
Study of 'Patterns of Care' of Ovarian Cancer Patients in a Specialized Cancer Institute in Kolkata, Eastern India

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INTRODUCTION:

Ovarian cancer is one of the leading cancers in Indian women. The survival rates are quite disappointing. Over the last couple of decades the standard of care has evolved to a combination of surgical staging, maximal surgical effort to achieve cyto-reduction and judicious use of chemotherapy. Multimodality therapy can reduce the mortality but there is a concern that the practice and uptake of such therapy in Indian Institutions are still not up to the desired level.

OBJECTIVES:

To study the protocol adherence for ovarian cancer management along with patient compliance and evaluate their effects on survival in a specialized cancer center.

METHODS

The retrospective study abstracted and analysed the data from the case records of the patients operated for ovarian cancer at Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata between January 2002 and December 2006.

RESULTS

The records of 202 patients were evaluable. None of the patients who had primary surgery

outside the Institute had staging information. A substantial number of those patients operated at the Institute had incomplete surgical staging, inadequate information on amount of residual disease after surgery and incomplete histology report. Only 20.3% patients could have optimal cytoreduction after surgery. Cisplatin-cyclophosphamide combination was most frequently used. Compliance to chemotherapy was poor. Only 45.5% of the deserving patients received chemotherapy and of them 48.1% could complete treatment. The median overall survival time and disease-free survival time for the 202 patients were 24 months and 5 months respectively. The residual disease after surgery significantly affected the overall survival but not the disease-free survival. On multi-variate analysis incomplete chemotherapy was found to adversely affect survival after adjusting for advanced stage and bulky residual disease.

CONCLUSION

Management of ovarian cancer is sub-optimal even in the specialized cancer institute. Poor patient compliance to chemotherapy is one of the major factors adversely affecting survival from advanced ovarian cancer.