

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) – treatment research and treatment reality in oncology practices (adjuvant therapy)

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Introduction:

According to S3 guidelines, patients with a NSCLC stage II or IIIA are to receive a cisplatin-based adjuvant combination chemotherapy for 4 cycles within 60 days after a R0 resection (recommendation level A). Stage IB requires an individual therapy decision. Patients with an adjuvant chemotherapy in phase-III trials lived a median of 66-94 months.

Methods:

Since 2003, 89 oncological practises from 16 federal states have been documenting 2,864 disease histories of patients with a non-small cell lung cancer within the framework of the Project team of Internal Oncology (PIO). 2,723 of the cases with a total of 6,135 therapies could be evaluated in the registry ONCOReg. 409 (15.0%) patients received an adjuvant chemotherapy, 305 (74.6%) intravenous vinorelbine/cisplatin. Detailed results are available for 291 patients from 42 practises.

Results:

Patients' characteristics

Gender: 209 (71.8%) male; 82 (28.2%) female

Age at initial diagnosis (median): 63 (41-78) years; 8 (2.8%) > 75 years; 54 (18.6%) > 70 years

Previous therapy: 7 (2.4%) patients

UICC: 53 (18.2%) I; 126 (43.3%) II; 106 (36.4%) III; 6 n.s. (T1-2, Nx)

Histology: 138 (47.4%) adenocarcinoma; 146 (50.2%) squamous cell carcinoma; 7 others

Smokers/Non-smokers: 99 (34.0%)/107 (36.8%)/85 n. s.

Therapy

Period from surgery to start of therapy (median): 42 (15-191) days

Number of cycles (median): 4 (1-6)

End of therapy: 180 (61.9%) as scheduled; 42 (14.4%) toxicity; 24 (8.2%) refusal; 14 (4.8%) hospitalization; 31 others

Radiotherapy: 62 (21.3%)

The median monitoring period covers 19.4 (0.3-111.1) months. Distant metastases have been reported for 82 patients so far, a local recurrence for 34 patients and a recurrent neoplasm for 8 patients. 51 (62.8%) patients received a chemotherapy due to recurrences or distant metastases. The 1st-line therapy for them consisted mainly in platinum derivatives (28 (54.9%), taxanes (17 (33.3%) und antimetabolites (15 (29.4%)).

Survival

The median disease-free survival is at 32.2 months. UICC I: months not reached; II: 38.4 months; III: 23.0 months). The median overall survival has not been reached so far. The 3-year survival rate is at 70%. UICC I: not reached (3-year survival 81%); II: 91.6 months (70%); III: 56.2 months (65%). Smokers not reached (64%); non-smokers 75.1 months (71%)

Conclusions:

The adjuvant therapy of the NSCLC is performed in compliance to the approved guidelines in treatment research.

The survival data reflect the existing data.