Treatment of verrucous carcinoma with imiquimod and CO2 laser ablation

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An 82-year-old female patient presented with a large perianal hyperkeratotic tumor extending into the anal canal. Staging did not reveal any metastatic spread. Diagnosis of verrucous carcinoma or Buschke-Löwenstein tumor, respectively, was based on typical clinical and histologic features. Moreover, human papillomavirus 6b DNA sequences could be detected by PCR. Surgical excision could not be performed due to the general health status of the patient; thus, alternative therapy methods were necessary. Treatment with imiquimod cream 5% (Aldara), a topical immune response modifier applied once a day and left for 12 h, led to significant partial tumor regression and clear demarcation of the tumor. The remaining tumor, now feasible for treatment with CO2 laser, was removed in two sessions in local anesthesia. In a third session, tumor parts in the anal canal were vaporized. This case demonstrates that the combination of imiquimod and CO2 laser ablation is an effective treatment option for verrucous carcinoma.