

COMPLICATIONS OF CHEMOTHERAPY WITH VELCADE AND DEXAMETHASONE IN PATIENTS DIAGNOSED WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA.

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Introduction

The multiple myeloma (MM) is a disease caused by the malign proliferation of the plasmocyte cells and is characterized by bone lesions, disturbance of the immunoglobulins (Ig), medullar failure and renal failure.

Purpose

The study proposes the evaluation of the complications incurred by chemotherapy with Velcade in association with Dexamethasone at the patients diagnosed with MM.

Methods

Between January 2009 and December 2014 I conducted a retrospective analytical study on 90 patients registered at the Hematology Department of Timisoara. The MM diagnosis was established by revealing the presence of the monoclonal Ig in the serum, excretion of light chains in the urine (kappa and lambda) over 10% medullar plasmocytes, lytic bone lesions. All patients were subject to complete clinical examination, full blood count, biochemical tests, radiography (skeleton). CT or RMN investigations were performed based on the clinician recommendation.

Results

The average age of the patients was 60 years and the group consisted of 59% men and 41% women. Of the 90 patients, 50% showed IgG, 30% IgA, 2% IgD, 1% IgM and 17% free chains. B2-microglobulina indicated values less than 3,5 mg/L for 10.5% of the patients, between 3,5 and 5,5 mg/L for 35,5% of the patients and over 5,5 mg/L for 54% of the patients.

The staging was based on the Salmon – Durie criteria as follows: 63% of the patients are included in the stage III, 27,5% in stage II and 9,5% in stage I.

The analysis of the complications developed secondary to the chemotherapy with Velcade in association with Dexamethasone reveals that 53,5% of the patients present cytopenia, 39,1% present gastro-intestinal disturbances, 27,05% neurological disturbances, 5,6% metabolism and nutrition disturbance and 3,23% present cutaneous lesions.

Conclusions

This study reveals that the most frequent complications encountered at patients with MM diagnosis and who were subject to chemotherapy with Velcade in association with Dexamethasone are cytopenia, gastro-intestinal and neurological disturbances.