Safety and efficacy of S-1 in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma

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BACKGROUND:

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients with advanced stage disease or disease progression after locoregional therapy have a dismal prognosis owing to few effective treatment options and rapid tumor progression. Therefore, further development of effective therapeutic strategies for the treatment of advanced HCC is warranted. Although limited to small phase II studies, S-1 demonstrated a promising antitumor activity with acceptable tolerability in advanced HCC as monotherapy. The aim of this study is to report the outcome of advanced HCC patients with the use of S-1 and provide useful information for formulating treatment strategies.

HYPOTHESIS:

S-1 may have an acceptable safety profile and benefit in survival in patients with advanced HCC, and certain clinicopathological factors could predict the survival benefits.

METHODS:

Between December 2009 and December 2014, a total of 22 patients with advanced HCC were retrospectively analysed. The clinicopathologic factors, progression-free survival (PFS), overall survival(OS) and safety were assessed.

RESULTS:

13 of 22 patients had metastatic diseases, and 9 patients had portal vein tumor thrombus. The most common grade 3/4 toxicities were thrombocytopenia (18.2%), leucopenia/neutropenia (13.6%), elevated serum aspartate aminotransferase levels (9.1%). Two patients had a partial response, 9 had stable disease. Median PFS and OS was 6.52 months and 13.75 months. Based on multivariate analysis, AFP level and distant metastases were significant prognostic factors for survival.