

First report of a pilot study of trans arterial chemo-embolization (TACE) with drug eluting beads irinotecan (IRI) preloaded (DEBI) for liver metastases (LM) from uveal melanoma (UM)

Topic: Hepato-biliary intervention

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Purpose: Exclusive LM occurs in up to 40% of patients with UM associated with a median survival of 2-5 months; surgery and chemotherapy have poor results. TACE seems effective in palliation of LM from different tumours.

Materials/Methods: Between February 2006 and February 2009, 16 patients with LM from UM (F/M=12/6 median age 48 yrs, liver replacement (LR) 25%=8 cases, 50%=3 cases, 75%=5), treated with surgery (3 cases) and chemo-immunotherapy (16) were enrolled into a pilot trial of TACE with DEBI. One patient had early death and five had early progression during staging and were not treated. TACE with DEBI preloaded with 100-200 mg of IRI was delivered every 4 weeks for 2 folds. Computed tomography was performed before, after treatment and every three months till progression. Before treatment intra-arterial lidocaine and from day 0 to 4 analgesic medications, antibiotics and intravenously hydration were administered.

Results: 13 patients received 26 cycles (2 each patient). Right upper quadrant pain (RUQP) grade 2 short lasting, fever grade 2 lasting 3 days (range 2-7) and increases of liver enzymes grade 2-3 were reported by all patients. After 30 days, a reduction of 75% of the lesional contrast enhancement was observed in 8 patients. A complete disappearance of enhancement was observed in 8 patients.

Conclusions: TACE with DEBI is feasible and safe in patients with LM from UM. Fever, RUQP, and increases of liver enzymes are the side effects. Responses seem related to beads diameter. Survival is related to liver substitution.