

Paclitaxel plus carboplatin versus gemcitabine plus paclitaxel in advanced non-small-cell lung cancer: a phase III randomized trial.

[Kosmidis P](#), [Mylonakis N](#), [Nicolaidis C](#), [Kalophonos C](#), [Samantas E](#), [Boukovinas J](#), [Fountzilas G](#), [Skarlos D](#), [Economopoulos T](#), [Tsavdaridis D](#), [Papakostas P](#), [Bacoyiannis C](#), [Dimopoulos M](#).

Source

Second Medical Oncology Department, Hygeia Hospital, Athens, Greece. parkosmi@otenet.gr

Abstract

PURPOSE:

We conducted this randomized study comparing the activity and toxicity of paclitaxel and gemcitabine (PG) and paclitaxel and carboplatin (PC) combinations for the treatment of advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

PATIENTS AND METHODS:

Chemotherapy-naive patients were randomized to paclitaxel 200 mg/m² on day 1 plus either carboplatin at an area under the concentration-time curve of 6 on day 1 (group A) or gemcitabine 1,000 mg/m² on days 1 and 8 (group B) every 3 weeks. A retrospective cost analysis was conducted using Student's t test to compare independent samples between groups.

RESULTS:

A total of 509 patients (group A, 252 patients; group B, 257 patients) were enrolled; all characteristics were well balanced. The median survival time was 10.4 months (95% confidence interval [CI], 8.8 to 12 months) for group A and 9.8 months (95% CI, 8.0 to 11.7 months) for group B (P = .32). Respective 1-year survival rates were 41.7% and 41.4%. The response rate for group A was 28.0% (2% complete response [CR], 26% partial response [PR] [95% CI, 22% to 34%]), and the response rate for group B was 35.0% (5% CR, 30% PR) [95% CI, 29% to 41%] (P = .12). Toxicity was mild. Grades 3/4 neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and anemia for groups A and B were seen in 15% and 15%, 2% and 1%, and 5% and 2%, respectively. The mean total cost (outpatient clinic visits plus chemotherapy drug fee) for group A (euro; 7,612.64) versus group B (euro; 7,484.77) was not statistically significant (P < .66).

CONCLUSION:

The PG combination is as equally active and well tolerated as the PC combination in patients with advanced NSCLC.

Comment in

- [Treatment of advanced non-small-cell lung cancer with two-drug combinations](#). [J Clin Oncol. 2002]
- [Timing is everything, or could be](#). [J Clin Oncol. 2003]
- [Paclitaxel plus gemcitabine may be as active and well tolerated as paclitaxel plus carboplatin for advanced non-small-cell lung cancer](#). [Cancer Treat Rev. 2003]