

Health Technology Assessment on behalf of



Efficacy of Hyperthermia Treatment in combination with radio- or chemotherapy in Breast-, Bladder-, Cervix Carcinoma and Soft Tissue Sarcoma patients. Update 2012

Kirisits A, Wild C

Objective

To synthesise the evidence on efficacy of hyperthermia in combination with radio- or chemotherapy in breast-, bladder-, cervix carcinoma and soft tissue sarcoma patients.

Methods

Based on two previous systematic reviews, a systematic literature search in four databases with identical search terms was carried out in order to find randomised clinical trials.

Results

2 RCTs for breast cancer, 2 RCTs for bladder cancer, 3 RCTs for cervix carcinoma, 1 RCT for bladder and cervix and 1 RCT for soft tissue sarcoma were found. Overall, of the 1265 patients 656 were allocated to receive treatment with hyperthermia in combination with radio- or chemotherapy. Where CR or PR was assessed (in 6 from 9 trials) hyperthermia showed statistical significant outcomes. Some of the trials assessed DFS (3/9) or PFS (2/9): all of them show superiority of the hyperthermia arm. Of the 9 publications providing OS data only 1 shows a statistical significant improvement in overall survival, thus proposing that the surrogate endpoints do not translate into a survival benefit and that hyperthermia leads to temporal effects only. QoL was not assessed in any of the trials. The reporting of safety data was consistent across the studies showing a trend towards an inferior safety profile within the hyperthermia arms.

Conclusion

Due to the heterogeneity of the trials in terms of technique, protocol, reporting of outcomes, control interventions, but also tumour characteristics within the same indication, there is a high degree of uncertainty and the available evidence must be considered as insufficient. Large confirmatory RCTs are required.

The full German version is available

under

http://eprints.hta.lbg.ac.at/986/2/DSD_36_Update2012.pdf