

Re: Use of Oxaliplatin for Cholangiocarcinoma?

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.med.diseases.cancer/2005-06/msg00048.html>

- *From:* J <colourful@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 14 Jun 2005 16:13:44 -0400
-

farrell77 wrote:

> "J" <colourful@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> news:42ADCF87.4AC50911@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
>> farrell77 wrote:
>>
>>>>> Yes. Eight three-week cycles of gemcitabine and
>>>>> capecitabine. A scan after the first few cycles in
>>>>> December showed some tumor reduction. A scan
>>>>> in April after the eight cycles were completed showed
>>>>> stabilization but no further reduction. So two additional
>>>>> cycles of the same drugs were used. Now he's on
>>>>> cisplatin (rather than oxaliplatin) and gemcitabine.
>>>>>
>>> What kinds of symptoms, for example? He has extreme
>>> fatigue at times, severe pain, poor appetite, and weight loss.
>>> I presume that the chemo drugs aggravate, rather than
>>> alleviate, these symptoms. He seems willing to tolerate
>>> them for now.
>>
>> Well, it could be the cancer also and/or what other organs are involved.
>> Does he have jaundice? Have they put in a stent?
>
> Not being on the scene (I'm in WNY; he's in Honolulu),
> it's sometimes hard for me to get info, which is almost
> always second-hand, except for when I visited for a week
> last November. I'll do my best below with your questions.
>
> Yes, he's had jaundice. They put in two stents last summer
> (one for each lobe of the liver). Recently (within the past
> month), they had to replace both stents. His doctor has
> expressed concern over the facts that (1) the stents have
> to keep getting bigger – presumably to accommodate the
> growing size of the tumor? – and (2) there's risk of very
> dangerous infections from the stents.
>
>>> So it may come to what are the chances that the chemo will
>>> extend his life and improve life quality over the longer run.
>>> From your next reference, the chances seem very small of

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>>> extending his life. My impression now is that in the absence
>>> of other alternatives, he's still willing to try the chemo. He
>>> was frustrated when there was a month gap from the end
>>> of the capecitabine / gemcitabine trial and the start of the
>>> current cisplatin / gemcitabine trial. He wanted to be at
>>> least trying something.
>>> J wrote:> Here's another one about chemotherapy that you may not wish to
> read,
>>> but should
>>>> be made aware of
>>>
>>><http://groups-beta.google.com/group/alt.support.cancer/msg/4befa08191d468b3>
>>>
>>> From that, the chemo approach sounds not very promising.
>>> I just learned over the weekend that his doctors have now
>>> determined that he's a candidate for radiation, starting
>>> this week. The cisplatin / gemcitabine chemo treatments
>>> will continue, and radiation will be used 5 days a week for
>>> 4 to 8 weeks.
>>
>> Hello,
>> I'm hopeful hearing that he's a candidate for radiation therapy.
>> I'd like Steph to step in here. I don't want to see your brother
> over-treated
>> (which happens in some countries).
>> Could you please describe the extent of his disease?
>> I'm assuming since he wasn't a surgical candidate, it's intrahepatic
> (ducts
>> inside the liver) ?
>> Where else?
>
> It started in the bile duct inside the liver. Initially, we were
> looking at a liver transplant in Pittsburgh with me as the donor
> (having a blood type that would work). However scans
> showed metastasis and so the focus shifted.
>
> Some other background: he had ulcerative colitis at age 17,
> which apparently led to sclerosing cholangitis later and then to
> cholangiocarcinoma, which was diagnosed last August. Scans
> in September 2004 showed metastasis to one lung and to one
> other site: either stomach or back. Other organs, such as gall
> bladder and pancreas are *not* involved at this time as far as I
> know.
>
>>> <http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/Cancertype/Bileduct/Bileduct> (providing
> these as
>>> prompts)
>>> # The cancer has spread into the liver, pancreas or gall bladder or to the
>>> nearby blood vessels, but not the lymph nodes.
>>> # Stage 2B The cancer has spread into nearby lymph nodes.
>>> # Stage 3 The cancer is affecting the main blood vessels that take blood

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> to and
>> from the liver, or it has spread into the small or large bowel, the
> stomach or
>> the abdominal wall. Lymph nodes in the abdomen may also be affected.
>> # Stage 4 The cancer has spread to distant parts of the body such as the
> lungs.
>>
>> and now I'm a little confused (I'm not a doctor) because this webpage says
> that
>> "most bile duct cancers come from cancers that originated in the
> pancreas."
>> <http://cancer.stanfordhospital.com/healthInfo/cancerTypes/bileDuct/>
>> (yet the other one, above, says that's where it can spread to, unless
> they're
>> referring to extra-hepatic).
>
> His started in the bile duct, intra-hepatic.
>
>> So what organs are involved? And where exactly is his pain(s)?
>
> Organs involved are bile duct, liver (not sure if damage is from
> metastasis or the duct tumors pushing on it), one lung, and either
> stomach or back. Pain is in these areas and, as he puts it,
> seems to move around.
>
>> I guess I'm also wondering, if you think the chemo is causing some of the
> pains,
>> how will you know if the radiation therapy worked, if he has radiation and
> then
>> right back on chemo?
>
> The plan as described to me last night is to do the two (chemo
> and radiation) in parallel. The chemo has already been started
> and last week he received his second dose. He continues with
> this every third week. The radiation will start this Thursday and
> take place 5 days a week. So there will be overlap in the two
> approaches.
>

Thanks for answering my questions.

I understand. It's hard to know exactly where they'll be doing the radiation therapy.

I'll watch for your updates.

Best,

J

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• *References:*

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- ◆ [Use of Oxaliplatin for Cholangiocarcinoma?](#)
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- ◆ [Re: Use of Oxaliplatin for Cholangiocarcinoma?](#)
◇ From: Steph
- ◆ [Re: Use of Oxaliplatin for Cholangiocarcinoma?](#)
◇ From: farrell77
- ◆ [Re: Use of Oxaliplatin for Cholangiocarcinoma?](#)
◇ From: J
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