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CHEMOTHERAPY IN ADVANCED OVARIAN CANCER

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Out of 230 pts with ovarian cancer, radical surgery was done in 81 (37%) pts and in the rest 139 (63%) of pts cytoreductive or explorative laparatomy was performed only.
In the last group of pts (139) CHT was introduced according to PC regimen (DDP 80 mg/m^2 and CTX 800 mg/m^2 day 1, every 21 days. Six cycles of this CHT were delivered to 95% of pts. CR was achieved in 43 (30%) pts, PR in 50 (35%) and NR was observed in 39 (28%) pts respectively.
Second look laparatomy was performed in 61 pts.
From the 23 clinical CR pts, pathological CR was confirmed in only 11 (48%) pts, in the remaining 12 microscopic disease was detected. Radical surgery was done in 16 pts and debulking in 12 pts among the 38 pts in clinical PR.
Nine pts had explorative laparatomy only, although CT and USG findings suggested the possibility of radical operation.

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GM-CSF AND INTERFERON-γ MODULATE CYTOTOXICITY AND CYTOKINE PRODUCTION OF MALIGNANT EFFUSION - DERIVED MACROPHAGES.

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The role of tumor - associated macrophages (TAM) as potential effector cells for eradicating malignant cells is not yet entirely clarified. In the present study TAM were isolated from malignant effusions by gradient separation and phenotypically and functionally characterised by the following parameters: surface epitopes (moAb 27E10, 25F9), respiratory burst activity, cytotoxicity and cytokine production (TNF-α, TGF-ß, IL-6) measured in culture supernatants by bioassay, ELISA / RIA. Additionally mRNAs of these cytokines was detected in TAM by in situ hybridisation and RT-PCR. Incubation of TAM with rh-GM-CSF and rh-IFN-γ resulted in an augmentation of cytotoxicity. Furthermore, cell-bound as well as released TNF- a increased significantly following incubation with GM-CSF. In contrast, GM-CSF, as well as IFN-γ reduced the production of TGF-ß by TAM, as verified by ELISA assay as well as by in situ hybridisation and RT-PCR. Our studies show that TAM obtained from malignant effusions of cancer patients can be stimulated by GM-CSF and IFN-γ for cytotoxicity and cytokine production, TGF-ß release was reduced. Whether this observation is of therapeutical relevance has to be determined by further studies.

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A MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY DEVELOPED AGAINST CANDIDA ALBICANS ANTIGENS CROSS-REACTS WITH HUMAN OVARIAN CARCINOMAS

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It has been described recently that antibodies against Candida albicans react with human melanoma cells. With this premise,we have tested a panel of monoclonal antibodies developed against C. albicans antigenic determinants at our laboratory. One of them, designated as PA10F, showed promising results on immunohistochemistry and Western blotting. It was subsequently used to study a series of 37 ovarian carcinomas (13 borderline stage I tumors and 24 advanced, stage III and IV tumors). We used the streptavidin-biotin-peroxidase method, the mouse ascites containing the MoAb being diluted at 1:100. High levels of expression (more than 20% tumor cells) were found among 83.3% of advanced and only 15.4% of borderline tumors, this difference being highly significant ($p = 0.000018$). These findings point towards the existance of a highly conserved protein possibly related with tumor proliferation. Its gene is being cloned.