

TREATMENT OF VAGINAL INTRAEPITHELIAL NEOPLASIA (PRIMARILY LOW GRADE) WITH IMIQUIMOD 5 % CREAM- AN UPDATED REPORT

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OBJECTIVE: Treatment of human papillomavirus (HPV) associated vaginal lesions (Vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia, VAIN) can be expensive, tedious and morbidity inducing. Imiquimod 5% cream, a safe and effective treatment of external genital warts, enhances the immune response to HPV infection.

METHODS: Initial experience treating VAIN in 56 young women with imiquimod cream was reported in J Lower Gen Tract Dis 2003;4:290-293. 28 additional patients have been managed. A treatment course was 1 sachet of imiquimod 5% cream (0.25g) applied via vaginal applicator once weekly for 3 doses.

RESULTS: The basic data of the initial group, the additional patients, and the groups combined are as follows

	INITIAL	ADDITIONAL	TOTAL
COMBINED			
Patients	56	28	84
Complete	42	25	67
Clear in 1 Course	36	18	54
% in 1 Course	86%	72%	81%
Lost to Follow-up	14	3	17
% 1 Course Intent/Treat	64%	64%	64%
% with CIN	55%	50%	54%
% with Vulvar EGWs	39%	57%	45%
Excoriation/adverse events	2	0	2

Severity of VAIN: VAIN 1: 79 VAIN 2: 3 VAIN 3: 2

More than 1 course: 2 courses: 10 patients 3:1 4:1 6:1

CONCLUSIONS: Additional experience continues to evidence the advantages of a very low dosing regimen of imiquimod 5% cream in the treatment of VAIN because of its simplicity of use, its high degree of effectiveness after a short treatment course, and the relative absence of associated adverse events.

KEY WORDS: Vaginal intraepithelial neoplasia, immune response modifier, imiquimod 5% cream.