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Dynamic Registration Method with Balancing for Prognostic Factors in Observational Studies

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Abstract

Randomized controlled trials are the most scientifically informative studies for evaluating treatment effects. However, we need to conduct observational studies to evaluate unallocatable factors such as genotype, preference, or lifestyle. In observational studies, subject characteristics among the comparison groups might be imbalanced due to non-random allocation. We proposed a dynamic registration method to improve comparability among comparison groups with no allocation. The dynamic registration method is a registration method based on the minimization method, which decides whether or not to register a subject based on the background information of subjects already recruited and the new subject. Simulation studies were conducted to examine the performance of this method in improving comparability among comparison groups. Simulation studies showed that the dynamic registration method improves the comparability among comparison groups. The dynamic registration method can be used to enhance the quality of observational studies for unallocatable factors.

Keywords: Dynamic registration; Minimization method; Observational study; Simulation studies

Introduction

To conduct clinical trials ethically and scientifically, we need to consider various issues at the time of protocol planning. One of the most important elements of the design is the method of treatment allocation. Random allocation of treatments is conducted to evaluate the treatment effect in the most optimal way. However, random allocation has a risk of imbalancing important prognostic factors between the treatment groups, particularly in smaller trials. In clinical trials, imbalances in important prognostic factors degrade the quality of the clinical trial and reduce the statistical efficiency even if the imbalanced factors are adjusted in the statistical analysis [1]. In view of these considerations, various allocation methods have been proposed to avoid chance imbalances [1]. In particular, the methods proposed by Taves [2] and by Pocock and Simon [3], and their modifications are widely known as the minimization method and frequently used in clinical trials. The minimization method can be classified as a dynamic allocation method, as the allocation depends on the prognostic factors of subjects already recruited. The minimization method has been recommended as an effective method for treatment allocation in randomized trials [4,5].

Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs) are the most scientifically informative studies in the evaluation of treatment effects. However, if one aims to compare patient groups with respect to unallocatable factors such as genotype, preference, and lifestyle, randomization cannot be used. In such cases, since conducting RCTs is difficult, observational studies without random allocation are often conducted.

Recently, a number of genetic polymorphisms have been reported to affect pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of drugs. This field in pharmacology, pharmacogenomics, is rapidly developing, and its outcomes, as sensitive genetic biomarkers for drug safety and efficacy, have been already applied to development and proper usage of drugs. An anticancer drug irinotecan (CPT-11) is metabolized to form active SN-38, which is further conjugated and detoxified by UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) 1A1 enzyme. Genetic polymorphisms

of the UGT1A1 would affect an interindividual variation of the toxicity by CPT-11 *via* the alternation of bioavailability of SN-38 [6,7]. Since concerns have been expressed about severe toxicity, such as diarrhea and neutropenia, for treatment with CPT-11, we planned a prospective observational study to investigate whether a patient with the variant UGT1A1 genotypes would be at higher risk for severe toxicity by CPT-11 in Japanese cancer patients. In this observational study, the frequency of the severe toxicity will be compared among the UGT1A1 genotype groups treated with CPT-11-containing regimens.

RCTs generally evaluate efficacy rather than effectiveness, as there are many restrictions that limit generalizability under restricted conditions. On the other hand, observational studies can evaluate effectiveness under the conditions of real clinical practice [8]. In observational studies, however, unequal distribution of prognostic factors among compared groups causes confounding bias. Although evaluation of the compared factors in observational studies requires adjustment for confounding factors through statistical analyses, if the distributions of the prognostic factors greatly differ among comparison groups, this adjustment is difficult. Methods to adjust for confounding factors have included stratification, regression models such as Cox proportional hazards model, and propensity score methods [9]. However, when the distributions of the prognostic factors hardly overlap among compared groups, the results from statistical analyses should be interpreted carefully [10]. Therefore, even in observational studies, procedure to improve the comparability among comparison

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groups as much as possible before starting the study might be important and enhance the quality of the study. The matched case-control approach is considered as a method for this purpose. However, especially in the case where the number of controls is large relative to the number of cases, this approach requires large resources and costs since this approach needs follow up of all registered subjects until matching pairs are formed.

In this paper, we propose a dynamic registration method which dynamically judges subject registration using the minimization method to reduce resources and costs in conjunction with improvement in comparability for prognostic variables between two groups in the observational studies. We examined the performance of the dynamic registration method for improvement of comparability between two groups through simulation studies.

Methods

Proposed dynamic registration

The proposed dynamic allocation method is a prospective registration method which does not register a new subject if it would be difficult to maintain the balance in prognostic factors among groups consisting of unallocatable factors such as subject preferences, habits, and genes if the subject were registered. Note that subjects who are not registered are put in a tentative registration pool as candidates for registration. To apply the dynamic registration method, first, we need to decide the prognostic factors related to the outcome before starting the study. Next, we set the registration probabilities so that the best possible balance was obtained between the comparison groups based on prognostic-factor information of subjects already recruited and a candidate for registration. The registration probability is the probability of registration given for the candidate. The registration probability will be high if registration of the subject would improve the balance in prognostic factors between groups. In contrast, the registration probability will be low and registration of the subject will be difficult if it would adversely affect the balance. The registration procedure is shown in Figure 1.

Procedure of dynamic registration

The minimization method used in randomized controlled trials was independently proposed by Taves [2] and Pocock and Simon [3], but the method proposed by Taves is often used due to its practical convenience [4]. The dynamic registration method proposed in this study was developed based on Taves' minimization method from

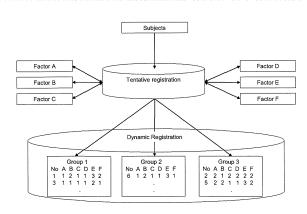


Figure 1: Flow chart of dynamic registration.

a practical viewpoint. We will explain the procedure of the dynamic registration method based on examples (Table 1) presented by Scott et al. [4].

As shown in Table 1, a total of 16 subjects, 8 in each group, have already been registered in this example. A 17th subject (male, aged 38 and with a high risk factor) has been tentatively registered as a candidate for registration. Whether or not this subject will be registered is decided based on whether the overall balance in prognostic factors can be maintained. The balance between groups is evaluated by comparing the total values of the levels of prognostic factors that correspond to the background of the candidate for registration between groups. If the total becomes nearly equal between groups, it signifies that the overall balance between groups will improve. As shown in Table 1, in this example the 17th subject will be registered as it will improve the overall balance in prognostic factors between groups.

Measures for balance between comparison groups

Let N_k and N be the planned number of subjects for group k (k=1, 2) and the total number of subjects in all groups. Let n_k and n be the number of subjects in group k, immediately before a new subject is tentatively registered and the number of subjects in all groups is totaled. Then, when the number of subjects with level j (j =1, 2,..., Q_i) of factor i (i =1, 2,..., P) in group k is expressed as n_{ijk} , the proportion of level j of factor i in group k becomes n_{ijk}/n_k . The balance of the distribution of factors between groups is evaluated by the difference in the proportion n_{ijk}/n_k for all i and j between groups.

We consider $S_k = \sum_{i,j=r_i} n_{ijk}$, which is the total number of subjects corresponding to the same level of each factor as a candidate for registration for all factors, as a measure to evaluate the imbalance in the distribution of factors between groups. Here, r_i is the level of factor i of the candidate for registration. When the candidate belongs to group k_s , a balance in the distribution of factors might be maintained between group k_s and group k within a certain range by registering this candidate in the case of $S_{k_s} \leq \frac{N_{k_s}}{N_k} \cdot S_k$. When the planned number of

Decision of subject registration

Next, we set the registration probability of a candidate for registration based on each group's S_{k} (k = 1, 2). We consider group

subjects is the same between groups, the condition is $S_k \leq S_k$.

Prognostic factor	Group 1	Group 2
Sex		
Male	3	5
Female	5	3
Age band		
21-30	4	4
31-40 41-50	2	3
	2	1
Risk factor		
High	4	5
Low	4	3

If the 17th subject has factors Male, 31-40, High in Group 1:

Total in group 1, 3+2+4=9.

Total in group 2, 5+3+5=13.

17th subject is registered because 9≤13

Table 1: An example of how the dynamic registration works in a setting of an observational study.

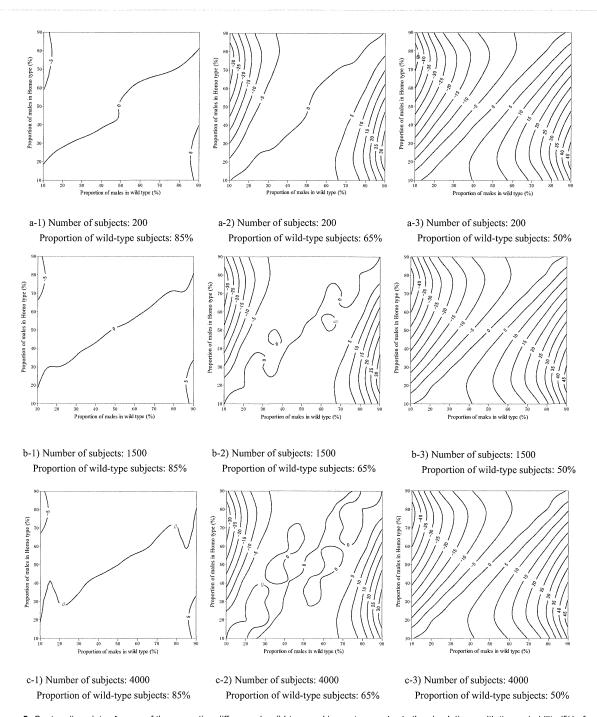


Figure 2: Contour line plots of mean of the proportion difference in wild-type and homo-type males in the simulations, with the probability (%) of a male of the wild type on the x-axis and the probability (%) of a male of the homo type on the y-axis.

k=2 as a reference group without the dynamic registration (100% registration) so as not to unnecessarily increase the number of subjects not registered. The logic for registration of a candidate in group 1 is described as follows.

If
$$a_1 S_1 \le \frac{N_1}{N_2} S_2$$
 then P {registration of subject in group 1}= p_1

Else if $a_2S_1 \le \frac{N_1}{N_2}S_2$ then $P\{\text{registration of subject in group }1\} = p_2$:

Else if $a_{1-1}S_1 \le \frac{N_1}{N_2}S_2$ then $P\{\text{registration of subject in group }1\} = 1$

 p_L -1

Else then $P\{\text{registration of subject in group } 1\} = p_L$

Where a_l (l=1,2,...,L-1) is a coefficient that expresses the degree of balance between groups and p_l (l=1,2,...,L) is the registration probability, which is decided arbitrarily by consulting with a medical adviser, etc. If L=4, for example, $p_l=1$, $p_l=0.8$, $p_l=0.5$, $p_l=0.5$, $p_l=0.8$, $p_l=0.9$, and $p_l=0.8$. Like the minimization method proposed by Taves, one option is to not set a registration probability, i.e., register 100% of subjects if $p_l=0.8$, $p_l=0.8$, but not register otherwise.

Simulation studies

We conducted Monte Carlo simulations to evaluate the performance of the proposed method. In the simulations, we considered genotype (wild type, homo type) as a comparison factor. The sole prognostic factor was sex, to make the simulation simple, and the probability of an individual being male in each genotype was set from 10% to 90% at 10% intervals. We simulated three planned sample sizes, 200 (100 subjects per group), 1,500 (750 subjects per group), and 4,000 (2,000 subjects

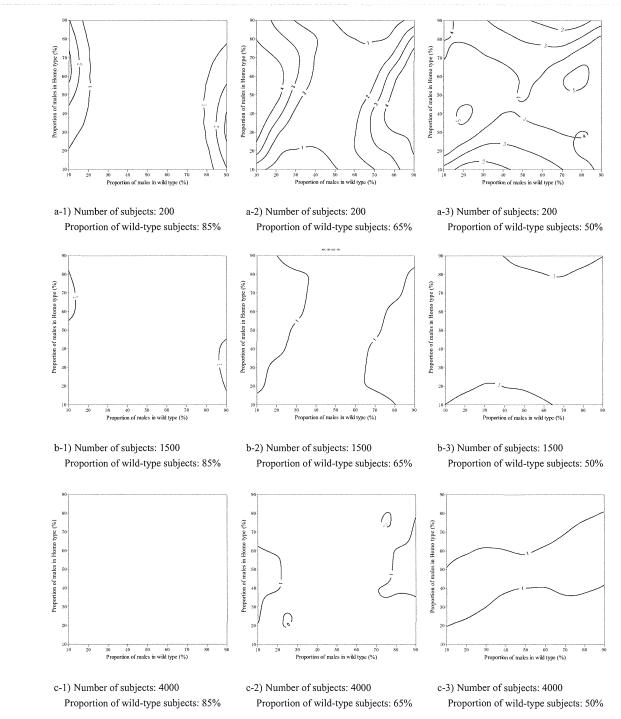


Figure 3: Contour line plots of standard deviation of the proportion difference in wild-type and homo-type males in the simulations, with the probability (%) of a male of the wild type on the x-axis and the probability (%) of a male of the homo type on the y-axis.

per group), and three proportions of a candidate for registration being wild type in the target population, 85%, 65%, and 50% (15%, 35%, and 50%, respectively, for homo type). The dynamic registration was applied only to the wild type, while 100% of homo type subjects were registered. Whether or not a wild-type candidate for registration would be registered was decided according to the following logic.

If 0.98
$$S_{wild} \le S_{Homo}$$
 then $P\{\text{registration of subject in wild type}\} = p_1$
Else if 0.95 $S_{wild} \le S_{Homo}$ then $P\{\text{registration of subject in wild type}\} = p_2$
Else if 0.90 $S_{wild} \le S_{Homo}$ then $P\{\text{registration of subject in wild type}\} = p_3$

Else $P\{\text{registration of subject in wild type}\}=p_4$,

Where S_{wild} and S_{Homo} are the number of subjects of the wild type and homo type with the same sex as that of a candidate for registration, respectively. The following three registration probabilities were set.

	$\{p_{_{1}},$	p_2 ,	p_3 ,	p_4 }
Pattern 1	{1.0,	0.8,	0.5,	0.0 }
Pattern 2	{1.0,	0.5,	0.25,	0.0}
Pattern 3	{1.0,	0.1,	0.05,	0.0}

The performance was evaluated in terms of the mean and standard deviation of the proportion difference in the prognostic factor (sex: male) between the comparison groups with the number of simulation iterations set at R=1000.

Mean of proportion difference
$$\overline{p}_{diff}: \overline{p}_{diff} = (1/R) \sum_{r=1}^{R} p_{diff,r}$$

Standard deviation of proportion difference $SD\{\overline{p}_{diff}\}: SD\{\overline{p}_{diff}\} = \sqrt{\{1/(R-1)\} \sum_{r=1}^{R} (p_{diff,r} - \overline{p}_{diff,r})^2}$,

 P_{Wr} : Proportion (%) of wild type males at iteration r,

 p_{Hr} : Proportion (%) of homo type males at iteration r,

 $p_{diff,r} = p_{Wr} - p_{Hr}$: Proportion difference (%) between wild type and homo type males at iteration r.

When all genotype groups reached their respective planned sample sizes, the simulation was terminated.

Simulation Results

The simulation results are shown in Figures 2 and 3 as contour line plots of the mean and standard deviation of the proportion difference in wild-type and homo-type males, with the probability (%) of a male of the wild type on the x-axis and the probability (%) of a male of the homo type on the y-axis. Note that only $(p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4) = (1, 0.1, 0.05, 0)$ of pattern 3 was shown in Figures 2 and 3 because the mean and standard deviation of the proportion difference are almost equivalent among the three registration probabilities. The number of non-registered subjects increased slightly as the registration probability got stricter.

Since the p_4 of all registration probabilities in this simulation were strict, i.e., 0%, perhaps changing the other probabilities did not have a major impact on the mean proportion differences (%). Under all of the conditions, the absolute values of the mean proportion difference in males became smaller than they were initially, which improved the comparability of the prognostic factor between the comparison groups.

The results according to the different conditions are described below. Regarding the planned sample size, the mean proportion difference between the comparison groups was almost unchanged, but the standard deviation of the proportion difference became smaller as the planned sample size became larger. In other words, although the improvement in the comparability of the comparison groups was, on average, equivalent regardless of the sample size, the larger the sample size became, the more stable the balance of the prognosis factor distribution that could be obtained by dynamic registration. Regarding the proportion of wild type, the mean and standard deviation of the proportion difference became smaller as the ratio of the wild type to the homo type became larger. In other words, the greater the number of candidates for registration, the greater the improvement in comparability between the two groups that can be obtained by dynamic registration.

Discussion

In observational studies, the distributions of prognostic factors might be unequal among comparison groups due to non-random allocation, and this imbalance degrades the reliability of the adjusted results as it increases. When the distribution of the prognostic factors hardly overlap among comparison groups, the interpretation of results from the conventional statistical analyses such as stratification, regression models, and propensity score methods is difficult. In this paper, we proposed a dynamic allocation method to improve the comparability between groups in observational studies. The proposed method was able to improve the comparability by dynamically deciding the registration of a candidate based on the background information of subjects already recruited and the candidate without any allocation. The dynamic allocation method is a design-based method to adjust for confounding factors. This method makes it easy to perform conventional methods of statistical analysis by enhancing the comparability before the data analyses. Although it was not considered in this study, it is possible to register, via dynamic registration, subjects who were initially not registered in randomized order, at a later point in time when a certain number of subjects have been reached.

The matched case-control approach is also a design-based method to adjust for confounding factors and may be better than the proposed method for optimizing comparability between groups. However, when conducting prospective cohort studies, we do not need to follow up non-registered subjects since the proposed method judges the registration of subjects before starting follow-up of the subjects. Thus, one of the advantages of the proposed method may be that the resources and costs can be reduced as compared with following up of all subjects for the matching approach.

Our dynamic registration method requires the following conditions. First, since dynamic registration will result in non-registered subjects, non-registration of candidates should be acceptable in real practice and the number of candidates for registration should be larger than the planned sample size. According to the simulation results, a larger number of candidates for registration relative to the planned sample size allows for greater mitigating effect on imbalances in prognosis factor distribution. Also, a larger planned sample size allows for a more stable balance of prognosis factor distribution by dynamic registration. From the standpoint of restrictions and costs in real practice, we need to evaluate and determine in advance what percentage of non-registered subjects is acceptable. Second, the prognostic factors and their levels including unexpected values for dynamic registration need to be determined in advance. In the case of a long-term study,

stratification by time of accrual might be needed as a factor for the dynamic registration due to changes of the medical environment. Moreover, if medical treatments possibly related to the outcomes after registration are planned, these should be considered in the dynamic registration. The number of prognostic factors should be narrowed down as much as possible, because having as few prognostic factors as possible improves the comparability obtained by dynamic registration per prognostic factor. Third, a central registration system needs to be set up because the decision of whether to register a candidate must be made instantaneously. Moreover, the system needs to be coordinated so that registration conditions such as registration probabilities can be changed as needed in response to situations such as the registration of a subject who deviates substantially from the planned subject group. Lowering the registration probability can be expected to reduce any bias in prognosis factor distribution to a greater degree, but it increases the number of non-registered subjects and delays the registration of subjects. Therefore, we need to set appropriate registration conditions in consideration of how bias in prognostic factors between comparison groups will be allowed based on the registration situation and confirm the performance through simulation studies in advance.

The dynamic registration method may contribute to improvement of study quality as well as reduce resources and costs in the case of observational studies designed to compare unallocatable factors.

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成分栄養製剤エレンタール投与による 大腸癌化学療法誘発口内炎の予防効果

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Efficacy of Elental on Prevention for Chemotherapy-Induced Oral Mucositis in Colorectal Cancer Patients: Yutaka Ogata*1, Masaaki Takeuchi*1, Nobuya Ishibashi*1, Shirou Kibe*1, Kenjirou Takahashi*1, Shinji Uchida*1, Naotaka Murakami*1, Toshirou Yahara*1 and Kazuo Shirouzu*2 (*1 Dept. of Surgery, Kurume University Medical Center, *2 Dept. of Surgery, Kurume University School of Medicine)

Summary

Background: The present study was designed to evaluate the preventive effects of elemental diet Elental (ED) on chemotherapy-induced stomatitis in patients with colorectal cancer. Materials and Methods: A total of 23 patients with colorectal cancer experiencing grade 1–3 stomatitis during treatment with chemotherapy (2– or 3–week per cycle) entered the current study. Their average age was 67 years, ranging from 44 to 84 years. Results: A total of 22 patients received the same chemotherapy regimen, but also received more than 80 g of Elental (ED) (including 1, 932 mg of L–glutamine), per day. FOLFOX, FOLFIRI or XELOX-based chemotherapy was used. A dose reduction of 5–FU, capacitabine or S–1 was performed in 5 patients who experienced grade 2 or 3 stomatitis. The maximum grade of stomatitis decreased in 18 of the 22 patients after the first treatment course, and decreased in 20 of 22 patients after the second course with ED. The preventive efficacy of ED on stomatitis was noted in a dose-dependent manner. Similarly, the maximum grade of neutropenia decreased in 10 of 11 patients after their first or second treatment course with ED. Conclusion: We conclude that ED can significantly decrease the severity of chemotherapy-induced stomatitis in colorectal cancer patients in association with the control of neutropenia. Key words: Chemotherapy, Oral mucositis, Elemental diet Elental, Colorectal cancer (*Received Apr. 11, 2011/Accepted Jul. 19, 2011*)

要旨 成分栄養剤エレンタールの大腸癌化学療法による口内炎予防効果を検討した。前コースの化学療法により grade 1-3 の口内炎を認めた 23 例が前向きに登録された。FOLFOX,FOLFIRI や XELOX ベースの同レジメンの化学療法を施行し得た 22 例を対象にエレンタール 80 g 以上/日を化学療法期間中(2 週または 3 週間)可能な限り服用した。エレンタール治療は原則 2 コース施行した。前コースで grade 2-3 の口内炎を認めた 5 例に 5-FU,capecitabine または S-1 の減量を行った。エレンタール治療 1 コース目では 22 例中 18 例に,2 コース目では 20 例に口内炎が消失または軽減した。また,口内炎予防効果はエレンタール服用量依存性であった。同様に,前コースでみられた好中球減少は 11 例中 10 例で消失または軽減した。以上より,エレンタールの大腸癌化学療法による口内炎予防効果が示唆された。

はじめに

癌化学療法における粘膜傷害は最も頻度の高い有害事象の一つである。口腔粘膜傷害である口内炎はその重症度にかかわらず患者に苦痛をもたらし、QOLや治療意欲の低下を来す。また、化学療法による骨髄抑制を来している患者では口内炎は二次感染の要因となるため、口

内炎対策は化学療法を継続し治療効果を担保するために は極めて重要である。

口内炎を引き起こしやすい抗癌剤としては methotrexate や 5-fluorouracil(5-FU)などが代表的である。 大腸癌化学療法では 5-FU の急速および持続投与を含む FOLFOX や FOLFIRI, また 5-FU 系経口剤を用いた XELOX が標準的レジメンあり、口内炎の発生率は 40%

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584 癌z化等療法

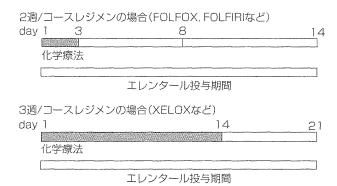


図 1 化学療法のスケジュールとエレンタールの投与法 通常の経口摂取に加え、化学療法当日より成分 栄養剤 (エレンタール1パック/80g以上)を day 1~14 または day 1~21 まで可能な限り経口投与する。エレンタールの経口投与に際して、フレーバーやゼリー化による摂取方法を紹介する。原則として2コース以上施行する。

前後と高率である1.20。

われわれは経口摂取障害対策に加え、グルタミンの粘膜保護作用³³に着目し、化学療法中に grade 1-3 の口内炎を発生した大腸癌患者に対し、L-グルタミンを 80 g中1,932 mg 含有する成分栄養剤エレンタール(1 パック 80 g,300 kcal)を投与する前向きパイロットスタディを行った。本研究では、エレンタールの口内炎の予防・治療効果を検討するとともに、癌化学療法時の有害事象対策としての栄養学的介入法の意義について考察する。

1. 対象と方法

1. 対象症例

2008 年 9 月~2010 年 12 月までに mFOLFOX6. FOLFIRI および XELOX ベースの化学療法施行中(前コース)に grade 1-3 の口内炎(CTCAE v3.0)を認めた大腸癌患者 23 例が登録された。

2. エレンタール投与法

2週1コースまたは3週1コースの化学療法中(day 1~14またはday 1~21),通常の経口摂取に加え.1日に成分栄養剤エレンタール1パック/80g以上を可能な限り経口摂取する。エレンタールの経口投与に際しては.フレーバーやゼリー化による摂取法を紹介した。2コース以上のエレンタール投与を原則とした(図1)。

3. 評価項目

エレンタール投与2コースにおけるエレンタール摂取量、口内炎発生の有無および程度、好中球減少の有無と程度を評価した。口内炎の改善度および好中球減少の改善度とエレンタール摂取量との関連性について検討した。統計学的有意差検定は χ^2 検定および Student's t検定を用いた。

Ⅱ. 結 果

1. 症例の概要

登録23 例中, grade 3 の口内炎を認めた1 例は次コースの化学療法を施行し得なかった。同レジメンの化学療法を施行できた22 症例の概要を表1に示す。

症例は男性 10 例, 女性 12 例で平均年齢は 67 (44~84) 歳であった。前コースにおける口内炎の程度は grade 3 が 2 例. grade 2 が 15 例と grade 1 が 5 例であった。化学療法は mFOLFOX6 と FOLFIRI の 4 コースごとの交替療法である FIREFOX+bevacizumab 11 例, FOLFIRI+bevacizumab 3 例と mFOLFOX6+bevacizumab 2 例, XELOX+bevacizumab 2 例, S-1+cetuximab 2 例, FIREFOX および FOLFIRI+panitumumab が各 1 例であった。口内炎が grade 3 の 2 例と grade 2 の 1 例では、5-FU 投与量を 1 レベル減量した。また,他の grade 2 の 2 例にそれぞれ S-1,capecitabineと oxaliplatinを 1 レベル減量した。FOLFIRI+bevacizumab 治療の grade 2 口内炎症例は 1 レベル減量開始症例であったため、エレンタール治療 2 コース目に irinotecan を標準量へ増量した。

化学療法再開基準は通常の臨床試験に準じた。すなわち、口内炎が grade 1 以下に回復、その他の非血液毒性として下痢がない、出血がない、grade 1 以下の蛋白尿(bevacizumab 併用の場合)、grade 1 以下の末梢神経症状(oxaliplatin 使用例)であり、血液毒性として grade 1 以下の好中球減少、grade 1 以下の血小板減少である。ただし、症例 5 は化学療法再開時 grade 2 の口内炎を認めたが、本人希望により 5-FU を減量することで施行した。エレンタール摂取量(3 週レジメン例は 2 週間摂取量に換算)は、1 コース目が 240~1、120 g、平均 600 g、2 コース目が 240~1、120 g、平均 557 g であった。なお、22 例中 7 例に L-グルタミンとアズレンスルフォン酸ナトリウムを主成分とする商品名マーズレン S 顆粒 (MA-S)(L-グルタミンとして L-20 g(月)を併用した。

2. 口内炎改善効果および好中球減少に及ぼす効果

口内炎 grade 3 の 1 例はエレンタール投与により、1 コース目は grade 1、2 コース目は認めなかった。 grade 3 の他の 1 例は 1 コース目が grade 2、2 コース目には grade 1 と軽減した。 grade 2 の 15 例では 1 コース目は grade 0 が 3 例, grade 1 が 10 例, grade 2 が 2 例であった。 2 コース目には 8 例で口内炎を認めず,他の 6 例は grade 1 と軽減した。 2 コース目に irinotecan を増量した 1 例は grade 1 と増悪した。 grade 1 の 1 9 のでは、1 コース目に 1 3 例、1 2 コース目には 1 4 例が grade 1 とエレンタールの口内炎予防効果がみられた(表 1 2)。

表 1 症例の概要

症例	レジメン	1コースの期間	治療 phase	性别	年齢	減量	前コースの口内炎
症例 1	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	男性	68	5-FU	3
症例2	FOLFIRI+BV	2w	一次治療	女性	75	5-FU	3
症例3	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	男性	59		2
症例 4	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	男性	73		2
症例 5	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	女性	82	5-FU	2
症例 6	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	女性	84		2
症例7	FOLFOX+BV	2w	二次治療	女性	67		2
症例 8	S-1+Cmab	3w	二次治療	女性	59		2
症例 9	S-1+Cmab	3w	一次治療	男性	76	S-1	2
症例 10	FOLFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	男性	63		2
症例 11	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	女性	73		2
症例 12	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	女性	73		2
症例 13	FOLFIRI+BV	2w	二次治療	女性	63		2
症例 14	XELOX+BV	$3 \mathrm{w}$	一次治療	男性	74	capecitabine oxaliplatin	2
症例 15	XELOX+BV	3w	一次治療	女性	75		2
症例 16	FOLFIRI+Pmab	2w	二次治療	男性	66		2
症例 17	FOLFIRI+BV	2w	二次治療	女性	76	2 コース目に irinotecan 増量	2
症例 18	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	女性	62		1
症例 19	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	男性	61		1
症例 20	FIREFOX+BV	2w	一次治療	男性	44		1
症例 21	FIREFOX	2w	一次治療	男性	66		1
症例 22	FIREFOX+BV	2w	二次治療	女性	59		1

FIREFOX: mFOLFOX6 と FOLFIRI の 4 コースごとの交替療法. BV: bevacizumab, Cmab: cetuximab,

Pmab: panitumumab

口内炎の grade は CTCAE v3.0 による

表 2 エレンタールの服用量と治療効果

				J. 4		· 100/10 === - 111/21	. , , ,			
症例	前口内炎	1 コース目 口内炎	2 コース目 口内炎	1 コース目 効果	2コース目 効果	前好中球減少	1コース目 好中球減少	2コース目 好中球減少	25/24/2014 1-12/2012 12/2012 12/2012	2コース日 ED 服用量
症例1	3	1	0	著効	著効	2	1	0	720 g	$560~\mathrm{g}$
症例 2	3	2	1	有効	著効	3	1	1	$560~\mathrm{g}$	$480~\mathrm{g}$
症例3	2	0	0	著効	著効	2	0	0	$720~\mathrm{g}$	480 g
症例4	2	2	1	無効	有効	2	2	1	$240~\mathrm{g}$	$240~\mathrm{g}$
症例 5	2	1	0	有効	著効	2	1	0	480 g	560 g
症例 6	2	1	1	有効	有効	3	2	1	480 g	400 g
症例7	2	1	0	有効	著効	0	0	0	800 g	$560~\mathrm{g}$
症例 8	2	1	1	有効	著効	0	0	0	560 g	420 g
症例 9	2	1	1	有効	有効	0	0	0	480 g	480 g
症例 10	2	1	0	有効	有効	0	0	0	560 g	480 g
症例 11	2	1	0	有効	著効	0	0	1	560 g	560 g
症例 12	2 2	0	0	著効	著効	1	0	()	800 g	800 g
症例 13	3 2	1	1	有効	有効	1	0	0	560 g	480 g
症例 14	1 2	0	0	著劾	著効	0	0	0	720 g	640 g
症例 15	5 2	2	1	無効	有効	0	2	1	$1.120 \mathrm{g}$	1,120 g
症例 10	5 2	1	0	有効	著効	1	2	0	880 g	800 g
症例 17	7 2	1	3	有効	無効	0	0	0	880 g	960 g
症例 18	3 1	0	0	有効	有効	1	0	0	400 g	560 g
症例19) 1	1	1	無効	無効	0	0	0	$240~\mathrm{g}$	240 g
症例 20) 1	1	0	無効	有効	0	0	0	$320~\mathrm{g}$	$320~\mathrm{g}$
症例 21	. 1	0	1	有効	有効	0	0	0	$400 \mathrm{~g}$	640 g
症例 22	2 1	0	0	有効	有効	1	0	0	$720~\mathrm{g}$	$480~\mathrm{g}$

ED: エレンタール,口内炎および好中球減少の grade は CTCAE v3.0 による

著効: 2 grade 改善,有効: 1 grade 改善,無効: grade が不変または増悪

表 3 前コースの口内炎と好中球減少との関係

		好中球減少	
	grade 0-1	grade 2	grade 3
口内炎 grade l	5 例	0 例	0 例
口内炎 grade 2	11 例	3 例	1例
口内炎 grade 3	0 例	1 例	1 例

 $p=0.083 (\chi^2 \text{ di} = 8.250)$

前コースでは口内炎 grade 3の1例と grade 2の1例に grade 3の好中球減少を,他の口内炎 grade 2の4例に grade 2の好中球減少を伴い、口内炎の重症度と好中球減少との関連が示唆された(表3)。好中球減少は、エレンタール投与によりほとんどの症例で grade 1以下に軽減した(表2)。なお、2コース目の化学療法は grade 2の口内炎により2例、grade 2の好中球減少により4例(重複あり)がそれぞれ7~14日の延期となった。また、併用した MA-S と口内炎軽減効果に一定の関連性は認めなかった。

3. 口内炎予防効果とエレンタール摂取量

口内炎の grade が2段階改善した場合を著効,1段階改善を有効,改善がみられない場合を無効とし、2週1コースレジメン症例18例でエレンタール摂取量と口内炎の予防効果を検討した。1コース目の著効3例,有効12例,無効3例のエレンタール摂取量はそれぞれ747±46g,607±172gおよび267±46gであり、摂取量依存性の口内炎予防効果がみられた。2コース目の著効8例,有効8例,無効2例の2コースの摂取量はそれぞれ600±128g、450±128gおよび600±509gであり、著効例の摂取量は有効例のそれと比べ有意に多かったが、2コース目にirinotecanを増量し無効となった1例の摂取量が多く,無効例の摂取量は推計学的には著効例や有効例のそれと差異を認めなかった(表4)。

Ⅲ.考察

癌化学療法時の口内炎の発生機序として,抗癌剤により生じた活性酸素による粘膜上皮細胞の DNA 傷害や種々の転写因子の活性化やサイトカインなどの産生によるアポトーシスの誘導によって引き起こされること,また抗癌剤による免疫機能低下が原因となる細菌・真菌への感染により引き起こされることが明らかにされている。

口内炎の発生は口腔粘膜上皮細胞の細胞周期と関連 し、化学療法開始後5~10日ほどで出現する。口腔粘膜 は通常7~14日サイクルで再生しているため、粘膜傷害 が出現してから回復までには2~3週間を要する。当然、 抗癌剤の種類や投与量、治療サイクル、患者の状態によっ

表 4 2週レジメン施行例における口内炎治療効果と エレンタール摂取量

効果	1コース目	2コース日	
著効	3 例/747±46 g	8 例/600±128 g(1.290 g)	
有効	12例/607±172g	8 例/450±128 g (923 g)	
無効	3 例/267±46 g	2例/600±509g (1,160g)	

著効: 2 grade 改善,有効: 1 grade 改善,無効: grade の改善なし

():1+2コースのエレンタール摂取量

1 コース目効果と摂取量: p=0.197 (著効 vs 有効), p<0.001 (著効 vs 無効), p=0.006 (有効 vs 無効) 2 コース目効果と摂取量: p=0.034 (著効 vs 有効), p=0.406 (有効 vs 不変)

2 コース目効果と 1+2 コース摂取量: p=0.009 (著 効 vs 有効), p=0.699 (著効 vs 無効), p=0.481 (有 効 vs 無効)

て発現頻度、程度や回復までの期間は異なる。

口内炎対策としては予防が重要である。口腔内ケアなど一般的な予防法に加え、いったん口内炎が発生した後では、その程度に応じた抗癌剤投与量や投与スケジュールの調整が必要となる。薬剤強度の低下は当然治療効果に反映する。したがって、薬剤強度をできる限り低下させることなく治療を継続するためには、有効な口内炎予防法の確立が求められる。

本パイロットスタディでは、エレンタールは用量依存 的に口内炎を予防する傾向が認められ、抗癌剤による口 内炎対策としての可能性を期待させる。その作用機序と して、われわれが当初期待したのはグルタミンの粘膜保 護作用であった。しかし、エレンタールの摂取量は期待 したほど多くはなく、 レーグルタミンとして 14 日間で 6~ 27gと比較的少量の摂取量であった。さらに、併用した MA-S (2g連日服用, L-グルタミンとして1日1.98g 摂取)と口内炎軽減効果に関連がなかったことを考える と、口内炎予防効果におけるグルタミンの役割はそれほ ど大きくないことが推測される。2007年 American Cancer Society の Clinical Practice グルタミン for Prevention and Treatment of Mucositis⁵⁾では. L-グルタミ ンの全身投与は化学療法施行時における口内炎を含む GI mucositis 対策として推奨されていない。しかし、 Choi ら⁶ は 5-FU/LV 治療の進行・再発大腸癌患者に対 する高用量(30g/日)経口グルタミンの口内炎予防効果 を報告しているように、グルタミンの効果については引 き続き検討の余地が残されている。

興味深いことに、今回われわれが検討したエレンタール (アミノ酸製剤) を用いた栄養学的介入法は好中球減少を抑制する可能性が示唆され、癌化学療法における有害事象対策としての栄養学的介入法の可能性を期待させ

る結果である。いくつかの臨床試験で食欲不振は他の有害事象の発生を助長することが示されており⁷⁷,癌化学療法における栄養学的介入の重要性を示唆している。好中球減少の抑制に関しては、エレンタールの主要な成分であるグルタミンやアルギニンなど個々のアミノ酸のもつ免疫能賦活作用⁸¹の可能性が考えられるが、経口グルタミン単独での好中球減少の抑制は期待が薄い⁹⁰。今後、アミノ酸分析を含めた栄養学的評価を詳細に行うことで、栄養状態と好中球減少および口内炎予防効果との関連性が明らかになるものと期待される。

口内炎の予防・治療薬として 2004 年, FDA は造血幹 細胞移植を必要とするような骨髄毒性の強い治療を受ける血液癌患者の口内炎の治療用に Palifermin を承認した。この薬剤は遺伝子組み換え型ヒトケラチノサイト成長因子(KGF)であり、粘膜細胞の成長を促進する作用を有する 10°。ただし、血液癌以外の癌での Palifermin の安全性、有効性はまだ確立されていない。また、最近はグルタミンの新しい時間制御放出製剤である Saforis が anthracycline を基本とした化学療法を受けている乳癌患者の口内炎管理に有望であることが報告されている 10°。今後、口内炎に対するこのような新規薬剤とともに複合的アミノ酸製剤エレンタールによる栄養学的介入法の意義を明らかにすることは、患者 QOL の維持や化学療法の効果を担保する上で有用と思われる。

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診察前面談と電話による服薬支援「XELOX療法サポート」の有用性

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The Usefulness of a Medication Support Service for Patients Receiving XELOX Therapy through Face-to-Face and Phone Interview with Pharmacists

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2009年進行再発大腸がんの標準療法に加わったカペシタビン+オキサリプラチン(以下、XELOX)療法は、手足症候群などの副作用があり、この治療を継続するためには、カペシタビンの副作用をマネジメントし、服薬アドヒアランスを維持することが重要である。久留米大学医療センターでは薬剤師が、診察前面談と電話サポートを組み合わせた「XELOX療法サポート」を行って、治療開始から約1ヵ月は週1回、その後は外来受診日ごとに患者の服薬状況や有害事象を確認・評価している。また、患者の不安に対しては電話相談に応じている。本研究で評価した結果、「XELOX療法サポート」は有害事象の早期発見や重篤化の回避、至適投与量での治療の継続、服薬アドヒアランスの維持に繋がっており、カペシタビンのrelative dose intensity(実際の服薬量/標準投与量×100(%))中央値も87.5%と良好な値を示したことから、その有用性が示唆された。

キーワードーがん化学療法、進行再発大腸がん、服薬支援、XELOX療法サポート、診察前面談、電話サポート

・緒 言・

久留米大学医療センター(以下、当院)では、2008年に化学療法委員会を設置し、がん化学療法のレジメン審査や登録を行い、がん化学療法を安心・安全に行うためのシステム導入・構築を行ってきた。その一環として2009年2月より、大腸がん化学療法を受ける患者を対象に外来受診時、薬剤師が医師の診察前に患者へ副作用などを評価する面談(以下、診察前面談)を開始した。

2009年9月にカペシタビン+オキサリプラチン(以下, XELOX)療法がフルオロウラシル(以下, 5-FU) +ロイコボリン+オキサリプラチン(以下, FOLFOX4) 療法に対して非劣性が確認され¹¹,切除不能進行再発大 腸がんの標準療法に加わった。

XELOX療法は、FOLFOX4療法と比較して5-FU持続点滴に必要な持続注入ポンプの携帯が不要で、点滴治療が3週間に1回であるため通院回数を減らせるなどのメリットがある。しかし、治療継続のためには手足症候群(以下、HFS)などの副作用を的確にマネジメントし、カペシタビンの服薬アドヒアランスを維持することが重要である。そこで、当院ではXELOX±ベバシズマブ療法(表1-A)を受ける患者に、外来受診時の診察前面談に加えて、薬剤師が直接電話で服薬支援(以下、電話サポート)する「XELOX療法サポート」(表1-B)を導入した。

カペシタビンの服薬支援への取り組みとしては、薬剤

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表1 XELOX±ベバシズマブ療法と 「XELOX療法サポート」のスケジュール

A XELOX±ベバシズマブ療法のスケジュール

点滴注射(day 1)	投与時間
①5-HT₃受容体拮抗薬+デキサメタゾン注6.6mg + 5 % ブドウ糖液50mL	15分
②土ベバシズマブ注7.5mg/kg+生理食塩液100mL	90分~30分
③オキサリプラチン注130mg/m² + 5 % ブドウ糖液250mL	120分
経口薬(day 1 夕食後~day 15朝食後)	投与期間
④カベシタビン錠1,000mg/m²を1日2回朝夕食後	14日間 経口投与 7日間休薬

5-HT₃: 5-hydroxytryptamine₃

B 「XELOX療法サポート」のスケジュール

	day1	XELOX±ベバシズマブ療法と 「XELOX療法サポート」の説明
1 コース目	day8	電話サポート
	day15	電話サポート
2コース目	day1	診察前面談
2 - 1 - 1 =	day8	電話サポート
3コース目〜治療終了	day1	診察前面談

師外来²⁰や治療開始時の家庭訪問に加え、週1回の電話によるモニタリングの有用性³⁰の報告はあるが、診察前面談と電話サポートを組み合わせた報告はない。そこで本研究では当院独自の「XELOX療法サポート」の有用性を検討したので報告する。

、方 法

1. 対象と調査期間

2009年10月~2011年9月の間にXELOX±ベバシズマブ療法を行い、「XELOX療法サポート」を導入した進行再発大腸がん患者21例を対象に調査を行った。

2. 「XELOX療法サポート」の内容

「XELOX療法サポート」の主な内容は、(1)1コース目 day8、day15、2コース目day8の合計3回行う電話サポート、(2)外来受診日ごとの診察前面談である。1コース目day1(治療開始日)には、薬剤師が㈱中外製薬作成のゼローダハンドブック(以下、ハンドブック)を用いてXELOX土ベバシズマブ療法についての説明と、当院で作成した「XELOX療法サポートについて」(図1-A)を用いて電話サポートについてや診察前面談の日程・内容を説明し、同意を得た後に相互に電話ができる体制を決める。電話サポート、診察前面談ではカペシタビンの服薬状況、手足の保湿状況や有害事象(非血液毒性)の確認・評価を行う。有害事象は、Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events version3.0(以下、CTCAE ver. 3.0)やBlumの分類⁴を参考にグレード評価する。

電話サポートで得た情報は、必要に応じて医師へ照会し、 指示内容を患者に伝え、「電話によるサポート有害事象 記入票」(図1-B) に記入しカルテに貼付する。診察前 面談で得た情報は、カルテのクリニカルパス(図1-C) へ記入する。有害事象欄のグレードをチェックし、特記 事項欄に服薬状況、手足の保湿状況、患者の訴え、減 量・休薬・支持療法・看護介入の提案など医療スタッフ 間で共有すべき情報を記入する。

3. 「XELOX療法サポート」の評価

(1) 有用性の評価

カペシタビンのrelative dose intensity (以下, RDI) (RDI (%)=実際の服薬量/標準投与量×100)を有用性の指標とした。服薬状況はハンドブック内の治療ダイアリーへの服薬チェックの記載や残薬の確認と本人の申告から判断した。

また、服薬アドヒアランスの評価として、実際の服薬量/服薬すべき量(処方量から有害事象などを理由に医師の指示で途中休薬した分を引いた投与量)を服薬率と定義して調査した。

(2) 有害事象の調査

電話サポート, 診察前面談で評価した有害事象(非血 液毒性)の発現状況を調査した。

(3) 電話サポートの評価

電話サポートは、1~2コース目で有害事象の発現状況が大体わかること、薬剤師の業務負担などを考慮して2コース目day8までの計3回、約1ヵ月間行い、副作用や服薬への不安については、担当薬剤師が患者からの電話相談に応じる体制をとった。そこで、実際に行った電話サポートの回数やカペシタビンの減量時期、患者からの電話相談とその対応について調査した。

(4) 医療スタッフ間で共有した患者情報の評価

電話サポート、診察前面談で得た情報を基に医師、看 護師に対して行った提案の総数と受け入れ数との割合を 採用率と定義して調査した。

(5) 所要時間の調査

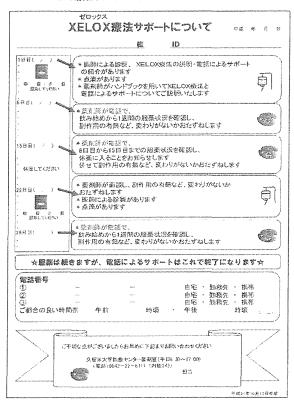
1回の電話サポート(電話+記録), 1回の診察前面談(面談+記録)に要した時間を調査した。

・結 果・

1. 「XELOX療法サポート」の実績(表2-A)

「XELOX療法サポート」導入患者数は21例 (男性12例, 女性9例), 投与コース数中央値は7コースであり, カ ペシタビンのRDI中央値は87.5%, 服薬率中央値は100.0 %であった。非血液毒性を要因とした治療中止例は4例 であった。

A XELOX療法サポートについて



B 電話によるサポート有害事象記入票

45	А	日 (ケール day)	
Х	ELOX療法 [W語によるサポート有害事象記入票	
(有容等數)		(特記基項)	
象纹	10-1-2-3/	ロゼローダ鋭のグラインス 「 良好 ・ 要収書)	
革心・塩柱	(0-1-2-3)	□推测·(及好· 取效性)	
ŦЯ	(0.1.2.3)		
多無縣	(0)-1-2-31		
门内员	(0-1-2-8)		
手足のしびれ	(0-1-9-3)		
平足色移 群	(0-1-2-3)		サインベ

C クリニカルパス (一部抜粋)



図1 「XELOX療法サポート」で使用した当院作成のツール

2. 有害事象の発現状況 (表2-B)

有害事象としては、食欲不振、疲労・倦怠感が各々19例(90.5%)と高い発現率を示し、グレード 3以上も 3例(14.3%)に認められた。末梢神経障害はほとんどの症例で発現していた。HFSグレード 2 を認めた 3例は 3, 6, 21 コース目に発現していた。

3. 電話サポートの調査結果

電話サポートの回数は3回が19例,4回・5回が各々1例ずつであった。カペシタビンの減量は21例中13例(61.9%)で合計16件行われ,3コースまでの減量が12件で75.0%を占めた(表2-A)。

患者からの電話相談は10例から総件数35件あった。 有害事象に関するものが29件(82.9%)と最も多く(図2-A),必要に応じて速やかに医師に照会し、患者に医師の指示を伝えた。有害事象への主な対応は、カペシタビンの続行指示5件、休薬指示7件、受診の指示8件、副作用対策の説明が7件であった(図2-B)。

4. 医療スタッフ間で共有した患者情報

表3に医療スタッフへ薬剤師が行った提案の内容を示す。総提案数は72件あり、受け入れ件数は67件、採用率は93.1%になった。医師への治療延期・減量の提案は6件で、そのうち受け入れ件数は5件であった。処方に

表2 「XELOX療法サポート」の実績と 有害事象の発現状況(非血液毒性)

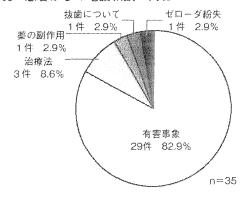
A. 「XELOX療法サポート」の実績

患者数	21例
年齡中央値 (範囲)	68(45~81)歳
男性/女性	12例/9例
投与コース数中央値(範囲)	7 (2~21) コース
カペシタビンのRDI中央値(範囲)	87.5 (45.0~100.0) %
カペシタビンの服薬率中央値(範囲)	100.0 (76.7~100.0) %
電話サポートの回数	3回:19例,
	4回:1例,5回:1例
カベシタビンを減量した患者数	13例(61.9%)
カペシタビンを減量した件数	16件
3コース目までの減量	12件 (75.0%)
非血液霉性による減量	5件(31.3%)
有害事象を要因とした治療中止例	5例(23.8%)
非血液毒性による中止	4例(19.0%)
電話サポートの所要時間中央値(範囲)	20 (15~30) 分
診察前面談所要時間中央値(範囲)	20 (15~30) 分

B 有害事象の発現状況(非血液毒性)

有害事象			CAE ve		発現率	グレード3
(n≈21)	1	2	3	4	(%)	以上 (%)
食欲不振	7	9	3	0	90.5	14.3
悪心・嘔吐	11	4	0	0	71.4	0
下痢	3	4	1	0	38.1	4.8
疲労・倦怠感	7	9	3	0	90.5	14.3
口内炎	6	4	1	0	52.4	4.8
末梢神経障害	12	8	0	0	95.2	0
HFS	14	3	O	0	81.0	0

A 患者からの電話相談の内容



B 有害事象への対応

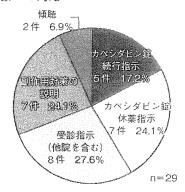


図2 患者からの電話相談の内容と有害事象への対応

表3 医療スタッフに対して行った提案の内容, 提案数、受け入れ数と採用率

提案内容	提案数	受け入れ数
治療延期・減量の提案	6	5
処方に関する提案	64	60
消化器症状治療薬	13	11
制吐剤	5	5
止瀉剤	1	1
下剤	3	2
その他	4	3
口内炎治療薬	4	3
末梢神経障害治療薬	2	2
保湿剤	3	3
ステロイド外用剤	2	2
鎮痛剤	13	13
睡眠剤	5	5
残薬調整	15	15
その他	7	6
看護介入の提案	2	2
総 数	72	67
採用率(受け入れ数/提案数)	93	.1%

関する提案は64件で、主な内容は残薬調整15件、消化器症状治療薬関連が13件あった。制吐剤に関する提案は5件で、5-HT₃受容体拮抗薬の変更やneurokinin₁(NK₁)受容体拮抗薬の追加、ステロイド内服薬の日数変更などであった。処方された支持療法の効果は、次回の診察前

面談で有害事象の発現状況や患者の訴えを参考に評価した。看護師へは、写真による記録・セルフケア指導などの看護介入を2件提案し、すべて受け入れられた。

考察。

本研究では、XELOX療法を受ける患者に「XELOX療 法サポート」を行うことの有用性を検討した。治療開始 日には薬剤師が、HFS対策として手足の保湿や観察を十 分行うこと, 副作用や服薬について不安な時は, 自己判 断でカペシタビンを中止せず、担当薬剤師に電話で相談 することなどを指導し、服薬アドヒアランスの向上を目 指した。XELOX療法において支持療法などの処方提案 に対する採用率では、前ら²⁾が95.4%と報告しており、 当院でもほぼ同様の高い採用率であった。薬剤師による 有害事象の評価や医療スタッフへの提案が適切であった と考える。さらに、診察前に患者情報を把握することは 医師、看護師の負担軽減に繋がり、チーム医療としても 有用であった。また、患者からの電話相談に応じる体制 をとったことにより、約半数の患者から電話相談があり、 有害事象を早期に発見することができた。薬剤師による 副作用対策の指導と、必要に応じて医師へ照会し、カペ シタビンの続行・休薬・受診の指示を伝えることで不必 要な服薬中断や有害事象の重篤化を回避することができ た。HFSでは、手指の痛みについて電話相談を受けた1 例に対し、薬剤師がグレード2と評価し、医師へ照会後 カペシタビンは休薬となった。診察前面談でグレード2 と評価した2例については、カペシタビンの休薬とステ ロイド軟膏処方、看護介入を提案し受け入れられた。こ れにより、HFSのグレード3への進行を回避できたと考 える。

有用性の指標としたカペシタビンのRDIについては、HallerらがNO16968試験で結腸がん術後補助化学療法として行ったXELOX療法において、78%と報告している。本研究では対照群を設けておらず、既存の報告とも条件が異なるため、直接の比較検討は行えないが、良好なRDI(87.5%)を示していた。服薬アドヒアランスの評価として調査した服薬率はほぼ100%であった。治療開始から繰り返し服薬支援をすることで、有害事象を早期に発見し、的確なマネジメントで重篤化を回避することができた。加えて、患者の忍容性に応じた至適投与量で治療を継続できたことが、不安軽減や服薬アドヒアランスの維持、良好なRDIに繋がったと考えられる。

電話サポートの期間については、ほとんどの症例が3 回で終了できたことや、カペシタビンの減量が2~3 コース目に集中して行われ、1~2コース目の有害事象 をマネジメントすることの重要性を示したことから、現在行っている電話サポートの期間が適切であると考えられる。一方で、不安の強い患者には個々の対応も必要と考える。

有害事象については、食欲不振、疲労・倦怠感が高頻度で発現し、治療中止やRDIを下げる要因になった。患者の希望による中止例が3例あったことは、治療への意欲を損なわない、より早い時期での減量・休薬の必要性を示唆している。また、グレード2のHFSが電話サポート終了後に発現した。診察前面談で引き続き患者指導を行い、早期発見に努める必要がある。

以上の結果から、「XELOX療法サポート」はXELOX療法を受ける患者への服薬支援およびチーム医療として有用であったと考えられる。

現在,当院では診察前面談は大腸がん化学療法を受ける全患者を対象に、電話サポートはXELOX療法を行う患者のみを対象に行っているが、経口剤併用レジメンを施行する患者すべてにこれらの介入の有用性が期待される。患者1人当たりに要する時間は1回20分程度であるが、業務の充実のためには、薬剤師外来^{2.63}などの服薬支援を診療報酬加算対象とすることや、保険薬局の薬剤師が在宅で服薬支援を行う体制作りが急務であると考える。

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ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Multicenter Phase II Study of a New Effective S-1 and Irinotecan Combination Schedule in Patients with Unresectable Metastatic or Recurrent Colorectal Cancer

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Abstract

Introduction: This multicenter phase II study determined the efficacy and safety of new daily oral S-1 and weekly irinotecan (CPT-11) combination schedule in patients with previously untreated advanced or recurrent colorectal cancer.

Patients and methods: Patients received first-line chemotherapy comprising S-1 80 mg/m²/day given on days 3 to 7, 10 to 14, and 17 to 21 and 60 mg/m² CPT-11 administered intravenously on days 1, 8, and 15 of a 28-day cycle.

Results: A total of 45 eligible patients were enrolled in this study. The overall response rate was 48.9%. Median progression-free survival and median overall survival was 8.1 months and 20.9 months, respectively. The rates of grade 3 or 4 toxicity were as follows: neutropenia, 8.9%; anemia, 4.4%; anorexia, 6.7%; and diarrhea, 6.7%.

Conclusions: This new S-1 and irinotecan combination schedule appeared to be an effective, well-tolerated, and convenient regimen in patients with advanced colorectal cancer as compared with conventional regimens such as FOLFIRI and IRIS.

Keywords: advanced colorectal carcinoma, first-line chemotherapy, irinotecan, multicenter phase II study, metronomic chemotherapy, S-1

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Introduction

Irinotecan (CPT-11) is a key drug in the management of metastatic colorectal cancer as demonstrated by several randomized studies indicating a survival benefit. It was shown that the response rate to CPT-11 was 11% to 25% in patients with advanced colorectal cancer refractory to 5-fluorouracil (5-FU)-based chemotherapy.^{1,2} These findings implied a lack in tumor cross-resistance between the two agents CPT-11 and 5-FU. Moreover, favorable results from combination chemotherapy using CPT-11 and 5-FU/leucovorin (LV) for advanced colorectal cancer have been reported.^{3,4} A CPT-11 and infusion plus bolus 5-FU/ LV regimen (FOLFIRI) with or without biologics has been recommended as first-line therapy for advanced colorectal cancer. FOLFOX regimens which add oxaliplatin to intravenous 5-FU/LV have also been recommended.⁵ These regimens consist of the conventional maximum tolerated dosage (MTD) of CPT-11 and 5-FU. Consequently, grade 3 or worse adverse effects are not uncommon. Moreover, administration of infusion 5-FU is becoming more complex because of the need for vascular access devices and a portable delivery system.

Dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD)-inhibitory fluoropyrimidine (DIF) compounds such as UFT and S-1 have been developed in an attempt to resolve the issue of the rapid reduction in 5-FU by DPD. S-1 is an new oral DIF developed by Taiho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan) that combines tegafur with two 5-FU modulators, 5-chloro-2,4-dihydrooxypyridine (CDHP), and potassium oxonate (Oxo) in a molar ratio of 1:0.4:1.6 Tegafur, a prodrug of 5-FU, is converted to 5-FU mainly in the liver and in the tumor cells. CDHP, a reversible inhibitor of DPD, suppresses the degradation of 5-FU, thereby maintaining high concentrations of 5-FU in plasma and the tumor cells.^{6,7} CDHP also decreases the cardiotoxic and neurotoxic effects by reducing the production of F-beta-alanine (FBAL), the main catabolite of 5-FU.8.9 After peroral administration, Oxo is selectively distributed to the small and large bowels. High concentrations of Oxo in these organs inhibit the phosphorylation of 5-FU to fluoropyrimidine monophasphate, catabolized by orotate phosphoribosyltransferase within the gastrointestinal mucosal cells, thereby reducing the incidence of diarrhea.¹⁰ DPD is approximately 180 times more potent than the DPD

inhibitor uracil, which is a component of UFT. Thus, S-1 results in higher concentrations of 5-FU in the blood and tumor tissue than UFT. Because S-1 is thought to be more potent than UFT with respect to the biochemical modulation effect, one might expect a stronger antitumor effect of S-1.

In phase II trials of S-1 as a single agent in patients with advanced colorectal cancer, response rates ranging from 19% to 39% have been reported. 12-14 These studies also demonstrated that S-1 had good compliance in patients with advanced colorectal cancer treated on an outpatient basis. Several regimens combining S-1 and CPT-11 were subsequently developed. 15-19 Goto et al 15 conducted a phase II study consisting of 150 mg/m² of CPT-11 given on day 1 with 40 mg/m² of S-1 twice daily on days 1 to 14 of a 21-day cycle to assess efficacy and safety. They concluded that the combined treatment was a promising regimen, offering benefits in terms of safety and survival as compared with conventional regimens in patients with advanced colorectal cancer. Muro et al²⁰ reported a noninferiority of IRIS regimen consisting of 125 mg/m² of CPT-11 given on days 1 and 15 with 40 mg/m² of S-1 twice daily on days 1 to 14 of a 28-day cycle to the FOLFIRI regimen in a phase III study as second-line therapy.

Conventional cytotoxic chemotherapeutics affect the endothelium of the growing tumor vasculature in addition to affecting the proliferating cancer cells and various types of normal cells.²¹ The antiangiogenic effects of chemotherapy would seem to be optimized by administering a comparatively low dose according to a more frequent (daily, several times a week, or weekly) or continuous schedule, with no extended interruptions, which is sometimes referred to as metronomic chemotherapy.²² This would also have the advantage of being less acutely toxic, therefore, making more prolonged treatments hypothetically possible. Thus, peroral fluoropyrimidine on a daily schedule such as S-1 would be a reasonable metronomic chemotherapy. High rates of grade 3 or 4 toxicities generally can necessitate temporary suspension of the chemotherapy, especially when CPT-11 is given at a high dosage biweekly or triweekly schedule similar to Goto's regimen¹⁵ and Muro's regimen.²⁰ This might not allow the metronomic advantage of daily peroral fluoropyrimidine to be realized in combination with CPT-11. We, therefore, postulate that a new



combination therapy of low-dose and weekly CPT-11 with daily S-1 could realize the advantages of metronomic administration probably having an antiangiogenic effect in addition to an antiproliferation effect. Ogata et al conducted a phase I study to assess the recommended doses of weekly CPT-11 and S-1 combination therapy,²¹ which recommended a CPT-11 dose of 60 mg/m2 on days 1, 8, and 15 with 40 mg/m² of S-1 twice daily on days 3 to 7, days 10 to 14, and on days 17 to 21 of a 28-day cycle. We report the results of this phase II study to validate the antitumor efficacy and safety of weekly CPT-11 combined with daily S-1 as new combination schedule representing a metronomic advantage in addition to a cytotoxic effect.

Patients and Methods Eligibility

This was a nonrandomized, open-label, multicenter phase II study. Eligible patients had histological findings of colorectal adenocarcinoma that was either unresectable, locally advanced, metastatic, or recurrent disease. They also had no prior chemotherapy, major surgery, or radiation therapy within 2 weeks of beginning treatment and measurable tumors with at least one lesion having dimensions > 10 mm in longest diameters. A life expectancy of 3 months and a performance status (PS) according to an Eastern Cooperative Group (ECOG) scale of 0 to 1 was mandated along with adequate bone marrow function (leukocytes 4000 per mm³, granulocytes 1500/mm³, platelets 100000 per mm³), adequate liver function (bilirubin 1.5 mg/dL), adequate renal function (creatinine 1.1 mg/dL), no serious or uncontrolled concurrent medical illness, and no other active malignancy. Postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy excluding regimens including CPT-11 or S-1 was allowed. Patients were required to be 20 years of age or greater and 75 years of age or less and not pregnant. All patients were informed of the investigational nature of this treatment and gave their fully informed written consent.

The study has been approved by the ethics committee of Kurume University and each institutional ethical committee.

Treatment protocol

CPT-11 was administered by infusion intravenously over 90 minutes once weekly for three consecutive

weeks followed by one week of rest in 4-week treatment cycles. S-1 was available as capsules containing 20 or 25 mg of tegafur. S-1 was given orally twice daily on days 3 to 7, 10 to 14, and 17 to 21. Patients were assigned one of the following doses to be taken within an hour after breakfast and supper on the basis of body surface area (BSA): 40 mg (BSA $< 1.25 \text{ m}^2$), 50 mg (1.25 m² \leq BSA $< 1.50 \text{ m}^2$), or 60 mg (BSA \geq 1.50 m²). Cycles were repeated every 4 weeks until disease progressed.

The CPT-11 administration was temporarily suspended for grade 2 or higher mucositis, any grade of diarrhea, other nonhematological toxicity grade 3 or higher, or for leucocytes < 3000/mm³, granulocytes $< 1500/\text{mm}^3$, or platelets $< 100,000/\text{mm}^3$. The S-1 administration was also temporarily suspended for grade 2 or higher diarrhea, grade 2 or higher mucositis, other nonhematological toxicity grade 3 or higher, or for leukocytes < 2000/mm³, granulocytes $< 1000/\text{mm}^3$, or platelets $< 75,000/\text{mm}^3$. The therapy was alternatively reinstituted using reduced dosages after all toxicity had recovered if leukocytes < 2000/mm³, granulocytes < 1000/mm³, platelets < 50000/mm³, or grade 3 or higher nonhematological toxicity (excluding nausea/vomiting and general fatigue) was noted during the cycle or if the treatment delay was longer than 14 days. The dosage of CPT-11 was reduced by 10 mg/m² for subsequent courses, and the 60 mg, 50 mg, and 40 mg doses of S-1 were reduced in subsequent courses to 50 mg, 40 mg, and 25 mg twice daily, respectively. Once lowered, the doses of S-1 and irinotecan were not increased. All treatment was performed on an outpatient basis.

Evaluation

Within 2 weeks before initiating the chemotherapy, all patients were assessed by a physical examination, laboratory analyses, ECG, and computed tomography (CT) scans of the abdomen and chest to define the extent of disease. Complete blood cell counts with platelet and differential counts were recorded weekly during chemotherapy, and serum chemistries were repeated once or twice within every treatment cycle. Subjective symptoms, body weight, physical examination, performance status, and all adverse effects were recorded before each treatment course. Measurement of serum tumor marker carcinoembryonic



antigen (CEA) level was performed at least once every 4 weeks.

Measurable lesions were reassessed every 8 weeks or 2 chemotherapy cycles using CT scan that allowed retrospective and independent evaluation. The response rate was assessed every 8 weeks using the RECIST criteria version 1.0.²⁴ All tumor measurements were reviewed and confirmed by an independent panel of radiologists. The overall survival (OS) and the progression-free survival (PFS) were calculated as the time from the first infusion until death or until disease progressed using the Kaplan-Meier product-limit method.

Adverse reactions were evaluated according to the National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria (NCI-CTC) version 3.0. Relative dose intensity was determined for up to six courses of treatment per patient.

Statistical analysis

Response rates with 5-FU plus LV or with irinotecan as a single agent were approximately 20% in previous clinical trials in patients with advanced colorectal cancer. With a combination of irinotecan, 5-FU, and LV as first-line treatment for advanced colorectal cancer, the response rate was about 40%. We calculated the required sample size for this study on the basis of a target activity level of 40% and a minimum activity level of 20%, with alpha and beta error of 0.15. The required number of patients was estimated to be 41. A stopping rule was included in this study. All data were compiled and analyzed using Statistical Analysis Software (SAS) version 6.12, (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). The exact binominal confidence interval was applied to estimate the response rates.

Results

Patient characteristics

Between April 1, 2006 and October 31, 2007, we enrolled 46 patients with advanced colorectal carcinoma. One patient did not have any measurable tumor. In all, 45 patients met all eligibility requirements. The patients' characteristics are shown in Table 1. All eligible patients received at least one course of treatment. The average age was 62 years, ranging from 38 to 75 years. Twenty-seven were male, and 18 were female. The PS was 0 in the majority of patients. Thirty-four patients had recurrent tumors.

Table 1. Characteristics of the eligible patients.

Total number of patients	45
Age	62 (20 75)
Mean (range) Sex	62 (38–75)
Male	27
Female	18
PS PS	10
0	37
1	8
Primary lesion	O
Colon	32
Rectum	13
Metastases or recurrence	10
Metastases	11
Recurrence	34
Adjuvant chemotherapy	04
Adjuvant chemotherapy	7
	, 27
+ Number of organs involved	21
1	22
2	13
≥3	10
Site of metastasis	10
Liver	34
	13
Lung	13
Lymph nodes Peritoneum	11
Primary site Others	2 6
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Among them, twenty-seven patients received prior adjuvant chemotherapy, and the most commonly affected site of metastasis was the liver. One half of patients had more than one organ affected by metastases. Two patients had primary site with metastatic lesions at study entry. The median follow-up time was 21 months. The eligible 45 patients had received a total of 255 treatment cycles $(5.7 \pm 2.7 \text{ courses}; \text{ range}, 1-14 \text{ courses})$.

Antitumor efficacy

All eligible 45 patients had at least one measurable lesion. One patient achieved a complete response (CR), while 21 patients achieved partial responses (PR). Seven patients did not respond to chemotherapy and the disease progressed (PD); 16 patients showed a stable disease (SD) condition. The objective response rate was 48.9% with the 95% confidence interval (95% CI) being from 33.7% to 64.2%. The disease control rate was 84.4% with the 95% CI being from 70.5% to 93.5% (Table 2). At a median follow-up time