

Efficacy and Safety of Transarterial Chemoembolization (TACE) in Patients with Advanced Stages Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

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Background/Aims: TACE is the standard of care for patients with intermediate stage HCC.

However, TACE is sometimes unavoidably utilized in patients with more advanced stages. This study was aimed to determine the efficacy and safety of TACE in patients with intermediate and advanced stages HCC according to Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (BCLC) system.

Methods: Data of consecutive HCC patients with BCLC-B and BCLC-C who underwent selective TACE between 2008-2012 at a tertiary center were analyzed.

Results: 110 HCC patients were included: mean age 54 years, 53% HBV positive, 23% Child-Pugh B and 89% tumor size ≥ 5 cm. There was no significant difference in overall survival between BCLC-B (n=56) and BCLC-C group (n=54): median survival 9.6 vs 7.7 months, respectively; p=0.535). Progressive disease by modified RECIST criteria was more common in BCLC-B than in BCLC-C (31.5% vs 10.7%, p=0.007). Pre-treatment MELD score (HR 1.1; 95%CI: 1.02-1.19), TACE-related complications (HR 1.95; 95%CI: 1.21-3.15) and portal vein thrombosis/invasion (PVT) (HR 3.37; 95%CI: 3.37-6.98) were independent factors for survival in a multivariate analysis. The median survival of patients with (n=40) and without PVT was 5.6 and 11.2 months (p<0.001), respectively. There was no difference in survival between patients with (n=31) and without extrahepatic metastases (9.6 vs 8.5 months, respectively; p=0.784). The incidence of TACE-related complications were similar (p<0.05). [Table 1]

Conclusions: The overall survival and adverse events following TACE were comparable between HCC patients with BCLC-B and BCLC-C. These findings support the use of TACE as an option for selected patients with BCLC-C

Table 1) Characteristic of 110 HCC patients with underwent TACE

Characteristic	BCLC-B (n=56)	BCLC-C (n=54)	p-value
Male	80.4%	83.3%	0.686
Age (year)	58 \pm 11	54 \pm 11	0.047
HBV positive	53.6%	51.9%	0.857
CTP Class A/B	80.4%/19.6%	74.1%/25.9%	0.432
AFP (mg/dl)	9,719 \pm 16,735	13,806 \pm 20,974	0.238
No. of tumor: single/multiple	28.6%/71.4%	24.1%/75.9%	0.605
Portal vein invasion	0%	74.1%	NA
Extrahepatic metastasis	0%	57.4% (18 LN, 7 lung,	NA

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		6 bone, 3 adrenal)	
No. of TACE	2 (1-3)	2 (1-3)	0.762
Complete and partial response	62.5%	25.9%	0.001
Stable disease	23.2%	33.3%	0.238
Progressive disease	10.7%	31.5%	0.007
Post-TACE Liver decompensation	30.4%	29.6%	0.934
Post-TACE Liver failure	1.8%	5.6%	0.291

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