

CHEMOTHERAPY NEAR THE END OF LIFE IN ONCO-HAEMATOLOGICAL ADULT PATIENTS

Sánchez Cuervo M, García Basas L, Pueyo López C, Gómez de Salazar López de Silanes ME, Bermejo Vicedo T.

Hospital Ramón y Cajal. Pharmacy Department. Madrid. Spain

BACKGROUND

- The use of chemotherapy close to the end of the life is not advisable, especially when the probabilities of improvement are limited.
- The intensity of anticancer treatment at this stage has been suggested as one of the factors influencing quality of life. Data at European level are scarce, but show signs of overly aggressive treatment*

PURPOSE

- To analyse the proportion of patients receiving chemotherapy within the last two weeks of life in a Haematology and Oncology setting.
- To describe the clinical variables of the patients receiving chemotherapy at the end of life, including the type of treatment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- A retrospective observational study was conducted in a tertiary hospital.
- Electronic records were used (HCIS®, HospiWin®).
- Population**
 - Adults aged 18 or older, who died of an onco-haematological neoplasia between 1st April 2017 and 30th March 2018.
- We assessed the **use of chemotherapy over the course of the last 14 days of life**, defined as the administration of at least one dose of chemotherapy (including oral targeted therapies and biotherapy).
- Independent variables**
 - Gender
 - Age
 - Prescribing unit
 - Primary malignancy
 - Last type of treatment (chemotherapy, biotherapy or both)
 - Route of administration (parenteral, oral)
 - Temporal interval between the last chemotherapy administration and death of the patient
- For descriptive analysis, the statistical program SPSS version 23.0 was used.

RESULTS

- A total of 298 patients were included. Median age 65 ±13 years (range 30-89), 60.4% men.
- The hospital unit of origin was Oncology for 86.9% (n=259) and Haematology for 13.1% (n=39) of the cases.
- Tumours with the highest number of deaths were lung (22.5%), breast (8.7%) and colon (10.4%).
- A total of **26.5% (n=79)** patients received chemotherapy during the last 14 days before death.
- In these patients, the most widely used therapeutic regimen was classic chemotherapy, administered in 77.2% of patients (70.9% intravenous treatment).

Graphic 1. Primary malignancy

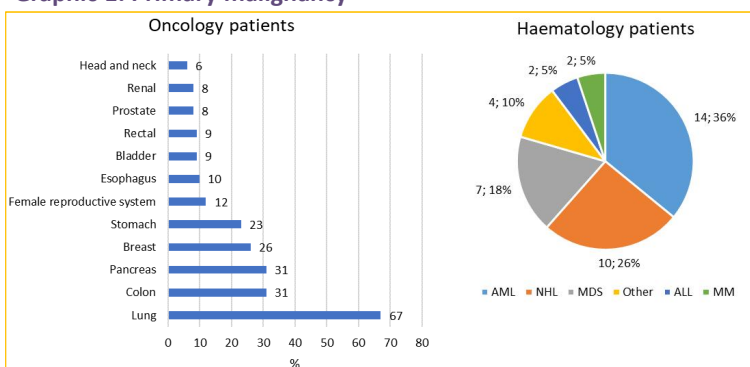


Figure 1. Demographic, clinical and chemotherapy characteristics

	Oncology (n=259)	Haematology (n=39)
Characteristics		
• Age (years), median ± SD	65 ± 12	66 ± 15
• Male, n (%)	156 (60.2)	24 (61.5)
Patients receiving chemotherapy during the last 14 days before death, n (%)		
	68 (26.3)	11 (28.2)
Last type of treatment, n (%)		
• Chemotherapy	56 (82.4)	5 (45.5)
• Biotherapy	8 (11.8)	1 (9.1)
• Both	4 (5.9)	5 (54.5)
Route of administration, n (%)		
• Parenteral	45 (66.2)	11 (100)
• Oral	22 (32.4)	
• Both	1 (1.5)	

CONCLUSION

- The outcomes confirm that the proportion of patients receiving chemotherapy in the last 14 days of life is high, showing excessive aggressiveness at the end-of-life care.

