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Outcomes of patients in South Yorkshire with PDL-1 positive or negative locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) treated with first line Pembrolizumab in combination with Carboplatin and Paclitaxel

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Introduction

In February 2022, NICE recommended pembrolizumab plus carboplatin and paclitaxel as first-line treatment for locally advanced or metastatic squamous NSCLC. We have audited the outcomes and CDF compliance in patients receiving this treatment in South Yorkshire.

Method

Patients who commenced treatment between March 2020 to March 2022 were identified using an electronic database. Descriptive analyses were conducted using Excel and Graph Pad Prism.

Results

12 patients were identified. The median age was 68 years (Range 60-81). 100% of patients were diagnosed with stage IIIB or IV NSCLC prior to treatment. All were ECOG performance status 0 or 1. 5 (42%) of patients had PDL1 <1%, 6 (50%) had PDL1 1-49% and 1 (8%) had PDL1 >50%. Following 4 cycles of induction therapy, 9 patients (75%) achieved an objective response (OR), 1 (8%) had stable disease (SD) and 2 (17%) progressed on treatment (PD). The median-OS was 12.6 months (9.5 – 30.5) and median PFS was 7.4 (1.8 – 25.0). The median follow up was 14.6 months (Range 2.8 – 25.3). During induction treatment, 11 patients (91%) reported toxicity of any grade. The highest toxicity grade experienced was grade 3 in 2 patients (17%). 2 patients (17%) required steroids to manage toxicities and 5 patients (42%) required hospitalisation. 10 patients (83%) continued on maintenance immunotherapy, 2 patients did not due to toxicity. The median number of maintenance cycles was 6 (range 1-19). 2 patients (17%) discontinued maintenance immunotherapy due to toxicities. 1 patient experienced delay in treatment due to COVID pandemic.

Conclusion

Our data confirms that Pembrolizumab combined with chemotherapy is a well-tolerated first line treatment in Squamous NSCLC. Small numbers preclude any meaningful survival outcome comparison with that reported in Keynote 407.

Citation:

Paz-Ares L et al. A Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Pembrolizumab Plus Chemotherapy in Patients With Metastatic Squamous NSCLC: Protocol-Specified Final Analysis of KEYNOTE-407. J Thorac Oncol. 2020 Oct;15(10):1657-1669.

