

Clinical outcome of advanced gastric cancer patients with bone marrow metastases

Sang-Cheol Lee, Kyung Ha Kim, Hee Sook Park, Jong-Ho Won, Han Jo Kim, Se-Hyung Kim, Hyung Jung Kim, Sang Byung Bae, Chan Kyu Kim, Kyu-Taek Lee, Sung Kyu Park, Dae Sik Hong

Hematology & Oncology, Soonchunhyang University Hospital, Korea

Background

Prognosis for gastric cancer patients with bone marrow metastases is extremely poor. The current study was performed to evaluate clinical outcome of advanced gastric cancer patients with bone marrow metastases.

Methods

We retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 26 advanced gastric cancer patients with bone marrow metastases between September 1986 and February 2009 at Soonchunhyang University College of Medicine.

Results

The median age was 46 years (range 24-61 years). All patients had poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma, including 17 signet ring cell carcinomas. The majority of the patients showed thrombocytopenia, anemia, elevation of lactate dehydrogenase. 16 patients (61.5%) were received palliative chemotherapy with a median of 4 cycles per patient (range, 1-13 cycles). Median survival durations after bone marrow metastases for entire patients were 37 days (95% CI, 12.5-61.5 days). The median survival times from bone marrow involvement were 11 days in the best supportive care group (range 9.5-12.5 days) and 121 days (range 94.7-147.3 days) in the palliative chemotherapy group ($p < 0.001$). Patients died of tumor progression (11 patients, 45%), brain hemorrhage (6 patients, 25%), infection (5 patients, 21%), and DIC (1 patient, 4%). There were no chemotherapy related deaths.

Conclusion

This study suggests that palliative chemotherapy should be actively considered in advanced gastric cancer patients with bone marrow metastases.