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Electrochemotherapy as Treatment for Head and Neck Tumors

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Electrochemotherapy is a treatment combining a low dose of antineoplastic drug (bleomycin) and an electrical pulse (electroporation) applied directly to the cancer cells using an electrode. Electroporation consists of the application of short, intense, pulsed electric fields to tumor cells, with a transient increase of membrane permeability, facilitating cellular uptake of cytotoxic agents and increasing their toxicity.

Electrochemotherapy is indicated for the local treatment of solid tumors; it is a well-established antitumor strategy for cutaneous neoplasms and has interesting applications for the treatment of head and neck tumors. In fact, it is effective with any tumor regardless of the histotype and has several mechanisms of action with vascular and immunologic effects, ensuring good control of bleeding lesions and interesting prospects for the general care of cancer patients.

The interest in electrochemotherapy for the treatment of tumors in the head and neck area has increased because it results in minimal or no impacts to function and can lead to healing of treated tumor lesions without damage to the healthy tissues.







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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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