

Therefore, EMI can restore the functional activity of cells of immune system suppressed by cisplatin. This finding may be of potential clinical importance. The observations about DDP interaction with PT point to new possible mechanisms of its cytotoxic effects.

75

PUBLICATION

The effect of adjuvant tamoxifen therapy in postmenopausal women on thyroid function tests

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Purpose: Tamoxifen has been shown to alter serum concentration of many hormones and their binding globulins. In a prospective study we sought to establish these effects.

Methods: We evaluated 45 postmenopausal women who had proven stage I-III carcinoma of breast receiving adjuvant tamoxifen therapy (20 mg/day). Serum tri-iodothyronine (T₃), thyroxine (T₄) and thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) concentrations were measured at baseline before tamoxifen treatment, at 3 months and 6 months.

Results: There were increases in the mean values of TSH, T₃ and T₄ from baseline to 3 and 6 months. The elevation of T₄ at 3 months compared to its baseline values was significant ($p = 0.02$). Changes of thyroid function tests in women >60 years old were less than in women <60 years old.

Conclusion: Tamoxifen therapy in postmenopausal women results in increased TSH, T₃ and T₄ concentrations after 3 months. This elevation is less significant after 6 months.

76

PUBLICATION

Premedication one hour before the treatment with taxanes

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Allergic reactions are the most common and serious side effect of treatment with taxanes. The premedication with histamine H₁, H₂ antagonists and dexamethasone is established and suggested to start 13 hours before taxane administration. The aim of the present study was to show that one hour premedication is safe.

Material: Two hundred and one patients were reviewed. 169 were treated with Paclitaxel and 32 with Docetaxel. 92 had ovarian cancer, 51 breast, 32 head and neck, 19 lung cancer and 7 sarcomas.

Treatment: One thousand and one hundred ninety eight courses were administered. In 300 courses the premedication with dexamethasone and difenidramine, started 13 hours before the administration of Paclitaxel (or Docetaxel). In 898 courses the premedication was given one hour before Taxanes.

Results Toxicity: No differences in allergic reactions were seen between the two different timing of premedication. Mild allergic reactions of the type of erythema several hours after treatment were seen in few patients. 2 patients had also hypotension without consequences. These reactions were equally distributed in both ways of premedication.

Conclusion: Premedication with anti-allergic drugs one hour before the administration of taxanes has no consequences and can be considered safe.

77

PUBLICATION

Magnetotherapy for treatment of radiodermatitis

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The breast irradiation after conservative surgery shows a 5% of early and late skin complications, causing a worsening of cosmetic results. The aim of this study is to test the ability of Magnetotherapy in the treatment of these complications.

Methods and Patients: from June 95 to June 96, we enrolled 40 patients, treated with conservative surgery and radiotherapy for breast cancer and affected by radiodermatitis grade III. We randomised the patients in two arms of 20 pts each: the experimental arm underwent to 20 minutes daily application of magnetotherapy (intensity: 60 Gauss, frequency: 12 Hz) up to the complete recovery; the control arm was treated with standard medical therapy

Results: all patients were evaluable for toxicity and response. In the experimental arm, every patient showed a complete recovery of radiodermatitis in 12-24 days (mean length 18 days); in the control group, only 17 out of 20 patients had a complete response and in a longer time (30-50 days, mean 42 days).

Conclusions: we believe that Magnetotherapy is a very interesting, innovative and efficient treatment for radiodermatitis and with better cosmetic results. Moreover, avoiding the delay of radiotherapy for acute skin toxicity, it could allow better therapeutic results, too.

78

PUBLICATION

Cardioprotective efficacy of amifostine (WR-2721) in adriamycin-treated rats

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Purpose: The data concerning efficacy of amifostine (WR-2721) in prevention of adriamycin (ADR)-induced cardiotoxicity are scarce. This study was undertaken to evaluate the efficacy of single dose of WR-2721 in prevention of acute ADR-induced cardiotoxicity in male Wistar rats.

Methods: WR-2721 (300 mg/kg ip) was given 30 min before ADR (6 mg/kg iv). The cardiotoxicity of ADR was recorded at 48 hrs after its administration using a model of aconitine-induced ventricular extrasystoles (VES), data on CK, AST, LDH, α -HBDH serum activities and light microscopic examination (haematoxylineosin staining).

Results: VES-inducing dose of aconitine was significantly reduced in ADR-treated rats, while pretreatment by WR-2721 partly reversed arrhythmogenic dose of aconitine to control and prevented the increase of heart rate and appearance of other rhythm disturbances, except VES, during the aconitine infusion. WR-2721 also prevented ADR-induced increase of serum CK, AST, LDH i α -HBDH activity. Our light microscopic examination of the heart has not revealed any changes in ADR-treated rats, opposite to some previous reports concerning this ADR dose. Therefore, protective effects of WR-2721 could not be estimated by this method.

Conclusions: Our results have shown that radio- and chemoprotector WR-2721 has provided successful cardioprotective effects in ADR-treated rats.

79

PUBLICATION

Prophylactic and therapeutic management of acute radiation related morbidity - Results of a German multicenter questionnaire

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Purpose: The management of acute side effects in radiation therapy of the skin and different mucosal sites is often based on individual experiences.

Methods: A questionnaire was sent to all radiotherapeutic departments in Germany. It was to evaluate the prophylactic and therapeutic management of acute side effects according to EORTC/ROG scales of the skin and the mucosal sites of mouth, esophagus, bowel, rectum and vagina.

Results: From 150 questionnaires submitted in July 1995, eighty nine (59.3 per cent) answers have been received. The recommendations differed very much, especially the oral mucositis was treated in many different ways and combinations. There seems to be a symptom related preference of the chosen therapy, which is indeed caused by individual experiences more than by recommendations from literature.

Conclusions: Systematic prospectively planned clinical investigations are necessary in order to achieve a further reduction in the radiation related acute morbidity. For this purpose, a multicenter collaborative working group has been founded.