

Phase II study of cisplatin and capecitabine plus radiotherapy in patients with locally advanced head and neck carcinoma

Nivine M.A. Gado¹

(1) Radiation Oncology, Nuclear Medicine Department, Ain Shams University

PAJO, September 2009, 2(3): 36-41

Abstract

Objective: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of concurrent chemoradiotherapy with capecitabine and cisplatin in patients with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN).

Patients & methods: In total, 36 patients with stage III or IV SCCHN were enrolled on the study. Chemotherapy consisted of two cycles of intravenous cisplatin of 80 mg m⁻² on day 1 and oral capecitabine 825 mg m⁻² twice daily from day 1 to day 14 at 3-week intervals. The radiotherapy (2.0 Gy/fraction day⁻¹ to a total dose of 70 GY) was delivered to primary tumor site and neck. The primary tumor sites were as follows: oral cavity (n = 6), oropharynx (n = 10), hypopharynx (n = 8), larynx (n = 3), nasopharynx (n = 6), paranasal sinus (n = 3).

Results: At the end of chemoradiotherapy, 19 complete responses (52.8%), 14 partial responses (38.9%) were obtained. Grade 3 and 4 neutropenia occurred in two patients. At a median follow up duration of 19.8 months, the estimated 2-year overall survival and progression – free survival rate were 69.4% and 58.3% respectively.

Conclusion: Concurrent chemoradiotherapy with capecitabine and cisplatin was found to be well tolerated and effective in patients with locally advanced SCCHN.