

754

POSTER

5-FU/FA IV BOLUS THERAPY VS WEEKLY HIGH-DOSE 5-FU/FA 24-HOUR INFUSION IN METASTATIC COLORECTAL CARCINOMA: PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF AN ONGOING RANDOMIZED PHASE III STUDY

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Since January 1993 we are conducting a randomized phase III study in pts with metastatic colorectal carcinoma comparing 5-FU (425 mg/m²)/FA (20 mg/m²) days 1–5 as iv bolus therapy given every 4 weeks (arm A) with weekly high-dose 5-FU (2600 mg/m²) 24-hour infusion (arm B).

So far, 37 pts in each arm are evaluable for response and toxicity. Pts in both arms are comparable with regard to sex, age, performance status, localization of metastases and number of metastatic sites. Preliminary response rates are: PR 22% (A) and 27% (B), SD 32% (A) and 51% (B), PD 46% (A) and 22% (B). Probability of median survival is 12 (A) and 15 (B) months, respectively. Moderate mucositis, diarrhea and nausea are the most frequent toxicities in both arms. Hematotoxicity is absent in arm B, but about one third of the pts develop reversible hand foot syndrome.

Conclusion: Although no statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms are seen so far, we believe that these preliminary results justify the continuation of the study.

755

POSTER

RADIOIMMUNOTHERAPY OF METASTATIC COLON CANCER: PHASE I STUDY WITH ANTI-CEA F(AB)₂ FRAGMENTS LABELED WITH ESCALATING DOSE OF IODINE 131

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Experimental studies demonstrated efficiency of F(ab)₂ antibody fragments to CEA labeled with Iodine 131 (131-I-F(ab)₂). A phase I study was designed to determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of 131-I-F(ab)₂. Ten patients with liver metastases (LM) from colorectal cancer were treated with 131-I-F(ab)₂ ranging from 87 mCi to 300 mCi. No adverse event was observed during and just after infusion. The only toxicity was hematologic and no aplasia was observed up to 300 mCi infused. At this dose, the five patients presented grade 3 or 4 hematologic toxicity, the nadir for neutrophils and thrombocytes ranged from 25 to 35 days after infusion and bone marrow rescue was infused. In conclusion, this study demonstrated that MTD of 131-I-F(ab)₂ is 300 mCi with bone marrow rescue.

756

POSTER

RECTAL BALLOON FOR CT OF RECTAL CANCER CLINICAL APPLICATIONS AND METHODS

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CT plays an important role for the pre-surgical evaluation of rectal cancer, both for staging versus RT and for planning the operation. Pelvic scans provide the surgeon with a complete, readable map of the anatomy. The aim of the study is to optimise the protocol for CT of rectal cancer.

The luminal distension of visceral wall has been obtained in a clean, well tolerable way by using a balloon catheter filled with water. The catheter is positioned in the rectum at the level of the neoplastic lesion. It consists of a 20 cm long latex balloon 6 cm in diameter, assembled over 12F double-way polyethylene catheter: one to inflate the balloon, the second for a guidewire, both for giving stiffness to the system, to advance it and to make the catheter radiopaque to evaluate the correct positioning by CT Fluoroscopy or Scout View. The balloon is gently injected with water, monitoring the degree of distension on minimal discomfort complained by the patient. Optimal distension is usually obtained by injecting 100–200 ml of water. The patient decubitus is determined by the position of the lesion leaving it sloping.

The scans are performed by a General Electric Pro Speed. After the exam without contrast, 80 ml bolus of Iopamidol 370 is injected in 60'.

CT with the rectal balloon allows a precise evaluation of a series of parameters important for the pre-surgical staging: the distance between

anal sphincters and tumor, extension of the tumor and the invasion of perirectal fat and surrounding structures, lymphnodes metastases.

The execution of this exam is simple and clean. Rectal distension is well tolerated by patients, without complaints as when entire colon is involved. Avoiding the injection of contrast material in the colon, the CT doesn't interfere with other exams that can be executed on the same day.

The quality of images allows a high diagnostic accuracy.

757

PUBLICATION

ANALYSIS OF PROGNOSTIC FACTORS AFTER CURATIVE RESECTION OF RECTAL CARCINOMA

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The prognostic factors in 100 cases of rectal adenocarcinoma curatively treated at Ankara Oncology Hospital between 1986 and 1993 were retrospectively reviewed using multivariate analysis. Age, sex, symptoms of obstruction and perforation, duration of symptoms, hemoglobin and serum albumin levels, anatomic localization, diameter and macroscopic appearance of the tumor, the type of curative surgical procedures, radical pelvic lymph node dissection, perioperative whole blood transfusion, postoperative complications, adjuvant therapy, multiple colorectal tumors, lymphatic, venous and perineural invasion, grade, lymph node metastases and stage of the disease were used as prognostic parameters. According to Kaplan Meier method five-year survival rate was 62.2%. Cox regression analysis revealed that symptoms of obstruction and perforation, annular tumors, localization, grade, perineural invasion, perirectal lymph node metastases and perioperative transfusion were dominant prognostic factors in patients with rectal carcinoma.

758

PUBLICATION

THE VALUE OF CITOSTATIC CHEMOTHERAPY IN COLORECTAL CANCER

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Between 1980–1992, we studied 104 patients with advanced colorectal cancer (ACRC): 64 cases in Duke's C and 40 in Duke's D stage. There were 2 groups: (A) 42 inoperable cases reconverted for surgery after 3–4 neoadjuvant chemotherapy schedules (CTS); (B) 62 patients with radical or cytoreductive surgery followed by 6–10 adjuvant CTS every 21 days. CTS were: FU-Fol-C (flourouracil 750 mg. + folinic acid 200 mg./day) × 4days + Cisplatinum 80 mg./m² and FU-Fol-L. FU-Fol + Lomustine 60–70 mg./m². Mild mucositis occurred in 2% of cases (nausea was prevented by Zofran). **Results:** (A) 90% overall response rate with surgical reconversion and 2 years free disease survival (fds.); (B) overall 61% partial remission lasting 2–12 months, 15% no change, 23% failures. FU-Fol schedules in ACRC realise: the rise of fds., the possibility of safe less extensive surgery, the improvement of the quality of life.

759

PUBLICATION

A PHASE II STUDY OF CPT 11 (IRINOTECAN) IN REFRACTORY TO 5 FU COLORECTAL CANCER WITH CURATIVE TREATMENT OF DELAYED DIARRHEA BY ACETORPHAN

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Due to its secretory type, CPT 11-induced diarrhea might be controlled by loperamide (L) and Acetorphan (A) combination, two-drugs with complementary antisecretory mechanisms of action: inhibition of Ca⁺⁺/Calmodulins complex and inhibition of enkephalinase, respectively. Preliminary results as an ongoing pilot study aimed to determine the precise etiology of diarrhea, support this hypothesis.

In order to optimize the curative intent anti-diarrheal treatment, we performed an open label phase II randomized study comparing high dose Acetorphan versus combined Acerorphan + Loperamide: (A) 200 mg ×