

Paclitaxel induced reversible Bells pulsy in a case of ovarian cancer

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Background: Peripheral sensory motor neuropathy is a well known side effect of paclitaxel. In 1999, R.T.Lee, et al from USA reported event of bilateral facial nerve pulsy as a complication of single cycle of high-dose paclitaxel chemotherapy, in a case of breast cancer which was resolved after 23 months. They said that she had received high-dose paclitaxel chemotherapy after ten cycles of standard dose paclitaxel therapy.

We want to present a case of paclitaxel induced reversible unilateral bells pulsy in a case of ovarian cancer .

Case Report: A 56 years old female was diagnosed with stage III epithelial ovarian cancer and after TAH and BSO and debulking surgery, systemic chemotherapy including standard dose paclitaxel and carboplatin was administered in 3 week intervals. After third cycle of chemotherapy she developed bilateral peripheral neuropathy and after the 4th cycle she developed unilateral left-sided bells pulsy. Brain imaging was done which was negative for tumoral involvement. We change her chemotherapy regimen to Taxoter and carboplatin and 3 week after changing regimen bells pulsy resolved spontaneously.

Results: In this case we saw event of unilateral reversible bells pulsy following bilateral peripheral neuropathy after 4 cycles of standard dose paclitaxel and carboplatin.

Conclusion: This experience demonstrates that unilateral reversible bells pulsy is one of the cumulative side effects of standard doses of paclitaxl therapy.

Key Words: Bells pulsy, Paclitaxel, Ovarian cancer