Weekly Docetaxel in Patients with Platinum-Refractory Metastatic or Recurrent Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck(SCCHN)

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Objective : The objective of the study was to investigate the efficacy and tolerability of weekly docetaxel in patients with platinum-refractory recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN).

Methods : Patients fulfilling the following criteria were enrolled: histologically confirmed SCCHN ; documented progressive disease after platinum-based treatment ; Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group 0-2; measurable disease; not candidates for local therapy. Docetaxel (35mg/m^2) was administered for 3 weeks every 4 weeks for a maximum of 6 cycles.

Results : Twenty three patients were treated. All patients were assessable for toxicity and response. The overall response rate was 13.0% (3/23) and disease control rate was 34.7% (8/23). Median progression-free and overall survivals were 9 weeks (95% CI, 7.6 to 10.4 weeks) and 29 weeks (95% CI, 10.8 to 47.1 weeks), respectively. Most common hematological toxicities were grade 1-2 anemia (6/23, 26.1%). Most nonhematological toxicities were mild and manageable. There was no treatment-related death.

Conclusions : Weekly docetaxel regimen has good clinical activity with an acceptable toxicity in patients with platinum-refractory SCCHN.