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POSTER

Interim report of a phase I study of docetaxel (Taxotere®) in combination with vinorelbine in chemotherapy naïve patients with metastatic or inoperable non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

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Because of the potential synergism between docetaxel (D) and vinorelbine (V) a phase I study was initiated in order to determine the dose limiting toxicity (DLT), the maximum tolerated dose (MTD), the optimal dose and scheduling: (V) i.v. d1 and d8, (D) i.v. d8, q3 weeks. Eligible patients (pts) had histologically proven NSCLC, at least one measurable lesion, no previous chemotherapy, WHO PS ≤ 2, normal hematologic-hepatic-renal functions, no brain involvement. To date 34 pts were treated: 79% male; median age: 53 years (31–68); median PS: 1; adenocarcinoma 53%; squamous cell 23%; large cell 18%; other 6%; metastatic 81%. Pts received a mean of 4 cycles (1–9). Main toxicities were:

	Vd1-Vd8-Dd8 ² mg/m ²	Pts Treat/Elig	DLT Nb	DLT Type	N FN	M NS	D V	AL A	sev.
					G-4	G-3	G-3	G-4	G-4
1	20-20-75	8/7	2	1M/1N+I	8	2	2	-	-
2	25-20-75	3/3	0	-	2	-	-	-	-
3	25-20-85	7/5	1	1FN	7	2	-	1	-
4	25-25-85	7/7	1	1FN	5	2	-	-	1
4b	25-20-100	4/4	2	1FN+M/1TD	4	1	1	-	-
5	25-25-100	5/5	3	1FN/1NS 1N+I	5	2	-	1	-

* N neutropenia – FN febrile neutropenia – M mucositis – NS neurosensory – D diarrhea – V vomiting – AL allergy – A asthenia – I infection – TD toxic death.

At the dose-level 4b, 2 pts developed DLT. It is now considered the MTD. This combination appears feasible at close to the recommended dose for single agents D and V.

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Gemcitabine and etoposide in chemonaive patients with extensive small cell lung cancer (SCLC): Preliminary phase II results

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Purpose: Single-agent GEMZAR® (Gemcitabine HCl) produced an objective response rate of 27% in chemonaive patients with extensive SCLC. Etoposide also shows activity against SCLC. In a phase I study MTD was achieved with gemcitabine 1000 mg/m² given on days 1, 8, 15 of a 28 day cycle and etoposide 80 mg/m² given on days 8, 9 and 10. We report here the preliminary results of a subsequent phase II study using this combination.

Methods: Schedules and dosages were as above. Patients were eligible for inclusion if they had histological or cytological confirmation of extensive SCLC, PS > 60%, and adequate bone marrow reserve (baseline WBC > 1500/mL, platelets > 100,000/mL, haemoglobin > 10 g/dL). Patients were excluded if they had CNS metastases, serious concomitant systemic disorders, or any prior chemotherapy.

Results: 42 patients (pts) with progressive extensive SCLC have entered the study. 27 pts (9 F, 18 M) are evaluable for toxicity, response and demographics: median age, 58 (41–74) years; median Karnofsky PS 90% (70–100%); median number of involved organs, 5: liver (51.9% of patients), lung metastases (66.7%), lymph nodes (59.3%), adrenal (37.0%) and bone (14.8%). Of 22 evaluable pts, there were 9 PRs, 8 SDs, 5 PDs. The incidence of WHO grade 3 and 4 toxicity per cycle was: 17.0/2.4% leukopenia, 7.3/7.3% neutropenia (without febrile neutropenic sepsis), 4.9/0% thrombocytopenia, 2.4/2.4% AST, 7.3/0% nausea/vomiting, 0/2.4% mucositis, 32.7/0% alopecia, 0/2.4% cutaneous.

Conclusion: These preliminary data suggest that gemcitabine is both effective and well tolerated in combination with etoposide in patients with extensive SCLC.

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Post operative high dose conformal radiation therapy with multileaf collimator for non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

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Purpose: Between 02/95 and 12/96, 13 patients with NSCLC were post-operatively treated by high dose conformal radiation therapy (4 after pneumonectomy, 6 after lobectomy and 3 after bilobectomy). Eight had nodal involvement, 4 surgical margin involvement, and 1 was T3.

Methods: No patient received concomitant or post-radiation chemotherapy. The planned target volume (PTV) encompassed homolateral hilum and supraclavicular area for upper tumor until 50 Gy (25 fractions/5 weeks) through at least 6 portal entrances collimated by multileaf collimator; the PTV was then reduced with a safety margin of 0.5 cm until 66 Gy. The mean PTV n°2 was 220 cm³. Dose-volume histograms were done for normal tissues and tumor for each patient.

Results: After a mean follow-up of 10 months, no acute or late radio-induced pneumonitis occurred. One patient died of widespread disease and no local failure has yet been observed.

Conclusion: Postoperative high dose conformal radiation therapy is well tolerated and seems to allow an excellent local control rate but more follow up is needed.

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Neoadjuvant cisplatin- vindesine/vinorelbine based combination chemotherapy (CT) for stage III non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

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Purpose: To assess results with neoadjuvant Cisplatin/Vindesine or Vinorelbine based CT in unresectable st III NSCLC.

Methods: From 4/87 to 2/96, 158 untreated pts received median 3 cycles of ATTIT 1, 2, 3, 5 or 6 protocol (ASCO 89–94). **Results:** Pts charact.: age 57 [37–72]; 91% males; Karnofsky (K) 60–70% 29, >70% 129 pts; histology (H): squamous 91, adeno 37, large cell 25, adenosq. 5 pts; AJCC stages: IIIA 74, IIIB 84 pts. **Activity:** 73 pts had objective response (OR) (46%, CI [38%–54%]) 7 CR, 66 PR; st IIIA vs IIIB: 54% vs 39% OR (p = 0.06). **Further trt:** 35 pts (22%), 24 IIIA and 11 IIIB (p < 0.01), became operable after CT (19 lobectomies, 16 pneumonectomies), with 7 pCR (4%). **Surgical complications:** 5 fatal broncho-pleural fistula. After surgery, 20 N+ pts and 36 non resectable CT responders received RT. **Duration of response:** 15 months (m) [2+..44+]. **OR after all local trt:** 55%. **Follow-up:** 36 m [3–66]. **Survival (S):** median 17 m; K1 > 70% vs 60–70%: 19 vs 12 m (p < 0.01); CT responders vs non responders: 26 vs 13 m (p < 0.01); adeno vs epidermoid vs large cell: 27 vs 16 vs 13 m (p = 0.04). **S at 36 m resected vs irradiated CT responders:** 42% vs 29% (p = 0.79). **Multivariate analysis:** A prognostic score (PS) was defined using Cox model: PS = 2°K1 + 2°OR + H. The prognostic groups (good 7–10; intermediate 5–6; poor ≤4) had a median S of 29vs 17 vs 9 m (p < 0.01). To date, 59 pts are alive (25 in CR) and 99 have died: 93 pts disease progression (62 pts locoregional (LR), 8 pts metastases (M) only, 23 pts LR+M), 5 pts surgical complications, 1 pt other disease. Brain was the main site of metastatic relapse (19 pts).

Conclusions: 1) 46% OR rate with Cisplatin-Vinca combinations confirm single institution experiences. 2) There was no difference in 3y S between resected and irradiated CT responders. Controlled trial comparing surgery + RT vs RT alone for CT responders is needed. 3) Main prognostic factors for S were performance status and response to neoadjuvant CT.