Feasibility of oral doxycycline as first-line therapy for conjunctival mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue lymphoma

Se Hyun Choi  
Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital  
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9916-0332

Min Kyu Yang  
Seoul National University

Tae Min Kim  
Hyuk Jin Choi (docchoi@hanmail.net)  
Seoul National University College of Medicine  
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7314-2267

Article

Keywords:

Posted Date: November 30th, 2022

DOI: https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.rs-2244889/v1

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Version of Record: A version of this preprint was published at Eye on June 23rd, 2023. See the published version at https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-023-02635-4.
Abstract

Objectives: To investigate the long-term outcomes of oral doxycycline as first-line treatment in patients with conjunctival extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma) MALT lymphoma.

Methods: In this case series, the medical records of 67 patients with conjunctival MALT lymphoma who received doxycycline as their primary treatment and were followed up for at least 5 years were retrospectively reviewed. Progression-free survival (PFS) was analyzed at 3, 5, and 10 years after the initial doxycycline treatment. A Cox proportional hazards model was used to assess the independent risk factors for progression.

Results: After the initial treatment, 25 patients (37.3%) achieved complete response, 8 patients (11.9%) achieved partial response, 30 patients (44.8%) showed stable disease, and 4 patients (6.0%) showed disease progression. The median PFS in all patients was 168 months, and the 3-, 5- and 10-year PFS rates for all patients were 70%, 65%, and 62%, respectively. No further progression was observed 6 years after the initial doxycycline treatment. Older age and TNM stage T1c were significant risk factors for the time to progression in the multivariate Cox regression analysis (p<0.05). Additional doxycycline (> 2 cycles) showed no benefit. There were no serious adverse events associated with doxycycline therapy, and most patients were successfully salvaged by the current best treatment modalities.

Conclusion: In this case series, oral doxycycline treatment showed acceptable long-term PFS with minimal complications. Especially in patients with stage T1a or T1b conjunctival MALT lymphoma, first-line doxycycline treatment could be considered under close monitoring for at least 6 years.

Introduction

Ocular adnexal lymphoma (OAL), the most common primary orbital malignancy in adults, is a localized form of systemic lymphoma affecting the conjunctiva, orbit, lacrimal gland, and eyelids [1]. OAL encompasses heterogeneous groups of malignancies, among which extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma) is the most frequent histologic subtype and accounts for 35–90% of all primary OALs [2, 3]. In the conjunctiva, MALT lymphoma is also the most common subtype and constitutes approximately 80% of conjunctival lymphomas [4, 5].

For the treatment of isolated conjunctival lymphoma, external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) is generally considered the gold standard treatment, while systemic immunotherapy with monoclonal antibodies plus/minus chemotherapeutic agents is occasionally selected in bilateral cases [5]. Although EBRT alone can achieve excellent tumor control, various long-term ocular complications, such as cataracts, dry eye disease, corneal ulceration, and retinopathy, can occur in up to 50% of patients. Systemic immunotherapy and/or chemotherapy may also cause serious systemic adverse events.
Considering that MALT lymphoma is a low-grade and indolent histological subtype with an excellent prognosis and that systemic involvement is extremely rare when it is confined to the conjunctiva, the choice of an alternative option for EBRT, immunotherapy or chemotherapy as a first-line treatment might be reasonable to avoid serious local and systemic complications. In line with this, antibiotic therapy with oral doxycycline is well tolerated and might be a good alternative option, especially in geographical regions where the rate of Chlamydia psittaci (Cp) infection is high. In fact, the study group from the same institution, at which the current study was conducted, serially reported viable efficacy of doxycycline as first-line therapy for ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma (OAML) without causing serious systemic toxicities. The overall response rate after a median of 26.4 months of follow-up was 47% and the 5-year progression-free survival (PFS) rate after a median 40.5 months of follow-up was 60.9% [6, 7]. In particular, the study group found that tumor-node-metastasis (TNM) staging is an independent predictor of PFS and suggested that patients with OAML of T1N0M0 stage are good candidates for doxycycline therapy [7].

Since the treatment was recently introduced, there have been no long-term follow-up reports to provide a rationale for the use of doxycycline therapy as a first-line treatment in patients with conjunctival MALT lymphoma.[6–8] Accordingly, through long-term follow-up surveillance of at least 5 years, we investigated the feasibility of oral doxycycline as a first-line therapy in patients with isolated conjunctival MALT lymphoma (T1N0M0 OAML).

**Materials And Methods**

**Study design and subjects**

This study is a retrospective case series of patients who visited Seoul National University Hospital (SNUH) due to conjunctival MALT lymphoma and were treated with doxycycline as a first-line therapy between January 2001 and December 2020. This retrospective study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of SNUH (IRB No. H-1908-097-1055). All the research was conducted following the tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.

Patients were included based on the following criteria: (1) typical histological features of MALT lymphoma according to the World Health Organization criteria [9, 10] as confirmed by specialized hematopathologists; (2) primary tumor confined to the conjunctiva; (3) clearly measurable lesion on the anterior segment photography at the time of doxycycline initiation; (4) doxycycline used as a first-line treatment; and (5) followed up for longer than 5 years after the initial diagnosis. To confirm that the malignancy was confined to the conjunctiva only, the patient underwent a staging work-up including ophthalmic examination by experienced ophthalmologists, complete blood count, blood chemistry, chest radiograph, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the orbit, CT of the chest and abdomen, and a bone marrow aspirate and biopsy. Each tumor was classified according to the AJCC seventh edition criteria for OAL [11].
The exclusion criteria were as follows: (1) follow-up of less than 5 years; (2) primary tumor involving structures other than the conjunctiva; and (3) insufficient medical records to assess tumor status and treatment response.

**Initial doxycycline treatment**

All patients were treated with initial single or double cycles of oral doxycycline at a dose of 100 mg twice a day for 3 weeks. Double-course therapy was assigned to patients with a residual mass or ocular discomfort who did not respond to single-course therapy, and a second cycle of doxycycline was administered after a 3-week drug-off period. The initial treatment response was evaluated 6 weeks after the initiation of doxycycline by ophthalmic examination, including anterior segment photography, orbital CT scan or orbital MRI.

**Follow-up and additional treatment**

After a visit to evaluate the initial doxycycline treatment, patients were followed up every 3 months for 2 years and every 6 months thereafter unless they were indicated for second-line therapy. During the follow-up period, ophthalmic examination, including anterior segment photography, complete blood count, blood chemistry including lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), and radiologic examination (CT or MRI), were performed at every visit. Based on ophthalmic or radiologic evaluation, treatment response was assessed using the following modified international workshop criteria [12]: complete response (CR) is the complete disappearance of all detectable evidence of disease; partial remission (PR) is a 50% or more decrease and no new disease; progressive disease (PD) is a 50% or more increase of previously involved lesions from nadir or any new lesion; stable disease (SD) is the absence of CR, PR, and PD [13].

Second-line treatment was advised for PR patients with persistent eye-related symptoms or disease progression and all SD and PD patients. After experienced oncologists provided a comprehensive explanation of the common natural course of the disease and the pros and cons of each treatment modality, second-line treatments using additional cycles of doxycycline, combination chemotherapy composed of cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisolone, EBRT, or interferon-alpha eye drops were given to the patients who agreed to receive further treatment. If the tumor showed progression or did not sufficiently regress after the second-line treatment, salvage treatments, including doxycycline, EBRT, and chemotherapy were additionally given.

**Statistical analysis**

All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS statistics software (version 26) (IBM Corp., Chicago, IL, USA). PFS was measured from the date of doxycycline initiation to the date of disease progression or the censoring of patients at the date of the last follow-up. Survival curves for PFS were derived by the Kaplan–Meier method, and comparisons between the groups were made using the log-rank test. Univariate and multivariate analyses of PFS were performed using the Cox proportional hazards regression model. Two-sided P values of < 0.05 were considered significant.
Results

Demographic and clinical characteristics

One hundred and fourteen patients were pathologically confirmed as having primary ocular adnexal lymphoma and received doxycycline as a first-line treatment at SNUH. Among them, 21 patients were excluded due to a follow-up of less than 5 years, 18 patients were excluded because of extraconjunctival involvement of the tumors, and 8 patients were excluded due to lack of sufficient ophthalmic examination records. Finally, 67 patients were enrolled in this study, and all patients were Korean.

The demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients are summarized in Table 1. The mean age at onset was 43.0 years (range, 21–71 years), and the mean follow-up duration was 109.7 months (range, 60–195 months). There was a female predominance at a ratio of 2.35:1. All patients had an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status 0–1, and only one patient had B symptoms at diagnosis. Detection of mass was the most common chief complaint at diagnosis (n = 34, 50.7%), followed by conjunctival injection or irritation (n = 26, 38.8%), epiphora (n = 4, 6.0%), and pain (n = 1, 1.5%). Thirty-two patients (47.8%) had bilateral involvement. According to the TNM staging, 3 patients (4.5%) were T1a, 54 (80.6%) were T1b, and 10 (14.9%) were T1c. The mean Ki-67 proliferation index was 5.8%.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age at diagnosis (years)</td>
<td>Mean ± SD 43.0 ± 13.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Range 21–71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duration of follow-up (months)</td>
<td>Mean ± SD 109.7 ± 34.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Range 60–195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Male, n (%) 20 (29.9%)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female, n (%) 47 (70.1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B symptoms at diagnosis</td>
<td>Yes, n (%) 1 (1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No, n (%) 66 (98.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOG performance status score at diagnosis</td>
<td>0–1, n (%) 67 (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2–4, n (%) 0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Chief complaint at diagnosis</td>
<td>Mass, n (%) 34 (50.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conjunctival injection or irritation, n (%) 26 (38.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epiphora, n (%) 4 (6.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pain, n (%) 1 (1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No symptom, n (%) 1 (1.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laterality</td>
<td>Unilateral, n (%) 35 (52.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bilateral, n (%) 32 (47.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNM stage</td>
<td>T1aN0M0, n (%) 3 (4.5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1bN0M0, n (%)</td>
<td>54 (80.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1cN0M0, n (%)</td>
<td>10 (14.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki-67 proliferation index (%)</td>
<td>Mean ± SD 5.8 ± 5.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Outcomes of initial doxycycline treatment

Figure 1 shows the overall treatment sequence of all the patients, and representative cases are presented in Fig. 2. For initial treatment, 49 patients (73.1%) received double cycles of doxycycline. After single or double cycles of initial doxycycline treatment, 25 patients (37.3%) achieved CR, 8 patients (11.9%) achieved PR, 30 patients (44.8%) showed SD, and the disease progressed in 4 patients (6.0%).

### Follow-up and additional treatment

Tumors recurred in 3 of 25 patients who achieved CR after the initial doxycycline treatment. These three patients underwent an additional cycle of doxycycline therapy. One patient achieved CR again after two cycles of additional doxycycline, and two other patients showed SD after one cycle of additional doxycycline. One of these patients finally achieved CR after EBRT.

After the initial doxycycline treatment, tumors progressed in 4 of 8 PR patients. Among these 4 patients, one patient refused further treatment, one patient achieved CR after one cycle of EBRT, and the remaining 2 patients received additional doxycycline treatment as a second-line therapy. The disease became stable in one patient after two additional cycles of doxycycline, and the other patient showed progression after one cycle of doxycycline and therefore received two cycles of EBRT, which induced CR.

In the SD group, 17 patients refused additional treatment, but 10 showed progression and eventually accepted secondary treatment. Five patients received additional doxycycline, 4 patients received EBRT, 1 patient received chemotherapy, and 2 of these 10 patients progressed despite additional treatment. Of the 13 patients in the SD group who agreed to the second-line treatment after the initial doxycycline treatment, 6 received additional doxycycline, 1 received EBRT, 4 received chemotherapy, and 2 received interferon-alpha eye drops. Only one of these patients eventually progressed despite additional treatment.

Four patients who showed PD after the initial doxycycline treatment received second-line treatment. Three patients achieved CR after one cycle of EBRT. The remaining patient achieved CR after surgical excision and cryotherapy but showed recurrence and underwent one cycle of EBRT to achieve CR again (Fig. 1 and Figure S1).

Sixteen patients received second-line treatment using additional doxycycline. Including salvage treatments, 15 patients (22.4%) received 1 cycle, 39 (58.2%) received 2 cycles, 8 (11.9%) received 3 cycles,
4 (6.0%) received 4 cycles, and 1 patient received 9 cycles of doxycycline. There were no serious adverse events related to the administration of doxycycline. Overall, 43 (64.2%) patients received doxycycline treatment alone, while eighteen (26.9%) patients received at least one cycle of EBRT, and 6 (9.0%) patients received at least one cycle of chemotherapy. Only one patient received doxycycline, chemotherapy and EBRT.

**Survival analysis and predictive factors**

All patients were alive until the last follow-up. The median PFS in all the patients was 168 months (range, 1-179 months). The 3-, 5- and 10-year PFS rates for all the patients were 70%, 65% and 62%, respectively. There was no additional progression after 71 months. Patients who required more than 2 cycles of doxycycline treatment had an increased risk of progression compared with patients who received 1 or 2 cycles of doxycycline (p = 0.003). Patients with TNM stage T1c showed a significantly increased risk of progression compared with patients with stage T1a and T1b (p = 0.021) (Fig. 3A).

Regarding clinical predictors of PFS, age (hazard ratio [HR], 0.967; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.937–0.998; p = 0.033) and T1c stage (HR, 2.681; 95% CI, 1.115–6.449; p = 0.022) were significantly associated with time to progression in the univariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis. Male sex, bilateral involvement of the tumor, high Ki-67 proliferation index and positive anti-HCV antibody also tended to show associations with progression-free survival. In the multivariate analysis, age (HR, 0.968; 95% CI, 0.938-1.000; p = 0.048) and T1c stage (HR, 2.533; 95% CI, 1.052–6.098; p = 0.038) were significantly associated with time to progression (Table 2).
Table 2
Univariate and Multivariate Cox Proportional Hazards Regression Analysis of the Progression Free Survival

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Univariate analysis</th>
<th>Multivariate analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HR</td>
<td>95% CI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.967</td>
<td>0.937–0.998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex (male vs female)</td>
<td>0.546</td>
<td>0.245–1.218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laterality (unilateral vs bilateral)</td>
<td>1.795</td>
<td>0.806–3.998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T stage (T1a/b vs T1c)</td>
<td>2.681</td>
<td>1.115–6.449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ki-67 (&lt; 5% vs ≥ 5%)</td>
<td>1.871</td>
<td>0.674–5.197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum LDH level (&lt; 225U/L vs ≥ 225U/L)</td>
<td>1.209</td>
<td>0.411–3.554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HBV (HBsAg negative vs positive)</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.000–211.601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCV (Anti-HCV negative vs positive)</td>
<td>3.374</td>
<td>0.745–15.292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocytosis (ALC &lt; 1900 vs ≥ 1900)</td>
<td>1.308</td>
<td>0.534–3.202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophilia (ANC &lt; 3299 vs ≥ 3299)</td>
<td>0.911</td>
<td>0.379–2.189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLR (&lt; 1.6426 vs ≥ 1.6426)</td>
<td>1.361</td>
<td>0.564–3.285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HR: hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, LDH: lactate dehydrogenase, ALC: absolute lymphocyte count, ANC: absolute neutrophil count, NLR: neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio

Discussion
In this study, based on the long-term follow-up, we investigated the feasibility of doxycycline therapy as a first-line treatment for patients with MALT lymphoma confined to the conjunctiva. Among 67 patients who received oral doxycycline as an initial treatment, no mortality was observed during the mean follow-up duration of 109.7 months. CR and PR were 49.2% after the initial one or two cycles of doxycycline treatment. Approximately two-thirds (64.2%) of patients received doxycycline treatment alone, and most of the remaining patients were successfully salvaged by other treatments. The median PFS was 168 months (range, 1-179 months), and the 3-, 5- and 10-year PFS rates were 70%, 65% and 62%, respectively. T1c stage was significantly associated with an increased risk of progression. There were no serious complications associated with the oral administration of doxycycline.

According to the results of a previous study [7], we only enrolled patients with stage T1N0M0 OAML (conjunctival MALT lymphoma) in this study. The mean age at diagnosis was 43.0 years, 47 of 67 (70.1%) patients were female, and 32 of 67 (47.8%) patients had bilateral disease. These findings correspond well to the characteristics (young age onset, female predilection, and higher rate of bilateral cases) of conjunctival MALT lymphoma compared with other OAMLs in Korean patients described elsewhere [14–17].

Although the local control rate and 10-year overall survival rates of OAML with EBRT exceed 95% and 84%, respectively, chronic complications, including cataracts and dry eye, are common and even serious vision-threatening complications, such as retinopathy or corneal perforation, can occur [18]. In line with this, oral doxycycline targeting Cp, similar to the association of gastrointestinal MALT lymphoma with H. pylori infection [19, 20], would be a safer and better tolerated alternative therapeutic option for indolent conjunctival lymphoma [6–8, 21]. Chronic antigenic stimulation has been speculated to be a pivotal process associated with the pathogenesis of conjunctival MALT lymphoma, and microorganisms, including Cp, have been identified as causative factors [4, 5, 18]. Cp infection is known to be involved in the pathogenesis of OAML by inducing lymphoid proliferation and causing chromosomal aberration [22–24]. Primary treatment with oral doxycycline in patients with ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma has shown an acceptable 5-year PFS rate of 58% on average without compromising salvage treatment in two of the largest previous studies [7, 8]. Moreover, PFS in patients with T1N0M0 stage disease was significantly better than in patients with more advanced stages [7], and Cp eradication was associated with an improved response rate and 5-year PFS [8]. Meanwhile, the prevalence of Cp infection in patients with OAML varies greatly by geographic area, with high rates in Italy (87%), Korea (79%), and Austria (54%) but virtually absent in Japan, China, and some regions of the United States [24–27]. Therefore, it is rational that resolving Cp infection using doxycycline is actively considered a first-line therapy for MALT lymphoma confined to the conjunctiva in countries with a high prevalence of Cp infection, such as Korea and Italy, or that Cp DNA was confirmed in the lymphomatous tissue or conjunctival swab.

In this study, the clinical outcome of doxycycline as a first-line treatment showed complete tumor regression in 25 patients and partial tumor regression in 8 patients, with an overall initial response rate of 49.2%, which was very similar to that of a previous report from the same institution [7]. The median PFS in all the patients was 168 months, and the 5- and 10-year PFS rates were 65% and 62%, respectively. The
5-year PFS was slightly higher than that of previous studies [7, 8], which is thought to be because we included only patients with T1N0M0 stage disease. There were no serious adverse events associated with doxycycline therapy, and most patients were successfully salvaged by the current best treatment modalities, including EBRT and chemotherapy, after recurrence or progression from CR and PR or doxycycline failure. Interestingly, some patients progressed after 5 years, but no further progression was observed after 6 years regardless of treatment. Our results solidify the suggestion of doxycycline as a first-line therapy for patients with conjunctival MALT lymphoma without compromising salvage treatment after progression or doxycycline failure.

Regarding clinical risk factors for PFS, the multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis revealed that T1c stage was an independent predictor for poorer PFS compared with T1a/b stage. This is a notable finding from this study, which implies that a first-line treatment modality would be considered separately according to T1a/b or T1c stage despite the same T1N0M0 tumors. As in a previous report, sex, laterality, serum LDH level, lymphocytosis and neutrophilia were not significantly associated with PFS [7]. Our results provided another new insight that 3 or more administrations of doxycycline had no additional gain for patients who required more than 2 cycles of doxycycline treatment. Therefore, it is recommended to use doxycycline for a maximum of two times only as an initial treatment and to consider other treatment for cases of recurrence after CR, a regrowing mass after PR, or doxycycline-resistant SD or PD cases.

Based on current evidence and the results of the present study, we cautiously suggest treatment for conjunctival MALT lymphoma, as shown in Fig. 3B. Briefly, first-line doxycycline therapy can be actively considered for T1aN0M0 or T1bN0M0 stage disease, especially when the patients are from countries with a high prevalence of \( \text{Cp} \) infection or \( \text{Cp} \) DNA is positive in the excised specimen or conjunctival swab. The patients should be closely followed up according to the program schedule unless recurrence after CR or progression after PR is evident.

This study has some limitations. First, \( \text{Cp} \) DNA was not evaluated from all the excised tissues or conjunctival swabs. Although it has been documented that the \( \text{Cp} \) infection rate in Korea is as high as 60–79% and \( \text{Cp} \) positivity was not associated with doxycycline response in a previous report [6, 25], Ferrari et al. reported that successful \( \text{Cp} \) eradication was associated with outcomes and that there was no clinical benefit of doxycycline in patients with \( \text{Cp} \)-negative OAML [8]. As Ferrari et al. also reported that \( \text{Cp} \) DNA detection can be easily performed with a noninvasive method such as a conjunctival swab [8], \( \text{Cp} \) DNA detection should be considered in conjunctival MALT lymphoma in future research. Second, various second and salvage treatments were implemented according to the preferences of individual patients and physicians. In future clinical protocols, there should be standardized second and salvage treatment after initial doxycycline treatment.

In conclusion, when used together with appropriate salvage treatment, up to 2 cycles of oral doxycycline treatment can be used as a first-line treatment for T1a and T1b stage conjunctival MALT lymphoma, especially in patients from countries with high \( \text{Cp} \) prevalence or with confirmed \( \text{Cp} \) DNA. Although
conjunctival MALT lymphoma has a benign nature, it may continue to progress in some patients, so at least 6 years of follow-up is needed.

Declarations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Contributors Concept and design: TMK and HJC. Acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data: SHC, MKY, MK, and HJC. Drafting of the manuscript: SHC and HJC. Critical revision of the manuscript for important intellectual content: SHC, MKY, MK, and HJC. Statistical analysis: SHC, Administrative, technical, or material support: MKY and TMK, Supervision: TMK and HJC. Guarantor: HJC.

Conflict of Interests None declared.

Funding This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

References


Figures
Figure 1

Overall Treatment Sequence According to the Response of First-line Doxycycline Therapy

CR, complete response; PR, partial remission; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease; Doxy, doxycycline; Chemo, chemotherapy; RT, radiotherapy; Tx, treatment.

a Interferon alpha eyedrops were used in 2 patients

b Patient who received cryotherapy during entropion repair surgery
Figure 2

Representative Cases of Conjunctival Extranodal Marginal Zone B-cell Lymphoma of Mucosa-associated Lymphoid Tissue

(A and B) A 42-year-old female with bilateral fornical salmon-patch tumors (A, right eye, T1b stage). Complete remission was achieved in both eyes by initial doxycycline treatment, and thereafter, no
recurrence was observed during the follow-up period of 96 months (B). **(C and D)** A 35-year-old female with bilateral tumors involving the forniceal and tarsal conjunctiva (C, right eye, T1b stage). The tumors were partially regressed by initial doxycycline treatment and maintained without definite change for 124 months (D). **(E-J)** A 36-year-old female showing extensive tumors in the left eye (E and F, T1c stage). The disease progressed despite initial doxycycline therapy (G and H) but finally reached complete remission after external beam radiation therapy (I and J).

**Figure 3**

**Survival Analyses and Suggested Treatment Algorithm Using Doxycycline as First-line Therapy**

PFS, progression-free survival; Cum Survival, cumulative survival; MALT, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue.

**Supplementary Files**
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- onlinesupplementalfigure1.jpg