

Examination of recurrences of precordial keloid after skin grafting

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We report the cases of five patients with chest keloids that were resected, reconstructed with skin grafts, and then irradiated with 20Gy in 2015–2020. Two were followed for less than 7 months and did not exhibit recurrence. The remaining three cases demonstrated recurrence in 8–10 months. The recurrence occurred not only at the skin graft edge but also within the graft. All recurrences could be controlled within 3.5 years by intralesional injection of triamcinolone. All three skin grafts showed poor color tone during the course of treatment but improved about one month after the first injection. The recurrences in/around the skin grafts in this series probably reflect the horizontal skin tension on the chest that is due to frequent/continuous upper limb and respiratory movements: this tension, which is particularly powerful on the chest, is known to provoke and promote chronic local inflammation in wounds/scars, thereby inducing abnormal scar growth.