



Early Skin Rash and Cetuximab-Based Therapy of Advanced Biliary Tract Cancer

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Dear Editor, the recent report on “Early Skin Rash and Cetuximab-Based Therapy of Advanced Biliary Tract Cancer” is very interesting [1]. Rubovszky et al. suggested that “*early skin rash can be used as a biomarker to select patients who would benefit from the treatment with cetuximab plus chemotherapy* [1].” In fact, skin rash is a paraneoplastic sign in advanced biliary tract cancer [2]. The sign might be a possible biomarker but there are some concerns. First, the skin rash can be due to other causes (such as irritant contact) and this cannot be ruled out in the present report by Rubovszky et al. Dermatological investigation is required for diagnosis of the skin rash. Second, the cause of advanced biliary tract cancer can be due to the infectious etiology. In my setting in Southeast Asia, liver fluke is the main infection that leads to advanced biliary tract cancer. Of interest, the liver fluke infestation can also induce the skin rash [3].

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest None.

References

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