MORE RISK OF NEUTROPAENIA IN OBESE PATIENTS TREATED WITH PACLITAXEL?

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BACKGROUND
Neutropaenia is one of the most common adverse effects of paclitaxel. It is dose-dependent and is the dose-limiting toxicity. However, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) guideline recommends to use real body weight for chemotherapy dosing, irrespective of obesity.

PURPOSE
Asess the incidence of neutropaenia in obese patients treated with paclitaxel and to compare our results with those published in the summary of product characteristics (SmPC). Secondary objective: identify if dose reductions were related with the development of neutropenia.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
• Retrospective study of patients treated with paclitaxel from January to December 2017.
• Data collected: age, sex, body surface area (BSA), body max index (BMI), diagnosis, initial dose, grade of neutropenia and dose reduction. Obesity was considered from BMI ≥ 30 kg/m². Neutropaenia grade was classified based on the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE), version 5.0.

RESULTS
186 PATIENTS TREATED WITH PACLITAXEL: 31 OF THEM OBESE
SEX 28 women
AGE 65±7 years
BSA 1.8±0.1 m²
BMI 34.14±3.14 kg/m²

INITIAL DOSE
WEEKLY SCHEDULE 80 mg/m²
THREE-WEEKLY SCHEDULE 175 mg/m² in 5 patients
135 mg/m² in 4 patients

Dose reduction was needed in 17 patients: only 3 due to neutropenia and the rest because of diarrhea, asthenia or neuropathy.

CONCLUSION
• In our study, obese patients did not develop more neutropenia compared with the SmPC.
• Two-thirds of the patients needed dose reductions, but majority of them are not related to neutropenia. However, more studies are needed.