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Ⅳ. 研究成果の刊行物・別刷

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Whole brain radiation alone produces favourable outcomes for AIDS-related primary central nervous system lymphoma in the HAART era

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Abstract

Primary central nervous system lymphoma (PCNSL) related to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a lethal disorder, but the recent application of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has significantly improved prognosis. This retrospective cohort study of AIDS-related PCNSL examined the actual clinical outcomes and prognostic variables affecting overall survival (OS) in the HAART era. Twenty-three newly diagnosed AIDS-related PCNSL at 12 regional centre hospitals for HIV/AIDS in Japan between 2002 and 2008 were consecutively enrolled. The estimated 3-yr OS rate of the entire cohort was 64% (95%CI, 41.0–80.3%). Whole brain radiation therapy (WBRT) had an independent positive impact on survival (WBRT \geq 30 Gy vs. others, P = 0.02). Nine of 10 patients with a good performance status (PS) (0–2) remained alive with complete response, whereas 10 (77%) of 13 of those with a poor PS (3–4) died mostly after a short period. The estimated 3-yr OS rate of the groups with a good and poor PS was 100% and 38% (95%CI, 14–63%), respectively (P = 0.01). Leukoencephalopathy (grade \geq 2) developed in 21% of those that survived more than 12 months after radiation. The patients receiving a curative intent radiation dose (\geq 30 Gy) of WBRT achieved prolonged survival while maintaining a good quality of life in the HAART era, especially among patients with a favourable PS.

Key words acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; primary central nervous system lymphoma; highly active antiretroviral therapy; whole brain radiation; leukoencephalopathy

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Accepted for publication 30 January 2010

doi:10.1111/j.1600-0609.2010.01424.x

Primary central nervous system lymphoma (PCNSL) is one of several acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-defining illnesses (ADI), and it is the second most frequent cerebral mass lesion after toxoplasmosis among those infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (1). This type of lymph oma typically arises at the severely immunocompromised late stage of HIV infection, and CD4+ cell counts at diagnosis are

 $< 20/\mu L$ in most patients (2, 3). The pathological diagnosis is usually diffuse large B cell lymphoma (4, 5). Although Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) is generally absent from PCSNL in immunocompetent patients, about 80-100% of AIDS-related PCNSL is associated with EBV in lymphoma lesions (6). Pathogenetic roles of EBV infection in AIDS-related PCNSL have been suggested. The incidence of PCSNL has significantly decreased since highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) was introduced (7), as have all other types of EBV-positive AIDSrelated lymphomas (8). Before the introduction of HA-ART, the prognosis of AIDS-related PCNSL was dismal and median survival was typically <3 months (9–13). After HAART became available, the clinical outcome of AIDS-related PCNSL radically improved (14-19). However, a standard management procedure for these patients remains to be established. We performed a nationwide retrospective survey to elucidate the actual clinical outcome and to identify the significant prognostic variables of AIDS-related PCNSL in the HAART era, in addition to determining the quality of life of long-term survivors of whole brain radiation.

Patients and methods

This retrospective cohort study examined the clinical outcomes of patients diagnosed with AIDS-related PCNSL (in the HAART era) who visited the 12 regional hospitals for HIV/AIDS in Japan during the period January 2002–December 2008. HAART was defined as two kinds of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor combined with protease inhibitor or non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor. HAART was introduced in 1997 in Japan. This study received approval from the responsible ethics committee.

Patients

The patients included in this study were newly diagnosed with AIDS-related PCNSL during the study period. The pathological diagnosis of each institution was accepted. Those with disseminated lymphoma lesions other than CNS were excluded, whereas those diagnosed with possible AIDS-related PCNSL according to some clinical-based modalities were included. All patients who satisfied the above-mentioned criteria were serially enrolled. Data from all patients registered in this study were statistically analysed.

Clinical characteristics of the patients

Data regarding age, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status (PS) at diagnosis, number of CD4+ cells at diagnosis, HIV viral load at diagnosis, prior AIDS, concurrent opportunistic diseases, presence of severe neurological symptoms at diagnosis and prior HAART were analysed. Diagnostic modalities and the primary therapy of all enrolled patients were also determined and analysed.

A complete response (CR) to treatment was defined as the disappearance of all clinical evidence of disease at the completion of first induction therapy. The presence of residual disease but with ≥50% decrease in the sum of the products of the greatest diameter was defined as a partial response (PR). Intra-ocular lesions were not assessed in any of the patients. Overall survival (OS) was defined as the interval from diagnosis to death from any cause. Grades of leukoencephalopathy were evaluated based on each institutional decision according to CTCAE v3.0 (20).

Statistical analysis

The primary endpoint of this study was the identification of factors that significantly impacted OS. Both multivariate and univariate Cox regression analyses were performed to assess the effects of treatment and the various baseline prognostic factors on OS. All *P* values are two-tailed. OS was assessed using the Kaplan–Meier method. Groups divided by clinical variables were compared using the log-rank test. Data were statistically analysed using STATA 10.0 (STATACORP LP, College Station, TX, USA).

Results

Patients' background

Table 1 shows the characteristics of the 23 registered patients with AIDS-related PCNSLs. The median age was 41 (21-60), and male gender accounted for 96% of the patients. Eleven patients developed PCNSL as ADI, and 12 patients were diagnosed with AIDS before the development of PCNSL. Radiological imaging examinations were carried out in all 23 patients. Eleven were diagnosed with PCNSL based on both imaging features and the presence of EBV DNA in cerebrospinal fluid by PCR without a brain biopsy, while three were diagnosed by radiological MRI and SPECT imaging, and the favourable response of brain tumour by radiation therapy. One patient was diagnosed at autopsy. PCR tests of EBV genome in cerebrospinal fluid were performed in 20 patients, and 16 patients out of them showed positivity (80%, 16/20). Seven (30%) were treated with HAART at diagnosis; and finally, HAART was administered to 91% of the patients. Concurrent opportunistic diseases were identified in 15 (65%). Twelve patients had other ADIs before the diagnosis of PCSNL. The median count

Table 1 Characteristics of patients with AIDS-related PCNSL (n = 23)

Gender	n (%)
Male	22 (96%)
Female	1 (4%)
Age(years)	
Median	41
Range	21–60
AIDS diagnosed before PCNSL, n (%)	12 (52 %)
Pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia	6
Cytomegalovirus infection	2
Candidiasis	3
Cryptosporidiosis	1
HAART therapy before PCNSL, n (%)	7 (30%)
Opportunistic diseases at diagnosis of PCNSL, n (%) CD4+ cell count at PCNSL diagnosis (cells/mL)	15 (65%)
Median	22
Range	1–657
HIV viral load at diagnosis of PCSNL (copy/mL)	
Median	77000
Range	$0-1.23 \times 10^7$
PS at diagnosis of PCNSL, n (%)	
0	2 (7%)
1	4 (17%)
2	4 (17%)
3	5 (22%)
4	8 (35%)
Ataxia and/or cognitive disturbance (grade ≥ 3) at	
PCNSL diagnosis, n (%)	12 (52%)
Diagnostic modality, n (%)	
Biopsy	8 (35%)
Imaging only	3 (13%)
Autopsy	1 (4%)
Positive for EBV genome in CSF by PCR	11 (48%)
PCR test of EBV genome in CSF	(n = 20)
Positive	16/20
Negative	4/20
HAART after diagnosis of PCNSL, n (%)	21 (91%)

HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy; PCNSL, Primary central nervous system lymphoma.

Neurological symptoms graded according to CTCAE v3.0.

of CD4+ cells at PCNSL diagnosis was $22/\mu$ L (1–657), and 13 (57%) of 23 patients had a poor PS at diagnosis (3–4). Twelve patients (52%) had severe neurological symptoms defined as ataxia or cognitive disturbance grade \geq 3 according to CTCAE v3.0 at the time of PCNSL diagnosis.

Treatment and initial response

Twenty-one patients were treated by radiotherapy alone, and only one received combined modality treatment (high-dose methotrexate and cytoxan followed by whole brain radiation (WBRT)). One patient received only best supportive care (BSC). Thirteen patients received a curative intent radiation dose (≥30 Gy) of WBRT. The

Table 2 Initial treatment modality and early clinical response

Treatment modality	n (%)	CR/PR, n (%)
Whole brain radiation ± local boost (≥30 Gy)	13 (57%)	10 (77%)
Whole brain radiation (<30 Gy)	5 (22%)	1 (20%)
Local brain radiation	3 (13%)	3 (100%)
Combined modality therapy	1 (4%)	1 (100%)
Best supportive care	1 (4%)	0 (0%)
Total	23	15 (65%)

Combined modality therapy: high-dose methotrexate and high-dose cytoxan followed by WBRT.

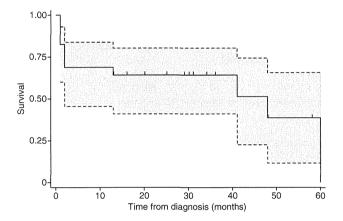


Figure 1 Overall survival curves (All patients with Primary central nervous system lymphoma). Kaplan–Meier estimate with 95% CI (dashed line). Marks indicated censored observation. The total number of censored cases was 12.

overall response rate to all of these strategies including BSC was 65%, while the response rate to a curative intent WBRT was 77% (Table 2).

Clinical variables affecting OS

The estimated 3-yr OS rate of all patients was 64% (95% CI, 41.0-80.3%) with a 20-month median follow-up (Fig. 1).

Significant clinical variables that affected OS were distinguished using univariate and multivariate analyses. Univariate analysis showed that better PS (ECOG) at diagnosis (0–2 vs. 3–4) and receiving curative intent radiation dose (\geq 30 Gy) of WBRT (WBRT \geq 30 Gy vs. others) were significant positive survival predictors (P=0.01 and <0.01, respectively), and younger age (<40 yr vs. \geq 40) also tended to affect positively on OS but did not reach statistical significance (P=0.12) (Table 3). Multivariate analysis of these three variables revealed that receipt of WBRT (\geq 30Gy) had an independent positive impact on OS (P=0.02) (Table 4). Favourable PS (ECOG) was second strong predictor to

Table 3 Factors affecting OS (univariate analysis)

	-	•	
Clinical variables	No. of patients	Median survival (Month)(95% CI)	<i>P</i> value
Age (yr)			
<40	9	41 (1.7-80.3)	0.12
≥40	14	2 (2-34.1)	
PS (ECOG)			
0–2	10	48 (N/A)	0.01
3–4	13	2 (0-12.6)	
CD4 (cells/mL)			
<50	18	60 (N/A)	0.77
≥50	5	41 (0-97.7)	
Prior AIDS			
()	11	48 (0-114.1)	0.69
(+)	12	41(0-93.2)	
Prior HAART			
(-)	16	41 (0.6-81.4)	0.52
(+)	7	48(12.2-83.9)	
HIV viral load (copy/r	mL)		
$\leq 1 \times 10^{5}$	13	13 (N/A)	0.07
>1 × 10 ⁵	10	60 (N/A)	
Severe neurological s	symptoms at P	CNSL onset	
()	12	NR	0.12
(+)	11	41 (12.3-69.7)	
Opportunistic disease	Э		
(-)	8	48 (33.8-62.2)	0.34
(+)	15	NR	
Therapy			
WBRT (≥30 Gy)	13	60 (N/A)	< 0.01
Other	10	2 (0.7-3.3)	
Response rate			
SD/PD	8	2 (N/A)	0.14
CR/PR	15	48(31.7-64.3)	

^{*}Log-rank test.

CR, complete response; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; HAART, highly active antiretroviral therapy; N/A, not applicable; NR, not reached; OS, overall survial; PCNSL, Primary central nervous system lymphoma; PR, partial response; WBRT, whole brain radiation therapy.

Table 4 Factors affecting OS (multivariate analysis)

Clinical variables	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value
Age		
<40	1	0.09
≥40	5.27 (0.76–36.1)	
PS		
0–2	1	0.06
3–4	9.24 (0.86-96.43)	
Therapy		
WBRT (≥30Gy)	1	0.02
Other	8.10 (1.35-48.43)	

OS, overall survial; PS, performance status; WBRT, whole brain radiation therapy.

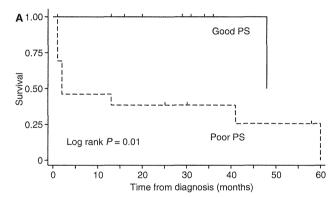
better OS with highest hazard ratio but was not statistically significant (P = 0.06).

Nine of ten patients with a good PS (0-2) remained alive with CR (all received curative intent WBRT), nevertheless 10 (77%) of 13 of those with a poor PS (3-4) died mostly within 2 months (7/10; 70%). The estimated 3-yr OS rate of each group was 100% and 38% (95% CI, 14-63%), respectively (P=0.01, log-rank test) (Fig. 2A).

The 3-yr OS rates for 13 patients who received WBRT (\geq 30Gy) estimated from Kaplan–Meier survival curves and in the group that received a different type of treatment were 92% (95% CI, 57–99%) and 24% (95% CI, 4–58%), respectively (P < 0.01, log-rank test) (Fig. 2B).

Leukoencephalopathy and PS in survivors

Leukoencephalopathy is a late-onset, serious adverse event associated with radiation therapy to the brain



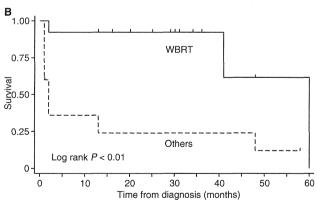


Figure 2 Overall survival curves. (A) Survival according to performance status (PS) at Primary central nervous system lymphoma(PCNSL) diagnosis. Solid line, patients with PS 0–2 (good PS); dashed line, patients with PS 3–4 (poor PS). Marks indicated censored observation. The number of censored cases was nine in good PS group and three in poor PS group. (B) Survival according to initial therapy for PCNSL. Solid line, patients receiving WBRT (≥30 Gy); dashed line, patients receiving other therapy. Marks indicated censored observation. The number of censored cases was 10 in WBRT (≥30 Gy) group and two in others' group.

Table 5 Current status and neurological symptoms of patients who survived ≥12 months

Patient No.	Survival (months)	Neurological symptoms Ataxia/cognitive disturbance	Leukoencephalopathy	PS
1	48	0/2	1	1
2	25	4/3	3	4
3	30	0/0	0	0
4	31	3/0	0	1
5	34	2/1	0	1
6	13	0/0	0	0
7	58	1/0	1	1
8	20	0/1	0	1
9	16	0/0	0	0
10	29	0/0	0	0
11	36	0/0	0	0

PS, performance status.

Neurological symptoms and leukoencephalopathy graded according CTCAE $\vee 3.0$.

(21–23). We analysed the incidence and grade of radiation-related leukoencephalopathy, which was assessed among the patients who survived for ≥12 months after initial radiation therapy. Leukoencephalopathy was graded according to CTCAE v3.0. Twelve patients survived for ≥12 months after WBRT (≥30 Gy), and two patients survived for ≥12 months after local brain radiation. Among these fourteen patients, five (36%) were diagnosed with leukoencephalopathy by CT or MRI imaging, and three of them had leukoencephalopathy grade ≥2 (median follow-up, 30 months; range, 13–58 months). No signs of leukoencephalopathy have developed in eight of the 12 survivors who received WBRT (≥30 Gy).

We also analysed the current neurological symptoms and PS of 11 living patients. The PS of all patients except for one with severe neurological symptoms was ≤ 1 (Table 5).

Discussion

AIDS-related PCNSL was a highly lethal ADI in the pre-HAART era, with survival being generally quoted as <3 months (9–13). Many studies have indicated improved survival of patients with AIDS-related PCNSL after the introduction of HAART (14–19), but standard management for such patients has not been established.

Our retrospective cohort study of AIDS-related PCNSL in the HAART era showed favourable survival especially in patients with a good PS who underwent WBRT at the dosage of ≥ 30 Gy designed for curative intent. Univariate analysis showed that significant clinical factors for a favourable OS were a good PS (ECOG 0–2) at diagnosis and the receipt of WBRT (≥ 30 Gy). Multi-

variate analysis selected the receipt of WBRT (≥30 Gy) as the statistically significant clinical factor for a favourable OS. Even in the HAART era, low CD4+ cell counts was reported to be a significant poor prognostic factors for AIDS-related systemic non-Hodgkin lymphoma (24). Our data could not show that CD4+ cell count had the prognostic effect in AIDS-related PCNSL in the HAART era. Systemic non-Hodgkin lymphomas were usually treated with systemic chemotherapy, which could impair host immune status, and one of the major causes of death was severe infection during treatment. Thus CD4+ cell count in AIDS-related systemic lymphoma would be more important than in PCNSL treated with brain radiation, which might have minimal damages to host immunity, in the context of control of infectious complications.

Some reports during the HAART era have indicated improved survivals of patients with PCNSL after treatment with curative intent WBRT. However, in each study, all patients with PCNSL were not reported to be actually treated with this modality in the HAART era; the largest study comprised 25 patients (16), but only 10 of the patients described in that study underwent both WBRT (≥30 Gy) and therapy with two or three anti-retroviral agents. All of our 23 patients were diagnosed in the HAART era, 12 were treated with both HAART and the curative intent WBRT, and we followed up the survivors for longer (median: 18 months) than any other studies (14-16). The 3-yr OSs of the entire cohort, the group with a favourable PS, and the group that underwent WBRT were 64%, 100% and 92%, respectively. These data showed that the survival of patients with AIDS-related PCNSL could be favourable if treated with curative WBRT under a relatively good general PS during the HAART era. The reported 3-yr OS of patients with non-AIDS-related PCNSL is 29% when treated only with brain radiation (25) and 50-70% when treated with high-dose MTX-based chemotherapy plus brain radiation (26, 27). Our survival findings were comparable with those of immunocompetent patients and might be superior if PS is favourable at diagnosis.

One major difference between AIDS-related and immunocompetent PCNSL is considered the consistent association with EBV. The presence of EBV in the setting of prolonged immunosuppression might cause B cell activation that result in the development of PCNSL. Anti EBV therapy or HAART with/without ganciclovir and interleukin two have been applied to treat AIDS-related PCNSL, with some good responses (28–30). In the context of these concepts, the role of chemotherapy in AIDS-related PCNSL remains obscure. The adequacy of such therapeutic modalities, as WBRT, a high-dose MTX-based regimen, and com-

bined therapy should be further analysed in prospective clinical trials.

Our long-term follow-up allowed an analysis of the incidence of leukoencephalopathy, general status and neurological symptoms after therapy was completed. The adverse effects of brain radiation comprise an acute type that can occur even during radiation, an early-delayed type that occurs 2-4 months later, and a late type that manifests about 9-12 months later. Leukoencephalopathy is a late-onset complication that requires long-term follow-up. Our patients were followed up for 13-56 months, which should have allowed most leukoencephalopathy to be recognised. The incidence was 36% (5/14), and severe events (grade ≥ 2) developed in three patients. The PS of all eleven survivors except for one with grade 3 leukoencephalopathy was ≤1. Two patients showed cognitive disturbance of grade ≥ 2 , and three showed ataxia of grade ≥ 2. PCNSL itself, even in the remission status, might account for some neurological symptoms. Longer observation might be required to determine the final outcome of late-onset radiation-damage to the brain.

Our findings suggested that patients with AIDS-related PCNSL achieved durable remission after curative intent WBRT, especially those with a good PS during the HA-ART era. These findings indicate that early diagnosis of this disease before symptoms can affect general status could result in prolonged survival with a favourable outcome. Thus, surveillance of a high-risk population for HIV infection and close follow-up of patients infected with HIV should improve the outcomes of AIDS-related PCNSL.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported by a Health and Labour Sciences Research Grant from the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare of Japan (Grant number: H19-AIDS-003).

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ERRATUM

Whole brain radiation alone produces favourable outcomes for AIDS-related primary central nervous system lymphoma in the HAART era. Eur J Haematol 2010 84(6):499-505. Epub 2010 Mar 10

The following author was missing from the above article: Junko Tanuma (AIDS Clinical Center, National Center for Global Health and Medicine, Tokyo 162–8655, Japan).

The authors apologize that they did not notice during the proof revisions that Dr Junko Tanuma's name was missing and accept full responsibility for this.

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Non-AIDS-defining hematological malignancies in HIV-infected patients: an epidemiological study in Japan

Shotaro Hagiwara^a, Mihoko Yotsumoto^b, Takashi Odawara^c, Atsushi Ajisawa^d, Tomoko Uehira^e, Hirokazu Nagai^f, Junko Tanuma^g and Seiji Okada^h

Objective: To clarify the incidence and clinical outcomes of non-AIDS-defining hematological malignancies (NADHMs), excluding non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, in HIV-infected patients.

Design: A nationwide epidemiological study was conducted to evaluate the incidence and clinical outcomes of NADHMs.

Methods: Questionnaires were sent to 429 regional AIDS centers and 497 educational hospitals certified by the Japanese Society of Hematology. Data from 511 institutes were obtained.

Results: From 1991 to 2010, 47 patients with NADHMs were detected (median age, 42.0 years; male, 93.6%). The median CD4-positive T-cell count was 255/μl, and the median duration from the diagnosis of HIV infection to development of hematological malignancy was 28.0 months. Most patients with acute leukemia were treated with standard induction chemotherapy. Complete remission rates and median overall survival periods for acute myeloblastic leukemia (AML) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) were 70.0 and 85.7% and 13 and 16 months, respectively. Three of four patients with chronic-phase chronic myeloid leukemia (CML-CP) were well controlled with imatinib. Five patients (2 AML, 1 ALL, 1 accelerated-phase CML, and 1 myeloma) were treated with autologous or allogeneic stem-cell transplantation. Comparison of patients over the two periods (1991–2000 and 2001–2009) revealed a 4.5-fold increase in the incidence of hematological malignancies.

Conclusion: The incidence of NADHMs has increased in the past decade. The prognosis of these patients was similar to that of HIV-negative patients; therefore, standard chemotherapy may be a feasible treatment option for HIV-infected patients with hematological malignancies. © 2013 Wolters Kluwer Health | Lippincott Williams & Wilkins

AIDS 2013, 27:279-283

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DOI:10.1097/QAD.0b013e32835a5a7a

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