

Letter to the Editor

Tamoxifen in Advanced Endometrial Carcinoma

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Since 1959 gestagens have been used in the treatment of advanced endometrial carcinoma. With different doses and agents response rates of about 30% have been achieved [1].

The presence of estrogen and progesterone receptors in endometrial carcinoma is now well established [2]. It therefore seems reasonable to study the effect of anti-estrogens in advanced endometrial carcinoma.

In a previous letter, Swenerton et al. [3] described a response in four of seven patients with advanced endometrial carcinoma who were treated with tamoxifen 10 mg twice daily. All these patients had previously received medroxyprogesterone acetate and cytotoxic agents.

We treated five patients aged 56–74 years (median 59 years), all of whom had measurable metastases to the lungs and none of whom had received prior endocrine or cytotoxic therapy, with tamoxifen 10 mg three times daily.

The criteria for response to treatment are: complete remission (CR): complete disappearance of measurable disease; partial remission (PR): $\geq 50\%$ reduction in size of measurable disease; no change (NC): $< 50\%$ reduction of

size of measurable disease; progressive disease (PD): $> 50\%$ increase of size of measurable disease.

Treatment with tamoxifen was continued for at least 3 months, and thereafter until progression of disease. Two patients experienced PD; one patient, NC for 4 + months; one patient attained PR for 9 months, and one patient, CR for 18 + months.

We agree with Swenerton et al. [3] that these results justify further studies to evaluate the efficacy of tamoxifen in endometrial carcinoma.

References

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