

## **Cutaneous mastocytosis - A rare skin diseases treated successfully with novel drug therapy**

Cutaneous mastocytosis (CM) in children is a rare, usually benign skin disorder caused by mast cell proliferation. It presents with highly itchy skin lesions on body, some time blisters are also seen. Though it is known to resolve slowly, it may progress to systemic disease in some cases if not treated. Traditional treatments aim at only controlling itching and are not very effective.

We report uneventful therapy of diffuse CM with a novel drug imatinib in a 14-month-old boy.

14 month old boy was brought to our dermatology OPD, with multiple severely itchy skin colored to erythematous lesions all over body. (Figure-1) Child was unable to sleep due to itching and so was mother. Patient was treated with anti-histamines and oral steroids with no improvement.

We did lesional skin biopsy after history and clinical examination. Diagnosis of cutaneous mastocytosis was made on histopathology (Figure-2) and confirmed with special stain- Toluidine blue stain. Systemic involvement was ruled out by clinical, laboratory and radiological investigations. Final diagnosis of diffuse CM was made. Gene analysis was done from skin biopsy for KIT mutation, (KIT exons 9,10, 13, 17) which turned to be negative.

Patient was started on oral imatinib 100mg once day after joint consultation with medical oncologist. He tolerated it well. Itching and lesions started reducing within a month. It was continued for total of three months with regular monitoring of blood counts, liver and kidney function and almost complete clearance of lesions was noted. (Figure-3).

In conclusion we treated a rare skin disease successfully with novel therapeutic approach. Only 2 such cases are reported in literature. Imatinib as treatment for cutaneous mastocytosis has not been tried in India, till date. Our case is probably first from country.

