Managing Stomatitis in Patients Treated With Mammalian Target of Rapamycin Inhibitors

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Mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors, a class used for its immunosuppressive effects in the prevention of transplantation rejection, have emerged as key components of cancer therapy (Sankhala et al., 2009; Saunders, Metcalfe, & Nicholson, 2001). Although generally well tolerated by patients with cancer, mouth ulcers or mucositis or stomatitis are the most common dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs) of these agents (Fasolo & Sessa, 2008; Hidalgo et al., 2006; Mita, Britten, et al., 2008; Mita, Mita, et al., 2008; Raymond et al., 2004; Tabernero et al., 2008; Vignot, Faivre, Aguirre, & Raymond, 2005). Mucositis is a common side effect of cancer therapy (Sankhala et al., 2009; Saunders, Metcalfe, & Nicholson, 2001). Although generally well tolerated by patients with cancer, mouth ulcers or mucositis or stomatitis are the most common dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs) of these agents (Fasolo & Sessa, 2008; Hidalgo et al., 2006; Mita, Britten, et al., 2008; Mita, Mita, et al., 2008; Raymond et al., 2004; Tabernero et al., 2008; Vignot, Faivre, Aguirre, & Raymond, 2005). Mucositis is a common side effect of cancer therapy (Sankhala et al., 2009; Saunders, Metcalfe, & Nicholson, 2001).

At a Glance

- Stomatitis commonly occurs during treatment with mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) inhibitors; the ulcers resemble canker sores rather than chemotherapy-induced mucositis.
- Steps that may be taken to minimize mTOR inhibitor-associated stomatitis (mIAS) include good oral hygiene; avoiding spicy, acidic, hard, and hot foods and beverages; using mildly flavored toothpaste; and cleansing with baking soda rinses.
- Treatment of mIAS may include specific medications, palliative interventions, and dose modifications.

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