poliphenols + alpha lipoic acid + carbocysteine + Vitamins ACE. Pts were then randomised to one of the following 5 arms: 1) Medroxyprogesterone Acetate (MPA)/Megestrol Acetate (MA); 2) Pharmaco-nutritional support containing EPA; 3) L-carnitine; 4) Thalidomide; 5) MPA/MA + Pharmaco-nutritional support + L-carnitine + Thalidomide. Treatment duration was 4 months. Interim analyses were planned after every 100 randomized pts.
Results. At February 2009, 332 pts were randomized and 290 were evaluable: M/F 170/120, mean age 62 yrs (range 30−84), 96% were stage IV. A first interim analysis on all 125 pts enrolled showed a significant worsening of LBM, REE and fatigue in arm 2 in comparison to the others and it was withdrawn from the study. A second interim analysis after the enrolment of 204 pts showed arm 1 significantly less effective than the others for primary efficacy endpoints: it was withdrawn from the study. Statistical analysis at January 2009 showed in all patients a significant improvement of LBM (by DEXA) and REE and a significant decrease of IL-6 in arm 5. As for fatigue a significant improvement in arm 5 has been observed. As for safety, the treatment was overall well tolerated and the patient compliance was good.
Conclusions. The results so far seem to suggest that the most effective treatment for cancer pts with CACS should be a combination regimen.
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3025 POSTER

Determinants of pain response in patients (pts) with skeletal metastases receiving zoledronic acid (ZOL)

T. Van den Wyngaert[1], P. Duprez[2], L. Marcelis[3], C. Mitine[4], C. Focan[5], J. Kerger[6], F. Geurs[7], R. Kalantari[8], I. Lechat[9], on behalf of the EPOZ Investigators. *[1]Antwerp University Hospital, Oncology – Nuclear Medicine, Edegem, Belgium; [2]St. Pierre Hospital, Internal Medicine – Oncology, Ottignies, Belgium; [3]Clinic Parc Léopold, Oncology, Brussels, Belgium; [4]Jolimont Hospital, Radiotherapy – Oncology, Jolimont, Belgium; [5]St. Joseph Hospital, Internal Medicine – Oncology, Liège, Belgium; [6]St. Elisabeth Hospital, Oncology, Namur, Belgium; [7]Halle Hospital, Oncology, Halle, Belgium; [8]Hospital Peltzer La Tourelle, Oncology, Verviers, Belgium; [9]Novartis Pharma Belgium, Novartis Oncology, Vilvoorde, Belgium*

Background: The prompt and sustained analgesic effect of zoledronic acid (Zometa®) in pts with metastatic bone disease (MBD) is well documented. However, identifying patient specific determinants of individual pain response merits further study to tailor therapy.
Material and Methods: A prospective open-label multi-center trial studied pain response in pts with MBD receiving ZOL. Observation lasted 6 months, with pts evaluated at baseline and receiving 4 mg of ZOL intravenously every 3 or 4 weeks, with reassessments every 6 or 8 weeks, respectively, in a total of 4 visits. A post-hoc linear mixed-effects model analysis explored the predictive value of the following variables on the composite Brief Pain Inventory (BPI): gender, age, tumor type, performance status, mental quality-of-life (QoL) SF-36 questionnaire, analgesics use, prior bisphosphonate (BP) therapy, and baseline BPI score.
Results: In all, 309 pts (124 male, 185 female) could be analyzed out of 313 pts accrued across 46 centers. The median age was 67 years (range 21–89) and pts had breast- (42%), lung- (14%), or prostate cancer (13%), multiple myeloma (10%), or another malignancy (21%). Sixty-seven pts (22%) received prior BP therapy. Age, gender, performance status, and tumor type were not independent determinants of pain. In contrast, mental QoL, baseline pain scores, analgesics use, and prior BP use were significant predictors of pain response (all $p < 0.05$). The mean pain score decreased from 3.50 to 2.70 with 0.035 points per week (ppw) (95% CI 0.024 – 0.046; $p < 0.001$). Above average baseline pain scores and better baseline mental QoL resulted in higher pain reductions of 0.067 ppw (95% CI 0.052 – 0.083; $p < 0.001$) and 0.052 ppw (95% CI 0.036 – 0.068; $p < 0.001$), respectively. Pts requiring more analgesics or with prior BP use had lower decreases in pain scores of 0.021 ppw (95% CI 0.003 – 0.039; $p < 0.001$). Overall, analgesics use decreased non-significantly ($p = 0.09$), but mental QoL improved significantly ($p = 0.02$) while on study. A sensitivity analysis confirmed the results.
Conclusions: Pts with MBD receiving ZOL experience a significant decrease in pain, independent of analgesics use and prior BP treatment. Highest benefits were observed in pts with higher baseline pain scores and lower analgesics use, supporting the early use of ZOL. Intriguingly, these results emphasize the intricate relationship between pain and mental wellbeing.

3026 POSTER

Dutch observational study on anaemia management with epoetin alfa in daily oncology practice – interim analysis results on 1000 patients

D. Kehrer[1], J. Bosch van den[2], J.J. Braun[3], L.G.M. Kerkhofs[4], R.G.P.M. Brok[5]. *[1]IJsselland Hospital, Oncology, Capelle a/d Ijssel, The Netherlands; [2]Albert Schweitzer Hospital, Oncology, Dordrecht, The Netherlands; [3]Vlietland Hospital, Oncology, Schiedam, The Netherlands; [4]Walcheren Hospital, Oncology, Vlissingen, The Netherlands; [5]Janssen Cilag, Oncology, The Netherlands*

Background: This study is addressing the real-life situation of epoetin alfa (Eprex®) treatment (ET) in chemotherapy-induced anaemia (CIA) in the Netherlands between November 2005 and July 2009.
Material and Methods: Data of the first 1000 patients (pts) enrolled, out of 1928 pts planned, were analysed. Eligible pts were 18 years or older, received ET and chemotherapy (CT) or were about to receive CT within a week as treatment for a solid tumour, Multiple Myeloma and (non-) Hodgkin's Disease. Data on haemoglobin level (Hb), blood transfusions (BTx), CT, ET and treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAE) were collected. Response to ET was defined as either a $\geqslant$1 g/dl Hb rise within first 4 weeks ET or a $\geqslant$2 g/dl Hb rise after baseline or a maintenance of Hb within range 11–13 g/dl after 4 weeks ET onwards until end of study, independent of BTx within 28 days. Continuous data are presented as mean $\pm$ standard deviation.
Results: 47% male and 53% female. Average age is 63.2$\pm$11.0 years. Most pts had lung (47%), breast (15%) and gastro-enterological (10%) tumours. The majority of pts had metastases (58%), received platinum-based CT (65%) and had 3-weekly CT cycles (83%). Last available Hb at CT start was 12.0$\pm$1.6 g/dl. Nearly all pts started with 40.000 IU ET once-weekly (99.6%). Time between start CT and start ET was 38.7$\pm$39.0 days. ET started at an Hb of 10.5$\pm$1.1 g/dl, lasted 12.4$\pm$7.9 weeks and resulted in an Hb-rise of 0.5$\pm$1.6 g/dl after 28 days (28–35 days) ($p < 0.0001$) and 1.3$\pm$2.1 g/dl after 56 days (56–63 days) ($p < 0.0001$), independent of BTx within 28 days. Dose was increased for 87 pts (9%) and 17 pts had a subsequent dose decrease.
More than a quarter of the pts received BTx during ET (27%), of whom 52% received a BTx within the first 4 weeks ET. Response to ET was seen in 63% of pts.
Of all TEAE, investigators assumed 1% to be related to ET. A thrombovascular TEAE (TVE) occurred in 89 pts (9%), was assumed related to ET in 17 pts and lead to an ET stop in 10 pts. During study 110 pts died, the majority (66%) due to disease progression. Four pts died due to a TVE, i.e., cerebrovascular accident (3 pts) and pulmonary embolism (1 patient), all not related to ET.
Conclusion: On basis of these results, in Dutch daily practice ET seems to start according to published American and European guidelines for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced anaemia. In more than 60% of the pts this resulted in a BTx-independent response. No unexpected AE's were reported.

3027 POSTER

Actual or adjusted surface area which shall we choose?

N. Abbas[1], R. Fattah[1], R. Malek[1], H. Azim[1]. *[1]Kasr Alainy University Hospital, Oncology Department, Cairo, Egypt*

Background: Calculation of chemotherapeutic drugs doses was standardized to Body Surface Area, with the aim to produce optimum systemic drug level & minimize drug toxicity; it also can be very challenging in obese cancer patients. Obesity represents a condition of excessive adipose tissue with its currently accepted definition is defined as Body Mass Index >30 kg/m^2); it once believed that obese patients who received chemotherapy on their actual body weight would result in increased toxicity, secondary to distribution of lipid soluble drugs into the adipose tissue. By using Adjusted Body Weight it's assumed that cancer patients would receive a dose of a particular cytotoxic drug associated with an acceptable degree of toxicity without reducing its therapeutic effect. The aim of this study is considering the use of adjusted body weight for calculation of chemotherapeutic drugs doses and its impact on the disease free survival in obese female breast cancer patients.
Method: We compared disease free survival between two groups of female breast cancer patients receiving adjuvant chemotherapy, both groups received FEC 100 regimen (Epirubicin 100 mg/m^2, 5-FU 500 mg/m^2, Cyclophosphamide 500 mg/m^2) for 6 cycles in the period between 2000–2008. Group A: (149 patients) received their regimen based on their actual body weight calculation of body surface area [BSA (m^2) = vHt. (cm) $\cdot$ Wt. (kg)/3600]. Group B: (100 patients) received their regimen based on their adjusted body weight (Adjusted Body Weight = Ideal Body weight + 0.4(Actual Body Weight − Ideal Body Weight). Ideal Body Weight