Results of a longitudinal survey on quality of life (QoL) in 936 patients with supradiaphragmatic early stage Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) enrolled in the EORTC-GELA H8 trial (# 20931)

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Background

- To study the change in posttreatment Quality of Life and fatigue in patients with supradiaphragmatic early stage HL.

Introduction

- HL is associated with high probability of severe or even fatal malignancies of Hodgkin’s disease in Europe and North America.
- HL patients are young and are likely to develop severe problems after their treatment.
- Study aims to evaluate the impact of several covariates such as age, gender, treatment type, treatment-related toxicity and a priori prognosis on QoL functioning and symptom scores.

Materials and Methods

Study population

- Between 1995 and 1998, 1015 patients enrolled onto the H8 trial (Study). One third of these patients participated in a self-administrated questionnaire at each follow-up visit, immediately after treatment completion and every 6 months thereafter for a period of 6 years.
- Data were updated at November 2005
- 1015 patients who completed at least one form
- The number of forms obtained varies from 1 to 14 per patient (median 3)
- Comparisons were made between subgroups of patients with and without missing questionnaires

Quality of life assessment

- Two self-administrated questionnaires were used:
  - The EORTCQLQ-C30 questionnaire (7 scales: role, emotional, social, physical, cognitive, global QoL, and symptoms of fatigue)
  - The Multidimensional Fatigue Inventory (MFI-20)

Statistical analysis

- Data assessment comprised the 936 patients who were not excluded. For patients with more than one assessment available within a time period, the assessment used was selected at random
- Patients were censored at relapse when occurred
- Changes of scores by time period were summarized using appropriate statistics
- Mixed models were used to assess statistically reliable changes of the variables tested
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- Correlations decline as a function of time, for unequal length of time between two assessments
- The impact of treatment is limited
- Fatigue remains of great concern in these patients

Results

Patient characteristics

- Age ranged from 15 to 70 years (median 31)
- Mean of treatment duration 8.3 months (±3.7)
- Overall, 535 (57%) patients experienced treatment-related acute grade 3-4 toxicity

Results of mixed models

- All dimensions/functioning scales were significantly influenced by demographic and treatment-related factors

Conclusions

- QoL data from the reintegration process of patients into normal life after the first follow-up years show substantial limitations
- The impact of treatment is limited
- Fatigue remains of great concern in these patients

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