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Corresponding author:
Aditya Gupta

agupta@mediproberesearch.com

Author Affiliation:
Mediprobe Research Inc.

A comparison of therapeutic agents' short-term effects on actinic keratoses of the face and scalp: a protocol for a network meta-analysis study

Gupta, AK[1]; Bamimore, MA[2]; Wang, T[3]; Ravi, SP[4]; Talukder, M[5]; Haas-Neil, S[6]; Iorrizo, M[7]; Martin, G[8]; Piguet, V[9].

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - None.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Data extraction.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202390086

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 26 September 2023 and was last updated on 26 September 2023.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective The objective of the proposed study is to determine the relative effectiveness of existing therapies for facial and scalp actinic keratoses.

Rationale Numerous therapies exist for actinic keratosis, a pre-cancerous condition that can turn into malignancy if unattended to medically. However, some of these therapies' relative effectiveness have not determined in head-to-head trials. Hence, the proposed study attempts to determine such treatments' comparative effectiveness through network meta-analyses.

Condition being studied Actinic keratosis.

METHODS

Search strategy Evidence for quantitative syntheses will obtained by: (1) systematically searching the peer-reviewed through electronic databases (including PubMed), and (2) reference mining.

Participant or population Persons diagnosed with actinic keratoses.

Intervention Therapies (of any administrative route) used for treating actinic keratoses.

Comparator Vehicle, placebo or any other active comparator (i.e., any other therapy).

Study designs to be included Evidence for quantitative analyses will include data from randomized trials.

Eligibility criteria Data from studies published in a non-English language will be excluded.

Information sources Data for quantitative analyses will be obtained from relevant journal articles identified from electronic databases.

Main outcome(s) Our primary outcomes of interest are: (1) proportion of patients who achieved complete clearance within 12 weeks of therapy, (2) proportion of patients who achieved partial clearance within 12 weeks of therapy, and (3) arm-level clearance rate of lesions within 12 weeks of therapy.

Additional outcome(s) Our secondary outcome of interest pertained to 12-week rate of therapy discontinued due to any adverse event.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis Quality of evidence will be assessed using Cochrane Collaboration's risk of bias (RoB) assessment tool.

Strategy of data synthesis The analyses plan for the proposed study will include an 'agent-level' (i.e., main) analyses where agents with varying dosages will be collapsed into one node.

Subgroup analysis None.

Sensitivity analysis The results from main analyses will determine how the sensitivity analyses should proceed.

Language restriction Evidence in non-English language will be excluded.

Country(ies) involved Canada.

Keywords actinic keratosis; network meta-analysis; scalp; face; efficacy.

Contributions of each author
Author 1 - Aditya Gupta.
Author 2 - Mary Bamimore.
Author 3 - Tong Wang.
Author 4 - Shruthi Ravi.
Author 5 - Mesbah Talukder.
Author 6 - Sandor Haas-Neil.
Author 7 - Matilde Iorizzo.
Author 8 - George Martin.
Author 9 - Vincent Piguet.