

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Modified anthracycline-based chemotherapy for elderly patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma in the rituximab era

Wataru Yamamoto¹⁾, Hiroataka Takasaki¹⁾, Yoshimi Isii¹⁾, Atsuko Fujita¹⁾,
Chizuko Hashimoto¹⁾, Sachiya Takemura¹⁾, Shigeki Motomura¹⁾,
Naoto Tomita²⁾, Yoshiaki Ishigatsubo²⁾, Rika Sakai¹⁾

¹⁾ Department of Medical Oncology, Kanagawa Cancer Center,

²⁾ Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Immunology
Yokohama City University Graduate School of Medicine

Abstract : Objective. Although R-CHOP therapy (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone) is reported to improve the prognosis of elderly patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), the influence of dose reduction on the outcome remains unclear. Methods. We retrospectively studied to evaluate the influence. Patients. We surveyed 80 patients aged 70 years or older with newly diagnosed DLBCL who were treated with R-CHOP or CHOP-like chemotherapy. Results. The median follow-up time was 2.2 years. Seventeen patients were scheduled to receive reduced-dose chemotherapy. They were older than the patients who received standard-dose chemotherapy, but there was no significant difference of 2-year overall survival or progression-free survival between the two groups. B symptoms and older age (≥ 74 years) were factors with an independent influence on progression-free survival according to multivariate analysis. Conclusion. Reduced-dose R-CHOP therapy may be comparable to standard-dose therapy for some elderly patients because avoiding severe toxicity allows scheduled delivery of chemotherapy.

Key words: Elderly patient, Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, Dose reduction, R-CHOP therapy