

Palliative low dose fortnightly methotrexate in oral cancer

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Dear Editor,

A recent report on a single center experience on “palliative low dose fortnightly methotrexate (MTX) in oral cancer” is very interesting. Chakraborty *et al.* reported “the fortnightly regimen of MTX was well-tolerated and showed a good clinical activity in this elderly cohort of patients with advanced oral cavity and oropharyngeal cancers.”^[1] In fact, the effectiveness of palliative low dose fortnightly MTX has been mentioned in other cancers like prostate cancer.^[2] Nevertheless, the side effect of using MTX has to be mentioned and well-evaluated. Several possible side effects including to gastrointestinal and hematological side effects should be systematically evaluated. Sometimes, only the early signs impending pancytopenia in MTX toxicity could be observed.^[3] The good early sign is “cutaneous erosion,” which is not mentioned in the report by Chakraborty *et al.*^[1] Finally, the use of additional supplementation to reduce the toxicity of metrotrexate like folic acid should be discussed.^[4]

Sim Sai Tin, Viroj Wiwanitkit'

Shantou Medical Center, Shantou, ¹Hainan Medical University, Haikou, China

Correspondence to: Prof. Sim Sai Tin,
E-mail: simsaitin@gmail.com

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