

SUPPORT DOCUMENT V: Interferon Treatment of HSV Epithelial Keratitis

Interferon Monotherapy: Epithelial Keratitis

Interferon at sufficient concentration has antiviral activity against HSV infected epithelial cells. Interferon, used either alone or in combination with debridement,¹⁻³ appears as effective as a nucleoside antiviral agent. Combined interferon-antiviral therapy does not differ from antiviral monotherapy at two weeks of treatment, but the combination of interferon and an antiviral agent may enable faster healing.

1. Cantell K. Development of antiviral therapy with alpha interferons: promises, false hopes and accomplishments. *Ann Med* 1995;27:23-8.
2. Sundmacher R. Interferon in ocular viral diseases. *Interferon* 1982;4:177-200.
3. Sundmacher R, Cantell K, Mattes A. Combination therapy for dendritic keratitis. High-titer alpha-interferon and trifluridine. *Arch Ophthalmol* 1984;102:554-5.