

Chemotherapy with methotrexate, vinblastine, epirubicin and carboplatin (Carbo-MVE) in transitional cell urothelial cancer. A Hellenic Co-Operative Oncology Group study.

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Source

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Abstract

OBJECTIVES:

We conducted a phase II study in order to assess the efficacy and toxicity of Carbo-MVE (carboplatin 250 mg/m² i.v. day 1, methotrexate 25 mg/m² i.v. days 1, 15 and 22, vinblastine 2.5 mg/m² i.v. days 1, 15 and 22 and epirubicin 25 mg/m² day 1). The regimen was to be repeated every 28 days.

METHODS:

Forty-six patients with transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder entered the study. Patients with metastatic disease were treated for 6 cycles, while patients with locally advanced or locoregional disease had 4 cycles of induction chemotherapy followed by cystectomy or radiotherapy.

RESULTS:

Toxicity was generally mild and treatment well tolerated. The overall response rate was 54.4%, with 26% complete and 28.3% partial response rates. The median survival was 17.5 months with the complete responders to live significantly longer (64.82 months) than those who had a partial response (20.5 months), stable disease (15 months) or progressive disease (8.5 months). Survival was also significantly longer in patients with good performance status as well as in patients with locally advanced or locoregional disease. Finally, patients who had cystectomy as definitive treatment survived significantly longer (32 months) than those who had been irradiated (16 months).

CONCLUSIONS:

The Carbo-MVE regimen appears to be an effective and well-tolerated treatment in patients with transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder.