International Journal of Surgery 72 (2019) 232–233

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Surgery

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijsu

Invited Commentary

Electrochemotherapy for advanced cutaneous angiosarcoma: A european register-based cohort study from the international network for sharing practices of electrochemotherapy (InspECT)-An invited commentary

The current cohort published in a recent issue of The International Journal of Surgery might add a significant effort of evidence to the literature that electrochemotherapy (ECT) could be a practicable locoregional treatment option in patients with advanced cutaneous angiosarcoma (cAS) when suitable patients are selected and strict treatment indications are followed.

Campana and colleagues prospectively enrolled 20 patients with locally-advanced/metastatic cAS who underwent ECT at eight European centres. They found that ECT produced a sustained response rate (median overall survival 12.5 months; local progression-free survival 10.9 months) with minimal side effects (skin ulceration 15%; and pain 10%) and concluded that ECT should be considered a treatment option for advanced cAS [1].

CAS is a rare carcinoma with characteristics of aggressive behavior, early metastasis and poor prognosis [2]. As a rare clinical entity, the prevalence rate of cAS is estimated to be 2–5 cases per 1,000,000 population per year, so limited clinical data is available to physicians [3]. Previous reports regarding the clinical efficacy of ECT for cAS are mostly from case reports or small case-series with short follow-up periods [4,5], offering limited value for clinical practice based on these literature reviews. This cohort study represented one of the largest reports on this topic with a relatively longer follow-up period (median 15 months).

However, we could not conclude that this study is perfect from the perspective of rare diseases. First, the mixed disease location (7 in the scalp/face, 10 in the breast/trunk and 3 in the limbs) is one bias which might influence the efficacy of ECT. Second, controlled studies should be advocated to further illustrate the advantages over other treatment options. Therefore, big database should be established to make access and data sharing in rare disease registries and biobanks worldwide.

Provenance and peer review

Invited Commentary, internally reviewed.

Author contribution

Zubing Mei: manuscript writing/editing.
Guojiang Zhou: manuscript writing/editing.

Funding

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant no. 81774112).

Declaration of competing interest

None.

References

[1] L.G. Campana, E. Kis, K. Bottyán, et al., Electrochemotherapy for advanced cutaneous angiosarcoma: a European register-based cohort study from the International Network for Sharing Practices of electrochemotherapy (InspECT), Int. J. Surg. 72 (2019) 34–42.
[2] Y. Ishida, A. Otsuka, K. Kabashima, Cutaneous angiosarcoma: update on biology and latest treatment, Curr. Opin. Oncol. 30 (2) (2018) 107–112.
[3] P. Schöffski, S. Chawla, R.G. Maki, et al., Eribulin versus dacarbazine in previously treated patients with advanced liposarcoma or leiomyosarcoma: a randomised, open-label, multicentre, phase 3 trial, Lancet 387 (10028) (2016) 1629–1637.
[4] Michele Guida, Luca G. Campana, Pietro Curatolo, et al., Local treatment with electrochemotherapy of superficial angiosarcomas: efficacy and safety results from a multi-institutional retrospective study, J. Surg. Oncol. 114 (2016) 246–253.
[5] Benevento Raffaella, Carafa Francesco, Di Nardo Domenico, et al., Angiosarcoma of the breast: a new therapeutic approach? Int. J. Surg. Case Rep. 13 (2015) 30–32.

DOI of original article: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijsu.2019.10.013

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijsu.2019.11.015
Received 6 November 2019; Accepted 12 November 2019
Available online 20 November 2019
1743-9191/

Guojiang Zhou**
Xiangya School of Public Health, Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, 410078, China
Department of HR, Shanghai Skin Disease Hospital, Shanghai, 200443, China
E-mail address: zhouguojiang@csu.edu.cn.

Zubing Mei*
Department of Anorectal Surgery, Shuguang Hospital, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 201203, Shanghai, China
Anorectal Disease Institute of Shuguang Hospital, 201203, Shanghai, China
E-mail address: herrmayor@126.com.

** Corresponding author. Xiangya School of Public Health, Central South University, Changsha, Hunan, 410078, China.
* Corresponding author. Department of Anorectal Surgery, Shuguang Hospital, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Anorectal Disease Institute of Shuguang Hospital, 528 Zhangheng Road, Shanghai, 201203, China.