

## **Effectiveness of paclitaxel and carboplatin combination in heavily pretreated patients with head and neck cancers.**

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### **Source**

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### **Abstract**

A phase II study was conducted to evaluate the activity of paclitaxel and carboplatin in advanced head and neck cancer. Twenty-four patients with measurable locoregional squamous cell carcinoma and metastatic disease were entered. All had been heavily pretreated with radiotherapy, surgery and chemotherapy and were at second recurrence or disease progression when they entered the trial. Patients received Paclitaxel 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> with carboplatin 7 AUC once every 3 weeks with premedication with dexamethasone and diphenhydramine and ranitidine. Twenty-three patients were evaluable for response. Four patients (17%) achieved a complete response and 5 (22%) a partial response for an overall response rate of 39%. Duration of response was 3-9 months. Toxicity was tolerable. Four patients showed Grade III (WHO) and 6 Grade II neutropenia. Nineteen (79%) of patients who received more than two courses of chemotherapy presented neurotoxicity. The combination of paclitaxel and carboplatin was effective in heavily pretreated patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.