

Neoplasia in patients undergoing DuoDopa therapy – an experience in Colentina Clinical Hospital

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Background and aims: Continuous levodopa-carbidopa intestinal gel (LCIG) is used to eliminate as much as possible the daily “off” time and dyskinesia in patients with advanced Parkinson’s disease (PD). Long term use has proven to have side effects like weight loss and polineuropaties. There were some cases in literature that associate the use of DuoDopa with melanoma. Methods: We performed an observational study on 36 patients with DuoDopa therapy in Colentina Clinical Hospital, between 2012 and 2018. The lot consisted of 21 men and 15 women, ages from 42 to 72, all initiated with LCIG in our clinic. Follow ups were scheduled every 3 months for the first year, then every 6 months and a series of tests were performed (complete blood work, endoscopy and individualized test based on their complaints). Results: Ten patients had significant weight loss (8 kg within 4 months from LCIG therapy initiation and 16 kg in the first year in one patient, 5 kg in the first month for other patient, 10 kg in 6 months from treatment initiation, 15 kg in one year after initiation for the 4th patient). Seven of them say there wasn’t any change in their dietary habits and 3 of them complained about loss of appetite and constipation. The endoscopy showed one of them had a gastric lesion which proved to be a gastric carcinoma and the other two presented colonic masses (adenocarcinoma). There was one female patient that developed breast adenocarcinoma. Conclusions: Taking in consideration the fact that in a lot of 36 patients, 5 developed some sort of cancer while undergoing LCIG and that the literature also mentions the relation between DuoDopa and melanoma, a screening for tumors should be kept in mind when dealing with these patients.