Feasibility study of dose dense Epirubicin/Carboplatin followed by Paclitaxel/Carboplatin in advanced, recurrent or metastatic endometrial carcinoma

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Abstract

Purpose: To develop a potentially superior chemotherapy regimen, we conducted a feasibility study of dose dense sequential Epirubicin/Carboplatin followed by Paclitaxel/Carboplatin. The primary objective was to determine the feasibility and toxicity of the regimen; the secondary objective was to estimate the progression-free and overall survival.

Experimental Design: Chemo naive patients with stage III, IV, or recurrent endometrial cancer were studied. Treatment consisted of six cycles of Epirubicin (75 mg/m2) /Carboplatin (area under the curve [AUC] 3) [EC], followed by 6 cycles of Paclitaxel (135 mg/m2) /Carboplatin (AUC3) [PC] with each cycle administered at 14-day intervals. Granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF) was given routinely on day 2.

Results: Between November 2007 and October 2009, 29 patients were enrolled. About 23 of 29 patients (79.4%) have completed all chemotherapy as planned; 3 patients (10.3%) had disease progression during treatment. Excluding three patients who did not complete treatment for non-drug-related causes, 89.6% completed all planned treatment. Overall median PFS and overall survival were 17.3 months and 43 months respectively. Common Toxicity Criteria grade ¾ hematological toxic effects, particularly neutropenia and thrombocytopenia, were the predominant cause of treatment delays and dose reductions. A low incidence of grade 3 neurotoxicity and no cardiac toxicity were observed.

Conclusion: Dose-dense every-2-week EC × 6 → PC × 6 with pegfilgrastim is feasible based on our prospective definition.