

Systemic chemotherapy with pemetrexed and cisplatin for malignant peritoneal mesothelioma: a single institution experience

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ABSTRACT

Background and aims. Primary malignant peritoneal mesothelioma is a rare malignancy with an unfavorable prognosis. Pemetrexed has proven effective in the treatment of malignant mesothelioma, alone or in combination with platinum agents. In the present study, chemo-naïve patients were evaluated for the efficacy and safety of the pemetrexed-cisplatin combination.

Methods. Six patients with diffuse peritoneal mesothelioma were treated with 6 cycles of pemetrexed (500 mg/m²) and cisplatin (75 mg/m²). Chemotherapy was administered on an outpatient basis every 3 weeks.

Results. Complete response was observed in 2 patients (33%) and partial response was observed in 3 patients (50%). The estimated median overall survival was 24 months and the estimated median time to disease progression was 9.5 months. The regimen was well tolerated.

Conclusions. Though our data reflect a small sample size, pemetrexed plus cisplatin accomplished a particularly high clinical benefit rate on chemo-naïve patients. Free full text available at www.tumoronline.it

Key words: cisplatin, malignant peritoneal mesothelioma, pemetrexed.

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