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Treatment issues in clear cell carcinoma of the ovary: a different entity?

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Source

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Ovarian clear cell carcinoma (OCCC) is a distinct histopathologic subtype of epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC) with an incidence of <5% of all ovarian malignancies. Our goal was to review the clinical features and management of patients with OCCC.

METHODS AND RESULTS:

We performed a PubMed search using the phrase "clear cell ovarian cancer." We reviewed 54 articles referring to OCCC. OCCC patients have a high incidence of stage I disease and frequently present with a large pelvic mass. Recurrences are more frequent with this entity than with other types of EOC. The clinical management of advanced EOC includes maximal cytoreduction and platinum plus paclitaxel-based chemotherapy. The survival rates of patients with advanced OCCC are lower than those of patients with advanced serous EOC (serous subtype). The poor response rate to platinum-based regimens may be related to the intrinsic chemoresistance of these tumors. Despite their aggressive clinical course, OCCCs are still treated similarly to the other EOCs at the present time, because the rarity of these tumors prevents the conduction of randomized studies.

CONCLUSION:

Novel treatment approaches should be adopted in OCCC. Molecular-targeted therapies and effective new agents without cross-resistance to platinum compounds should be evaluated in a prospective clinical trial in OCCC.