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DIARRHEA IN MULTIPLE MYELOMA AUTOLOGOUS STEM CELL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS: THINK BEYOND MUCOSITIS!!

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INTRODUCTION

- Persistent diarrhea in Multiple myeloma patients undergoing Autologous transplant is related to conditioning regimen toxicity unless proven otherwise
- An emerging rise in infectious complications in this setting
- Therefore - necessary to evaluate for the same to ensure better clinical outcomes

AIM

- To study the incidence of persistent diarrhea in patients undergoing Autologous stem cell transplant for multiple myeloma
- To ascertain the etiology of persistent diarrhea in this cohort of patients

METHOD

- Ambispective study - 2 years duration (2021-2023)
- 106 multiple myeloma patients underwent autologous transplant during the study period
- 84 patients (79.24%) newly diagnosed multiple myeloma attained Partial response (PR) or better response after first line treatment
- 22 patients (20.37%) were relapsed refractory myeloma patients after multiple lines of therapy.
- Patients with diarrhea for more than 2 weeks post -transplant evaluated for alternative etiology by using both conventional and molecular techniques along with colonoscopy (wherever needed).

RESULTS

106 patients included with median age of 62 years, 32 patients (30.19%) had persistent diarrhea.

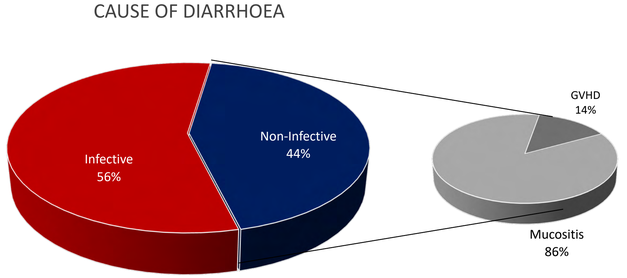
Twenty-nine of them (90.62%) had febrile neutropenia for which empiric/definitive antibiotics were given.

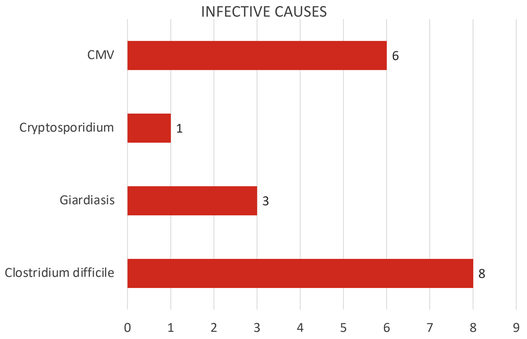
Infective 18 patients , Non-infective 14 patients

Most common cause of infective C.Difficile

12 patients – Mucositis – after ruling out other causes

All the patients were treated as per standard treatment protocols including trial of steroids for the patients with GVHD. Successful resolution of diarrhea was achieved in 31 out of 32 patients.





CONCLUSIONS

- Melphalan related mucositis still the most common cause of debilitating diarrhea
- With newer diagnostic modalities - other infectious /non-infectious etiologies are being increasingly recognized
- A careful analysis of the causative agents could lead to more accurate management, early intervention and prevention of serious complications.

REFERENCES

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