Paclitaxel and carboplatin-induced complete remission in peritoneal carcinomatosis of unknown origin: a report of two cases and review of the literature

Yi-Ying Wu¹, Jang-Yang Chang², and Tsu-Yi Chao¹,²

¹Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan; ²Institute of Cancer Research, National Health Research Institutes, Taiwan

ABSTRACT

Peritoneal carcinomatosis is a common evolution of digestive-tract cancer with a poor prognosis. However, a small subgroup unrelated to the digestive tract or any other primary cancer has a relatively better prognosis, especially in women. There are no published data to recommend a treatment regimen for this distinct group. Here we present two women with peritoneal carcinomatosis of unknown origin, who responded to chemotherapy with paclitaxel plus carboplatin. One underwent an exploratory laparotomy and was confirmed to have no residual tumor. The other had complete resolution of ascites and omentum lesions confirmed by radiological examination. From this experience we propose that paclitaxel plus carboplatin is an effective combination regimen for this unique subset of patients. Further prospective trials should be conducted to substantiate this proposal in a larger patient cohort.

Key words: paclitaxel, carboplatin, peritoneal carcinomatosis, metastasis of unknown origin.

Acknowledgments: This study was supported by a grant issued by the National Science Council of Taiwan (NSC 95-2314-B-016-006). The authors would like to thank Tsai-Rong Chuang and Wei-Lang Yo for their assistance in data collection.

Correspondence to: Tsu-Yi Chao, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, No. 325, Cheng-Kung Road, Sec. 2, Neihu 114, Taipei, Taiwan.
Tel +886-2-87927208; fax +886-2-87927209; e-mail tsuyi@ndmctsgh.edu.tw

Received April 9, 2009; accepted August 25, 2009.