



INDORE · 2024 · UPDATE 11



Besides normal routine challenges in your work you sometime come across a situation where there are no clear cut guidelines and whatever decision you make can have profound impact on patients quality of life both ways.

Here was an 81-year-old male patient very gentle and respectful in his entire family, farmer by profession presented to us in almost agony. He was suffering from skin cancer which was covering entire head and neck region especially face. He underwent multiple surgical excision of skin lesions from multiple sites but suffering was continuous as lesions were either persistent or have not resolved or recurred in due course of time.



Before Pictures: Disease was progressive painful and itchy

His disease was progressive and pain and itching was unbeareable. On examination he was having diffuse, generalized pigmented lesions across the face, neck scalp forhead area accompanied by a more painful left pre-auricular lymph node enlargement. He was discussed with us in tumour board by Dr. Deepak agrawal, Director- Surgical Oncology.

We offered Radiotherapy to skin area with mould in situ as was the only anti cancer treatment option for the patient. Initially, he exhibited reluctance towards undergoing any further treatment, stemming from disillusionment due to the recurrence of the disease after previous treatments. This recurrence had significantly impacted his social and economic well-being. But having understood limited modalities he consented to undergo treatment with faith as primary gesture.



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We took it as a challenge and planned with all the radiotherapy modalities from electrons to photons with various field arrangements. Finally the treatment was meticulously planned utilising the Volumetric Modulated Arc Therapy (VMAT) technique, employing a 6MV beam to administer a total dosage of 50 Gy across 25 fractions with mould in initial part of treatment as toxicity was major concern. We ensured coverage and decided to discontinue mould once grade II side effects are visible. Our primary task was to complete the treatment managing side effects and ensuing effects.

This old gentleman had tough time but continue to tolerate with regular counselling and faith in hospital and God.

He was provided with

most comfortable experience in terms of supportive care and almost negligible waiting time.



He was discharged with Grade III reactions with exfoliation all over. We kept our fingers crossed and asked him to come after 6 weeks for response assessment.