i.v. His urine pH was kept above 7.0 with i.v bicarbonate. No CNS toxicity was observed. The 2nd patient was treated with PEI for testicular cancer, containing only Ig IFO for 4 days because of preexisting renal failure. On day 1, he developed paranoia, agitation and disorientation (CTC grade 3). IFO was continued together with MB and bicarbonate as described. All CNS symptoms resolved within 48 h. We conclude, that iv administration of MB might be effective against IFO-related CNS toxicity. A phase II trial is currently being conducted.

1249 PUBLICATION

OPTIMAL COMBINATION THERAPY IN THE PREVENTION OF ACUTE AND DELAYED EMESIS INDUCED BY HIGHLY EMETOGENIC CHEMOTHERAPY (CT)

D. Spaëth[1], T. Conroy[1], J.P. Bleuse[2], The Granisetron Study Group[2]
[1]*Centre Alexis Vautrin 54511 Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy*
[2]*Smithkline Beecham, 92731 Nanterre, France*

In an attempt to improve the control of both acute and delayed nausea and emesis for patients (pts) receiving combination CT, we designed a combination of antiemetic drugs as follows: day (d) 1: granisetron 3 mg IV + methylprednisolone (MPL) 240 mg IV + alprazolam (A) 0.5 mg tid per os (po), then po d2: MPL 48 mg + A 0.5 mg tid + Métoclopramide (M) 20 mg tid, d3: MPL 32 mg + M 20 mg tid, d4: MPL 16 mg + M 20 mg tid, d5: M 20 mg tid. Pts with or without previous CT were eligible if CT included cisplatin (P) >75 mg/m^2 or carboplatin >300 mg/m^2 or cyclophosphamide >1 g/m^2 on d1 and no highly emetogenic drugs on the following days. 318 pts were included: 59% male; mean age 57 y; 59% non naive pts (60% had prior emesis experience: EE). Main primary tumor sites were lung 49%, ovary 19%, head and neck 11%. 81% pts received P at a mean dose of 95 mg/m^2 (75–180). Mild adverse effects occurred in 31%: 12% headache, 9% drowsiness, 6% insomnia, 7% agitation, 5% hiccough. Outcome are summarized below:

Day	D_1	D_2	D_3	D_4	D_5	D_6	D_7
No Nausea % cumulative	82	70	59	53	50	48	47
No vomiting % cumulative	85	78	71	66	65	60	60

For non naïve pts with RC (no EE, no or mild nausea) and not RC at previous course, RC was recorded at day 1 respectively 91% and 56%. *Conclusion:* This combination appears feasible and effective with promising results in overall control of the emesis but delayed emesis remains a significant problem despite specifically designed antiemetic protocol.

1250 PUBLICATION

AN OPEN RANDOMIZED STUDY OF GRANISETRON (G) VERSUS GRANISETRON PLUS DEXAMETHASONE (G + D) IN THE TREATMENT OF CYTOSTATIC-INDUCED EMESIS

S. Thongprasert[1], A. Chiersilpa[2], K. Jaisathaporn[2], B. Chewasakulyong[1], B. Atikachai[1], P. Sailamai[2], N. Promwas[1]
[1]*Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai*
[2]*National Cancer Institute, Bangkok, Thailand*

The effectiveness and tolerability of the 5-HT$_3$ antagonist, granisetron (G) has been compared in an open randomized study with G + dexamethasone (G + D) in patients (pts) receiving high dose cisplatin (>100 mg/m^2). G was given as a single dose of 3 mg i.v. over 5 minutes or combined with D (D 8 mg i.v. and 4 mg orally bid on day 2–4). One hundred pts: 22 males, 28 females received G; 29 males, 21 females received G + D. Median age of pts were 60 yrs and 62 yrs in G and G + D arm. Tumor types are lung, cervical, head and neck, ovarian and unknown primary cancer. During the first 24 hrs, of 50 pts treated with G 66% had complete (no nausea, no vomiting (v)) + major response (1 episode of vomiting). Of 50 pts treated with G + D 80% had complete + major response. Response during day 2 to 7 for G vs G + D group were 28 vs 50, 28 vs 60, 58 vs 74, 64 vs 82, 82 vs 90 and 82 vs 100% respectively. Adverse effects consisted of headache, lightheadedness, diarrhoea.

This study in an Asian population treated with high dose cisplatin confirm and extends the observation that steroids enhance the antiemetic activity of 5-HT$_3$ antagonists.

1251 PUBLICATION

CEFTRIAXONE (CRO) PLUS GENTAMYCIN (GEN) AND G-CSF, VERSUS CIPROFLOXACIN (CPR) PLUS GEN AND G-CSF, IN FEBRILE PATIENTS (PTS) WITH CHEMOTHERAPY INDUCED NEUTROPENIA

I. Varthalitis, A. Athanassiou, A. Mylonakis, M. Tsielepis, D. Pectasidis, G. Afaras, M. Dimitriadis
1st Department of Medical Oncology, Metaxa Cancer Hospital, Piraeus, Greece

In a prospective randomized study, 63 episodes of fever (>38°C) and granulocytopenia (absolute neutrophil count, ANC < 1000/mm^3), occurring in 63 cancer pts, were empirically treated with CRO 2 g/d IV, once daily [arm A = 31 pts], or CPR 400 mg IV, every 12 hours [arm B = 32 pts]. All pts received GEN 5 μg/kg/d IV, in a single dose, during the first 3 d, and G-CSF 5 μg/kg/d SC beginning on the day of neutropenia and until ANC recovery. In the A and B arms respectively, median age (range) was 61 (25–83) and 62 (27–83) years, 16/31 (52%) and 18/32 (56%) were men, 25/31 (80%) and 22/32 (69%) had ANC < 500/mm^3. Bacteremia, clinically documented infection and possible infection were documented in 4, 5 and 13 pts [arm A] and in 3, 6 and 14 pts [arm B]. Neutropenia lasted 4 days on average (range 1 to 10 days) in both arms. At 72 h, response without treatment modification occurred in 25/31 (80%) pts [arm A] and in 25/32 (78%) [arm B]. Days on the study drug (CRO or CPR) were 5 (2–10) for both arms. For bacteremic infections, responses were 2/4 for arm A and 2/3 for B. No adverse events or superinfections occurred. 2 pts in arm A died, because of treatment failure. The survival rate was 100% for arm B. In conclusion, CRO and CPR (both with GEN and G-CSF), were equally effective and safe as initial therapy in these febrile neutropenic pts.

1252 PUBLICATION

ONDANSETRON (ODS) + METOCLOPRAMIDE (MTP) + DEXAMETHASONE (DXM) VS ONDANSETRON + DEXAMETHASONE DURING CDDP BASED CHEMOTHERAPY (CT)

S. Xynogalos, M. Vaslamatzis, C.G. Alexopoulos
Department of Medical Oncology, Evangelismos Hospital, Athens, Greece

During high dose (>50 mg/m^2) CDDP based CT, 51 pts randomized to either regimen A (ODS 40 mg IV d 1–2 & 8 mg PO q 8h d 3–5, MTP 20 mg IV q 4h d 1–2 & 20 mg PO q 4h d 3–5 plus DXM 32 mg IV d 1 or regimen B (as above exempting MTP). Pts randomized to A were given B during the 2nd course & vice versa, followed by alternating A&B thereafter. Vomiting & nausea was evaluated for each 24 h & the first 5d. *Results.* 147 courses were given 70 of A & 77 of B. Vomiting: With A, CR (no vomiting) was achieved in 62 (88%), 39 (56%), 48 (69%), 60 (86%) & 64 (91%) of 70 courses each 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 d, respectively vs 55 (71%, $P < 0.025$), 19 (25%, $P < 0.001$), 22 (29%, $P < 0.001$), 46 (60%, $P < 0.001$) & 61 (79% – p < .05) of 77 courses with B. For all 5 d, CR was achieved in 35/70 (50%) courses with A vs 14/77 (18%) with B ($P < 0.001$) Nausea: With A, nausea was observed in 14 (20%), 24 (34%), 20 (29%), 14 (20%) & 4 (6%) of 70 courses each 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 d, respectively vs 26 (34%, P = NS), 51 (66%, $P < 0.001$), 46 (60%, $P < 0.001$), 32 (42%, $P < 0.001$) & 15 (19%, $P < 0.025$) of 77 courses with B. For all 5 d, nausea was observed in 32/70 (46%) courses with A vs 58/77 (75%) with B ($P < 0.001$). The intrapatient comparison in 38 pts who received so far both A&B, demonstrated significantly better control of vomiting & nausea with A. Delayed emesis was also less with A. Toxicity was comparable in A&B regimens.

1253 PUBLICATION

EFFICACY OF MEGESTROL ACETATE ON ANOREXIA IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED NON HORMONE-RELATED TUMORS: A DOUBLE-BLIND PLACEBO CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL

E. Zecca[1], C. Martini[1], P. Venturino[2], M. Tedeschi[2], V. Ventafridda[1], F. De Conno[1]
[1]*Divisione Terapia del dolore, Istituto Nazionale per la Cura dei Tumori, Milano, Italy*
[2]*Boehringer Mannheim Italia, Research Center, Monza, Italy*

Megestrol acetate (MA) was reported to induce weight gain and increase of appetite in cancer patients.

Methods: Out-patients of the "Divisione Terapia del Dolore" of the "Istituto Nazionale per la Cura dei Tumori" (Milano) with advanced non hormone-responsive tumors and loss or absence of appetite, who didn't assume any corticosteroid were randomized for a Phase III trial, that