

Editorial

The Effect of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy on Perioperative Outcomes in Patients Who Have Bladder Cancer Treated With Radical Cystectomy: A Population-Based Study

Ye Tian, Tongxin Yang, Kunjie Wang* and Hong Li

Department of Urology, Sichuan University, China

*Corresponding author: Kunjie Wang, Department of Urology, West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, Sichuan, PRC, China

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Editorial

We read with interest the excellent report conducted by Gandaglia et al. [1]. Who determined the safety of the use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy before Radical Cystectomy (RC) in patients who have Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer (MIBC). The authors claimed the use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy is not associated with higher perioperative morbidity or mortality and should encourage wider use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy when clinically indicated. This study adds to the body of literature regarding the MIBC treatment, however, we would like to draw the attention of readers to some specific limitations that were not mentioned in the paper.

Standards of diagnosis, patient care, and surgery have changed over this long period of patient entry. With the increased adoption of minimally invasive approaches, the use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for bladder cancer also demonstrated an increase trend [2]. That means that a higher proportion of the patients received neoadjuvant chemotherapy were treated with advanced medical care including minimally invasive approaches (e.g. laparoscopic cystectomy). Apparently, equivalent perioperative results could also attribute to the medical advancements [3]. Therefore, potential effect of bias could be introduced into this study.

Considerable patients treated with cisplatin based neoadjuvant chemotherapy before RC underwent severe hematologic or gastrointestinal side-effects [4,5]. Not just the perioperative morbidity and mortality, the low utilization of neoadjuvant

chemotherapy also attributed in part to patient/physician choice and the advanced age, which often have multiple comorbidities including renal and/or cardiac dysfunction. Furthermore, a sizable proportion of patients received neoadjuvant chemotherapy did not accomplish the planned cystectomies [6], which may partially attribute to the impaired performance status. Therefore, we believe the “no significant differences of perioperative morbidity and mortality between the two groups” may not persuade the urologists to use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy more widely before RC.

Nonetheless, substantial data confirmed the overall survival advantage of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for patients with MIBC. We just kindly remind the readers that neoadjuvant chemotherapy should be carefully used and the patients should be carefully monitored. Optimal dosing schedule, appropriate patients, as well as acceptable regimens remain to be established in further studies.

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