



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Retrospective Evaluation of a Rechallenge Protocol in Patients Experiencing Hypersensitivity Reactions with Prior Chemotherapy in a Tertiary Hospital

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Introduction

When encountering an HSR to chemotherapy, a dilemma arises whether to continue the current regimen. In our institution, a protocol has been developed. The protocol consisted of intensification of premedication and lengthening of infusion time.

Objectives

This study evaluated the effectiveness and safety of our rechallenge protocol in rechallenging patients with previous HSRs of grade 1 to 2 to paclitaxel, docetaxel, carboplatin and oxaliplatin.

Methodology

A retrospective review of electronic medical records was conducted. Patients who attempted rechallenge with paclitaxel, docetaxel, carboplatin and oxaliplatin under the protocol during the time period from August 2014 to December 2015 were included.

Result

Forty-six rechallenge cases were included (12 paclitaxel, 15 docetaxel, 5 carboplatin and 15 oxaliplatin cases). The first rechallenge cycle was completed successfully in 43/46 patients (93.5%) and 42/46 patients (91.3%) were HSR-free throughout the treatment course under the rechallenge protocol. A total of 133/137 cycles (97.1%) were completed successfully under the protocol. Among patients who continued chemotherapy until disease progression or treatment completion, a median of 3 additional cycles (range: 1 to 9 cycles) were administered under the protocol. The 4 cases of recurrent HSRs responded well to infusion interruption and symptomatic treatment and all 4 patients were discharged uneventfully. Further rechallenge was not performed.

Our study demonstrated that a combined strategy of intensification of premedication and lengthening of infusion duration is effective and probably safe in rechallenging patients with previous grade 1 to 2 HSR to paclitaxel, docetaxel, carboplatin and oxaliplatin.