

SURVIVAL OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA PATIENTS WITH PERITONEAL METASTASIS

Chien-Chu Lin,¹ Hsuan-Shu Lee,¹ Guan-Tarn Huang,¹ Pei-Ming Yang,¹ Po-Huang Lee,² Yuk-Ming Tsang,³ Ding-Shinn Chen,^{1,4} Jin-Chuan Sheu,¹ Chien-Hung Chen¹

¹Department of Internal Medicine, ²Department of Surgery, ³Department of Medical Imaging and ⁴Hepatitis Research Center, National Taiwan University Hospital and National Taiwan University College of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan

BACKGROUND/AIM: Peritoneal metastasis is an uncommon manifestation of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). To determine which patients are suitable for surgical resection, we need to know the detailed characteristics of HCC patients with peritoneal metastases. Thus, the aim of our study was to study the characteristics of HCC with peritoneal metastases.

METHOD: From January 1985 to December 2004, 56 HCC patients with peritoneal metastases were obtained from computer records of National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan. The medical records were retrospectively reviewed. The diagnosis HCC was based on either histologic examination of tumor tissues or typical radiological image pictures. The following data were collected: sex, age, name, chart number, national citizen identification number, birthday, address, zip code, date of HCC diagnosis, date of death, date of first recurrence, date of last follow-up, tumor location and distant metastases, WBC, hemoglobin, platelet, prothrombin time, albumin, bilirubin, AST, ALT, ALP, BUN, creatinine, serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), antibody for hepatitis C virus (anti-HCV), presence of liver cirrhosis, ascites, encephalopathy, tumor size, evidences of portal vein invasion, year of diagnosis and modality of initial treatment. The initial treatment for HCC, date of peritoneal metastasis and methods for treating peritoneal metastasis were also recorded.

RESULT: Peritoneal metastasis was detected at the time of HCC diagnosis in 11 patients. Forty-five patients developed peritoneal metastasis after initial therapy for primary tumors. The mean duration of development of peritoneal metastasis after initial therapy with surgery, transarterial chemoembolization and supportive care was 24.1, 22.2 and 7.5 months, respectively. Surgical resection was possible in two-thirds of these patients. The mean survival in patients who received operation for peritoneal metastasis was 20.5 months.

CONCLUSION: Peritoneal metastasis of HCC occurs infrequently. The peritoneal metastasis might occur synchronously or metachronously. In selected cases, surgical resection for peritoneal metastasis could lead to long-term survival.

Keywords: hepatocellular carcinoma, peritoneum, metastasis