

Correspondence

Potent topical steroids are one of the treatments for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma

To the Editor:

I have read the article “Lymphoma among patients with atopic dermatitis and/or treated with topical immunosuppressants in the United Kingdom”¹ with extreme interest. The article raises important questions regarding the possible association between the use of topical treatments and lymphoma. One of their conclusions is that there is a strong association between lymphoma—especially skin lymphoma—and the use of topical corticosteroids (TCSs). The authors discuss that “part of the association we observed is probably a result of confounding by indication” as “a precancerous stage presenting with chronic cutaneous inflammatory features is common in cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (CTCL), which can take years from the time of initial presentation to diagnosis and maybe treated with high-potency TCS.” The authors should be aware that one of the main treatments for early-stage (IA, IB, IIA) CTCL is the use of potent topical steroids, as is well described in all CTCL guidelines.^{2,3} In this

regard, TCSs are used to treat the precancerous as well as the diagnosed CTCL. On the other hand, CTCL is a chronic disease, with >75% expected 5-year survival for clinical stage I,³ and these patients will use TCSs for more than 2 years in most cases.

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