Curcumin

Abdominal pain: case report

A 43-year-old woman developed abdominal pain during therapy with curcumin [CuraMed; route not clearly stated].

The woman presented in 2004 with a three-year history of pink, coalescing patches on her arms, abdomen and buttocks. Further investigations led to the diagnosis of stage IA mycosis fungoides. From 2004 to 2016, she received treatment with topical steroids, nitrogen mustard and narrow band UV-B. In September 2016, she had 1% patch involvement of her body surface area. In January 2017, she developed a tumour and plaque on the right thigh. Physical examination showed an erythematous tumour with an adjacent plaque on the right posterior thigh. In February 2017, she started taking over the counter curcumin (Curcuminoid essential oil complex) 750mg tablets thrice a day. Over the next two weeks, her right thigh tumour decreased in size and appeared less indurated and erythematous while the adjacent plaque disappeared. Her pruritus also improved along with improvement in other lesions on her left arm and left thigh. However, during this period she developed abdominal pain [time to reaction onset not stated].

The woman self discontinued taking curcumin, and subsequently, the pain subsided. It was considered that the abdominal pain was secondary to her curcumin therapy.

Author comment: “It is possible our patient’s abdominal pain might be due to taking [curcuminoid essential oil complex]. It may be that curcumin irritates the intestines, particularly in patients with pre-existing gastrointestinal disorders.”

Kim EJ, et al. Curcumin for the treatment of tumor-stage mycosis fungoides. Dermatologic Therapy 30: e12511, No. 4, 2017. Available from: URL: http://doi.org/10.1111/dth.12511 - USA803271932