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Osimertinib: A Novel Dermatologic Adverse Event Profile in Patients with Lung Cancer

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Key Words. Dermatologic adverse events • Non-small cell lung cancer • Epidermal growth factor receptor • Tyrosine kinase inhibitor • T790M

ABSTRACT _

Dermatologic adverse events (dAEs) are common with the use of epidermal growth factor receptor-tyrosine kinase inhibitor (EGFR-TKI) therapy. First- and second-generation agents (erlotinib, gefitinib, and afatinib) are frequently associated with acneiform rash, pruritus, xerosis, and paronychia; the incidence and characterization of these dAEs have been well described. However, there is evidence that the dAE profile is different with third-generation EGFR-TKIs. Herein, we describe the dAEs associated with third-generation EGFR-TKIs and our clinical experience with osimertinib, a third-generation EGFR-TKI approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of metastatic, *EGFR* T790M mutation-positive non-small cell lung cancer in patients whose disease has progressed on or after EGFR-TKI therapy. Case summaries of patients from two of our institutions who received osimertinib and were referred to a dermatologist for dAEs are also presented. Overall, the evidence suggests that osimertinib is associated with less severe and less frequent dAEs than first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs and that therefore a different approach is warranted. Finally, we outline dAE management approaches for osimertinib in the context of those typically employed with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs. *The Oncologist* 2018;23:891–899

Implications for Practice: Appropriate prevention and management of dermatologic adverse events (dAEs) associated with the use of epidermal growth factor receptor-tyrosine kinase inhibitors (EGFR-TKIs) may help patients to continue therapy and lessen any negative impact on their quality of life. EGFR-TKIs are frequently associated with acneiform rash, pruritus, xerosis, and paronychia; however, dAEs associated with third-generation EGFR-TKIs are lower in frequency and severity. Before therapy, health care providers should discuss the potential osimertinib-associated dAEs and encourage patients to report their dAEs. Patients should also be educated on prophylactic measures to minimize the severity of dAEs and the importance of adherence to the treatment regimen.

INTRODUCTION _

The treatment paradigm for patients with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutation-positive, metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that progresses on an initial tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) is evolving with investigational third-generation EGFR-TKIs and the approval of osimertinib, an oral, central nervous system-active, third-generation EGFR-TKI; this agent is an effective treatment for patients with *EGFR* T790M mutation-positive advanced NSCLC [1–5].

First- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs have safety and tolerability profiles that are well characterized and associated with mechanism-based dermatologic toxicities such as acneiform rash, pruritus, xerosis, and paronychia. The dermatologic adverse event (dAE) profile of third-generation EGFR-TKIs appears to be milder than that found for first- and secondgeneration agents [4]. Osimertinib was specifically developed to have greater potency against EGFR-TKI-sensitizing and T790M resistance mutations than wild-type EGFR, potentially reducing wild-type EGFR-related toxicities that adversely affect normal tissues such as the skin, hair, nails, and gut [1, 6].

Although they are rarely severe or life-threatening, dermatologic toxicities may result in physical and emotional morbidity for patients [7]. It is therefore imperative that these toxicities be appropriately managed [8, 9]. This review aims to provide oncologists with an understanding of dAEs associated with the third-generation EGFR-TKI osimertinib. We summarize dAEs seen with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs, and our

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clinical experience in treating dAEs observed with osimertinib (including case summaries from two of our institutions representing the U.S. and Asia), and describe management strategies for dAEs associated with EGFR-TKI treatment.

DERMATOLOGIC TOXICITIES AMONG FIRST- AND SECOND-GENERATION EGFR-TKIS

The first- and second- generation EGFR-TKIs (gefitinib, erlotinib, and afatinib) are approved for first-line therapy for patients with metastatic NSCLC with EGFR-sensitizing mutations (deletions in exon 19 and point mutations in exon 21) [10–12]. Both first- and second-generation agents inhibit EGFR harboring sensitizing mutations and are associated with a clinical response rate of ~70% (range, 62%–83%) [13–19].

Among the first-line EGFR therapies, there are differences in safety and tolerability profiles, which may reflect their different affinities for EGFR [20–23]. They are also associated with particular dAEs as a result of their mechanism of action and molecular targets in other tissues [24]. Specifically, wild-type EGFR is expressed in the basal cell layer of the epidermis, the outer root sheath of hair follicles, the epithelium of sweat and sebaceous glands, and in periungual tissue [6, 24, 25]. Inhibition of EGFR may result in abnormal proliferation, migration, and differentiation, leading to disruption of skin integrity with the recruitment of inflammatory cells [6, 26].

dAEs have been reported in clinical trials of EGFR-TKIs and are summarized in Table 1. Several reviews have focused on the management of dAEs associated with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKI treatment, and the time of onset of dAEs has been well described (Fig. 1) [8, 9, 27]. Therefore, we will only briefly review the dAE data presented in the pivotal or registrational trials of first- and secondgeneration agents.

Rash is the most common dAE associated with EGFR-TKIs [10–12]. Rash from first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs typically presents as an acneiform eruption with a combination of inflamed papules and pustules, which are often associated with a serous and/or hemorrhagic crust [6, 8, 26, 28]. Rash typically presents within 2 weeks of starting EGFR-TKI therapy [24, 26, 29]. Of patients who received erlotinib across two studies, 73%-80% reported some form of rash, including acneiform dermatitis, erythematous rash, follicular rash, papular rash, or other types of rash, with a relatively lower incidence of grade \geq 3 rash (2%–13%) [16, 17] according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI-CTCAE). In three studies, patients who received gefitinib showed a lower incidence of rash compared with erlotinib (37%–66%) and a lower incidence of grade \geq 3 rash (0%–3%) [13, 30, 31]. Most patients (81%-89%) receiving the secondgeneration EGFR-TKI, afatinib, experienced rash, and 15%-16% of these were grade >3 events [18, 19].

As noted, most dAEs associated with EGFR-TKIs were mild (grade 1 or 2), but when severe or intolerable, these toxicities can lead to dose modification or discontinuation [9, 32]; for instance, in patients receiving afatinib, the incidence of discontinuation related to paronychia was 0.9%, and with erlotinib, 13% of patients in clinical trials had a dose modification because of rash [12, 18].

In addition to the data from clinical trials of approved agents in Table 1, dAEs associated with first- and second-

generation agents have also been investigated by metaanalyses. A meta-analysis of patients receiving erlotinib (n = 2,717) and gefitinib (n = 3,002) found an overall incidence of pruritus of 21% for each agent and the incidence for highgrade pruritus to be 2.3% and 1%, respectively [33]. A metaanalysis of risk and incidence of nail toxicities associated with erlotinib and other EGFR inhibitors found that, among patients (n = 488) receiving erlotinib for the treatment of NSCLC, endometrial cancer, or hepatocellular carcinoma, 16.3% (95% confidence interval [Cl], 12.4–21.1) had nail toxicity of any grade, and 1.8% (95% Cl, 0.8–3.8) had high-grade nail toxicity [34].

Dacomitinib is a second-generation EGFR-TKI in development for which incidence data on dAEs have been reported [35]. In the phase III ARCHER 1050 trial (NCT01774721), in which patients received either first-line dacomitinib or gefitinib, although dacomitinib was associated with superior clinical efficacy, the agent was associated with a greater incidence of dAEs such as paronychia, dermatitis acneiform, dry skin, and pruritus [35]. The phase II ARCHER 1042 study showed that prophylactic doxycycline in dacomitinib-treated patients could significantly reduce certain dAEs [36].

DERMATOLOGIC TOXICITIES AMONG THIRD-GENERATION EGFR-TKIS

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network recommends that patients whose disease has progressed during a first- or second-generation EGFR-TKI treatment undergo molecular testing to determine the mechanism of drug resistance [37]. In approximately 60% of cases, a second mutation in exon 20 of *EGFR* (T790M) leads to tumors that are resistant to first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIS [4, 38–41]. Although there are a number of third-generation agents in development (olmutinib [BI1482694/HM61713], EGF816, PF-06747775), the only thirdgeneration EGFR-TKI currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of patients with metastatic *EGFR* T790M mutation-positive NSCLC whose disease has progressed on or after EGFR-TKI therapy is osimertinib [42].

Osimertinib is effective in patients with a T790M mutation in EGFR. Of 198 patients with T790M mutation-positive NSCLC who received osimertinib in the AURA phase II extension component study, the objective response rate was 62% (95% CI, 54%–68%), the median duration of response (DoR) was 15.2 months (95% CI, 11.3 months to not calculable), and the median progression-free survival (PFS) was 12.3 months (95% Cl, 9.5-13.8 months) [4]. In the randomized phase III AURA3 trial comparing osimertinib with standard chemotherapy, 279 patients with T790M mutation-positive NSCLC received osimertinib, and the median DoR was 9.7 months (95% CI, 8.3-11.6 months). The median PFS via blinded independent central review was 11.0 months versus 4.2 months for those receiving osimertinib and chemotherapy, respectively (hazard ratio [HR] 0.28; 95% CI, 0.20-0.38; p < .001 [43].

The most common dAEs associated with osimertinib therapy reported in AURA3 included rash (34%), dry skin (23%), and paronychia (22%); grade \geq 3 rash was rare (1%), and no grade \geq 3 dry skin was reported. Pruritus occurred in 13% of patients with no grade \geq 3 events [43]. Phase II clinical trials document similar rates; the incidence of rash across three



Table 1. Incidence of dermatologic adverse events associated with EGFR-TKIs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of metastatic *EGFR* mutation-positive non-small cell lung cancer (based on data from pivotal clinical trials)

		Rash, %		Pruritus, %		Xerosis/dry skin, %		Paronychia, %	
TKI generic name	n	All grades	Grade \geq 3	All grades	Grade \geq 3	All grades	Grade \geq 3	All grades	Grade \geq 3
First-generation (EGF	R exon 1	L9 deletions o	or exon 21 [L8	358R] substitu	ution mutatio	ns)			
Erlotinib [17] 1L (EURTAC)	84	80	13	16 ^a	0 ^a	21 ^a	1 ^a	14 ^a	0 ^a
Erlotinib [16] 1L (OPTIMAL)	83	73	2	NR	NR	NR	NR	4	0
Gefitinib [13] ^b 1L (IPASS)	607	66 ^{c,d}	3 ^{c,d}	19 ^d	0.7 ^d	24	0	14	0.3
Gefitinib [31] ^b 2L/3L (ISEL)	1126	37 ^e	2 ^e	8 ^f	0.4 ^f	11	0	3	0.1
Gefitinib [30] (IFUM)	107	45	0	NR	NR	11	0	NR	NR
Second-generation (GFR exc	on 19 deletior	ns or exon 21	[L858R] subs	titution muta	itions)			
Afatinib [18] 1L (Lux-Lung 3)	229	89 ^{c,d}	16	19	0.4	29	0.4	57	11
Afatinib [19] (Lux-Lung 6)	239	81 ^{c,d}	15 ^{c,d}	11	0.4	NR	NR	33	0
Third-generation (EG	FR-TKI se	ensitizing and	EGFR T790N	1 mutations)					
Osimertinib [4] (AURA extension)	201	40 ^d	0.5 ^d	13	0	31	0	31 ^d	0 ^d
Osimertinib [44] (AURA 2)	210	41 ^d	1 ^d	13	0	30 ^d	0 ^d	26 ^d	0 ^d
Osimertinib [43] 2L+ (AURA3)	279	34 ^g	1 ^g	13	0	23 ^g	0 ^g	22 ^g	0 ^g
Osimertinib [45] 1L (FLAURA)	279	58 ^{c,g}	1 ^{c,g}	17	<1	36 ^g	$< 1^{g}$	35 ^g	$< 1^{g}$

^aBased on data from prescribing information.

^bBoth *EGFR* mutation-positive and *EGFR* mutation-negative patients are included.

^cRash or acne.

^dGrouped term (sum of high-level and preferred terms, according to the definitions in the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities [MedDRA]). ^eIncludes MedDRA high-level terms of rashes, eruptions, exanthems, and acne, plus the preferred terms rash pustular, dermatitis, and dermatitis exfoliative.

^fIncludes MedDRA preferred terms pruritus, rash pruritic, and pruritus generalized.

^gThis category represents a grouped term for the event. If a patient had multiple preferred-term-level events within a specific grouped-term adverse event, then the maximum grade (according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events) across those events was counted. Abbreviations: 1L, first line; 2L, second line; 3L, third line; dAEs, dermatologic adverse events; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; *n*, number of patients; NR, not reported; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

studies of osimertinib ranged from 34% to 41%, and instances of grade >3 rash were reported in no more than 1% of patients [4, 43, 44]. The incidence of pruritus was 13%, and nail toxicity (including paronychia) was 22%-31% in those treated with osimertinib [4, 43, 44]. Taken as a whole, these numbers are lower than those reported with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs. The only head-to-head study to date is FLAURA, which directly compared osimertinib with standard of care (first-generation TKIs gefitinib or erlotinib) in 556 treatment-naïve patients with EGFR mutation-positive locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC [45]. The median DoR in FLAURA was 17.2 months (95% Cl, 13.8–22.0 months) with osimertinib versus 8.5 months (95% Cl, 7.3-9.8 months) with standard of care. The median investigator-assessed PFS (the primary endpoint) was 18.9 months versus 10.2 months for those receiving osimertinib and standard of care, respectively (HR for disease progression or death, 0.46; 95% CI, 0.37-0.57; p < .001). Rates of dAEs in FLAURA were generally similar in both treatment arms, with the exception of rashes and acne, which occurred more frequently in the standard-of-care arm (78%; grade \geq 3, 7%) than in the osimertinib arm (58%; grade \geq 3, 1%) [45].

Osimertinib has two active metabolites, AZ7550 and AZ5104, which circulate in plasma at about 10% of the parent concentration and which have similar inhibitory profiles to osimertinib [42]. The potency of AZ7550 is similar to that of osimertinib, whereas AZ5104 has greater potency than osimertinib against exon 19 deletion, T790M mutants, and wild-type EGFR [42], which may partially explain its dAEs.

OSIMERTINIB CASE-SERIES SUMMARIES

The cases of patients receiving osimertinib at two institutions were summarized to better evaluate trends in dAEs. Medical records at the National Taiwan University Hospital (NTUH) and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) were reviewed for patients with NSCLC who were referred to a dermatologist to manage their dAEs associated with osimertinib use. For each case, the following data were extracted: age, sex,

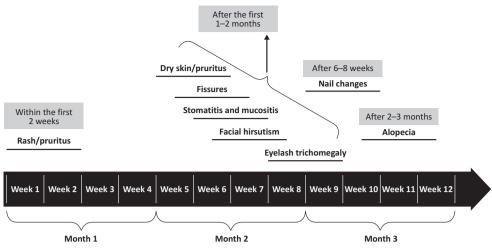


Figure 1. Timeline of the onset of dermatologic adverse events (dAEs) associated with endothelial growth factor receptor-tyrosine kinase inhibitors (EGFR-TKIs). The figure provides a general overview of the occurrence of dAEs associated with first-, second-, and third-generation EGFR-TKIs.

 Table 2. Patient characteristics for the retrospective cases of patients treated with osimertinib

Characteristic	MSKCC cases (n = 18), n (%)	NTUH cases (n = 34), n (%)
Median age, years (range)	63 (41–75)	60.5 (35–87)
Female	16 (89)	26 (76)
NSCLC diagnosis	18 (100)	34 (100)
Osimertinib 1L	0	3 (9)
Osimertinib 2L	0	16 (47)
Osimertinib \geq 3L	18 (100)	15 (44)

Abbreviations: 1L, first line; 2L, second line; 3L, third line; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; NTUH, National Taiwan University Hospital.

disease diagnosis, osimertinib dose and line of therapy, characterization of dAE, intervention for dAE, and dAE outcome. Skin toxicities were graded according to NCI-CTCAE version 4.03. All data presented are descriptive. The retrospective chart reviews were approved by the Research and Ethics Committee of NTUH (201309042RINB and 201511047RINC) and the MSKCC institutional review board (IRB #16-458).

Patient characteristics from both centers are summarized in Table 2 (see supplemental online Tables 1 and 2 for individual patient data). The NTUH patients (n = 34) had a median age of 60.5 years, and 76% were women. Of these, 47% had one prior line of therapy, 44% had two prior lines of therapy, and 9% received osimertinib in the first line. Among the 34 patients, the following skin toxicities were noted: transient acneiform eruptions in 10 patients (29%), with 1 patient having grade >3acneiform eruption; pruritus in 10 patients (29%), with 1 patient having grade \geq 3 pruritus; xerosis or xerotic eczema in 13 patients (38%); and paronychia in 11 patients (32%), of whom 5 patients had grade \geq 3 paronychia (Table 3). The MSKCC patients (n = 18) had a median age of 63 years, and 89% were women; all patients had received at least one prior line of therapy. Skin toxicities in this group were all grade ≤ 2 and included six patients (33%) with acneiform rash, pruritus in five patients (28%), xerosis in 15 patients (83%), and paronychia in two patients (11%). In summary, common skin
 Table 3. Osimertinib-related dAEs in patients evaluated by a dermatologist

		C cases), n (%)	NTUH cases (n = 34), n (%)		
dAEs	All grades	$\textbf{Grade} \geq \textbf{3}$	All grades	Grade \geq 3	
Xerosis/dry skin	15 (83)	0	13 (38)	0	
Acneiform rash	6 (33)	0	10 (29)	1 (3)	
Pruritus	5 (28)	0	10 (29)	1 (3)	
Paronychia	2 (11)	0	11 (32)	5 (15)	

Abbreviations: dAEs, dermatologic adverse events; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; NTUH, National Taiwan University Hospital.

toxicities in the 52 patients included acneiform rash (31%), pruritus (29%), xerosis (54%), and paronychia (25%). The incidence of grade \geq 3 events was low.

CHARACTERIZATION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management of dAEs associated with osimertinib therapy is similar to that of other generations of EGFR-TKIs but varies with the grade of the event (Table 4). There is typically only a brief period of time between ending the initial EGFR-TKI therapy and beginning osimertinib, so patients will often need continued management of dAEs based on the residual effects of the original first- and second-generation EFGR-TKIs. In addition, it is conceivable that the continued presence of rash during second-line treatment with osimertinib may be falsely attributed to the second-line agent.

Acneiform Rash

The acneiform rash associated with osimertinib differs in both frequency and intensity from that seen with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs (Fig. 2A). The first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs are associated with an acneiform rash comprising inflamed papules and pustules, and often serous and/or hemorrhagic crust [6, 8, 26, 28] in 37%–89% of patients (grade \geq 3 in 2%–16%) [27]. It typically occurs in areas with a high density of sebaceous glands (i.e., face, scalp, shoulders, upper back, and upper chest) [8, 27]. The rash associated with



dAEs	Mild (grade 1)	Moderate (grade 2)	Severe (grade 3)	
Rash	Topical corticosteroid (triamcinolone 0.1% or hydrocortisone 2.5% to the face and neck, and clobetasol 0.05% to the chest and back) qd-bid, ± topical clindamycin 1% gel or lotion or other topical antibiotic (e.g., dapsone 5%) Osimertinib should be continued	Topical corticosteroid (triamcinolone 0.1% or hydrocortisone 2.5% to the face and neck and clobetasol 0.05% to the chest and back) bid, and a 4-week course of an oral tetra- cycline antibiotic (e.g., doxycy- cline 100 mg bid or minocycline 100 mg bid) Osimertinib should be continued For intolerable grade 2 rash, osimertinib can be temporarily discontinued (upon improvement, reintroduction of osimertinib is at physician's discretion)	Topical corticosteroid (clobetasol 0.05% cream or similar high-potency topical steroid) bid, and a 4-week course of an oral tetracycline antibi- otic (e.g., doxycycline 100 mg bid) or osimertinib should be interrupted Upon improvement to grade 2 or less, osimertinib can be reintroduced at 50% of the original dose May escalate dose by 25% of original dose if the rash does not worsen after resumption Perform bacterial cultures if pustules are present, and treat with oral antibiotics For papules and pustules present on the eyelids, consult an ophthalmologist who is able to monitor intraocular	
			pressures during therapy	
Rash on scalp	•	n (clobetasol 0.05% or similar high-p		
		ng, can use aluminum acetate (e.g., D soak scale for 5–10 minutes, then app		
Pruritus	Osimertinib should be continued un Apply topical antipruritics (i.e., ster- qid)	Interrupt osimertinib treatment; resuming standard dose or reduced dose or at increased intervals if patient recovers to grade 2		
	Administer oral antihistamines (i.e., (gabapentin, pregabalin)	Administer oral antihistamines, GABA agonists (gabapentin or pregabalin), aprepitant, or doxepin		
Xerosis/dry skin	Moisturizing creams or lotions with irritants, containing urea (10%–40% (13%–40%), and salicylic acid (3%) For scaly areas of xerosis, exfoliants	Medium- to high-potency topical ste- roid (triamcinolone acetonide 0.1%, desonide 0.05%, fluticasone propio- nate 0.05%, alclometasone 0.05%)		
	lactate 12%) or lactic acid 12% (e.g. Laboratories, LLC, Morristown, NJ])	And		
	40%)	Osimertinib should be interrupted		
	Continue osimertinib	Upon improvement to grade 2 or le osimertinib can be reintroduced at 50% of the original dose		
		May escalate dose by 25% of original dose if the pruritus does not worsen		
			If no improvement occurs, osimertinib should be permanently discontinued	
Paronychia	Continue osimertinib at current dose Topical ultrapotent steroids, anticentics, antibiatios	May continue osimertinib at current or reduced dose Administer oral doxycycline, minocycline, or cofadroxil	Interrupt osimertinib treatment; resume standard dose or reduced dose or at increased intervals if patient recovers to grade 2	
	antiseptics, antibiotics (tetracycline 1% ointment, iodine gel or solution), or topical anti-inflammatory agents should be applied as necessary	minocycline, or cefadroxil Apply topical antibiotics and/or antiseptics Apply silver nitrate 20% or iodine gel or solution weekly, or administer cryotherapy or chemical/electric cauterization if granulation is present	Apply silver nitrate 20% weekly or administer cryotherapy or chemical/ electric cauterization if granulation is present Dermatological referral for partial nail avulsion	

Table 4. Management-strategy recommendations for osimertinib-induced dAEs

Abbreviations: bid, twice daily; dAEs, dermatologic adverse events; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; qd, every day; qid, four times daily; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

Based on published recommendations: Lacouture et al. 2011 [8]; Califano et al. 2015 [9]; Melosky et al. 2015 [27]; Melosky, Hirsh 2014 [29]; Wu et al. 2011 [24], Chanaprapaph et al. 2014 [25]; Chu et al. 2017 [47].

osimertinib is less severe and less commonly associated with pruritus (see PRURITUS). Grade 3–4 rash has been reported in no more than 1% of osimertinib-treated patients [42]. One study reported rates of acneiform rash in osimertinib-treated patients of 33% (7/21), but grade \geq 3 events were not observed [46].

Although there are a number of prophylactic recommendations to reduce the risk of acneiform rash when using first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs, including topical corticosteroids and topical and oral antibiotics [27], the low frequency of acneiform rash with osimertinib does not warrant the same

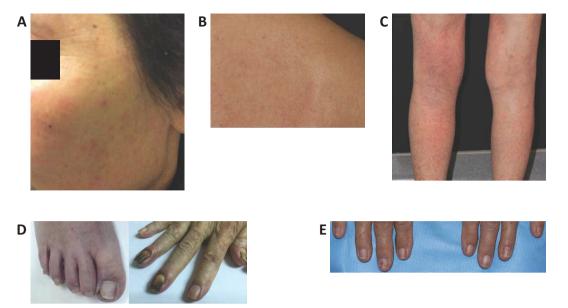


Figure 2. Dermatologic adverse events in patients treated with osimertinib. (A): Face acneiform rash. (B): Pruritus on back. (C): Xerotic dermatitis on legs. (D): Paronychia of the great toe and dry skin (left) and paronychia of the fingers (right). (E): Brittle nails of the fingers.

approach; however, advising patients to contact the oncology team if toxicities appear is recommended. Management strategies for acneiform rash after onset are similar to those for rash associated with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs. For grade 1 acneiform rash, topical corticosteroids (e.g., hydrocortisone 2.5% to the face and neck, clobetasol 0.05% to the chest and back) and antibiotics (e.g., clindamycin 1% solution or gel, dapsone 5% gel, fusidic acid 2% cream, tetracycline 1% ointment) twice daily are recommended. For grade 2 acneiform rash, topical corticosteroids (e.g., triamcinolone 0.1% or hydrocortisone 2.5% to the face and neck, clobetasol 0.05% to the chest and back) and an oral antibiotic (i.e., doxycycline 100 mg twice daily or minocycline 100 mg twice daily) are effective. For grade 3 rash, drug interruption along with topical corticosteroids (e.g., clobetasol 0.05% twice daily or similar high-potency topical steroid twice daily) and an oral antibiotic (i.e., doxycycline 100 mg twice daily or minocycline 100 mg twice daily) are recommended [8, 47]. Discontinuation of osimertinib related to rash was rare in clinical trials; only 1 patient of 210 (0.5%) who received osimertinib in AURA 2 discontinued (because of maculopapular rash) [44]. A dermatologist should be consulted for any grade 3 or intolerable grade 2 rash or any rash not responding to basic management strategies, including dose reduction or interruption identified above; dermatologic assessment is also warranted if a secondary infection or intolerable reaction is suspected.

Pruritus

Pruritus associated with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs is often reported in conjunction with papulopustular (acneiform) rash and dry skin. It may present within 2 weeks of starting EGFR-TKI therapy or after 1–2 months of EGFR-TKI therapy [24]. Pruritus associated with osimertinib is distinct, as it often presents in the absence of rash (Fig. 2B) and is generally diffuse and of moderate or severe intensity.

In our case summaries of 52 patients receiving osimertinib, pruritus was found in 15 (29%); among them, 8 (53%) were grade 1, 6 (40%) were grade 2, and 1 (7%) was grade 3. The

case of grade 3 pruritus persisted for 9 months and was coincident with grade 1 xerosis, but the patient remained on therapy. In four patients treated at MSKCC who completed a health-related quality-of-life questionnaire on the severity of pruritus (ltchyQoL) [48], the mean (\pm standard deviation) score was 39.6 \pm 4.5; the theoretical score range of the questionnaire is 22–110, representing a range from low impact to high impact on quality of life [49]. This suggests that the pruritus associated with osimertinib therapy had a mild to moderate impact on the patients' functioning or emotional well-being.

Preventive measures for pruritus include the optimization of dry skin care recommendations, including frequent use of moisturizers, and fragrance-free detergents and soaps. For grades 1 and 2 pruritus, the EGFR-TKI can be continued without dose modification [47]. Treatments include topical antipruritics (e.g., corticosteroids, pramoxine, salicylic acid) and oral antihistamines or GABA agonists. EGFR-TKI therapy can be interrupted for grade 3 pruritus. For patients with insomnia, sedative antihistamines may be used. A consultation with a dermatologist is recommended for grade 3 pruritus, intolerable grade 2 pruritus, or pruritus unresponsive to any of the above management strategies.

Xerosis

Xerosis associated with osimertinib is generally mild to moderate (grades 1 or 2; Fig. 2C). For first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs, dry skin manifests after 1–2 months of therapy and often accompanies or succeeds the papulopustular rash [8]. Xerosis may manifest as pruritus, fine scaling, and fissures [24]. It may also progress into xerotic dermatitis [8] and lead to bacterial or viral superinfection with *Staphylococcus aureus*, herpes simplex, or other bacterial and viral infections [24].

In our case summaries of 52 patients receiving osimertinib, xerosis was the most frequent dAE, with 54% of patients reporting some grade of this condition. This dAE was also mostly mild, with 19/28 (68%) cases grade 1 in severity; the remaining cases were grade 2; there were no grade 3 cases. Xerosis was notably less common in NTUH patients, which may



be due to the high humidity in the subtropical region. Our incidence of xerosis was higher than that described in AURA 3 (54% vs. 23%), which may be due to more diligent adverse event reporting; however, our cases were all low grade with no reports of grade \geq 3 xerosis.

Prevention measures for xerosis are the same for all TKIs; patients should avoid extreme temperatures such as severe cold, dry weather, or significant heat, as well as direct sun exposure, which can cause sunburn [8, 47]. For mild to moderate (grades 1 or 2) xerosis, fragrance-free moisturizing creams can be used, as well as exfoliants for scaly areas. For more severe (grade 3) xerosis, topical steroids are recommended [8]. If xerosis does not respond to these management strategies or is associated with erosions and ulcerations, consultation with a dermatologist may be warranted, but we recommend that such patients continue EGFR-TKI therapy unless symptoms are very severe.

Paronychia and Nail Changes

There were 11 patients with paronychia within the case summaries at NTUH (Fig. 2D), and fewer (n = 2) reported at MSKCC. In many cases, paronychia persisted from the first- and second-generation EGFR-TKI therapy through the start of osimertinib treatment; however, in some cases, paronychia persisted for as long as 12 months, which would suggest that these cases could have been attributed to or exacerbated by osimertinib. This dAE also had the greatest number of grade \geq 3 events, with five cases cited, whereas with each instance of pruritus and acneiform rash, only one grade \geq 3 event was reported. In our case series, the majority of dAEs were low grade; however, the incidence of grade >3 paronychia was higher than that reported in the AURA 3 study. All cases of grade \geq 3 paronychia occurred in NTUH patients; a humid subtropical climate, frequent walking or jogging outdoors, and decreased attention to nail care might have contributed to the higher severity of this dAE in NTUH patients. Paronychia that persisted over the course of treatment with osimertinib required ongoing management.

To assist in the prevention of paronychia, patients should wear comfortable shoes and avoid aggressive manicuring and pedicuring [8]. Wearing gloves while cleaning the household or dishes is recommended to minimize periungual trauma. Oral antiobiotics and topical antimicrobials (such as povidone iodine) have been shown to reduce the risk of paronychia by approximately half, as demonstrated in a study of patients with metastatic colorectal cancer being treated with panitumumab, an EGFR-targeting monoclonal antibody associated with skin toxicity [50].

Clinicians are advised to assess patients every 2–4 weeks, starting from the second month of EGFR-TKI treatment, and intervene when the first symptoms of paronychia appear. After the first 4 months, patients can be assessed every 4–6 weeks, and physicians should remain vigilant for signs of secondary infection. For both grade 1 and 2 paronychia, EGFR-TKI therapy can be continued at the same dose, but it should be noted that grade 1 symptoms can escalate to grade 2 quickly [47]. Topical ultrapotent steroids and/or antiseptics, antibiotics, or antiinflammatory agents are recommended for grade 1 paronychia. Patients may also find warm water soaks beneficial. For grade 2 symptoms, silver nitrate may be additionally helpful. EGFR-TKI therapy should be interrupted for grade 3 toxicity and can be resumed once symptoms return to grade \leq 2. In addition to silver nitrate, cryotherapy or chemical or electric cauterization should be employed if granulation has developed. Nail avulsion should also be considered.

Other nail-related adverse events have also been shown to occur with EGFR-TKI therapy. Two patients in our case series had brittle nails (Fig. 2E). Biotin has been shown to be effective for this condition in the general population, and a biotin supplement can be considered [8]. Regular moisturization of the nails with a topical emollient, avoidance of water damage, and treatment with topical poly-ureaurethane 16% nail solution (Nuvail, Innocutis, Charleston, SC) or topical hydrosoluble nail lacquer (Genadur, Medimetriks Pharmaceuticals, Fairfield, NJ) can also be helpful for brittle nails.

OTHER THIRD-GENERATION EGFR-TKIS IN DEVELOPMENT

Additional third-generation EGFR-TKIs are the subject of ongoing clinical trials. Although the dAE profiles of thirdgeneration agents are less well characterized, with reporting limited to incidence data, there are some studies that more fully describe dAEs [51-53]. Olmutinib is approved in South Korea, based on an open-label, multicenter, phase I-II trial (NCT01588145) [54]. Preliminary data from this study showed that olmutinib-treated patients experienced rash (41%; grade \geq 3, 5%), pruritus (42%; grade \geq 3, 1%), dry skin (28%; grade \geq 3, 1%), and skin exfoliation (26%; grade \geq 3, 1%), with one patient discontinuing therapy because of skin exfoliation [51]. However, in September 2016, Korean regulatory authorities issued a safety warning as a result of two cases of toxic epidermal necrolysis, of which one proved fatal, and a case of Stevens–Johnson syndrome. Development of olmutinib outside of Asia has been halted [55]. The pivotal global ELUXA 1 phase II trial (NCT02485652) for olmutinib for second-line or later therapy is still ongoing, and another study is planned to evaluate the efficacy and safety of olmutinib in the first-line setting (NCT02444819).

Interim results from a multicenter dose-escalation study (NCT02108964) of 152 patients treated with EGF816 showed that dAEs suspected to be drug-related included rash in 54% of patients (16% grade \geq 3), pruritus in 34% (<1% grade \geq 3), dry skin in 25%, and paronychia in 11%; one patient experienced grade 3–4 purpura [52]. The incidence of treatment-related rash increased with increased dose. The rash was described as distinct from that associated with EGFR-TKIs that target wild-type EGFR, in that the EGF816-associated rash was mostly found on the arms and legs and was maculopapular in nature, compared with the typical acneiform or pustular rash localized to the face, chest, and back in patients receiving first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs [52].

An ongoing phase I trial to test PF-06747775 in patients with T790M mutant-positive NSCLC has completed the dose-escalation portion of the study (NCT02349633). The analysis found no dose-limiting toxicities; however, grade 3 skin toxicities occurred in 31% of patients (all of whom received >150 mg of the study drug) [53]. Development of two other third-generation agents, rociletinib and ASP8273, has been terminated, and clinical trials have been closed [56, 57].

CONCLUSION

Patient education, early recognition, and proactive management of EGFR-TKI-related dAEs are critically important for improving patients' quality of life and treatment adherence, and for avoiding inappropriate dose reductions or discontinuations [9, 27, 58]. With the exception of the prophylactic antibiotics and steroids that may be employed for first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs, management of dAEs is similar for first-, second-, and third-generation EGFR-TKIs and is based on dAE grade. dAEs associated with osimertinib, including rash, xerosis, paronychia, and pruritus, are generally mild (grade 1), and grade \geq 3 dAEs are rare. Based on our clinical experience and clinical trial data, the frequency and severity of dAEs associated with osimertinib are lower than those seen with first- and second-generation EGFR-TKIs.

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