Retrospective Analysis of Hairy Cell Leukemia in Patients in Egypt: Real-Life Experience

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Introduction

Hairy cell leukemia (HCL) is a rare hematologic malignancy characterized by splenomegaly and lymphocytic cells with cytoplasmic extensions in the peripheral blood[1]. HCL occurs more frequently in men than in women, and the median age of patients is 55 years. Patients diagnosed with HCL who undergo treatment generally have excellent prognoses[2].

Aim

In this study, we analyzed incidence, patient characteristics, and outcomes of HCL in patients treated with cladribine.

Patient and Method

A retrospective study of 119 patients diagnosed with HCL who were presented at the Oncology Center of Mansoura University (OCMU) during 2010–2023.
Our study included 119 patients with HCL: n=21 female and n=98 male, with a mean age 49.91±10.35 years.

Intervention

Data collected included age, gender, complete blood counts, percentage of marrow lymphocytes, treatment type and response.

Results

In this study, laboratory values showed patients had a median WBC count 3.375×10^9/L; ALC 1.8×10^9/L; AMC 0.2×10^9/L; Hb level 9.17 gm/dL; and platelet count 50.6×10^9/L. Moreover, 77 /119 (64.7%) patients presented with pancytopenia. Overall, 91/119 (76.47%) patients received cladribine. Response assessment was available for 76 patients treated with cladribine: complete remission (CR) was achieved in 62/76 (81.57%) patients. Median overall survival (OS) was 28 months. Three patients had a second malignancy: nasal basal cell carcinoma, prostate cancer, and colon cancer. At the end of the study, there were 17 deaths (14.3%).

Conclusion

Males are most frequently affected; our patients were diagnosed with HCL at an earlier age compared with patients in other studies. Cladribine is considered safe and effective in terms of achieving CR in HCL.

References

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