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CERVICAL CANCER

DOSE-DENSE WEEKLY CARBOPLATIN AND PACLITAXEL AS NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTERAPY IN LOCALLY ADVANCED CERVICAL CANCER

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Background and Aims:

This study evaluates the efficacy and toxicity of dose-dese weekly Paclitaxel and Carboplatin (DDWPC) as neoadjuvant chemotherapy in locally advanced cervical cancer (LACC).

Methods:

All consecutive cases of LACC treated with weekly Paclitaxel 8mg/m^2 and Carboplatin AUC2 for 9 cycles were collected. Haematological and non-haematological toxicity were classified according to CTCAE criteria.

Tumor reduction was evaluated with MRI; patients with complete or partial response were submitted to radical surgery within 4 weeks by the end of chemotherapy. The remaining patients were treated with chemoradiation.

Results:

Twenty patients were collected (8 stage IB2, 8 stage IIA-IIB, 1 stage IIIA, 3 stage IVB). Fifteen patients (75%) had complete or partial response to chemotherapy; among these, of the 7 patients which showed radiological lymph nodes involvement at diagnosis, 5 women (71%) had no evidence of nodes metastasis after surgery. Pathologic examination of the surgical specimen showed complete response in 3 patients (20%) whereas persistence of microscopic cancer foci was found in 2 patients (13%). Parametrial involvement and vaginal metastasis was present in 1 case, respectively; the remaining 13 cases showed tumor-free margins.

Six patients received radiotherapy after surgery for adverse pathologic factors. Grade 3 toxicity was recorded in 7 patients. The median follow-up of our population was 13 months. At the time of the last follow up, one patient was DOD, 14 NED and 5 AWD.

Conclusions:

DDWPC is effective as neoadjuvant chemotherapy in LACC. Toxicity is manageable, acceptable and comparable to that typically observed for other common chemotherapy schedules.

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