

GEM 1000 mgs/sqm d 1,8 q3W; C) CDDP 70 mgs/sqm d2 + GEM 1000 mgs/sqm d1,4 q3W; D) CDDP 80 mgs/sqm d1 + GEM 1250 mgs/sqm g1,8 q3W. Programmed dose-intensity (PDI), received dose intensity (RDI) and toxicities were evaluated. Results were as follows: No.pts/cycles A:54/194, B:53/204, C: 36/133, D 12/45; CDDP PDI/RDI A:17.5/16.4, B:23.3/21.4, C:23.3/21.2, D:26.6/21.4; GEM PDI/RDI A:750/592, B:666/589, C:666/610, D:833/555; Grade III-IV neutropenia A:22%, B:28, C:8, D:26; Grade III-IV PLT A:30%, B:5, C:2, D:20; Grade III-IV anemia A:2%, B:9, C:1, D:9.

**In conclusion:** 1) despite the higher PDI of D, RDI of GEM was the lowest; 2) although the higher PDI of GEM of the q4W regimen, the q3W schedules B and C had similar RDI of GEM; 3) The modified q3W schedule C yields a valid alternative for treatment because of its better toxicity and higher RDI of GEM. According to these results the use of the four-day schedule appears highly advisable.

228

POSTER

### Stability assessment of CPT11 and LOHP in hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy

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**Purpose:** In the treatment of peritoneal carcinomatosis, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPC) uses platinum derivatives in association with another cytostatic agent. This study deals with the possibility to use oxaliplatin (LOHP) and irinotecan (CPT11) simultaneously in hypotonic or isotonic solutions for HIPC treatment.

**Methods:** HIPC consists the administration of chemotherapy in intraperitoneal cavity during 30 minutes at 41-43°C. LOHP and CPT11 were prepared in different iso- (dextrose 5%, 300 mOsmol/kg) and hypo-osmolar solutions (200, 150, and 100 mOsmol/kg). High-Performance Thin-Layer Chromatography (HPTLC), with automatic sampler ATS<sup>®</sup> III, horizontal developing chamber and spectrophotodensitometer TLC Scanner III Camag<sup>®</sup>, was used for analytical measurement (identity, purity and concentration). Calibration range were studied between 100 and 800 µg/mL for LOHP and between 100 and 1000 µg/mL for CPT11 and validated by two QCs. Stability study was carried out regarding different parameters such as concentration (high level: 1400 for LOHP, 1800 µg/mL for CPT11 and low level: 250 and 600 µg/mL, respectively), temperature (20°C vs 50°C), -contact-time (t0, 1 and 4 hours). The dilution of the anticancer drugs were made in water for the blank point and in iso- and hypo-osmolar dextrose solutions. The osmolality of each solution were assessed with an automatic osmometer Roebeling<sup>®</sup>.

**Results:** The stability study showed a decrease in LOHP amounts between 15 to 20% when CPT11 is added, independently to the temperature and the contact-time. No degradation was put in evidence for CPT11 whatever the conditions: 1) solvent, 2) temperature, and 3) contact-time i.e. -2.8 to 0.3% and -1.1 to 1.3% at 20°C and 50°C, respectively. These differences are not statistically significant, according to the method repeatability and reproducibility (respectively, 4.8 and 5.0%).

**Conclusion:** DichloroDACH platine is known to be a degradation product of LOHP when this latter is used in NaCl 0.9% due to chloride interactions. The fact that CPT11 is marketed as a hydrochloride salt can be the reason of the decrease in the amount of LOHP. In fact, molarity calculations and HPTLC plates seem to confirm the formation of this degradation product (i.e. 20%). Complete identification of degradation product is being carried out using mass spectrometry.

229

POSTER

### Pharmaceutical tracking integrated with the patient file; development of a tracking software

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The Department of Clinical Pharmacy (DCP) of Gustave Roussy Institute, has developed a tracking software package integrated with the patient file. The Tracking & Medical Devices Unit manages the Blood Derivative Medicinal Products tracking circuits, the circuits of more than 400 Sterile Medical Devices and, generally speaking, those for all pharmaceutical goods for which tracking is compulsory. SIMBAD-TRACE<sup>®</sup> software package has been developed in situ and was first open for access in March 1999. It enables pharmaceutical tracking data to be accessed from 500

networked workstations. The tracked references generated approximately 15,000 movements in 2000. In terms of performance, the system achieves 3 complementary objectives: 1) reporting tracking scores which reflect the ability of both DCP and the hospital to pertinently respond to a complex regulatory requirement on a daily basis, 2) the contribution of the tool to cost containment with respect to allocating rare goods and, 3) the contribution of the software package to the implementation of medical devices vigilance inquiries, particularly the descending ones. Finally, after 2 years in operation, SIMBAD-TRACE<sup>®</sup> has become one of the pillars of our Quality Assurance Program: tracking scores appeared to be, during this period, between 98 and 100% for the sterile medical devices tracked

## Drug resistance

230

POSTER

### GST genetic polymorphisms and disease outcome after platinum/paclitaxel based chemotherapy in advanced ovarian carcinoma

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The glutathione S-transferases (GSTs) are a group of multifunctional enzymes that catalyze the conjugation of glutathione with cytotoxic agents. GSTs genetic polymorphism with a homozygous deletion (null genotype) of the genes lead to the absence of the enzyme. In the present study we analysed GSTM1 polymorphisms in the genomic DNA isolated from peripheral blood of 24 patients with ovarian cancer treated with chemotherapy (paclitaxel and cisplatinum) after surgery. The median follow-up period of all patients was 27 months. For the disease free interval we found that for the group of cases with GSTM1 wild-type the median time was 22 months and that all cases of GSTM1 null genotypes were disease free at the end of the follow-up. This differences were statistically significant by the log rank test ( $p = 0.02$ ). The characterization of the drug metabolizing genetic individual profile, can be of great interest in clinical oncology, for the definition of the optimal chemotherapy for each patient, improving efficiency and reducing drug toxicity and poor drug responses.

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231

POSTER

### Inhibition of heat shock protein 27 (HSP27) by paclitaxel reduce cisplatin resistance

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**Background and Aim:** It is known that heat shock protein 27 (HSP27) expression correlates with chemotherapeutic resistance. In a previous study, we reported that paclitaxel (P) treatment suppressed the expression of HSP27. Although combination chemotherapy with P and cisplatin (C) has been demonstrated to clinically improve a patients prognosis, the mechanism underlying this clinical observation remains unclear. The aim of this study was to investigate whether inhibition of HSP27 expression by P can reduce C resistance.

**Method:** C-sensitive and resistant HeLa cells were treated with C and P. The treatment sequences examined were C-to-P (CTP) and P-to-C (PTC). Each cell was treated for 48 hours with each agent at 50% of the inhibitory concentration (IC50). The cytotoxic effect was evaluated by the MTT assay. Staining for HSP27 expression was done using the indirect immunofluorescence technique. Then expression was analyzed with a flow cytometer and comparing the relative ratio of the fluorescent intensity with that of sensitive cells at a non-treatment level of 1.0. The relation between HSP27 expression and the cytotoxic effect with regard to the contact sequence of the therapeutic drugs was studied.

**Results:** As for the cells receiving combined treatment with C and P, the surviving fraction of sensitive cells after CTP was 51% and PTC, 31%. The surviving fraction of resistant cells after CTP was 47% and PTC, 26%. These results indicate that PTC treatment had the strongest cytotoxic effect on both sensitive and resistant cells. Relative expression of HSP27 was not different between the sensitive cells (1.0) and resistant cells (1.1). C treatment induced a HSP27 expression in both sensitive cells (1.8) and resistant cells (2.0), however, HSP27 expression was not observed in either of them 0.9 and 1.0, respectively, when treated with P.