

erythema (PPE) and grade 2 diarrhoea. From the 57 patients without DPD deficiency, eight (14%) experienced grade 3 toxicities, which involved PPE (50%), nausea (25%) and diarrhoea (25%). No patient required hospital admission.

Conclusion: Our analysis validates our previous findings and demonstrates that prospective DPYD genotyping can predict severe toxicity with capecitabine. Patients carrying a genetic variant can receive capecitabine at a reduced dose without complications. Implementing routine prospective DPYD testing in clinical practice would not only benefit patient care but also reduce admission costs.

References

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Fertility Outcomes in Breast Cancer Survivors: Experience from a Tertiary Breast Cancer Centre within South-East London

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Purpose: Nearly 20% of women diagnosed with breast cancer are of reproductive age. Although the importance of offering fertility preservation to these women has been emphasised in the literature [1], knowledge of their fertility intentions and consequent outcomes is sparse.

Methods: Between July 2011 and December 2013 we conducted a prospective questionnaire-based observational study in female cancer survivors up to 42 years of age (inclusive), who had been treated for early breast cancer at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. The questionnaire was devised by a multidisciplinary team and contained 19 questions covering different aspects of menstrual and reproductive history.

Results: In total, 175 women completed the questionnaire at a median time of 6 years from the time of diagnosis (range 1–21 years). Their median age at the time of diagnosis was 37 (range 24–42) years and at the time of the survey was 43 (range 30–55) years. At the time of the survey, 42% had completed their family, 41% reported they would like to have children and 4% did not wish to have children. Twenty-seven respondents had actively tried to conceive; of those, 13 had had a live birth. There were also 12 unintended pregnancies; most of these were terminated (58%), with only three live births. In women under 50 years, 74 women were not using any contraception even though they did not wish to conceive.

Conclusion: A significant proportion of breast cancer survivors of a reproductive age wished to conceive and of those who actively tried, 48% were successful. Interestingly, there were 12 unintended pregnancies, with a 58% termination rate. Among those who did not wish to conceive, only 33% reported using contraception. This highlights the need for healthcare professionals to provide long-term contraceptive advice to women who do not wish to conceive.

Reference

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Experience of Next-generation Somatic Mutation Testing in Advanced Breast Cancer at Guy's Cancer Centre

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Purpose: FoundationOne is a next-generation sequencing assay testing for genomic alternations in 315 cancer-related genes. Through funding from Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, a number of patients with refractory

metastatic breast cancer were tested in the hope of identifying potential therapeutic agents.

Methods: Patients with metastatic breast cancer who had FoundationOne testing were identified through the phase 1 unit and outcomes evaluated.

Results: Nine patients had FoundationOne testing. The median age was 42 years (range 33–50). Two were metastatic on presentation. For the remainder, the median time to distant metastasis was 3.5 years (1–16) and the median time from metastasis to FoundationOne testing was 6 years (2–8). Seven patients were ER-positive, HER2-negative, one was ER-positive, HER2-positive and the other ER-negative, HER2-negative at diagnosis. Four subsequently had the metastatic site biopsied and in no cases did receptor status change. The median number of lines of systemic treatment for metastatic disease prior to FoundationOne testing was six (one to 10). Two patients had insufficient samples for testing. For the remaining seven the median number of genomic alternations identified was four (four to seven) of which five patients had potentially actionable alterations. Common genomic alternations identified were PIK3CA ($n = 4$), GATA3 ($n = 3$), TP53 ($n = 2$), ERBB2 (L841V, V777L in one) and MYC amplification ($n = 2$). The potentially actionable genomic alternations were: PIK3CA, CCND1, MDM4, MYC, MRE11A, ERBB2. Two have started treatment: everolimus for PIK3CA alteration, herceptin for ERBB2 mutation with partial response, the remainder are being seen by or are awaiting appointments with the clinical trials team.

Conclusion: All five patients with actionable somatic genomic alternations had ER-positive disease with a long history of response to numerous lines of therapy, suggesting this group may be the most appropriate to perform next-generation sequencing on. The one patient with chemoresistant triple-negative breast cancer had no actionable mutations identified.

Introduction of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV Screening for Patients Undergoing Chemotherapy in a District General Hospital in London: Uptake and Outcomes

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Purpose: Viral hepatitis can cause significant morbidity and mortality in patients receiving chemotherapy. London cancer guidelines recommend universal pretreatment screening for hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV). HIV-infected patients are at higher risk of developing AIDS-defining and non-AIDS-defining cancers. HIV testing for all oncology patients has been recommended. Studies reveal up to 30% of breast cancer patients may have undiagnosed diabetes [1]. Oncology patients with diabetes have an increased risk of complications: chemotherapy toxicities, steroid-induced hyperglycaemia and sepsis.

Methods: We implemented screening for HBV, HCV and HIV infection for patients starting chemotherapy in September 2017. In March 2018, diabetes screening was included. Uptake was defined as those screened for HBV surface antigen and core antibody, HCV antibody, HIV antibody/p24 antigen and HbA1c. Screening guidelines were developed and data collection was repeated in April–July 2018. Between data collection, findings were presented to our oncology department with hepatology teaching.

Results: In total, 133 patients started chemotherapy from September to December 2017, of which 69% ($n = 92$) had virology screening. Of these, 14% ($n = 13$) had previous HBV infection (core positive, sAg negative), one of which was already diagnosed. One patient was diagnosed with chronic HBV infection. Patients were started on lamivudine or monitored. From April to July 2018, 94% ($n = 102$) patients had virology screening; 92% ($n = 103$) were screened for diabetes. Five patients had previous HBV infection. There were no new HIV diagnoses in either cohort; one patient with cleared HCV infection was detected in each cohort. Five per cent ($n = 6$) were diagnosed with diabetes from screening, 15% ($n = 17$) had known diabetes. Patients were referred to a diabetes specialist nurse or general practitioner. One patient was admitted with steroid-induced hyperglycaemia.

Conclusion: Our cohort shows a significant rate of previous hepatitis B infection at risk of reactivation, requiring monitoring throughout chemotherapy treatment, and patients with diabetes at risk of complications. Screening has improved detection and management of hepatitis and diabetes in patients undergoing immunosuppression.

Reference

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First-line Chemotherapy (FLC) Regimens in Older Adults (>65 years old) with Metastatic HER2-negative Breast Cancer (MBC): a Single-centre Experience of Tolerability and Efficacy

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Purpose: In MBC there is no consensus regarding the optimal regimen sequence and older adults are at increased risk from chemotherapy toxicity. Treatment decisions are often driven by the ability to tolerate treatment and maintain quality of life.

Methods: Retrospective data were collected about treatments used for 87 older adults with MBC in a single centre between 2009 and 2016 to assess tolerability and efficacy of FLC. Student's *t*-tests and Kaplan–Meier statistical methods were applied.

Results: Seventy per cent of patients were commenced on a standard dose (SD) of chemotherapy; 84% (21/25) of the anthracycline group (AG), 65% (20/31) of the capecitabine group (CG), 48% (10/21) of the taxane group (TG) and 100% (10/10) of other agents. Thirty-two per cent of patients had dose reductions; 16% in AG, 19% in TG, 58% in CG. Overall, 30% of patients received six cycles of SD chemotherapy; 36% in AG, 29% in CG, 14% in TG. Twenty-three per cent of patients suffered \geq grade 3 toxicity; 28% in AG, 29% in CG, 10% in TG. There were four treatment-related deaths, two in AG and one in both CG and TG. Sixty-one per cent of the CG received 6+ cycles with a mean on treatment time of 445 days (1–2150). There was no statistical significance in progression-free survival (PFS) between groups. The median PFS for all patients was 244 days (87–381).

Conclusion: Chemotherapy was well tolerated in older adults. Anthracycline-based regimens were used in patients who had not received adjuvant chemotherapy. Capecitabine required the most dose reductions. Taxanes were generally started at reduced doses, resulting in fewer grade 3+ toxicities. Physicians should consider lower starting doses in older adults and recognise that dose reductions may be required to improve tolerability. The PFS of all regimens were similar in this study. This study highlights the need for further research to define the optimal FLC and starting dose in older adults with MBC.

Cardiac Monitoring during Trastuzumab Therapy in Patients with Breast Cancer: Results of a Local Audit and National Survey

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Purpose: The 2018 NICE guidelines [1] advocate 3 monthly cardiac monitoring during adjuvant trastuzumab and 6 monthly for 2 years following completion of therapy. Cardiac monitoring in the metastatic setting is at the clinician's discretion. Our aims:

- (1) To audit local and national trastuzumab cardiac monitoring in the adjuvant setting compared with the 2018 NICE guidelines.
- (2) To review variation in practice nationally when monitoring metastatic patients.

Methods: (1) Local audit: clinical notes and electronic prescribing records were retrospectively reviewed for all patients who received trastuzumab between 2013 and 2016. (2) National survey: a questionnaire was emailed to consultant oncologists at 32 NHS Trusts across the UK.

Results: (1) Local audit: 75 patients received adjuvant trastuzumab; echocardiograms were performed at baseline and every 4 months and until completion of therapy only. Twenty-six patients received trastuzumab in the metastatic setting; echocardiograms were performed 3 monthly. The median number per patient was 10.5 (range 2–23). Six patients developed cardiac toxicity (five adjuvant, one metastatic), all within 12 months of treatment initiation. (2) National survey: responses were received from 32/32 Trusts. (a) Adjuvant monitoring: all sites performed baseline and serial cardiac monitoring with ECHO or MUGA. Monitoring frequency: 34.3% 3 monthly ($n = 10$), 6.3% 3–4 monthly, 56.3% 4 monthly, 3.1% 5 monthly. One site (3%) performed monitoring for 2 years after cessation of trastuzumab. (b) Metastatic monitoring: all sites did baseline monitoring. Serial monitoring frequency: 9.4% not performed, 31.3% 3 monthly, 9.4% 3–4 monthly, 28% 4 monthly, 21.9% 6 monthly. 37.5% continued to monitor at the same frequency indefinitely, 43.8% reduced the frequency of monitoring over time, 9.4% stopped monitoring at a defined end point.

Conclusion: Only one site was compliant with 2018 NICE guidelines for adjuvant monitoring. Implementing these guidelines would incur ≥ 4 extra ECHO/MUGAs per patient. Wider variation in practice was seen in the metastatic setting.

Reference

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