

Docetaxel, Cisplatin and Fluorouracil (DCF) versus Epirubicine, Cisplatin & Fluorouracil (ECF) as a first-line therapy in advanced gastric carcinoma patients

Lobna Elzay-Elarab¹, Hany M. Abdel-Aziz¹, Ali M. Azmi¹, Mohsen Mokehtar², Amr Saker², Maher Abdel-Hameed³

(1) *Clinical Oncology Dept. Faculty of Medicine Ain Shams University*

(2) *NEMROCK, Kasr El-Ainy, Faculty of Medicine Cairo University*

(3) *NEMROCK, Kasr El-Ainy, Faculty of Medicine Cairo University*

PAJO, October 2010, 3(3): 32-37

Abstract

Background and Objectives: Gastric carcinoma is still associated with a high mortality rates. Chemotherapy remains the primary treatment of this disease in advanced stage. This study was conducted to know the difference between docetaxel and epirubicin in combination with cisplatin and 5-fluorouracil in Arabic patients with advanced gastric carcinoma.

Patients and Methods: Between February 2005 and December 2008 in multicentral phase III trial forty three eligible patients with advanced gastric carcinoma were randomly allocated to receive either Docetaxel 75 mg/m² D1, Cisplatin 75 mg/m² D1 and 5FU 1000 mg/m² (over 6 hrs) D1-3 in one arm {group A} or Epirubicine 50 mg/m² D1 Cisplatin 75 mg/m² D1 and 5FU 1000 mg/m² (over 6 hrs) D1-3 in the other arm as reference regimen {group B} Follow up of the surviving patients continued till the end of December 2009.

Aim of the study: The primary end point was progression free survival (PFS) while the secondary end points were response rate, overall survival (OS) and toxicity profile.

Results: Median PFS was found to be 6 months for group A (DCF) and 4.5 months for group B (ECF) and this difference was statistically significant with a P value of 0.035 and hazard ratio of 0.56 (95% CI ratio 0.234 to 0.949) and the overall response rate in group A was 36% (8 of 22 pts.) while that in group B was 29% (6 of 21 pts.). The median follow up period was 15.7 months, and the median OS for group A was 8.9 months while that for group B was 8.5 months but the differences in both OS and survival at one year were not statistically significant. Regarding the toxicities, both hematological and non-hematological, were comparable in both groups except for neuropathy and diarrhea that were more pronounced in group A.

Conclusion: Both regimens were tolerable with acceptable toxicities with the DCF has a significant longer PFS than ECF but without significant difference in the OS.