Modified TPF Chemotherapy for Pulmonary Metastases from Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck

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We report herein on 15 cases of pulmonary metastases from squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN) treated with modified TPF chemotherapy (docetaxel combined with nedaplatin and 5-FU). TPF chemotherapy is known as a neoadjuvant chemotherapy regimen. We modified the TPF chemotherapy using nedaplatin as a substitute for cisplatin. We tried 4 courses of modified TPF chemotherapy every 3 weeks, docetaxel 60 mg/m² on day 1; nedaplatin 75 mg/m² on day 1 and 5-FU 1000 mg/body by continuous infusion on days 1 to 4. 11 patients received 4 courses, and the remaining of 4 patients received 1-3 courses because of their poor general condition. Of the 15 patients, 13 were males and 2 were females with ages ranging from 43 to 73 years (mean, 59.1 yr). Two of the primary sites were in the nasopharynx, 2 in oropharynx, 4 in the hypopharynx, 2 in the larynx and 4 in the oral cavity. Clinically there were 7 complete responders, 4 partial responders, 2 with no change, and 2 with progressive disease. The mean overall survival was 46.5 months. TPF chemotherapy may improve the overall survival.

Keywords : pulmonary metastasis, squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, docetaxel, nedaplatin, 5-FU

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Summary of the cases

No	age, sex	origin	stage	Months before metastasis	Number of metastatic tumors	Size of the metastases (mm)	Months after metastasis	Treatment effect	outcome
1	51 M	hypopharynx	IVB	54	7	40	32	CR	alive
2	71 M	larynx	II	41	1	20	24	CR	alive
3	62 F	oral cavity	III	36	4	32	10	PR	alive
4	55 M	nasopharynx	IVB	23	2	35	51	CR	death from lung metastasis
5	46 M	nasopharynx	IVA	18	8	15	29	PR	death from lung metastasis
6	66 M	oropharynx	IV	9	5	40	8	CR	death from lung metastasis
7	58 M	oropharynx	II	7	7	15	69	CR	death from other diseases
8	63 M	oral cavity	II	11	2	15	7	NC	death from lung metastasis
9	51 M	oral cavity	IV	24	4	44	14	PR	death from lung metastasis
10	43 F	oral cavity	III	15	1	20	10	CR	death from brain metastasis
11	73 M	hypopharynx	IVB	37	5	80	12	PD	death from lung metastasis
12	65 M	hypopharynx	IVA	11	5	20	21	CR	death from other diseases
13	64 M	hypopharynx	IV	2	3	20	26	PD	death from lung metastasis
14	62 M	larynx	IVA	34	2	13	35	NC	death from lung metastasis
15	56 M	unknown		0	3	15	27	PR	death from lung metastasis

CR: complete response, PR: partial response, NC: no change, PD: progressive disease