

Fate of stage IIIA, N2 NSCLC patients with neoadjuvant chemotherapy

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Introduction

Multimodal treatments have been thought to be main trend for stage IIIA non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Also according to several clinical guidelines, neoadjuvant chemotherapy is recommended for stage IIIA, N2 NSCLC.

Background

A few studies have been reported for positive results about neoadjuvant chemotherapy for stage IIIA, N2 NSCLC in Oriental patients.

Purpose

To evaluate the effect of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for stage IIIA, N2 NSCLC in Korea Cancer Center Hospital.

Methods

We conducted a retrospective study that compare 95 neoadjuvant chemotherapy patients with 381 pathologic stage IIIA, N2 patients (except neoadjuvant treatment).

Results

62 (65.2%) of 95 neoadjuvant chemotherapy patients underwent a surgery. Refusal of operation is the main cause of patients without surgery after chemotherapy. The 5 year survival rate and median survival were 13%, 17.5 months in neoadjuvant chemotherapy group and 32.7%, 28.3 months in the pathologic IIIA, N2 group ($p < .000$). Also, 18.4%, 27.1 months in neoadjuvant chemotherapy with surgery (62) and 3.2%, 10.5 months in neoadjuvant chemotherapy without surgery (33). The median survival between the pathologic N2 group and the neoadjuvant chemotherapy with surgery group have no significant difference but the 5 year survival rate have more higher in the pathologic N2 group.

Conclusions

We did not have the positive results about neoadjuvant chemotherapy for stage IIIA, N2 NSCLC patients in Korea Cancer Center Hospital. So we recommend the reconsideration of a role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for stage IIIA, N2 NSCLC in Oriental patients.