation rate was 8/30 (27%).
1 report of vulval pain, 1 report of stained clothing and 6 reporting unsatisfactory response (mean duration of Catephen® use 6.5 weeks).

An additional 3 patients reported skin discomfort but continued treatment.

Discussion

Catephen® ointment appears well tolerated with satisfactory clearance rates. It appears to be an acceptable alternative to other topical treatments for genital warts. To date there is no trial data available on continued use after 16 weeks or it's use in immunocompromised patients.

Acknowledgements – Consultants and staff at GUM RVH.