Postoperative accelerated radiotherapy with cytoprotection followed by three-dimensional conformal boost in patients with early endometrial/cervical cancer

Michael I Koukourakis1, Pelagia G Tsoutsou1, Ioannis Abatzoglou1, Georgia Soulimioti1, Kyriaki Sismanidou1, Vassilios Liberis2, Alexandra Giatromanolaki2, Efthimios Sivridis3, and George Galazios3

1Department of Radiotherapy and Oncology, 2Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and 3Department of Pathology, Democritus University of Thrace, University Hospital of Alexandroupolis, Alexandroupolis, Greece

ABSTRACT

Aims and background. Adjuvant external beam radiotherapy is highly recommended for uterine carcinomas invading beyond the inner half of the myometrium or cervical stage IIa carcinomas. The addition of a booster intracavitary dose is widely used.

Methods. We assessed the feasibility and toxicity of a hypofractionated accelerated conformal radiotherapy scheme (2.7 Gy per fraction, for 14 consecutive fractions to the pelvis) supported with the cytoprotective agent amifostine (HypoARC). The amifostine dose was individualized (500-1000 mg daily subcutaneously). A booster dose of radiation was given to the vagina and stump using a 6-field 3D-conformal technique (3 x 4 Gy or 4 x 3 Gy) instead of intracavitary radiotherapy.

Results. Grade 2 diarrhea appeared in 9/25 (36%) and grade 1 cystitis in 7/25 (28%) cases. Analysis according to the amifostine dose level clearly showed reduced toxicity in patients receiving a daily dose of 750-1000 mg ($P<0.009$). Within a median follow-up of 31 months (range, 11-52), there was only one case with grade 2 colitis (the patient had received no amifostine). None of the patients treated has relapsed locally or to distant organs within a median of 31 months of follow-up.

Conclusions. It is concluded that HypoARC followed by 3D-conformal booster dose to the vagina is feasible and convenient for patients and for busy radiotherapy departments, as it reduces the overall time by 50%. When supported by high-dose daily amifostine, it has an impressively low rate of early and late radiation toxicity.

Key words: acceleration, conformal boost, endometrial cancer, hypofractionation.