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About us Bulletin

The Bulletin of Urooncology is the periodical publishing organ of the Urooncology Association of Turkey. The Bulletin is an independent, peer-reviewed, international journal published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.

The Bulletin accepts research articles in the basic and clinical sciences, reviews of current topics, and extraordinary case reports for publication.

The main aim of the journal is to enable all physicians-especially urologists-in Turkey to access research findings from the urooncology field quickly and effectively. It also contributes to physicians' vocational training with specific numbers of reviews and case reports.

The Bulletin accepts manuscripts through an online submission system. Free access to full text versions is provided to members through the Association's website and mobile applications.

After online manuscript submission, leading reviewers from the relevant areas will evaluate the papers and send feedback to the authors within a short time.

In order to increase access to the manuscripts published in the Bulletin, efforts are underway to be included in leading international indices.

The Bulletin of Urooncology is published in English.

Scientific responsibility for the manuscripts belongs to the authors.

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Instructions to Authors

1. General Information

The Bulletin of Urooncology is the official scientific publication of the Turkish Society of Urooncology. It is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December). Supplements are also published during the year if necessary.

The Bulletin publishes basic and clinical research original articles, reviews, editorials, case reports, and letters to the editor relevant to urooncology (prostate cancer, urothelial cancers, testis and kidney cancer, benign prostatic hyperplasia, and any aspect of urologic oncology). The Bulletin of Urooncology is indexed by several international databases and is committed to rigorous peer review.

The Bulletin of Urooncology does not charge any article submission or processing charges, nor do authors receive any remuneration or compensation for their manuscripts.

Manuscripts must be written in Turkish or English and must meet the requirements of the Bulletin. Articles are accepted for publication on the condition that they are original, are not under consideration by another journal, and have not been previously published. This requirement does not apply to papers presented in scientific meetings and whose summaries not exceeding 250 words have been published. In this case, however, the name, date, and place of the meeting in which the paper was presented should be stated. Direct quotations, tables, or illustrations taken from copyrighted material must be accompanied by written permission for their use from the copyright owner and authors.

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The Bulletin adheres to the principles set forth in the Declaration of Helsinki 2016 version (<http://www.wma.net/en/30publications/10policies/b3/index.html>) and holds that all reported research involving human beings is conducted in accordance with such principles. Reports describing data obtained from research conducted in human participants must contain a statement in the Materials and Methods section indicating approval by an ethics review committee and affirmation that informed consent was obtained from each participant.

All manuscripts dealing with animal subjects must contain a statement indicating that the study was performed in accordance with "The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals" (<http://oacu.od.nih.gov/reg/guide/guide.pdf>) with the approval (including approval number) of the Institutional Review Board, in the Materials and Methods section.

Case reports should be accompanied by informed consent and the identity of the patient should not be disclosed. It is the authors' responsibility to ensure their manuscript meets ethical criteria.

During the evaluation of the manuscript, the research data and/or ethics committee approval form can be requested from the authors if it's required by the editorial board.

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The ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) number of the corresponding author should be provided while sending the manuscript. Free registration can be done at <http://orcid.org>.

3. Peer-Review Process

The Bulletin of Urooncology is an independent international journal based on double-blind peer-review principles. All articles are subject to review by the editors and peer reviewers. All manuscripts are reviewed by the editor, associate editors, and at least two expert referees. The scientific board guiding the selection of papers to be published in the Bulletin consists of elected experts of the Bulletin and if necessary, selected from national and international authorities. The editorial board has the right to not publish a manuscript that does not comply to the Instructions for Authors, and to request revisions or re-editing from the authors. The review process will be managed and decisions made by the Editor-in-chief, who will act independently.

The editor and editorial board is the sole authority regarding reviewer selection. The reviewers are mainly selected from a national and international advisory board. The editorial board may decide to send the manuscript to independent national or international reviewers according to the subject.

Authors of accepted manuscripts accept that the editor and associate editors can make corrections without changing the main text of the paper.

4. Editorial Policies

Scientific Responsibility

It is the authors' responsibility to prepare a manuscript that meets scientific criteria. All persons designated as authors should have made substantial contributions to the following:

- (1) conception and design of the study, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data,
- (2) drafting the article or revising it critically for intellectual content,
- (3) final approval of the version to be submitted.

If the article includes any direct or indirect commercial links or if any institution provided material support to the study, authors must state in the cover letter that they have no relationship with the commercial product, drug, pharmaceutical company, etc. concerned; or specify the type of relationship (consultant, other agreements), if any.

In case of any suspicion or allegation regarding scientific shortcomings or ethical infringement, the Bulletin reserves the right to submit the manuscript to the supporting institutions or other authorities for investigation. The Bulletin accepts the responsibility of initiating action but does not undertake any responsibility for an actual investigation or any power of decision.

Abbreviations

Use only standard abbreviations. Avoid abbreviations in the title and abstract. The full term for an abbreviation should precede its first use in the text, unless it is a standard abbreviation. Abbreviations that are used should be defined in parenthesis where the full word is first mentioned.

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Measurements should be reported using the metric system, according to the International System of Units (SI).

Statistical Evaluation

All retrospective, prospective, and experimental research articles must be evaluated in terms of biostatistics and should be stated together with an appropriate plan, analysis, and report. P values must be given clearly in the manuscripts (e.g., p=0.033). It is the authors' responsibility to prepare a manuscript that meets biostatistical rules.

Language

Accepted articles will be published in English online and in both English and Turkish in hard copy. The translation process will be conducted by the Bulletin. It is the authors' responsibility to prepare a manuscript that meets spelling and grammar rules. Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English are encouraged to consult an expert. All spelling and grammar mistakes in the submitted articles, are corrected by our redaction committee without changing the data presented.

5. Article Types

The Bulletin of Urooncology publishes articles prepared in compliance with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly work in Medical Journals published by International Committee for Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

Manuscripts that do not meet these requirements will be returned to the author for necessary revision prior to review.

The Bulletin requires that all submissions be submitted according to these guidelines: Manuscripts should be prepared as a word document (*.doc) or rich text format (*.rtf). Text should be double-spaced with 2.5 cm margins on both sides using

12-point type in Times Roman or Arial font.

Each section of the article should be started on a new page and be organized according to the following sequence:

- 1) Title,
- 2) Abstract and keywords (Turkish and English),
- 3) Main text,
- 4) Acknowledgements (optional),

- 5) References,
- 6) Tables/figures (each table should be written with the titles and footnotes in a separate page) and figure legends.

All manuscripts submitted must be accompanied by the "Copyright Transfer and Author Declaration Statement form" (www.uuroonkolojibulteni.com). The corresponding author must provide a full correspondence address including telephone, fax number, and e-mail address. Contact information for the corresponding author is published in the Bulletin.

A. Original Research Articles

Original prospective or retrospective studies of basic or clinical investigations in areas relevant to urologic oncology.

Content:

- Title
- Abstract (structured abstract limited to 300 words, containing the following sections: Objective, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusion)
- Keywords (List 3-5 keywords using Medical Subjects Headings [MeSH])
- Introduction
- Materials and Methods/Patients and Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Study Limitations
- Conclusion
- Acknowledgements
- References
- Tables/Figures

Preparation of research articles, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses must comply with study design guidelines: CONSORT statement for randomized controlled trials (Moher D, Schultz KF, Altman D, for the CONSORT Group. The CONSORT statement revised recommendations for improving the quality of reports of parallel group randomized trials. *JAMA* 2001; 285: 1987-91) (<http://www.consortstatement.org/>);

PRISMA statement of preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses (Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. *PLoS Med* 2009; 6(7): e1000097.) (<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>);

STARD checklist for the reporting of studies of diagnostic accuracy (Bossuyt PM, Reitsma JB, Bruns DE, Gatsonis CA, Glasziou PP, Irwig LM, et al., for the STARD Group. Towards complete and accurate reporting of studies of diagnostic accuracy: the STARD initiative. *Ann Intern Med* 2003;138:40-4.) (<http://www.stard-statement.org/>);

STROBE statement, a checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies (<http://www.strobe-statement.org/>);

MOOSE guidelines for meta-analysis and systemic reviews of observational studies (Stroup DF, Berlin JA, Morton SC, et al. Meta-analysis of observational studies in epidemiology: a proposal for reporting. *Meta-analysis of observational Studies in Epidemiology (MOOSE)* group. *JAMA* 2000; 283: 2008-12).

Figure Legends

A word count for the original articles (excluding title page, acknowledgments, figure and table legends, and references) should be provided not exceed 3000 words. Number of references should not exceed 30.

B. Case Reports

Case reports should include cases which are rarely seen and distinctive in diagnosis and treatment. These can include brief descriptions of

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a previously undocumented disease process, a unique unreported manifestation or treatment of a known disease process, or unique unreported complications of treatment regimens, and should contribute to our present knowledge.

Content:

- Title

Abstract (limited to 150 words, unstructured)

- Keywords (List 3-5 key words using Medical Subjects Headings [MeSH])

Introduction

Case Presentation

Discussion

References

Tables/Figures

Figure Legends

A word count for the original articles (excluding title page, acknowledgments, figure and table legends, and references) should be provided not exceeding 1500 words. Number of references should not exceed 15.

C. Review Article

These are manuscripts which are prepared on current subjects by experts who have extensive experience and knowledge of a certain subject and who have achieved a high number of publications and citations. Reviews are usually submitted directly or by invitation of the editorial board. Submitted reviews within the scope of the journal will be taken into consideration by the editors. The content of the manuscript should include the latest achievements in an area and information and comments that would lead to future studies in that area. Number of authors should be limited to 3.

Content:

- Title

Abstract (maximum 250 words; without structural divisions;

- Keywords (List 3-5 key words using Medical Subjects Headings [MeSH])

Introduction

Main Text

Conclusions

Tables/Figures

Figure Legends

Short Quiz (a list of 3-5 questions about the context of article for CME credit). The editorial board and Urooncology Association of Turkey executive committee will evaluate the answers and members submitting correct answers may receive education grants).

D. Literature Review

These are solicited by the editor, will go through the peer review process, and will cover recently published selected articles in the field of urologic oncology. It is a mini-review article that highlights the importance of a particular topic and provides recently published supporting data. The guidelines stated above for Review articles are applicable. Word count should not exceed 1500 and references are limited to 10.

E. Editorial Commentary

These are solicited by the editor and should not be submitted without prior invitation. An original research article is evaluated by specialists in the area (not including the authors of the research article) and this is published at the end of the related article. Word count should not exceed 500 words and number of references is limited to 5.

F. Letters to the Editor

These are letters that include different views, experiments, and questions from readers about the manuscripts published in the Bulletin within the last year and should be no more than 500 words with maximum of

5 references. There should be no title or abstract. Submitted letters should indicate the article being referenced (with issue number and date) and the name, affiliation, and address of the author(s) at the end. If the authors of the original article or the editors respond to the letter, it will also be published in the Bulletin.

6. Manuscript Preparation

Each section of the article should be started on a new page and abide to the following sequence according to article type: Title page, abstract, main text, acknowledgements, references, tables/figures and figure legends.

A. Title Page

The title page should include the following:

Full title (in English and in Turkish); Turkish title will be provided by the editorial office for authors who are not Turkish speakers

Authors' names and institutions

Corresponding author's e-mail and postal address, telephone, and fax numbers

Any grants or financial support received for the paper

B. Abstract and Keywords

Abstracts should be prepared in accordance with the specific instructions for the different article types. For original articles, a structured abstract should be provided using the following headings: Objective, Materials and Methods, Results, and Conclusions. Provide 3-5 keywords. English keywords should be provided from Medical Subject Headings (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh>).

C. Main Text

Introduction: Should include brief explanation of the topic, the objective of the study, and supporting information from the literature.

Materials and Methods: Should describe the study plan, indicating whether the study was randomized or nonrandomized, retrospective or prospective, the number of trials, the characteristics, and statistical methods used. If applicable, it should be indicated that the results should be scrutinized.

Results: Should summarize the results of the study, with tables and figures presented in numerical order; results should be indicated in accordance with statistical analysis methods used.

Discussion: The positive and negative aspects of the study data should be discussed and compared with literature.

Study Limitations: Limitations of the study should be discussed. In addition, an evaluation of the implications of the obtained findings/ results for future research should be outlined.

Conclusion: The conclusion of the study should be highlighted.

D. Acknowledgements

Acknowledgments are given for contributors who may not be listed as authors, or for grant support of the research. Any technical or financial support or editorial contributions (statistical analysis, English/Turkish evaluation) to the study should appear at the end of the article.

E. References

The author is responsible for the accuracy of references. Cite references in the text with numbers in parentheses. All authors should be listed if four or fewer, otherwise list the first three authors and add et al. Number references consecutively according to the order in which they first appear in the text. Journal titles should be abbreviated according to the style used in Index Medicus (consult List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus).

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Format for books: initials of author's names and surnames. chapter title. In: editor's name, Eds. Book title. Edition, City: Publisher; Year. p. pages.

Example:

Book Chapters: Lang TF, Duryea J. Peripheral Bone Mineral Assessment of the Axial Skeleton: Technical Aspects. In: Orwoll ES, Bliziotes M, eds. *Osteoporosis: Pathophysiology and Clinical Management*. New Jersey, Humana Pres Inc, 2003;83-104.

Books: Greenspan A. Orthopaedic Radiology a Practical Approach. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams Wilkins; 2000. p. 295-330.

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Figures: Authors should number figures according to the order in which they appear in the text. Figures include graphs, charts, photographs, and illustrations. Each figure should be accompanied by a legend. Figures should be submitted as separate files, not in the text file. Image files must be cropped as close to the actual image as possible. Pictures/photographs must be in color, clear and with appropriate contrast to distinguish details. Figures, pictures/photographs must be uploaded as separate .jpg or .gif files (approximately 500x400 pixels, 8 cm in width and scanned at 300 resolution).

7. Manuscript Submission

As part of the submission process, authors are required to complete a check-list designed to ensure their submission complies with the instructions for authors, and submissions may be returned to authors who do not adhere to these guidelines.

The Bulletin of Urooncology only accepts electronic manuscript submission at the web site www.uroonkolojibulteni.org.

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Editorial

Esteemed Colleagues and Readers of the Bulletin of Urooncology,

For the first issue of 2018, my assistant editors Ender Özden, MD and Barış Kuzgunbay, MD and myself have selected original research articles, case reports, and a review which we believe you will read with interest.

Through the efforts of both the present administrative board and our previous editors, the bulletin has made admirable progress in the process of entering national and international indexes, which will help researchers meet academic appointment and promotion criteria. The urology and urooncology community have provided their valuable support in this matter and are steadily increasing their efforts. One of the most important indicators of this support is being included in various indexes, particularly the TÜBİTAK/ULAKBİM Turkish Medical Index, which evaluates our national publications. We are also continuing our endeavors to enter major international indexes.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to thank the esteemed researchers and faculty who shared their knowledge in the review, case reports, and research articles featured in this issue.

We will continue to accept research articles and interesting case reports. We are especially proud that Turkish researchers who want to capitalize on their academic work prefer the bulletin. It is for this very reason that we will continue to strive for inclusion in major indexes. The valuable support and devoted efforts of the Turkish Association of Urooncology Board of Directors, and the entire urology and urooncology community continue to be our foundation.

Respectfully,

Murat Koşan, MD

Original Article

DOI: 10.4274/uob.921



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Gleason Score Correlation Between Prostate Biopsy and Radical Prostatectomy Specimens

✉ Erdem Öztürk MD, ✉ Taha Numan Yıldız M.D

University of Health Sciences, Dr. Abdurrahman Yurtaslan Ankara Oncology Training and Research Hospital, Clinic of Urology, Ankara, Turkey

Abstract

Objective: Prostate cancer is the most common malignancy in men and the second cause of cancer-related mortality. Prostate biopsy and the Gleason score guide treatment decisions in prostate cancer. Several studies have investigated the correlation between biopsy scores and radical prostatectomy specimen scores. We also evaluated the correlation of Gleason scores of these specimens in our patient series.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the data of 468 men who were diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent radical prostatectomy between 2008 and 2017. Patients' age, prostate-specific antigen levels at diagnosis, and prostate biopsy and radical prostatectomy specimen Gleason scores were recorded. Upgrading and downgrading were defined as increase or decrease of Gleason score of radical prostate specimen compared to Gleason score of prostate biopsy.

Results: A total of 442 men diagnosed with prostate cancer were included in the study. The mean age of the patients was 62.62 ± 6.26 years (44-84 years) and mean prostate specific antigen level was 9.01 ± 6.84 ng/mL (1.09-49 ng/mL). Prostate biopsy Gleason score was <7 in 335 (75.8%) men, 7 in 80 (18.1%) men, and >7 in 27 (6.1%) men. Radical prostatectomy specimen Gleason score was <7 in 267 (60.4%) men, 7 in 113 (25.5%) men and >7 in 62 (14%) men. Gleason correlation was highest in the 240 patients (71.6%) with score <7 and was lowest in the 31 (38.75%) patients with score =7.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that the discordance rate between Gleason scores of prostate biopsy and radical prostatectomy specimens was 35.7%.

Keywords: Prostate biopsy, radical prostatectomy, Gleason score

Introduction

Prostate cancer is currently one of the most common malignancies in men and the second most common cause of cancer-specific mortality after lung cancer (1). Diagnosis is based on digital rectal examination, serum prostate specific antigen (PSA) measurement, and when deemed necessary, transrectal prostate needle biopsy. Prostate needle biopsy provides information about tumor pathology, and therefore has a substantial impact on treatment decisions.

In spite of its importance in diagnosis and treatment planning, prostate needle biopsy may yield different Gleason scores than those determined by examination of radical prostatectomy

(RP) specimens. Despite the integration of recently developed imaging systems into prostate needle biopsy procedures and a higher number of biopsy cores being acquired, there is still considerable inconsistency in biopsy and RP specimen grading. Correlation between Gleason scores obtained from biopsy and RP specimens has been reported in the range of 41.3-63%, with scores increasing in 21.9-47.4% of the patients and decreasing in 5-20.7% of the patients after RP (2,3,4,5).

Gleason scores are important in terms of disease course and treatment planning. The aim of the present study was to determine concordance between Gleason scores obtained from prostate needle biopsy and RP specimens.

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Materials and Methods

A total of 468 patients who were diagnosed with prostate cancer by needle biopsy and underwent RP in our clinic between 2008 and 2017 were included in the study. Patients with incomplete data were excluded. The patients' age, pre-biopsy PSA values, biopsy pathology results, and post-RP pathology results were obtained retrospectively by medical record review.

Prostate biopsy was recommended for patients with suspicious digital rectal examination and/or elevated PSA (≥ 4 ng/mL). All prostate biopsies were performed as transrectal ultrasound-guided biopsy using an 18-gauge, 200 mm biopsy needle. All patients in the study underwent 12-core prostate biopsy. Patients who were diagnosed with prostate cancer according to these biopsy results and underwent RP were included in the study.

The biopsy and RP specimens of the patients were evaluated by pathologists and all specimens were scored according to the Gleason grading system. Ensuring that there were sufficient numbers in each group, the patients were divided into 3 groups based on Gleason score (<7, =7, and >7). Within each group, patients' biopsy and RP specimen Gleason scores were compared. A second analysis was done by separating patients with a Gleason score of 7 into two groups: 3+4 and 4+3. Cases were classified as upgrade if the RP specimen score was higher than the biopsy score, and as downgrade if RP score was lower than biopsy score.

Results

Of the total 468 patients who underwent RP, 442 met the inclusion criteria of the study. The mean age of the patients was 62.62 ± 6.26 years (44-84 years) and their mean PSA value at time of diagnosis was 9.01 ± 6.84 ng/mL (1.09-49 ng/mL). Gleason score based on prostate biopsy result was <7 for 335 patients (75.8%), 7 for 80 patients (18.1%), and >7 for 27 patients (6.1%). Gleason score based on RP specimen pathology result was <7 for 267 patients (60.4%), 7 for 113 patients (25.5%), and >7 for 62 patients (14%) (Table 1).

According to biopsy results, Gleason 3+3 was the most observed pathology (75.8%), followed by Gleason 3+4 (14%). Similarly, according to RP specimen, the prevalence of Gleason 3+3 was 60.4% and that of Gleason 3+4 was 19.9%. In 284 patients (64.2%), biopsy results were similar to RP specimen results, whereas Gleason grade was downgraded in 39 patients (8.8%) and upgraded in 119 patients (26.9%). The highest compatibility was observed in the Gleason <7 patient group, which consisted of 240 patients (71.6%). The lowest compatibility was observed in Gleason 7 patient group, which consisted of 31 patients (38.75%). Although the total Gleason score remained constant, the results of 5 patients with biopsy results of Gleason 3+4 were changed to Gleason 4+3, and Gleason 4+3 score was changed to Gleason 3+4 in 7 patients (Table 2).

According to the D'amico risk classification, patients were analyzed in subgroups of Gleason score <7, =7, and >7. Of 335 patients in the Gleason <7 group, 95 (39.5%) were upgraded

Table 1. Patient characteristics

	Number (n=442)
Age (years)	62.62 ± 6.26
PSA (ng/mL)	9.01 ± 6.84
Biopsy Gleason scores	
3+3	335
3+4	62
4+3	18
4+4	17
3+5	3
5+3	1
4+5	1
5+4	3
5+5	2
Radical prostatectomy specimen Gleason scores	
3+3	267
3+4	88
4+3	25
4+4	42
3+5	9
5+3	0
4+5	2
5+4	6
5+5	3
PSA: Prostate specific antigen	

Table 2. Change in Gleason scores between biopsy and radical prostatectomy specimens

Biopsy score	Downgrade	Compatible	Upgrade
<7		240	95
=7	27	31	22
3+4	22	21	19
4+3	5	10	3
>7	12	13	2
Total	39 (8.8%)	284 (64.25%)	119 (26.9%)

after RP. Among the 80 patients with a biopsy Gleason score of 7, results obtained from the two specimens were compatible in 31 (38.75%), while 27 patients (33.75%) were downgraded and 22 patients (27.5%) were upgraded. Of the 27 patients with a biopsy score >7, 12 patients (44.4%) were downgraded.

Discussion

In prostate cancer, identifying Gleason score is the key factor in choosing from a broad spectrum of treatment options ranging from watchful waiting to multimodal treatment. In this widely used grading system, the first and second most common glandular patterns are identified and patients are placed into risk groups according to the sum of these two patterns (6). Gleason score determined from RP specimens is shown to be one of the predictive factors of patient survival (7). Although effective for predicting prognosis and making treatment decisions, Gleason scores may differ between prostate needle biopsy and RP specimen. In 2005, the International Society of Urological Pathology published a consensus report aiming to improve biopsy results and standardize biopsy technique. The systematic procedure for prostate biopsy described in that

report led to better agreement between the results of biopsy and RP specimens (8).

There are several studies in literature regarding concordance between biopsy specimens and RP specimens in prostate cancer patients. Cookson et al. (9) reported a compatibility rate of 31% between scores of biopsy and RP specimens. They determined a biopsy score upgrade rate of 54% and a downgrade rate of 15%. In another study, San Francisco et al. (10) reported a 67% compatibility rate between biopsy scores and surgical pathology scores, while biopsy scores were downgraded in 11% of the patients and upgraded in 22%. This discrepancy between scores obtained from biopsies and surgical specimens has been the focus of numerous studies. In studies further evaluating patients with incompatible results, the upgrade rate has varied between 21.9-47.4% while the downgrade rate varies between 5-20.7% (3,4). The compatibility rate in our series was 64.2% and upgrade/downgrade rates were 26.9% and 8.8%, respectively. Our data were consistent with the literature, though we observed slightly higher agreement between the two specimens.

Stav et al. (11) reported that agreement was lower in patients with Gleason scores between 2-4, and 94.2% of these patients were upgraded. In a study by Capitanio et al. (12) investigating 301 prostate cancer patients in the low-risk group according to D'Amico classification, 38.5% of the patients were upgraded. According to the subgroup analysis performed in our study, of 335 patients with Gleason score of 6, biopsy and RP specimen grading was compatible in 240 (71.6%), while scores were upgraded for the remaining 95 patients (28.4%).

Donohue et al. (13) reported that 45% of patients with biopsy scores of 8-10 were downgraded. In a study of patients with Gleason score 9-10, D'elia et al. (14) reported that 58% had compatible biopsy and RP specimen scores. In the present study, of the 25 patients with biopsy Gleason score >7, 12 patients (44.4%) were downgraded after RP, whereas 55.6% of the patients had compatible results.

D'elia et al. (14) also grouped and analyzed prostate cancer patients according to their Gleason score. Biopsy and RP specimen scores were similar for 57.4% of the patients in the Gleason 3+4 group, whereas 6.4% of the patients were downgraded and 36.2% of patients were upgraded after RP. The same analysis in our patient group revealed compatible scores in 33.8%, downgrade in 35.4%, and upgrade in 30.6%. D'elia performed a similar analysis with Gleason 4+3 patients and determined compatibility, downgrade, and upgrade rates of 35.3%, 23.5%, and 41.2%, respectively, in that group. In our study, these rates were 55.5%, 27.7%, and 16.6%, respectively, in our Gleason 4+3 group.

Study Limitations

Limitations of this study include its retrospective design, the use of ultrasound guidance for biopsy, and the fact that the biopsy and surgical specimens were examined by different pathologists. Magnetic resonance imaging-guided biopsy and the pathological examinations by the same pathologist would

likely increase the compatibility between the specimens.

Conclusion

Gleason score is the most important parameter in prostate cancer in terms of making treatment decisions and predicting prognosis. Therefore, concordance between biopsy and the pathology results directly affects the prognosis of the patient. The results of our study demonstrated a 35.7% rate of discordance between Gleason scores obtained from transrectal prostate biopsy and RP surgical specimens. This rate brings into question the accuracy of the chosen treatment. Although numerous studies have investigated this issue, an effective way of reducing these discrepancies has yet to be determined. Further studies utilizing different imaging modalities and including larger sample sizes are needed.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: The study was retrospectively reviewed by examining patient files. For this reason, ethical approval was not received.

Informed Consent: Retrospective study.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: E.Ö., T.N.Y., Concept: E.Ö., Design: E.Ö., T.N.Y., Data Collection or Processing: E.Ö., T.N.Y., Analysis or Interpretation: E.Ö., Literature Search: E.Ö., Writing: E.Ö.

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Orijinal Makale / Original Article

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Prostat Biyopsisi ve Radikal Prostatektomi Spesmeni Gleason Skorlarının Uyumu

Gleason Score Correlation Between Prostate Biopsy and Radical Prostatectomy Specimens

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Öz

Amaç: Tanı ve tedavi planlamasındaki önemli yerine rağmen, prostat iğne biyopsisinde elde edilen Gleason skorları ile radikal prostatektomi spesmeninin incelenmesi sonrası elde edilen Gleason skorları arasında farklılık olabilmektedir. Bu çalışmada tedavi seçiminde ve hastalığın seyrinde önemli olan Gleason skorlarının prostat iğne biyopsisi ile radikal prostatektomi spesmeni arasındaki uyumunu saptamayı amaçladık.

Gereç ve Yöntem: 2008-2017 tarihleri arasında prostat iğne biyopsisi ile prostat kanseri tanısı konulan ve radikal prostatektomi operasyonu yapılan 468 hasta çalışmaya alındı. Hastaların yaşı, tanı anındaki prostat spesifik antijen değerleri, biyopsi ve radikal prostatektomi spesmenlerinden elde edilen Gleason skorları kaydedildi. Radikal prostatektomi spesmen skorunun biyopsi skoruna göre yüksek olması upgrade, düşük olması ise downgrade olarak değerlendirilmiştir.

Bulgular: Radikal prostatektomi yapılan 468 hastanın kriterlere uyum sağlayan 442'si çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastaların ortalama yaşı $62,62 \pm 6,26$ (44-84) iken, tanı anındaki ortalama prostat spesifik antijen değeri $9,01 \pm 6,84$ (1,09-49) olarak hesaplandı. Prostat biyopsisi sonucunda 335 (%75,8) hastanın Gleason skoru <7, 80 (%18,1) hastanın Gleason skoru =7 iken, 27 (%6,1) hastanın ise Gleason skoru >7 olarak saptandı. Radikal prostatektomi sonucu elde edilen spesmenin patolojisine göre 267 (%60,4) hastanın Gleason skoru <7, 113 (%25,5) hastanın Gleason skoru =7, 62 (%14) hastanın ise Gleason skoru >7 olarak saptandı. Gleason skorları arası uyumun en yüksek olduğu hasta grubu 240 (%71,6) hasta ile Gleason <7 grubu olurken, en düşük olduğu grup ise 33 (%40,2) hasta ile Gleason =7 grubu oldu.

Sonuç: Çalışmamızın sonucunda transrektal prostat biyopsisi ile elde edilen skorlar ile cerrahi spesmenin incelenmesi ile elde edilen Gleason skorları arasındaki uyumsuzluk oranı %35,7 olarak bulunmuş ve bu oran tercih edilen tedavinin doğruluğunu şüpheye düşürmüştür.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Prostat biyopsisi, radikal prostatektomi, Gleason skoru

Abstract

Objective: Prostate cancer is the most common malignancy in men and the second cause of cancer-related mortality. Prostate biopsy and the Gleason score guide treatment decisions in prostate cancer. Several studies have investigated the correlation between biopsy scores and radical prostatectomy specimen scores. We also evaluated the correlation of Gleason scores of these specimens in our patient series.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively reviewed the data of 468 men who were diagnosed with prostate cancer and underwent radical prostatectomy between 2008 and 2017. Patients' age, prostate-specific antigen levels at diagnosis, and prostate biopsy and radical prostatectomy specimen Gleason scores were recorded. Upgrading and downgrading were defined as increase or decrease of Gleason score of radical prostate specimen compared to Gleason score of prostate biopsy.

Results: A total of 442 men diagnosed with prostate cancer were included in the study. The mean age of the patients was 62.62 ± 6.26 years (44-84 years) and mean prostate specific antigen level was 9.01 ± 6.84 ng/mL (1.09-49 ng/mL). Prostate biopsy Gleason score was <7 in 335 (75.8%) men, 7 in 80 (18.1%) men, and >7 in 27 (6.1%) men. Radical prostatectomy specimen Gleason score was <7 in 267 (60.4%) men, 7 in 113 (25.5%) men and >7 in 62 (14%) men. Gleason correlation was highest in the 240 patients (71.6%) with score <7 and was lowest in the 31 (38.75%) patients with score =7.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated that the discordance rate between Gleason scores of prostate biopsy and radical prostatectomy specimens was 35.7%.

Keywords: Prostate biopsy, radical prostatectomy, Gleason score

Giriş

Prostat kanseri günümüzde erkeklerde görülen en sık malignite olup, akciğer kanserinden sonra kanser spesifik ölümlerin en sık ikinci sebebidir (1). Prostat kanseri tanısında dijital rektal muayene, serum prostat spesifik antijen (PSA) ölçümü ve gerekli görülen hastalarda transreketal prostat iğne biyopsisi temeldir. Prostat iğne biyopsisi hastalığın patolojisi hakkında bilgi vererek tedavi seçenekleri arasında karar vermemizi sağlayan en önemli yöntemdir.

Tanı ve tedavi planlamasındaki önemli yerine rağmen prostat iğne biyopsisinde elde edilen Gleason skorları ile radikal prostatektomi (RP) spesmeninin incelenmesi sonrası elde edilen Gleason skorları arasında farklılık olabilmektedir. Zaman içinde gelişen görüntüleme sistemlerinin prostat iğne biyosisi ile entegrasyonuna ve biyopside alınan kor sayılarının artmasına rağmen; biyopsi ile RP spesmeni arasındaki uyumsuzluk göz ardı edilemeyecek kadar çoktur. Yapılan çalışmalarla gösterilmiştir ki; biyopside elde edilen Gleason skorları ile RP spesmeninde elde edilen skorlar arasındaki korelasyon %41,3 ile %63 arasında değişmekte olup, hastaların %21,9-%47,4'ünde skor artışı görülürken, %5-20,7'sinde skorlarda azalma izlenmektedir (2,3,4,5).

Bu çalışmada tedavi seçiminde ve hastalığın seyrinde önemli olan Gleason skorlarının prostat iğne biyopsisi ile RP spesmeni arasındaki uyumunu saptamayı amaçladık.

Gereç ve Yöntem

Kliniğimizde 2008-2017 tarihleri arasında prostat iğne biyopsisi ile prostat kanseri tanısı konulan ve RP operasyonu yapılan 468 hasta çalışmaya alındı. Datalarına ulaşılamayan hastalar çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Retrospektif olarak arşiv kayıtlarından hastaların yaşına, biyopsi öncesi PSA değerlerine, biyopsi patolojsinin sonuçlarına ve RP sonrası patoloji sonuçlarına ulaşıldı ve kaydedildi.

Dijital rektal muayenesinde şüphelenilen ve/veya PSA yüksekliği saptanan ($PSA \geq 4$ ng/mL) hastalar prostat biyopsisine yönlendirilmiştir. Tüm prostat biyopsileri transreketal ultrasonografi kılavuzluğunda yapılmış olup 18 G kalınlığında ve 200 mm uzunluğunda biyopsi iğnesi kullanılmıştır. Çalışmaya alınan tüm hastalarda biyopsi ile prostat 12 kor örneklenmiştir. Biyopsi sonucunda prostat kanseri tanısı alan ve RP yapılan hastalar çalışmaya dahil edilmiştir.

Hastaların biyopsi ve RP spesmenleri patologlar tarafından değerlendirilmiş olup, tüm spesmenler Gleason grade'leme sistemine göre skorlanmıştır. Gruplarda bulunan hasta sayılarındaki kısıtlılık göz önüne alınarak, hastalar Gleason skoru <7, =7, >7 olmak üzere 3 ayrı gruba ayrılmıştır. Her üç gruptaki hastaların biyopsi ve cerrahisi, spesmenlerinden elde edilen Gleason skorları kendi içlerinde karşılaştırılmıştır. Gleason skoru 7 olan hastalar ise kendi içinde 3+4 ve 4+3 olarak ayrılarak tekrardan analiz edilmiştir. RP spesmen skorunun biyopsi skoruna göre yüksek olması upgrade, düşük olması ise downgrade olarak değerlendirilmiştir.

Bulgular

RP yapılan 468 hastanın kriterlere uyum sağlayan 442'si çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastaların ortalama yaşı $62,62 \pm 6,26$

(44-84) iken, tanı anındaki ortalama PSA değeri $9,01 \pm 6,84$ ng/mL (1,09-49) olarak hesaplandı. Prostat biyopsisi sonucunda 335 (%75,8) hastanın Gleason skoru <7, 80 (%18,1) hastanın Gleason skoru =7 iken, 27 (%6,1) hastanın ise Gleason skoru >7 olarak saptandı. RP sonucu elde edilen spesmenin patolojisine göre ise 267 (%60,4) hastanın Gleason skoru <7, 113 (%25,5) hastanın Gleason skoru =7, 62 (%14) hastanın ise Gleason skoru >7 olarak saptandı (Tablo 1).

Biyopsi sonuçları doğrultusunda en sık saptanan patoloji Gleason 3+3 (%75,8), en sık ikinci saptanan patoloji ise Gleason 3+4 (%14) idi. RP spesmenindeki en sık saptanan Gleason skorları da biyopsi sonuçlarına benzer olarak; Gleason 3+3 görülme oranı %60,4, Gleason 3+4 görülme oranı ise %19,9'du. Biyopsi sonuçları 284 (%64,2) hastada RP spesmeninin sonucuna benzer olup; 39 (%8,8) hastada Gleason grade'lerinde azalma, 119 (%26,9) hastada ise Gleason grade'lerinde artma izlendi. Gleason skorları arası uyumun en yüksek olduğu hasta grubu 240 (%71,6) hasta ile Gleason <7 grubu olurken, en düşük olduğu grup ise 31 (%38,75) hasta ile Gleason =7 grubu oldu. Her ne kadar toplam Gleason skoru değişmese de biyopsi sonucu Gleason 3+4 olan hastaların 5'i Gleason 4+3 olurken; skoru 4+3 olan hastaların ise 7'si Gleason 3+4 olarak değişti (Tablo 2).

Tablo 1. Hasta özelliklerি

	Sayı (n=442)
Yaş (yıl)	$62,6 \pm 6,2$
PSA (ng/mL)	$9,0 \pm 6,84$
Biyopsi skorları	
3+3	335
3+4	62
4+3	18
4+4	17
3+5	3
5+3	1
4+5	1
5+4	3
5+5	2
Radikal prostatektomi spesmen skorları	
3+3	267
3+4	88
4+3	25
4+4	42
3+5	9
5+3	0
4+5	2
5+4	6
5+5	3
PSA: Prostat spesifik antijen	

Tablo 2. Biyopsi skorları ile radikal prostatektomi spesmen skorları arasındaki değişim

Biyopsi skoru	Downgrade	Uyumlu	Upgrade
<7		240	95
=7	27	31	22
3+4	22	21	19
4+3	5	10	3
>7	12	13	2
Toplam	39 (%8,8)	284 (%64,25)	119 (%26,9)

D'amicco risk sınıflaması göz önüne alınarak hastalar, Gleason skor <7, =7 ve >7 olarak üç gruba ayrılarak alt grup analizleri yapıldı. Gleason skor <7 olan grupta 335 hasta bulunurken, hastaların 95'inin (%39,5) RP spesmeninde upgrade izlendi. Biyopsi skoru 7 olan 80 hastanın ise 31'inde (%38,75) iki spesmen uyumlu iken; 27 (%33,75) hastada downgrade, 22 (%27,5) hastada ise upgrade izlendi. Biyopsi skoru >7 olan 27 hastanın incelenmesinde ise 12 (%44,4) hastada downgrade olduğu saptandı.

Tartışma

Prostat kanseri hastalarında hastalığın Gleason skorlarının tanımlanması, aktif izlemden multimodal tedavilere kadar değişen bir yelpazedeki tedavi kararını belirlemeye en önemli etkendir. Günümüzde sıkılıkla kullanılan bu grade'leme sisteminde en sık görülen birinci ve ikinci glandüler patern tanımlanır ve bu iki paternin toplamını da içeren bir sınıflamaya göre hastalar risk gruplarına ayrılır (6). RP spesmeninde saptanan Gleason skorunun hasta sağkalımı üzerine prediktif faktörlerden biri olduğu kanıtlanmıştır (7). Gerek tedavi kararında gerekse прогнозу öngörmekte etkili olan Gleason skorları, prostat iğne biyopsisi ile RP spesmeni arasında farklılık göstermektedir. Biyopsi sonuçlarının iyileştirilmesi ve teknigin standardizasyonu amacıyla 2005 yılında yayınlanan the International Society of Urological Pathology konsensusu ile prostat biyopsisinin sistematiği tanımlanmış olup, bunu takiben biyopsi ile RP spesmeni arası uyum artmıştır (8).

Prostat kanseri hastalarının biyopsi spesmeni ile RP spesmeni arasındaki uyumsuzluk birçok çalışmaya konu olmuştur. Cookson ve ark. (9) biyopsi skoru ile RP spesmen skoru arasındaki uyumu %31 olarak raporlamıştır. Biyopsi skorlarındaki upgrade oranını %54, downgrade oranını ise %15 olarak hesaplamışlardır. San Francisco ve ark. (10) tarafından yayınlanan çalışmada ise biyopsi skorlarının %67'si cerrahi patoloji skoru ile uyum gösterirken; %11 hastada downgrade, %22 hastada upgrade izlenmiştir. Biyopsi skorları ile cerrahi spesmen skorları arasındaki bu uyumsuzluk birçok çalışma ile araştırılmıştır. Uyumsuzluk olan hastaların ileri değerlendirildiği çalışmalarında ise olguların upgrade olma oranı %21,9 ile %47,4 arasında değişmekte iken, downgrade olma oranı %5 ile %20,7 arasında değişmektedir (3,4). Bizim serimizdeki uyumluluk oranı %64,2 olarak saptandı; upgrade olma oranı %26,9, downgrade olma oranı ise %8,8 olarak hesaplandı. Verilerimiz literatürle uyumlu olmakla birlikte, iki spesmen arası uyum oranımızın literatüre göre kısmen yüksek olduğu görüldü.

Stav ve ark. (11) tarafından yapılan çalışmada Gleason skoru 2-4 arasında olan hastalardaki uyum oranının daha az olduğu ve bu hastaların %94,2'sinde upgrade görüldüğü belirtilmiştir. Capitanio ve ark. (12) D'amicco sınıflamasına göre düşük risk grubunda olan 301 prostat kanseri hastasını inceledikleri çalışmalarında, hastaların %38,5'inde skorlarda upgrade olduğunu belirtmişlerdir. Bizim çalışmamızda yapılan alt grup analizinde Gleason skoru 6 olan 335 hastanın 240'ında (%71,6) biyopside elde edilen skor RP spesmeni ile benzer iken; geri kalan 95 (%28,4) hastanın ise Gleason skorlarında upgrade olduğu görülmüştür.

Donohue ve ark. (13) biyopsi skoru 8-10 arası olan hastaları incelemişler ve bu hastalarda downgrade görülme oranını

%45 olarak vermişlerdir. D'elia ve ark. (14) tarafından yapılan çalışmada ise Gleason skoru 9-10 olan hastaların %58'inde RP spesmeninin biyopsis spesmeni ile uyumlu olduğu görülmüştür. Çalışmamızda alınan ve biyopsi skoru >7 olan 25 hastanın RP spesmenleri incelendiğinde 12 (%44,4) hastanın skorlarında downgrade olduğu saptanırken, hastaların %55,6'sında iki spesmen birbirile uyumlu.

D'elia ve ark. (14) çalışmalarında prostat kanserli hastalarını Gleason skoru alt gruplarına göre ayırip incelemiştir. Gleason 3+4 hastaların %57,4'ünde biyopsi skoru ile RP spesmen skoru benzer iken; hastaların %6,4'ünde downgrade, %36,2'sinde upgrade olduğu saptanmıştır. Aynı grubu bizim serimizde incelediğimizde ise hastaların %33,8'inde iki spesmen arası uyum saptanırken; downgrade oranı %35,4, upgrade oranı ise %30,6 olarak belirlenmiştir. D'elia ve ark. (14) benzer analizi Gleason 4+3 hastalara da yapmıştır ve bu gruptaki uyum %35,3, downgrade %23,5, upgrade ise %41,2 olarak belirlenmiştir. Bizim çalışmamızda ise Gleason 4+3 hasta grubundaki uyum %55,5, downgrade %27,7, upgrade ise %16,6 olarak saptanmıştır.

Çalışmanın Kısıtlılıkları

Çalışmanın retrospektif olarak dizayn edilmiş olması, biyopsilerde kılavuz olarak ultrasonografi kullanılması, biyopsi spesmenleri ve cerrahi spesmenlerin farklı patologlar tarafından incelenmesi çalışmanın kısıtlılıkları olarak değerlendirilmiştir. Biyopsi kılavuzu olarak manyetik rezonans kullanılmamasının ve patolojilerin aynı patolog tarafından incelenmesinin spesmenlerin tutarlığını artıracağı düşünülmüştür.

Sonuç

Prostat kanserinde tedavi seçimi ve прогнозu öngörmekte Gleason skorlaması yol gösterici en iyi parametredir. Bu nedenle biyopsi skorlaması ile nihai patolojinin tutarlılığı uygulanacak hastanın прогнозu üzerine doğrudan etkilidir. Çalışmamızın sonucunda transreketal prostat biyopsisi ile elde edilen skorlar ve cerrahi spesmenin incelenmesi ile elde edilen Gleason skorları arasındaki uyumsuzluk oranı %35,7 olarak bulunmuş ve bu oran tercih edilen tedavinin doğruluğunu şüpheye düşürmüştür. Ancak literatürde birçok defa araştırılmış olsa da uyumsuzluğu azaltacak etkili bir yol önerilememiştir. Bu konu üzerine farklı görüntüleme yöntemlerinin ve daha geniş hasta sayılarının dahil edildiği ileri çalışmalarla gerek duyulmaktadır.

Etik

Etik Kurul Onayı: Retrospektif çalışma olması nedeniyle etik kurul onayı alınmamıştır.

Hasta Onayı: Çalışmamız retrospektif olduğundan hasta onayı alınmamıştır.

Hakem Değerlendirmesi: Editörler kurulu dışında olan kişiler tarafından değerlendirilmiştir.

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Original Article

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Comparison of Subcapsular and Total Orchiectomy in Patients with Prostate Cancer

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Abstract

Objective: We aimed to compare the oncologic and functional outcomes of patients who underwent subcapsular or total orchiectomy for surgical castration in prostate cancer.

Materials and Methods: We studied 65 patients who underwent total or subcapsular orchiectomy with a diagnosis of prostate cancer between April 2014 and May 2017. At postoperative 3-month follow-up, prostate specific antigen (PSA) and total testosterone levels were measured and patients were asked about their psychological status due to organ loss. Results were compared between the groups.

Results: Sixty-five patients were evaluable: 23 had subcapsular and 42 had total orchiectomy. The mean age of the cases was 71.4 (60-83) years, the mean PSA level was 45.4 ng/dL (4-3800 ng/dL), and 41 cases had metastatic foci. There was no significant difference between the complication rates of the groups, but duration of the operation was significantly shorter in the subcapsular orchiectomy group. The two groups had similar mean PSA and testosterone levels at postoperative 3 months, but significantly more patients with total orchiectomy reported psychological problems due to organ loss.

Conclusion: Subcapsular orchiectomy should be preferred for surgical castration because of the short duration of operation and the advantage of organ presence within the scrotal sac after surgery. In terms of oncologic outcomes, subcapsular orchiectomy shows no difference from total orchiectomy and is a safe alternative.

Keywords: Subcapsular orchiectomy, total orchiectomy, prostate cancer

Introduction

Prostate cancer is the second most common malignant neoplasm in men after skin cancer. It accounts for 28% of all cancers in males. Although the introduction of the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test in the 1960s has facilitated the diagnosis of prostate cancer, 5-10% of these patients are diagnosed with distant metastasis (1). Diethylstilbestrol treatment was first prescribed after it was discovered that prostate cancer is an androgen-dependent condition. Huggins and Hodges (2) first described total orchiectomy in 1941, claiming that orchiectomy and estrogen were equally effective in metastatic cases. This treatment was shown to provide 18-34 months of progression-

free survival in 90% of patients (3). While gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) agonists have been used since the 1980s for chemical castration, GnRH antagonists have also been used in recent years (4). Antiandrogen therapies are used to prevent the "flare phenomenon" that may occur with GnRH agonists, but their use for maximal androgen blockade is much less common today.

Surgical castration is preferred due to the late onset of effect and high cost of medical castration. The only reason explaining the avoidance of surgical castration is shown to be the psychological distress that can result from having an empty scrotum (1). With this in mind, Riba (5) first described subcapsular orchiectomy

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in 1942. In this technique, the outer wall of the tunica albuginea is preserved and a palpable mass is left after the operation to prevent the empty scrotum sensation. Several other techniques have been described to address this issue, such as inserting testicular prostheses, fat injection following total orchiectomy, and subepididymal orchiectomy, but none has been as successful as the simple subcapsular orchiectomy. In this study, we compared oncological follow-up results and the impact of surgery type in patients who underwent subcapsular and total orchiectomy in our clinic due to advanced or metastatic prostate cancer.

Materials and Methods

Patients who were scheduled for surgical castration due to prostate cancer and underwent total or subcapsular orchiectomy in our clinic between April 2014 and May 2017 were evaluated. Of the 83 patients who underwent orchiectomy during the study period, 18 were excluded due to missing data or incomplete follow-up. Thus, the data of 65 patients were analyzed in this retrospective study. The patients' demographic characteristics, comorbidities, preoperative metastatic status, treatments received, surgical anesthesia risks, surgery time, length of hospital stay, drainage volumes, and complications were recorded. All patients included in the study provided informed consent for the operation. Because the study was retrospective, ethics committee approval was not obtained. The study was designed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

In the subcapsular orchiectomy technique practiced in our clinic, we use a no. 15 scalpel to create a single incision through the skin, subcutaneous layer, tunica vaginalis, and tunica albuginea to access the testicular tissue. Perforating the tunica albuginea allows the testicular parenchyma to be extruded through this small incision. The testicular tissue is then peeled from the tunica albuginea using wet gauze. Hemostasis is achieved with cauterization and the tunica albuginea is closed with 3-0 vicryl hemostatic suture. The skin is closed with interrupted 2-0 vicryl sutures without placing a Penrose drain and "turban" compression dressing is applied to the scrotum. We perform the standard total orchiectomy technique, wherein an incision is made in the skin and subcutaneous tissue, then the tunica vaginalis is separated from the subcutaneous tissue via blunt dissection and the testis is removed together with the tunica vaginalis. Both procedures were performed under regional anesthesia and all patients were discharged within 48 hours postoperatively.

At postoperative 3-month follow-up, the patients' PSA and total testosterone levels were measured and they were asked about their psychological state regarding organ loss. Results of the two groups were compared. Statistical analysis were performed using SPSS Windows 21.0 software package and the Mann-Whitney U test. P<0.05 was accepted as the minimum significance level.

Results

Eighty-three patients were initially selected for the study, but only 65 patients met the inclusion criteria. Four patients were excluded because testicular prostheses were inserted

during surgery, 3 patients died in the early postoperative period, 2 patients had a history of previous scrotal surgery, and 9 patients were lost to follow-up. Twenty-three of the remaining patients underwent subcapsular orchiectomy and 42 underwent total orchiectomy. Choice of surgical procedure was based on the surgeon's preference. Forty-one of the 65 patients who underwent surgical castration had been diagnosed with metastatic prostate cancer prior to surgery. In 12 of these patients, surgical castration was performed as the first treatment option without attempting chemical castration due to the patient's age, preference, socioeconomic and cultural level, and metastatic burden, as well as the doctor's preference. Surgical castration was not chosen as primary treatment for any of the non-metastatic patients. The patients' mean age was 71.4 years (60-83 years) and their mean preoperative PSA level was 45.4 ng/dL (4-3800 ng/dL). In the same surgical session, 17 patients underwent transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) due to lower urinary system complaints, and 1 patient also had penile prosthesis implantation. Patients who underwent subcapsular orchiectomy were included in group 1, and patients who underwent total orchiectomy in group 2. Differences between the groups in terms of demographic characteristics and complications are summarized in Table 1. Preoperative PSA levels were significantly lower in patients who underwent subcapsular orchiectomy compared to patients who had total orchiectomy (21.6 ng/dL and 49 ng/dL, respectively). There were no significant differences between the groups in terms of age or American Society of Anesthesiologists physical status scores. There was also no significant difference between the mean surgery times of the groups, though the surgery was slightly shorter in group 1 (23 min and 32 min, respectively). TURP and prosthesis implantation procedures performed simultaneously with orchiectomy were not included when calculating surgery times. Patients in group 1 did not require drain placement; exudate saturated an average of 1.5 sponge dressings. In group 2, a Penrose drain was inserted for 27 of the patients and left

Table 1. Comparison of demographic data and characteristics between groups

	Group 1 Subcapsular orchiectomy n=23	Group 2 Total orchiectomy n=42	p
Age (years)	70.2	71.8	0.2
PSA (ng/dL)	21.6	49.2	0.03
ASA	2.7	2.6	0.8
Surgery duration (min)	23	32	0.08
Same-day discharge (%)	56%	15%	0.005
TURP	7	10	-
Complication rate (%)	9	25	0.2
Postoperative PSA (ng/dL)	3.1	4.1	0.6
Postoperative testosterone (ng/mL)	29	33	0.8
Satisfaction rate (%)	81	40	0.001

ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists, PSA: Prostate specific antigen, TURP: Transurethral resection of the prostate

in place for at least 24 hours postoperatively. As exact drainage volumes could not be calculated in both groups, the difference between groups could not be assessed. When patients who did not undergo simultaneous TURP were compared in terms of time to discharge, it was found that 9 of the patients in group 1 (56%) and 5 of the patients in group 2 (15%) were discharged on the same day as surgery. There was no significant difference between the two groups in length of hospital stay. Complications were observed in a total of 13 patients from both groups and 4 patients required revision surgery. These patients underwent wound revision, and there was no significant difference between the groups. PSA and total testosterone levels analyzed at postoperative 3 months did not differ significantly between the groups. At postoperative 3-month follow-up, the patients were asked to rate their satisfaction with the operation and responses were recorded as "satisfied" or "not satisfied". Eighty-one percent of the patients in group 1 were happy due to the sensation of having testes, while only 40% of the patients in group 2 expressed satisfaction; this difference was statistically significant.

Discussion

Antiandrogen therapy for metastatic prostate cancer can be achieved through chemical or surgical castration. Surgical castration is performed through a scrotal incision as either total orchiectomy or as subepididymal or subcapsular orchiectomy, which gives the patient the feeling that the scrotum is partially full. As the testosterone-producing parenchyma is removed in all three techniques, they provide equivalent treatment efficacy (6). Although surgical castration is preferred as an inexpensive and easy procedure, its biggest demonstrable disadvantages include complications associated with surgical procedures and the psychological trauma of the "empty scrotum" feeling (1).

In the present study, we observed no marked difference in terms of complications between the patients who underwent subcapsular orchiectomy and total orchiectomy, and there were no life-threatening complications. In their study of 74 patients, Zhang et al. (7) reported complications rates of 3% and 22% respectively for patients undergoing subcapsular and total orchiectomy, and similar rates have been confirmed in numerous other studies (8,9). These studies have generally shown that the subcapsular technique has fewer complications. Although we observed a similar ratio in our study, the difference was not statistically significant, which may be related to the fact that the patients were operated by different surgeons. The need for revision surgery was quite low in our patient group (6%), consistent with the literature.

A notable finding of our study was the short surgery times in patients undergoing subcapsular orchiectomy, which was not consistent with the literature. Roosen et al. (8) reported that the subcapsular technique took significantly longer to perform. We attribute this discrepancy to our variation on the surgical technique. In our technique, the testicular parenchyma is accessed and removed via a single full-thickness incision and the layers are closed as a single piece. In contrast, Roosen perform this procedure by opening the layers one by one.

In accordance with the literature, we had success with our same-day discharge surgeries using the subcapsular technique. Not placing drains after surgery considerably shortens the patient's

stay in hospital. This clearly demonstrates the economic advantage of this method.

There was no difference between the groups in terms of oncological outcomes at postoperative 3 months. In the literature, it is argued that both techniques are oncologically successful when appropriate surgical procedures are followed (7,8,10,11). High testosterone level despite orchiectomy is linked to adrenal production and metastatic foci.

In the present study, we investigated the postoperative "empty scrotum" feeling, which has been discussed the literature but patients are not usually asked about. Patients in our study were asked during follow-up whether they experienced this distress, and we found that 19% of patients who underwent the subcapsular technique and 60% of those who underwent the total technique were not psychologically satisfied with the procedure. In other studies comparing these techniques, psychological problems are mentioned but the patients were not asked to rate their satisfaction (1,8).

Study Limitations

Limitations of this study include its retrospective design and the small number of patients. Furthermore, the same surgeon did not perform all of the procedures, and surgery times were difficult to calculate because some patients had additional procedures (TURP, prosthesis implantation). The patients' preferences were another source of irregularity.

Conclusion

At our clinic, we prefer to implement a subcapsular technique that is modified from that described in the literature. Our variation on the subcapsular technique is advantageous in terms of its shorter surgery time and same-day discharge due to the use of regional anesthesia and the unnecessary of drains. The modified subcapsular technique is also superior to the total orchiectomy technique in terms of complications and the need for revision surgery while yielding equivalent oncological results. Most importantly, the subcapsular technique provides greater patient satisfaction after surgery due to the feeling of a full scrotum.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: Because the study was retrospective, ethics committee approval was not obtained. The study was designed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

Informed Consent: All patients included in the study provided informed consent for the operation.

Peer-review: Externally and internally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: T.N.Y., H.B., **Concept:** T.N.Y., E.Ö., **Design:** T.N.Y., **Data Collection or Processing:** T.N.Y., N.H., **Analysis or Interpretation:** T.N.Y., H.B., **Literature Search:** E.Ö., N.H., **Writing:** T.N.Y.

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Orijinal Makale / Original Article

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Prostat Kanserinde Cerrahi Kastrasyon Amaçlı Yapılan Subkapsüler ve Total Orşiektominin Karşılaştırılması Comparison of Subcapsular and Total Orchiectomy in Patients with Prostate Cancer

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Öz

Amaç: Kliniğimizde prostat kanserinde cerrahi kastrasyon amacıyla subkapsüler veya total orşiektomi yapılan olguların onkolojik ve fonksiyonel sonuçlarının karşılaştırılması amaçlandı.

Gereç ve Yöntem: Nisan 2014 ile Mayıs 2017 tarihleri arasında çalışmaya uygun bulunan ve takipleri olan, cerrahi kastrasyon amaçlı total veya subkapsüler orşiektomi uygulanan 65 olgu çalışmaya alındı. Olguların operasyon sonrası 3. aydaki kontrollerinde prostat spesifik antjen (PSA), total testosteron ve organ kaybına bağlı psikolojik durumları sorgulandı. Sonuçlar gruplar arasında karşılaştırıldı.

Bulgular: Çalışmaya uygun bulunan 65 olgunun 23 tanesine subkapsüler, 42 tanesine ise total orşiektomi yapıldı. Olguların yaş ortalaması 71,4 (60-83), ortalama PSA seviyesi 45,4 ng/dL (4-3800) olarak izlenirken; 41 tanesinde metastaz odakları mevcuttu. Her iki grupta da komplikasyon oranları arasında belirgin fark gözlemezken, subkapsüler orşiektomi olan grubun operasyon süresinde belirgin bir düşüklük tespit edilmiştir. Yine iki grubun da operasyon sonrası 3. aydaki kontrollerinde ortalama PSA ve testosteron seviyelerinde anlamlı fark bulunmazken, total orşiektomi uygulanan olgularda skrotal kese içerisinde organ bulunmaması nedeniyle psikolojik rahatsızlık hissettikleri gözlenmiştir.

Sonuç: Subkapsüler orşiektomi operasyon süresinin kısaltığı, cerrahi sonrası skrotal kesenin içinde organ varlığını hissettirmesi gibi avantajları nedeniyle cerrahi kastrasyon planlanan prostat kanseri olgularında tercih edilmelidir. Onkolojik sonuçlar bakımından total orşiektomiden herhangi bir farkı bulunmaması bakımından güvenle uygulanabilecek bir yöntemdir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Subkapsüler orşiektomi, total orşiektomi, prostat kanseri

Abstract

Objective: We aimed to compare the oncologic and functional outcomes of patients who underwent subcapsular or total orchiectomy for surgical castration in prostate cancer.

Materials and Methods: We studied 65 patients who underwent total or subcapsular orchiectomy with a diagnosis of prostate cancer between April 2014 and May 2017. At postoperative 3-month follow-up, prostate specific antigen (PSA) and total testosterone levels were measured and patients were asked about their psychological status due to organ loss. Results were compared between the groups.

Results: Sixty-five patients were evaluable: 23 had subcapsular and 42 had total orchiectomy. The mean age of the cases was 71.4 (60-83) years, the mean PSA level was 45.4 ng/dL (4-3800 ng/dL), and 41 cases had metastatic foci. There was no significant difference between the complication rates of the groups, but duration of the operation was significantly shorter in the subcapsular orchiectomy group. The two groups had similar mean PSA and testosterone levels at postoperative 3 months, but significantly more patients with total orchiectomy reported psychological problems due to organ loss.

Conclusion: Subcapsular orchiectomy should be preferred for surgical castration because of the short duration of operation and the advantage of organ presence within the scrotal sac after surgery. In terms of oncologic outcomes, subcapsular orchiectomy shows no difference from total orchiectomy and is a safe alternative.

Keywords: Subcapsular orchiectomy, total orchiectomy, prostate cancer

Giriş

Prostat kanseri erkeklerde tüm kanser türleri içerisinde deri kanserinden sonra ikinci sıklıkta görülen malign neoplazidir. Erkeklerdeki tüm kanserlerin %28'ini oluşturmaktadır. Prostat spesifik antijen (PSA) testinin 1960'lı yıllarda kullanımına girmesi ile prostat kanseri tanısı kolaylaşmakla birlikte bu olguların %5 ile 10'u uzak metastaz ile tanı almaktadır (1). Prostat kanserinin androjen bağımlı bir hastalık olduğunu keşfedilmesiyle ilk olarak diethylstilbestrol tedavisi tanımlanmıştır. Huggins ve Hodges (2) 1941 yılında ilk kez total orşiektomiyi tanımlayarak metastatik olgularda orşiektomi ile östrojenin eşit etkinlikte olduğunu savunmuşlardır. Bu tedavi ile olguların %90'ında 18 ile 34 aylık progresyonzsuz sağkalım gösterilmiştir (3). Günümüzde medikal kastrasyon olarak gonadotropin salieverici hormon (GnRH) agonistleri 1980'lerden beri uygulanmaktadırken, son yıllarda GnRH antagonistleri de uygulanmaktadır (4). Antiandrojen tedaviler GnRH agonistleri ile gelişebilecek "flare fenomenin" engellenmesi amaçlı kullanılmaktayken, günümüzde maksimal androjen blokajı amaçlı kullanım oldukça azalmıştır.

Cerrahi kastrasyon medikal kastrasyonun etkisinin geç başlaması ve maliyetinin fazla olması nedeniyle tercih sebebi sayılmalıdır. Cerrahi kastrasyonun tek açıklanabilir kaçınılma nedeni olarak skrotumun boşalması nedeniyle oluşabilecek psikolojik sıkıntılar gösterilmektedir (1). Bu düşünceyle 1942 yılında Riba (5) ilk olarak subkapsüler orşiektomiyi tanımlamıştır. Bu teknikte tunika albugineanın dış duvarı korunarak operasyon sonrası palpabil bir kitle bırakılması, böylece boş skrotum hissının ortadan kaldırılması amaçlanmıştır. Bu amaçla testis protezi yerleştirilmesi, total orşiektomi sonrası yağ enjeksiyonu, subepididimal orşiektomi gibi pek çok operasyon şekli tanımlanmış; ancak basit subkapsüler orşiektomi kadar başarılı olamamıştır.

Bu bilgilerden yola çıkarak biz de bu çalışmada, kliniğimizde ileri evre veya metastatik prostat kanseri nedeniyle subkapsüler ve total orşiektomi yaptığımız olgularda hastaların onkolojik takipleri ve cerrahi şeklärin hasta üzerindeki etkilerini karşılaştırdık.

Gereç ve Yöntem

Kliniğimizde Nisan 2014 ile Mayıs 2017 tarihleri arasında prostat kanseri nedeniyle cerrahi kastrasyon planlanarak total veya subkapsüler orşiektomi uygulanan olgular değerlendirildi. Bu zaman aralığında 83 olguya kastrasyon amaçlı orşiektomi uygulanmış olup, 18 olgu yeterli verileri olmaması veya takiplerinin olmaması nedeniyle çalışma dışı bırakıldı. Retrospektif olarak dizayn edilen çalışmada 65 olgunun verileri toplandı. Olguların demografik özellikleri, komorbiditeleri, cerrahi öncesi metastaz durumları, alındıkları tedaviler, cerrahi anestezi riskleri, operasyon ve hospitalizasyon süreleri, drenaj miktarları ve komplikasyonları kaydedildi. Çalışmaya alınan olguların operasyon için aydınlatılmış onamları alınmıştır. Çalışmanın retrospektif olması bakımından etik kurul onamı alınmamış, çalışma Helsinki Bildirgesi'ne uygun olarak dizayn edilmiştir. Subkapsüler orşiektomi tekniğimizde 15 numaralı bistüri/blade scalpel ile tek hamlede deri, deri altı, tunika vaginalis ve tunika albuginea kesilerek testis dokusu içine varılıyor ve tunika albuginea bütünlüğü bozulduğu için bu küçük kesiden testis dokusunun doğrultulması sağlanıyor. Sonra ıslak gaz ile testiküler doku tunika albugineadan sıyrılarak alınıyor ve tunikadaki kanamalar koterize edildikten sonra 3/0 vikril ile

tunika albugineaya hemostaz süürü atılıyor. Yaraya penroz dren gereksinimi duyulmadan 2/0 vicryl sütür ile deri tek kapatılıp "turban kompresyon" uygulanıyor. Total orşiektomi tekniğinde ise standart deri, deri altı dokudan künt diseksiyonla separe edilip testis tunika vaginalis ile birlikte dışarıya alınmaktadır. Her iki teknikte de bölgelik anestezi teknikleri tercih edilmiş ve tüm olgular en geç post-operatif 48 saat için taburcu edilmiştir.

Olguların operasyon sonrası 3. aydaki kontrollerinde PSA, total testosterone ve organ kaybına bağlı psikolojik durumları sorgulandı. Sonuçlar gruplar arasında karşılaştırıldı. İstatistiksel analizler SPSS Windows 21.0 paket programı kullanılarak ve Mann-Whitney U testi kullanılarak yapıldı. Minimum anlamlılık sınırı olarak p<0,05 kabul edildi.

Bulgular

Çalışma 83 olgu üzerinden başlatılmış; ancak olguların 4 tanesine eş zamanlı testis protezi yerleştirilmesi, 3 tanesinin post-operatif erken dönemde ex olması, 2 olgunun geçirilmiş skrotal cerrahi öyküsünün bulunması ve 9 olgunun da takip dışı kalması nedeniyle çalışma kriterlerine 65 olgu uygun bulunmuştur. Olguların 23 tanesinde subkapsüler orşiektomi uygulanırken 42 olguya total orşiektomi yapıldı. Olguların belirlenmesi cerrahın tercihine göre belirlendi. Cerrahi kastrasyon yapılan 65 olgunun 41 tanesinde cerrahi öncesi metastatik prostat kanseri tanısı mevcuttu. Metastatik bu olguların 12 tanesine yaş, hasta tercihi, sosyo-ekonomik ve kültürel düzey, doktor tercihi ve metastaz yükleri nedeniyle medikal kastrasyon denenmeden cerrahi kastrasyon ilk tedavi seçeneği olarak uygulanmıştır. Metastaz olmayan hiçbir olguya ilk aşamada cerrahi kastrasyon yapılmamıştır. Olguların genel yaş ortalaması 71,4 yıl (60-83), cerrahi öncesi ortalamama PSA düzeyi 45,4 ng/dL (4-3800) olarak hesaplandı. Olguların 17 tanesine orşiektomi ile eş zamanlı alt üriner sistem şikayetleri nedeniyle transuretral prostat rezeksiyonu (TURP) uygulanmış, 1 olguya ise eş zamanlı penis protez implantasyonu yapılmıştır. Subkapsüler orşiektomi uygulanan hastalar grup 1 olarak değerlendirilirken total orşiektomi yaptığımız olgular grup 2 olarak isimlendirilmiştir. Gruplar arasındaki demografik farklar ve komplikasyonlar Tablo 1'de özeti verilmiştir.

Gruplar arasında karşılaştırma yapıldığında subkapsüler orşiektomi uygulanan olguların cerrahi öncesi PSA düzeyleri anlamlı olarak düşük bulunurken (21,6 ng/dL ve 49,2 ng/dL, sırasıyla) yaş ve anestezi skorları arasında anlamlı bir fark bulunmamıştır. Her iki grubun da cerrahi süreleri arasında anlamlı fark bulunmazken grup 1'de süre bir miktar daha kısalıdır (23 dakika ve 32 dakika, sırasıyla). Operasyon süreleri eş zamanlı uygulanan TURP ve protez implantasyonu süreleri çıkarılarak hesaplanmıştır. Grup 1 olgularda cerrahi sonrası dren ihtiyacı doğmamış ve ortalama pansuman ıslatmaları 1,5 spanç düzeyinde iken, grup 2'de olguların 27 tanesine penroz dren konulmuş ve postop 24 saatten önce drenler çekilmemiştir. Drenaj miktarları tam olarak her iki grupta da hesaplanamadığı için herhangi bir farktan bahsedilememiştir. Olguların taburculuk süreleri bakımından da eş zamanlı TURP yapılmayan olgular karşılaşıldığında grup 1'deki olguların 9 tanesi (%56), grup 2'deki olguların ise 5 tanesi (%15) günübirlik taburcu edilmiştir. Hastane kalış sürelerine genel bakış yapıldığında

Tablo 1. Gruplar arasındaki demografik ve karakteristik özelliklerin karşılaştırılması

	Grup 1 Subkapsüler orşiektomi n=23	Grup 2 Total orşiektomi n=42	p
Yaş (yıl)	70,2	71,8	0,2
PSA (ng/dL)	21,6	49,2	0,03
ASA	2,7	2,6	0,8
Operasyon süresi (dk)	23	32	0,08
Günübirlilik taburculuk oranı (%)	%56	%15	0,005
TURP	7	10	-
Komplikasyon oranı (%)	9	25	0,2
Post-operatif PSA (ng/dL)	3,1	4,1	0,6
Post-operatif testosteron (ng/mL)	29	33	0,8
Memnuniyet durumu (%)	81	40	0,001

ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists, PSA: Prostat spesifik antijen, TURP: Transuretral prostat rezeksyonu

ise her iki grup arasında anlamlı fark bulunmamıştır. Her iki grupta toplam 13 olguda komplikasyon gözlenirken, 4 olguya re-operasyon gerekmisti. Tekrar operasyon gereken olgularda yara yeri revizyonu yapılmıştır ve gruplar arasında anlamlı bir fark bulunmamıştır. Post-operatif 3. aydaki kontrollerde PSA ve total testosteron seviyeleri incelenmiş ve gruplar arasında anlamlı bir fark gözlenmemiştir. Hastaların 3. ay vizitlerinde operasyona bağlı memnuniyetleri sorgulanmış ve cevaplar memnun ve memnun değil olarak kaydedilmiştir. Grup 1 olguların testis hissi nedeniyle %81'inin mutlu olduğu, grup 2'de ise bu oranın %40'larda kaldığı görülmüştür. Bu oran istatistik olarak anlamlı gözlenmiştir.

Tartışma

Metastatik prostat kanserinde antiandrojen tedavi medikal veya cerrahi kastrasyon ile sağlanabilir. Cerrahi kastrasyon skrotal kesi ile yapılan total orşiektomi veya hastaya skrotumun bir şekilde dolu olduğu hissini veren subepididimal veya subkapsüler orşiektomi tarzında da yapılabilir. Her içinde de testosteron yapan doku ortadan kalklığı için tedavi etkinliği açısından sorun yoktur (6). Cerrahi kastrasyon ucuz ve kolay bir yöntem olması bakımından tercih edilmekte iken en büyük kanıtlanabilir dezavantajları hastaya cerrahi bir işlem uygulanması nedeni ile oluşabilecek komplikasyonlar ve hastada oluşturacak boş skrotum hissi nedenli psikolojik travmadır (1).

Bu sıkıntılarından yola çıkarak kliniğimizde yaptığımız subkapsüler orşiektomi ve total orşiektomi olgularında komplikasyonlar olarak belirgin bir fark görmezken hastaların yaşamını tehdit edecek düzeyde bir komplikasyon ile karşılaşmadık. Zhang ve ark. (7) 74 olgu üzerindeki çalışmalarında subkapsüler ve total orşiektomi olguların sırasıyla %3 ve %22'lik komplikasyon oranlarını bildirmiştir ve benzer oranlar da pek çok çalışma ile doğrulanmıştır (8,9). Bu çalışmalarla genel olarak subkapsüler tekninin daha düşük komplikasyonlara sahip olduğu gösterilmiştir. Çalışmamızda bu oran benzer şekilde bulunurken istatistik olarak fark gözlenmemiştir; bunun da sebebi olarak olguların farklı cerrahlar tarafından yapılmış olması düşünülmüştür. Tekrar

operasyon gereksinimi literatüre de uyumlu olarak oldukça düşük bulunmuştur (%6). Çalışmamızda subkapsüler tekninin uygulandığı olgularda düşük operasyon süreleri göze çarpılmıştır. Bu farklılık literatür ile uyumlu bulunmamıştır. Roosen ve ark.'nın (8) çalışmasında subkapsüler tekninin anlamlı olarak uzun olduğu gözlenmiştir. Bu farkın bizim cerrahi teknliğimiz diğer tekniklerden farklı olması olduğu düşünülmüştür. Bizim teknliğimizde tek hamlede testis dokusuna inilerek testis boşaltılır ve katlar yekpare olarak kapatılır. Roosen ve ark. ise katları teker teker açarak bu işlemi gerçekleştirmektedir. Günübirlilik cerrahi süresi olarak literatüre uyumlu bir şekilde bizim de subkapsüler teknikte başarımız gözlenmiştir. Olgulara cerrahi sonrası dren yerleştirilmemesi hospitalizasyon süresini oldukça kısaltmaktadır. Böylece maliyet açısından bu yöntemin faydası ortaya çıkmaktadır. Olguların takiplerinde 3. aydaki kontrollerde her iki grubun da onkolojik sonuçlar açısından herhangi bir farkı bulunmamıştır. Literatürde de uygun cerrahi prosedürlere uyulduğu vakit onkolojik açıdan her iki tekninin de başarılı olduğu savunulmaktadır (7,8,10,11). Orşiektomiye rağmen testosteron yüksekliği ise adrenal üretim ve metastaz odaklarına bağlanmaktadır. Çalışmamızda literatürde sıkıntılarından bahsedilen ancak hastalar açısından sorgulanmayan operasyon sonrası "boş skrotum hissi" incelenmiştir. Olguların kontrollerinde bu sıkıntıyı yaşayıp yaşamadıkları sorulmuş ve subkapsüler teknik uygulanan olguların %19'unda ve total teknik kullanılan olguların %60'ında psikolojik olarak uygulanan teknikten hoşnut olmadıkları kaydedilmiştir. Bu teknikleri karşılaştırılan diğer çalışmalarla psikolojik sıkıntılarından bahsedilmiş; ancak hastaların memnuniyet oranları hiç sorgulanmamıştır (1,8).

Çalışmanın Kısıtlılıkları

Çalışmamızın retrospektif olarak dizayn edilmesi, hasta sayısının yetersiz olması, tekniklerin farklı cerrahlar tarafından uygulanışı, olguların bir kısmına ek cerrahi (TURP, protez implantasyonu) işlemlerinin de yapılması nedeniyle hesaplamalarındaki sıkıntılar ve olguların tercihindeki düzensizlikler limitasyonlarımız olarak göze çarpmaktadır.

Sonuç

Kliniğimizde literatürde belirtilen subkapsüler teknigi modifiye ederek farklı bir cerrahi yöntem tercih etmektedir. Kendi geliştirdiğimiz subkapsüler tekninin tercih edildiği olgularda operasyon süresinin kısalığı, bölgesel anestezi ve dren ihtiyacı'nın olmaması nedeniyle günübirlilik bir cerrahi oluşu, komplikasyon ve re-operasyon gereksinimi açısından total teknikten faydalı bulunması, onkolojik sonuçlar açısından total orşiektomiden farkının olmaması ve en önemli olguların cerrahi sonrası psikolojik olarak skrotumu dolu hissetmeye bağlı memnuniyetleri açısından avantajlı bir teknik olduğu görülmüştür.

Etik

Etik Kurul Onayı: Çalışmanın retrospektif olması bakımından etik kurul onamı alınmamış, çalışma Helsinki Bildirgesi'ne uygun olarak dizayn edilmiştir.

Hasta Onayı: Çalışmaya alınan olguların operasyon için aydınlatılmış onamları alınmıştır.

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Original Article

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Predictive Value of Hormonal Evaluation Before Prostate Needle Biopsy on Prostate Cancer T Stage and Prognosis

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Abstract

Objective: In this study we evaluated the hormone data before prostate needle biopsy (PNB) in patients who underwent retropubic radical prostatectomy (RRP) due to prostate adenocarcinoma (PCa). Correlations between the patients' RRP pathology results, recurrence-free survival (RFS), and hormone data were investigated.

Materials and Methods: Patients were evaluated in two groups according to RRP pathologic T stage: T2 (group 1) and T3 (group 2). Then patients were assessed in two groups based on total testosterone (TTE) values: >300 ng/dL and <300 ng/dL. The preoperative data, hormone data, RRP pathologic data, and biochemical recurrence and RFS results were compared between these groups.

Results: A total of 81 patients were evaluated. The mean follow-up time was 37.7 months. Mean recurrence free survival (RFS) among all patients was 94.2±7 months. In multivariate analysis of the preoperative data, TTE/prostate volume ($p=0.015$) and PNB tumor percentage ($p=0.004$) were significantly higher in group 2 (n=32) compared to group 1 (n=49). In the postoperative data, RRP pathology Gleason score (GS) ($p=0.015$) and tumor volume ($p=0.02$) were significantly higher in group 2. RFS was 99.2±5.8 months in group 1 and 77±12.1 months in group 2 ($p=0.02$). When patients were assessed according to TTE levels, of the pre- and postoperative data only RRP pathology T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity were significantly higher in the TTE <300 ng/dL group (n=30) compared to the TTE >300 ng/dL group (n=51). The biochemical recurrence rates and RFS times (87.7±13.8 months and 91.3±6.4 months, respectively) were similar between the groups ($p=0.571$).

Conclusion: We demonstrated a correlation between locally invasive PCa and low TTE measured before PNB and low TTE density. In particular, TTE values <300 ng/dL were associated with high pathologic T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity.

Keywords: Prostate needle biopsy, testosterone, prostate cancer, recurrence-free survival, hormonal evaluation

Introduction

Several preoperative factors have been investigated and risk classifications have been defined in order to predict locally invasive disease and gain insight about the prognosis of prostate adenocarcinoma (PCa). The most important of these is the D'Amico risk classification, which includes prostate-specific antigen (PSA), prostate needle biopsy (PNB), Gleason score (GS), and clinical stage (1,2,3). However, some argue

that this classification is inadequate. Of the other parameters studied, findings of perineural invasion (PNI), number of positive biopsy cores, and tumor percentage in PNB are also important (4,5). Numerous studies have investigated the association between locally advanced disease and pre-treatment levels of free testosterone (fTE), estradiol (EST), follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH), and especially total testosterone (TTE) (4,6,7,8,9,10).

Therefore, in this study we evaluated patients who underwent

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retropubic radical prostatectomy (RRP) in our clinic due to PCa and had pre-PNB hormone data. We investigated the relationship between the patients' hormone data and their RRP pathology results and survival outcomes.

Materials and Methods

Patients who underwent RRP in our clinic between 2005 and 2015 and had complete PNB and RRP pathology records were retrospectively screened. Of these, patients whose records included pre-PNB hormone tests were included in the study. The patients were evaluated in terms of age, PSA, free PSA, PSA density (PSAd), PNB pathology results (GS, number of positive biopsy cores, tumor percentage, and PNI positivity), prostate volume (PV), clinical stage, RRP pathology results (pathologic T stage, GS, tertiary Gleason pattern, tumor volume, surgical margin positivity, and lymph node positivity), biochemical recurrence rates, and recurrence-free survival time. Analysis of hormone data included TTE, fTE, LH, FSH, and EST values. PSAd (PSA/PV), fPSA/PSA, TTE/PV, fTE/TTE, TTE/LH, FSH/LH, TTE/FSH, and TTE/EST ratios were calculated from the available data.

Patients were evaluated in two groups based on RRP pathology T stage. Group 1 comprised patients with pathological T2 PCa and group 2 comprised those with pathological T3 PCa. Group 2 was further subdivided into pathological T3a (pT3a) and pathological T3b (pT3b) for separate analysis. All data were compared between group 1 and group 2. In a second analysis, patients were divided into two groups based on TTE value (>300 ng/dL and <300 ng/dL). The groups were compared in terms of preoperative data, hormone data, RRP pathology results, biochemical recurrence, and survival rates.

Statistical Analysis

The Mann-Whitney U test and Pearson's χ^2 test were used both for comparisons between groups 1 and 2 and between the TTE <300 ng/dL and >300 ng/dL groups. Significant parameters were then used in multivariate binary logistic regression analysis. Recurrence-free survival times were assessed using the Kaplan-Meier survival analysis. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS version 20.0; SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA) was used for statistical analyses. The data are expressed as mean and standard deviation and statistical analysis is based on median values. Values with a p value of <0.05 were considered significant.

Results

Of the 381 patients whose PNB and RRP pathology results were screened, 81 with available hormone test results were retrospectively evaluated. Their mean age was 62.8 (48-76.5) years and the mean follow-up period was 37.7 months. Forty-nine of the patients were in group 1 and 32 were in group 2. In group 2, 24 patients were pT3a, 8 were pT3b. Biochemical recurrence was detected in a total of 13 patients. Patient data from groups 1 and 2 are shown in Table 1. Preoperatively, group 2 had higher age, PSA, PNB GS, PNI positivity, number of positive biopsy cores, and tumor percentage values, and lower TTE level and TTE/PV ratio compared to group 1 ($p<0.05$). In the postoperative data, group 2 also showed higher values for RRP pathology GS, tertiary Gleason pattern, tumor volume, surgical margin positivity, lymph node positivity, and biochemical recurrence rates ($p<0.05$). In multivariate analysis of the preoperative data,

only TTE/PV ($p=0.015$) and PNB tumor percentage ($p=0.004$) were significantly higher in group 2. Postoperatively, only the RRP pathology GS ($p=0.015$) and tumor volume ($p=0.02$) were significantly higher in group 2. The mean recurrence-free survival time among all patients was 94.2 ± 7 months. By group, recurrence-free survival time was 99.2 ± 5.8 months in group 1 and 77 ± 12.1 months in group 2 ($p=0.02$).

In the second analysis, patient data were compared between the TTE >300 ng/dL and <300 ng/dL groups. Data distributions and the results of statistical analyses are presented in Tables 2 and 3. There were 30 patients in the TTE <300 ng/dL group and 51 patients in the TTE >300 ng/dL group. There were no significant differences between the groups other than preoperative TTE level (Table 2). In the postoperative data, RRP pathology T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity were higher in the TTE <300 ng/dL group (Table 3). Biochemical recurrence rates and recurrence-free survival time were similar between the groups. In the multivariate analysis, postoperative RRP pathology T stage and GS were lower in the TTE <300 ng/dL group, but the difference was not statistically significant ($p=0.054$ and $p=0.052$, respectively). Recurrence-free survival time was 87.7 ± 13.8 months in the TTE <300 ng/dL group and 91.3 ± 6.4 months in the TTE >300 ng/dL group ($p=0.571$).

Discussion

Although the link between TTE level and PCa has been recognized since Huggins et al.'s (11) 1941 study, it has recently gained a different dimension. Several recent studies have supported a negative correlation between low TTE level and PCa (12,13,14). One hypothesis regarding the pathophysiology of this relation suggests that the tumor reduces TTE level by causing inhibition of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (15,16). In addition, it has been reported that TTE levels normalize in these patients after RRP. However, another hypothesis is that low TTE level causes a mutation in the development of PCa cells and leads to the development of cancer cells that are androgen-insensitive and more aggressive (17). In light of these possible mechanisms, the relationship between PCa and TTE is worthy of further elucidation. In a related study we conducted recently, we evaluated patients with similar PSA, clinical stage, and PNB GS data within the D'Amico risk groups. In that study, we found that TTE levels decreased as risk group increased (TTE levels were 368 ng/dL, 311 ng/dL, and 221.5 ng/dL in low-risk, moderate-risk, and high-risk PCa, respectively; $p=0.033$) (10). Low TTE level has been associated with high T stage and GS after RRP, especially in studies assessing the low-risk group (18,19).

When patients were evaluated according to pathological T stage, the mean TTE value was found to be 4.33 ng/mL in T2 patients and 3.44 ng/mL in T3 patients (20). Many studies have used a TTE threshold value of 3 ng/mL (300 ng/dL), and patients with TTE <3 ng/mL were shown to have higher RRP pathology GS and higher rate of T3 cancer (21). In another study, the pre-PNB TTE levels of 681 patients were investigated and low TTE (<300 ng/dL) level was associated with high-risk PCa (22). In the present study, TTE and especially TTE/PV (TTE density) were lower in patients with pathological T3 PCa ($p<0.05$). Similar to previous studies, when the TTE threshold was defined as 300 ng/dL, there was significantly

Table 1. Comparison of demographic, clinical, prostate needle biopsy and retropubic radical prostatectomy pathology results of patients with post-retropubic radical prostatectomy pathology stage T2 (group 1) and T3 (group 2)

Mean ± SD	pT2 (group 1) (n=49)	pT3 (group 2) (n=32)	p value	MV p value
Age (years)	61.2±5.7	65.3±5.9	0.004	-
PSA (ng/mL)	6.9±4.6	10.4±7.4	0.01	0.744
fPSA (ng/mL)	1.2±1.3	1±0.4	0.653	-
PV (cc)	44.3±26.4	41.7±9.8	0.591	-
PSA/PV (PSA density) (cc/ng/mL)	0.19±0.16	0.27±0.21	0.051	-
fPSA/PSA ratio	0.18±0.11	0.14±0.1	0.288	-
TTE (ng/dL)	399.9±152.1	303.2±148.8	0.006	0.351
fTE (ng/dL) (n=73)	10.5±4.3 (n=41)	12.1±16.5 (n=32)	0.054	-
TTE/PV (TTE density) (ng/dL/cc)	12.3±9.2	7.8±4.1	0.01	0.015
fTE/TTE ratio (n=73)	0.03±0.01 (n=41)	0.05±0.08 (n=32)	0.687	-
LH (IU/L) (n=57)	4.3±1.8 (n=25)	5.7±2.8 (n=32)	0.113	-
FSH (IU/L) (n=59)	8.7±9.2 (n=25)	10.2±8.1 (n=34)	0.384	-
EST (pg/mL) (n=57)	31.5±13.5 (n=25)	31.6±15.2 (n=32)	0.912	-
TTE/LH ratio (n=57)	90.2±48.6 (n=25)	67.2±66.9 (n=32)	0.063	-
FSH/LH ratio (n=57)	1.9±1.2 (n=25)	1.7±1 (n=32)	0.542	-
TTE/FSH ratio (n=59)	64±52.7 (n=25)	41±31.2 (n=34)	0.122	-
PNB GS	6.5±0.6	6.9±0.7	0.007	0.431
PNB PNI, n (%)	8 (16)	17 (53)	<0.001	0.213
PNB number of positive cores	2.2±1.7	3.3±2	0.007	0.289
PNB tumor percentage	22.4±23.6	52.7±30.5	<0.001	0.004
RRP GS	6.6±0.5	7.5±0.9	<0.001	0.015
Tertiary Gleason pattern	4.5±0.5	4.9±0.3	0.045	-
Tumor volume (cc)	1.4±1.7	3.8±4.3	0.001	0.02
Surgical margin positivity, n (%)	6 (12.2)	13 (40.6)	0.003	0.067
Lymph node positivity, n (%)	0 (0)	3 (9.4)	0.016	-
Biochemical recurrence, n (%)	3 (6.1)	10 (31.2)	0.002	0.074
Recurrence-free survival (months)	99.2±5.8	77±12.1	0.02	-

PSA: Prostate specific antigen, fPSA: Free prostate specific antigen, PV: Prostate volume, TTE: Total testosterone, fTE: Free testosterone, LH: Luteinizing hormone, FSH: Follicle-stimulating hormone, EST: Estradiol, PNB: Prostate needle biopsy, PNI: Perineural invasion, GS: Gleason score, pT2: Pathological T2 stage, pT3: Pathological T3 stage, MV: Multivariate analysis

higher RRP T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity in the 30 patients with TTE <300 ng/dL compared to the 51 patients with TTE >300 ng/dL, while biochemical recurrence rates and recurrence-free survival times were similar between the groups. In a study conducted in China, it was reported that a TTE value of <300 ng/dL is nonprognostic, while a value of <250 ng/dL is associated with high GS (23). This finding also demonstrates that the prognostic value of TTE may vary according to race. Considering the published studies overall, it can be said that a low pre-treatment TTE level is associated with a high post-treatment GS and pathological T stage. In studies of other hormones, FSH levels in a study including 96 patients were 11.57 IU/L and 23.67 IU/L in T2 and T3 patients, respectively, and FSH elevation in T3 patients was found to be significant (8). In another study, it was reported that low TTE correlated with high FSH and that both were associated with high-grade tumors (24). A study assessing EST level reported no significant correlation between EST and locally advanced PCa (25). However, our previous EST analysis in a locally advanced PCa

(T3a and T3b) group revealed significant correlation between EST and T3b disease (9). It has been shown that LH level is not a significant factor in the prognosis of PCa (9). In the present study, we found that hormonal parameters other than TTE, especially FSH and EST levels, were not associated with pathological T stage. However, considering the results obtained in other studies, further research focusing on locally invasive PCa is warranted.

Study Limitations

The main limitations of our study are the retrospective data collection and low number of patients. Another important limitation is that since fTE, EST, LH, and FSH data were not available in all cases, the statistical analyses did not encompass all the patients and was conducted only among patients with available data (the number of patients whose records included these data and their distribution between the groups are presented in the tables). Nevertheless, we believe that the value of the available data and the similar patient numbers in the groups are important for the study.

Table 2. Comparison of demographic, clinical, and pathologic data of patients with total testosterone <300 ng/dL and total testosterone >300 ng/dL

Mean values	TTE <300 ng/dL (n=30)	TTE >300 ng/dL (n=51)	p value
Age (years)	63.2±6.6	62.6±5.7	0.618
PSA (ng/mL)	9.6±7.1	7.5±5.3	0.148
fPSA (ng/mL)	1.1±0.6	1.2±1.2	0.436
PV (cc)	49.9±28.2	39.4±15.2	0.056
PSA/PV (PSA density) (cc/ng/mL)	0.22±0.2	0.22±0.18	0.822
fPSA/PSA ratio	0.19±0.12	0.17±0.11	0.635
TTE (ng/dL)	212.5±67.2	449.4±125.4	<0.001
fTE (ng/dL) (n=73)	9.2±9.2 (n=27)	12.2±11.3 (n=46)	0.004
TTE/PV (TTE density)	5.1±2.8	13.7±8.2	<0.001
fTE/TTE ratio (n=73)	0.05±0.07 (n=27)	0.03±0.03 (n=46)	0.002
LH (IU/L) (n=57)	5.6±2.7 (n=24)	4.2±1.9 (n=33)	0.075
FSH (IU/L) (n=59)	10.1±7.8 (n=25)	8.7±9.6 (n=34)	0.312
EST (pg/mL) (n=57)	30.1±11.7 (n=24)	33±16.4 (n=33)	0.937
TTE/LH ratio (n=57)	43.2±25.9 (n=24)	118.6±57.7 (n=33)	<0.001
FSH/LH ratio (n=57)	1.7±0.7 (n=24)	2±1.3 (n=33)	0.649
TTE/FSH ratio (n=59)	30.5±25.5 (n=25)	76.3±48.7 (n=34)	<0.001
Clinical grade (rectal examination), n (%)			
	T1c-T2a	24 (80)	48 (94.1)
	T2b	3 (10)	2 (3.9)
	≥T2c	3 (10)	1 (2)
PNB GS	6.8±0.7	6.6±0.6	0.087
PNB PNI, n (%)	12 (40)	13 (25.5)	0.172
PNB number of positive cores	2.7±1.9	2.6±1.9	0.615
PNB tumor percentage	41.2±32.3	30.4±28.6	0.133
D'Amico risk classification, n (%)			
	Low-risk	6 (20)	22 (43.1)
	Moderate-risk	19 (63.3)	26 (51)
	High-risk	5 (16.7)	3 (5.9)

PSA: Prostate specific antigen, fPSA: Free prostate specific antigen, PV: Prostate volume, TTE: Total testosterone, fTE: Free testosterone, LH: Luteinizing hormone, FSH: Follicle-stimulating hormone, EST: Estradiol, PNB: Prostate needle biopsy, PNI: Perineural invasion, GS: Gleason score

Table 3. Comparison of the clinical data and retropubic radical prostatectomy pathology results of patients with total testosterone <300 ng/dL and total testosterone >300 ng/dL

Mean values	TTE <300 ng/dL (n=30)	TTE >300 ng/dL (n=51)	p value
RRP pathological T stage, n (%)	pT2	13 (43.3)	0.015
	pT3	17 (56.7)	
Locally invasive T stage, n (%)	pT3a	14 (82.4)	0.306
	pT3b	3 (17.6)	
RRP GS	7.3±0.9	6.8±0.7	0.013
RRP tertiary Gleason pattern	4.9±0.3	4.6±0.5	0.2
Lymph node positivity, n (%)	3 (10)	0 (0)	0.021
Surgical margin positivity, n (%)	9 (30)	10 (19.6)	0.286
Tumor volume (cc)	2.3±2.9	2.3±3.4	0.607
Grade increase, n (%)	15 (50)	18 (35.3)	0.193
Stage increase, n (%)	14 (46.7)	14 (27.5)	0.079
Biochemical recurrence, n (%)	6 (20)	9 (17.6)	0.792
Recurrence-free survival (months)	87.7±13.8	91.3±6.4	0.571

RRP: Retropubic radical prostatectomy, GS: Gleason score, pT2: Pathological T2 stage, pT3: Pathological T3 stage, pT3a: Pathological T3a stage, pT3b: Pathological T3b stage

Conclusion

We showed in this study that low TTE and low TTE density detected in pre-PNB hormone tests are associated with post-RRP locally invasive PCa. In particular, TTE value <30 ng/dL was associated with higher pathological T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity, but low TTE level did not have an effect on biochemical recurrence or recurrence-free survival. Prospective cohort studies with large patient numbers are needed to clarify TTE results and the effects of FSH and EST levels on PCa.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: Retrospective study.

Informed Consent: Retrospective study.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: S.Ç., O.B., Ö.D., G.A., Concept: S.Ç., Design: S.Ç., O.B., Data Collection or Processing: S.Ç., H.A.Y., B.T., K.Y., Analysis or Interpretation: S.Ç., O.B., Ö.D., K.Y., G.A., Literature Search: S.Ç., O.B., H.A.Y., Writing: S.Ç.

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Prostat İğne Biyopsisi Öncesi Hormonal Değerlendirmenin Prostat Kanseri T Evresi ve Prognozu Üzerine Öngörü Değeri

Predictive Value of Hormonal Evaluation Before Prostate Needle Biopsy on Prostate Cancer T Stage and Prognosis

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Öz

Amaç: Bu yazında kliniğimizde prostat adenokarsinomu (PCa) nedenli retropubik radikal prostatektomi (RRP) yapılan hastalar arasında prostat iğne biyopsisi (PiB) öncesi hormonal verileri olan hastalar değerlendirildi. Hastaların RRP patolojik verileri ve rekürensiz sağkalım sonuçları ile hormonal verileri arasındaki ilişki araştırıldı.

Gereç ve Yöntem: PCa nedenli RRP yapılan ve hormonal verileri olan hastalar önce RRP patolojik T evresine göre T2 (grup 1) ve T3 (grup 2) hastalar olmak üzere iki grupta değerlendirildi. Sonrasında ise hastalar total testosterone (TTE) değerine göre >300 ng/dL ve <300 ng/dL olmak üzere iki grupta değerlendirildi. Gruplar arası hastaların préoperatif verileri, hormon verileri, RRP patoloji verileri, biyokimyasal nüks ve rekürensiz sağkalım süreleri karşılaştırıldı.

Bulgular: Çalışmada 81 hasta değerlendirildi. Hastaların ortalama izlemi 37,7 aydı. Tüm hastaların rekürensiz sağkalımı 94,2±7 ay saptandı. Yapılan çok değişkenli analizlerde préoperatif verilerden sadece TTE/PV ($p=0,015$) ve PiB tümör yüzdesi ($p=0,004$) grup 1'e ($n=49$) oranla grup 2'de ($n=32$) anlamlı yükseltti. Postoperatif verilerden ise sadece RRP patolojisi Gleason skoru (GS) ($p=0,015$) ve tümör hacmi ($p=0,02$) grup 2'de anlamlı yükseltti. Grup 1'de rekürensiz sağkalım 99,2±5,8 ay iken grup 2'de 77±12,1 ay saptandı ($p=0,02$). Hastalar TTE düzeylerine göre değerlendirildiğinde préoperatif ve postoperatif verilerden sadece RRP patolojisi T evresi, GS ve lenf nodu pozitifliği TTE <300 ng/dL grubunda ($n=30$) TTE >300 ng/dL grubuna ($n=51$) oranla daha yüksek saptandı. Gruplar arası biyokimyasal nüks oranları ve rekürensiz sağkalım sürelerinde (sırasıyla: 87,7±13,8 ay ve 91,3±6,4 ay) benzerdi ($p=0,571$).

Sonuç: PiB öncesi saptanan düşük TTE ve düşük TTE dansitesinin lokal invaziv PCa ile ilişkili olduğu saptanmıştır. Özellikle <300 ng/dL TTE değerinin yüksek patolojik T evresi, GS ve lenf nodu pozitifliği ile ilişkili olduğu söylenebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Prostat iğne biyopsisi, testosterone, prostat kanseri, rekürensiz sağkalım, hormonal değerlendirme

Abstract

Objective: In this study we evaluated the hormone data before prostate needle biopsy (PNB) in patients who underwent retropubic radical prostatectomy (RRP) due to prostate adenocarcinoma (PCa). Correlations between the patients' RRP pathology results, recurrence-free survival (RFS), and hormone data were investigated.

Materials and Methods: Patients were evaluated in two groups according to RRP pathologic T stage: T2 (group 1) and T3 (group 2). Then patients were assessed in two groups based on total testosterone (TTE) values: >300 ng/dL and <300 ng/dL. The preoperative data, hormone data, RRP pathologic data, and biochemical recurrence and RFS results were compared between these groups.

Results: A total of 81 patients were evaluated. The mean follow-up time was 37.7 months. Mean recurrence free survival (RFS) among all patients was 94.2±7 months. In multivariate analysis of the preoperative data, TTE/prostate volume ($p=0.015$) and PNB tumor percentage ($p=0.004$) were significantly higher in group 2 ($n=32$) compared to group 1 ($n=49$). In the postoperative data, RRP pathology Gleason score (GS) ($p=0.015$) and tumor volume ($p=0.02$) were significantly higher in group 2. RFS was 99.2±5.8 months in group 1 and 77±12.1 months in group 2 ($p=0.02$). When patients were assessed according to TTE levels, of the pre- and postoperative data only RRP pathology T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity were significantly higher in the TTE <300 ng/dL group ($n=30$) compared to the TTE >300 ng/dL group ($n=51$). The biochemical recurrence rates and RFS times (87.7±13.8 months and 91.3±6.4 months, respectively) were similar between the groups ($p=0.571$).

Conclusion: We demonstrated a correlation between locally invasive PCa and low TTE measured before PNB and low TTE density. In particular, TTE values <300 ng/dL were associated with high pathologic T stage, GS, and lymph node positivity.

Keywords: Prostate needle biopsy, testosterone, prostate cancer, recurrence-free survival, hormonal evaluation

Giriş

Prostat adenokarsinomunda (PCa) lokal invaziv hastalığı öngörmek ve hastalık прогнозu hakkında bilgi edinmek amacıyla birçok preoperatif faktör araştırılarak risk sınıflamaları tanımlanmıştır. Bunlardan en önemlisi prostat spesifik antijen (PSA), prostat iğne biyopsisi (PiB) Gleason skoru (GS) ve klinik evre verilerini içeren D'Amico risk sınıflamasıdır (1,2,3). Fakat bu sınıflamanın yeterli olmadığına dair görüşler mevcuttur. Araştırılan diğer parametrelerden PiB'deki perinöral invazyon (PNİ) varlığı, pozitif biyopsi odak sayısı ve tümör yüzdesi de önemli bulgulardandır (4,5). Tedavi öncesi total testosterone (TTE) düzeyi başta olmak üzere, serbest testosterone (sTE), estradiol (EST), folikül stimüle edici hormon (FSH) ve luteinizan hormon (LH) düzeylerinin de lokal ileri hastalıkla ilişkisini araştıran birçok çalışma mevcuttur (4,6,7,8,9,10).

Bu nedenle bu yazın kliniğimizde PCa nedenli retropubik radikal prostatektomi (RRP) yapılan hastalar arasından PiB öncesi hormonal verileri olan hastalar değerlendirildi. Hastaların RRP patolojik verileri ve sağkalım sonuçları ile hormonal verileri arasındaki ilişki araştırıldı.

Gereç ve Yöntem

2005 ile 2015 tarihleri arasında kliniğimizde RRP yapılan hem PiB, hem de RRP patoloji verileri tam olan hastalar retrospektif olarak tarandı. Bu hastalardan PiB öncesi hormonal değerlendirme mevcut hastalar çalışmaya dahil edildi. Hastaların yaşı, PSA, serbest PSA (sPSA), PSA dansitesi (PSAd), PiB patoloji verileri (GS, pozitif biyopsi odak sayısı, tümör yüzdesi ve PNİ pozitifliği), prostat hacmi (PV), klinik evresi, RRP patoloji verileri (patolojik T evresi, GS, tersiyer Gleason paterni, tümör hacmi, cerrahi sınır pozitifliği ve lenf nodu pozitifliği), biyokimyasal nüks oranları ve rekürrensiz sağkalım süreleri değerlendirildi. Hormonal verilerden TTE, sTE, LH, FSH ve EST değerleri incelendi. Mevcut verilerin PSAd (PSA/PV), sPSA/PSA, TTE/PV, sTE/TTE, TTE/LH, FSH/LH, TTE/FSH ve TTE/EST oranları hesaplandı.

Hastalar RRP patoloji T evresine göre iki grupta değerlendirildi. Buna göre, patolojik T2 hastalar grup 1 ve patolojik T3 hastalar grup 2 olarak adlandırıldı. Grup 2 hastalar içinde patolojik T3a (pT3a) ve patolojik T3b (pT3b) hastalar ayrıca veri olarak işlendi. Tüm veriler grup 1 ve grup 2 arasında karşılaştırılarak değerlendirildi. Sonrasında hastalar TTE değerine göre >300 ng/dL ve <300 ng/dL olmak üzere iki gruba ayrıldı. Gruplar arası hastaların preoperatif verileri, hormon verileri, RRP patoloji verileri, biyokimyasal nüks ve sağkalım oranları araştırıldı.

İstatistiksel Analiz

Hasta verileri hem grup 1 ve grup 2 arasında hem de TTE <300 ng/dL ve >300 ng/dL grupları arasında Mann-Whitney U testi ve Pearson ki-kare testi ile karşılaştırılmış olarak değerlendirildi. Sonrasında anlamlı veriler çok değişkenli binary lojistik regresyon analizine tabi tutuldu. Rekkürrensiz sağkalım süreleri Kaplan-Meier survival analizi ile değerlendirildi. İstatistiksel analizde

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS, Version 20.0; SPSS, Chicago, Illinois, ABD) kullanıldı. Veriler ortalama ve standart sapma üzerinden verilmiş olup, istatistiksel analiz medyan değer üzerinden hesaplanmıştır. Analiz sonucunda p değeri $<0,05$ olan değerler anlamlı kabul edildi.

Bulgular

PiB ve RRP patoloji verilerine ulaşan 381 hasta içerisinde hormonal değerlendirme mevcut ve ortalama yaşı $62,8$ (48-76,5) yıl olan 81 hasta retrospektif değerlendirildi. Hastaların ortalama izlemi $37,7$ aydı. Hastalardan 49'u grup 1'de, 32'si grup 2'deydi. Ayrıca grup 2 hastaların 24'ü pT3a, 8'i ise pT3b idi. Toplam 13 hastada biyokimyasal nüks saptandı. Grup 1 ve grup 2 hasta verileri Tablo 1'de verilmiştir. Preoperatif verilerden yaş, PSA, PiB GS, PNİ pozitifliği, pozitif biyopsi odak sayısı ve tümör yüzdesi grup 1'e oranla grup 2'de yüksekken; TTE ve TTE/PV oranı düşük saptandı ($p<0,05$). Postoperatif verilerden RRP patolojisi GS, tersiyer Gleason paterni, tümör hacmi, cerrahi sınır pozitifliği, lenf nodu pozitifliği ve biyokimyasal nüks oranları da yine grup 2'de yükseldi ($p<0,05$). Yapılan çok değişkenli analizde preoperatif verilerden sadece TTE/PV ($p=0,015$) ve PiB tümör yüzdesi ($p=0,004$) grup 2'de anlamlı yükseldi. Postoperatif verilerden ise sadece RRP patolojisi GS ($p=0,015$) ve tümör hacmi ($p=0,02$) grup 2'de anlamlı yükseldi. Tüm hastaların rekürrensiz sağkalımı $94,2\pm7$ ay saptandı. Gruplar arası rekürrensiz sağkalım sürelerine bakıldığında, grup 1'de $99,2\pm5,8$ ay iken grup 2'de $77\pm12,1$ ay saptandı ($p=0,02$).

Daha sonra hasta verileri TTE >300 ng/dL ve <300 ng/dL grupları arasında değerlendirildi. Veri dağılımları ve istatistiksel analiz sonuçları Tablo 2 ve 3'te verilmiştir. Buna göre TTE <300 ng/dL olan grupta 30 hasta mevcutken, TTE >300 ng/dL olan grupta 51 hasta mevcuttu. Gruplar arasında preoperatif verilerden TTE ilişkili veriler dışında anlamlı farklılık gözlenmedi (Tablo 2). Postoperatif veriler arasında RRP patolojisi T evresi, GS ve lenf nodu pozitifliği TTE <300 ng/dL grubunda daha yüksek saptandı (Tablo 3). Gruplar arası biyokimyasal nüks oranları ve rekürrensiz sağkalım süreleri de benzer saptandı. Yapılan çok değişkenli analizde postoperatif verilerden RRP patolojisi T evresi ve GS ($p=0,054$ ve $p=0,052$) TTE <300 ng/dL grubunda düşük olmakla birlikte bu düşüklüğün istatistiksel olarak anlam bulmadığı görüldü. Hastaların rekürrensiz sağkalım süreleri değerlendirildiğinde TTE <300 ng/dL olan grupta $87,7\pm13,8$ ay iken TTE >300 ng/dL olan grupta $91,3\pm6,4$ ay saptandı ($p=0,571$).

Tartışma

TTE düzeyi ile PCa arasındaki ilişki Huggins ve ark. (11) tarafından 1941 yılında yapılmış olan çalışmadan beri bilinmekte birlikte son dönemde farklı bir boyut kazanmıştır. Son dönemde birbiri ardına gelen çalışmalarında düşük TTE düzeyi ile PCa arasında negatif korelasyon varlığı raporlanmaktadır (12,13,14). Bunun patofizyolojisinde ortaya atılan hipotezlerden birinde

Çelik ve ark.
Hormonal Verilerin Prostat Kanseri Üzerine Etkisi

Tablo 1. Retropubik radikal prostatektomi sonrası patolojik evre T2 (grup 1) ve T3 (grup 2) gruplarında hastaların demografik, klinik, prostat iğne biyopsisi ve retropubik radikal prostatektomi patolojik verileri ile karşılaştırmalı sonuçları				
Ortalama ± SD data	pT2 (grup 1) (n=49)	pT3 (grup 2) (n=32)	p	MV p
Yaş (yıl)	61,2±5,7	65,3±5,9	0,004	-
PSA (ng/mL)	6,9±4,6	10,4±7,4	0,01	0,744
sPSA (ng/mL)	1,2±1,3	1±0,4	0,653	-
PV (cc)	44,3±26,4	41,7±9,8	0,591	-
PSA/PV (PSA dansitesi) (cc/ng/mL)	0,19±0,16	0,27±0,21	0,051	-
sPSA/PSA oranı	0,18±0,11	0,14±0,1	0,288	-
TTE (ng/dL)	399,9±152,1	303,2±148,8	0,006	0,351
sTE (ng/dL) (n=73)	10,5±4,3 (n=41)	12,1±16,5 (n=32)	0,054	
TTE/PV (TTE dansitesi) (ng/dL/cc)	12,3±9,2	7,8±4,1	0,01	0,015
sTE/TTE oranı (n=73)	0,03±0,01 (n=41)	0,05±0,08 (n=32)	0,687	-
LH (IU/L) (n=57)	4,3±1,8 (n=25)	5,7±2,8 (n=32)	0,113	-
FSH (IU/L) (n=59)	8,7±9,2 (n=25)	10,2±8,1 (n=34)	0,384	-
EST (pg/mL) (n=57)	31,5±13,5 (n=25)	31,6±15,2 (n=32)	0,912	-
TTE/LH oranı (n=57)	90,2±48,6 (n=25)	67,2±66,9 (n=32)	0,063	-
FSH/LH oranı (n=57)	1,9±1,2 (n=25)	1,7±1 (n=32)	0,542	-
TTE/FSH oranı (n=59)	64±52,7 (n=25)	41±31,2 (n=34)	0,122	-
PiB GS	6,5±0,6	6,9±0,7	0,007	0,431
PiB PNI, n (%)	8 (16)	17 (53)	<0,001	0,213
PiB pozitif odak sayısı	2,2±1,7	3,3±2	0,007	0,289
PiB tümör yüzdesi	22,4±23,6	52,7±30,5	<0,001	0,004
RRP GS	6,6±0,5	7,5±0,9	<0,001	0,015
Tersiyer Gleason paterni	4,5±0,5	4,9±0,3	0,045	-
Tümör hacmi (cc)	1,4±1,7	3,8±4,3	0,001	0,02
Cerrahi sınır pozitifliği, n (%)	6 (12,2)	13 (40,6)	0,003	0,067
Lenf nodu pozitifliği, n (%)	0 (0)	3 (9,4)	0,016	-
Biyokimyasal nüks, n (%)	3 (6,1)	10 (31,2)	0,002	0,074
Rekürrensiz sağkalım (ay)	99,2±5,8	77±12,1	0,02	-

PSA: Prostat spesifik antijen, sPSA: Serbest prostat spesifik antijen, PV: Prostat hacmi, TTE: Total testosterone, LH: Lüteinizan hormon, FSH: Folikül stimüle edici hormon, EST: Estradiol, PiB: Prostat iğne biyopsisi, PNI: Perinöral invazyon, GS: Gleason skoru, pT2: Patolojik T2 evresi, pT3: Patolojik T3 evresi, MV: Çok değişkenli analiz, sTE: Serbest testosteron

tümörün hipotalamo-hipofizer aksta inhibisyon'a neden olarak TTE düzeyini azalttığı görüşü ortaya atılmıştır (15,16). Ayrıca bu hastalarda RRP sonrası TTE düzeylerinin normalleştiği de raporlanmıştır. Buna karşılık düşük TTE düzeyinin PCa hücre gelişiminde mutasyona neden olarak androjen duyarsız ve daha agresif kanser hücrelerinin gelişimine neden olduğu da savunulan diğer hipotezlerden biridir (17). Bu olası mekanizmalar işliğinde PCa ile TTE arasındaki ilişkinin fazlasıyla aydınlatılmayı hak ettiği söylenebilir. Buna istinaden son dönemde tarafımızca yapılan bir çalışmada PSA, klinik evre ve PiB GS verileri benzer olan hastalar D'Amico risk gruplarında değerlendirilmiştir. Çalışmada risk grubu artışı ile birlikte TTE düzeylerinde azalma olduğu gözlenmiştir (düşük risk, orta risk ve yüksek risk PCa'de TTE düzeyleri sırasıyla; 368 ng/dL, 311 ng/dL ve 221,5 ng/dL;

(p=0,033) (10). Özellikle düşük risk grubunun değerlendirildiği çalışmalarında da düşük TTE düzeyinin RRP sonrası yüksek T evresi ve GS ile ilişkili olduğu gösterilmiştir (18,19).

Patolojik T evresine göre hastalar değerlendirildiğinde patolojik T2 hastalarda ortalama TTE değeri 4,33 ng/mL iken T3 hastalarda 3,44 ng/mL saptanmıştır (20). Birçok çalışmada TTE sınır değeri 3 ng/mL (300 ng/dL) olarak tanımlanmış olup, TTE <3 ng/mL saptanan hastalarda yüksek RRP patolojisi GS ve artmış T3 evre oranları gösterilmiştir (21). Yine başka bir çalışmada değerlendirilen 681 hastanın PiB öncesi TTE düzeyleri araştırılmış ve düşük TTE (<300 ng/dL) düzeyine sahip hastaların yüksek riskli PCa ile ilişkili olduğu raporlanmıştır (22). Çalışmamızda baktığımızda patolojik T3 hastalarda TTE ve özellikle TTE/PV (TTE dansitesi) düşük saptandı (p<0,05). Önceki

Tablo 2. Total testosterone <300 ng/dL ve total testosterone >300 ng/dL grupları arası hastaların demografik, klinik, prostat iğne biyopsisi patoloji verilerinin karşılaştırmalı sonuçları

Ortalama değerler	TTE <300 ng/dL (n=30)	TTE >300 ng/dL (n=51)	p
Yaş (yıl)	63,2±6,6	62,6±5,7	0,618
PSA (ng/mL)	9,6±7,1	7,5±5,3	0,148
sPSA (ng/mL)	1,1±0,6	1,2±1,2	0,436
PV (cc)	49,9±28,2	39,4±15,2	0,056
PSA/PV (PSA dansitesi) (cc/ng/mL)	0,22±0,2	0,22±0,18	0,822
sPSA/PSA oranı	0,19±0,12	0,17±0,11	0,635
TTE (ng/dL)	212,5±67,2	449,4±125,4	<0,001
sTE (ng/dL) (n=73)	9,2±9,2 (n=27)	12,2±11,3 (n=46)	0,004
TTE/PV (TTE dansitesi)	5,1±2,8	13,7±8,2	<0,001
sTE/TTE oranı (n=73)	0,05±0,07 (n=27)	0,03±0,03 (n=46)	0,002
LH (IU/L) (n=57)	5,6±2,7 (n=24)	4,2±1,9 (n=33)	0,075
FSH (IU/L) (n=59)	10,1±7,8 (n=25)	8,7±9,6 (n=34)	0,312
EST (pg/mL) (n=57)	30,1±11,7 (n=24)	33±16,4 (n=33)	0,937
TTE/LH oranı (n=57)	43,2±25,9 (n=24)	118,6±57,7 (n=33)	<0,001
FSH/LH oranı (n=57)	1,7±0,7 (n=24)	2±1,3 (n=33)	0,649
TTE/FSH oranı (n=59)	30,5±25,5 (n=25)	76,3±48,7 (n=34)	<0,001
Klinik evre (rektal muayene), n (%)	T1c-T2a T2b ≥T2c	24 (80) 3 (10) 3 (10)	48 (94,1) 2 (3,9) 1 (2)
PiB GS		6,8±0,7	6,6±0,6
PiB PNI, n (%)		12 (40)	13 (25,5)
PiB pozitif odak sayısı		2,7±1,9	2,6±1,9
PiB tümör yüzdesi		41,2±32,3	30,4±28,6
D'Amico risk sınıflaması, n (%)	Düşük risk Orta risk Yüksek risk	6 (20) 19 (63,3) 5 (16,7)	22 (43,1) 26 (51) 3 (5,9)

PSA: Prostat spesifik antijen, sPSA: Serbest prostat spesifik antijen, PV: Prostat hacmi, TTE: Total testosterone, sTE: Serbest testosterone, LH: Lüteinizan hormon, FSH: Folikül stimüle edici hormon, EST: Estradiol, PiB: Prostat iğne biyopsisi, PNI: Perinöral invazyon, GS: Gleason skoru

Tablo 3. Total testosterone <300 ng/dL ve total testosterone >300 ng/dL grupları arası hastaların klinik verileri ve retropubik radikal prostatektomi patoloji verilerinin karşılaştırmalı sonuçları

Ortalama değerler	TTE <300 ng/dL (n=30)	TTE >300 ng/dL (n=51)	p
RRP patolojik T evresi, n (%)	pT2	13 (43,3)	0,015
	pT3	17 (56,7)	
Lokal invaziv T evresi, n (%)	pT3a	14 (82,4)	0,306
	pT3b	3 (17,6)	
RRP GS	7,3±0,9	6,8±0,7	0,013
RRP tersiyer Gleason paterni	4,9±0,3	4,6±0,5	0,2
Lenf nodu pozitifliği, n (%)	3 (10)	0 (0)	0,021
Cerrahi sınır pozitifliği, n (%)	9 (30)	10 (19,6)	0,286
Tümör hacmi (cc)	2,3±2,9	2,3±3,4	0,607
Derece yükselmesi, n (%)	15 (50)	18 (35,3)	0,193
Evre yükselmesi, n (%)	14 (46,7)	14 (27,5)	0,079
Biyokimyasal nüks, n (%)	6 (20)	9 (17,6)	0,792
Rekürrensiz sağkalım (ay)	87,7±13,8	91,3±6,4	0,571

RRP: Retropubik radikal prostatektomi, GS: Gleason skoru, pT2: Patolojik T2 evresi, pT3: Patolojik T3 evresi, pT3a: Patolojik T3a evresi, pT3b: Patolojik T3b evresi

çalışmalarla benzer olacak şekilde TTE 300 ng/dL değeri sınır alındığında, TTE <300 ng/dL olan 30 hastada RRP T evresi, GS ve lenf nodu pozitifliği >300 ng/dL olan 51 hastaya oranla daha yüksek iken; biyokimyasal nüks oranları ve rekürensiz sağkalım süreleri gruplar arası benzer saptandı. Çin'de yapılmış olan bir çalışmada ise TTE <300 ng/dL değerinin nonprognostik, <250 ng/dL değerinin ise yüksek GS ile ilişkili olduğu bildirilmiştir (23). Bu bulgu TTE prognostik değerinin ırklara göre değiştibileceğini de göstermiştir. Çalışmalara genel olarak baktığımızda tedavi öncesi düşük TTE düzeyinin tedavi sonrası yüksek GS ve patolojik T evresi ile birlikte olduğu söylenebilir.

Diğer hormonal verilerin değerlendirildiği çalışmalar incelendiğinde, 96 hastalık bir çalışmada FSH düzeyi T2 ve T3 hastalarda sırasıyla 11,57 IU/L ve 23,67 IU/L saptanmış olup T3 hastalardaki FSH yüksekliği anlamlı bulunmuştur (8). Başka bir çalışmada, TTE düşüklüğü ile FSH yüksekliğinin korele olduğu ve bunların da yüksek dereceli tümör ile ilişkili olduğu belirtilmiştir (24). EST düzeyinin değerlendirildiği bir çalışmada ise EST ile lokal ileri PCa arasında anlamlı ilişki gösterilememiştir (25). Fakat daha önce EST düzeyini değerlendirdiğimiz lokal ileri hasta (T3a ve T3b) grubunda, EST ile T3b hastalık arasında anlamlı ilişki saptanmıştır (9). LH düzeyinin ise PCa прогнозunda etkili olmadığı gösterilmiştir (9). Çalışmamızda baktığımızda ise TTE dışı diğer hormonal verilerin özellikle de FSH ve EST düzeylerinin patolojik T evresi ile ilişkili olmadığı saptandı. Ancak diğer çalışmalar göz önüne alındığında lokal invaziv PCa'nın kendi içinde aydınlatılması gerektiği söylenebilir.

Çalışmanın Kısıtlılıkları

Çalışmamızı sınırlayan en önemli etmen verilerin retrospektif ve hasta sayısının az olmasıdır. Diğer önemli sınırlama ise sTE, EST, LH ve FSH verilerinin tüm hastalarda bulunmaması nedeniyle istatistiksel analizlerinin çalışmada tüm hastaları kapsamayı sadece verileri olan hastalar arasında yapılmasıdır (bu verilere sahip hasta sayıları ve gruplar arası dağılımları tablolarda belirtilmiştir). Buna rağmen mevcut verilerin değerli olması ve gruplar arası hasta sayılarının benzer olmasının çalışma açısından önemini olduğunu düşünmektediriz.

Sonuç

Çalışmamızda PIB öncesi hormonal değerlendirme saptanan düşük TTE ve düşük TTE dansitesinin RRP sonrası lokal invaziv PCa ile ilişkili olduğu saptanmıştır. Özellikle <300 ng/dL TTE değerinin yüksek patolojik T evresi, GS ve lenf nodu pozitifliği ile ilişkili olduğu, buna rağmen TTE düşüklüğünün biyokimyasal nüks ve rekürensiz sağkalıma etkisinin olmadığı saptandı. Hem TTE bulgularının netleşmesi hem de FSH ve EST'nin PCa üzerine etkisinin aydınlatılması açısından geniş serili prospektif kohort çalışmalar gerekmektedir.

Etik

Eti Kurul Onayı: Retrospektif çalışma olması nedeniyle etik kurul onayı alınmamıştır.

Hasta Onayı: Çalışmamız retrospektif olduğundan hasta onayı alınmamıştır.

Hakem Değerlendirmesi: Editörler kurulu dışında olan kişiler tarafından değerlendirilmiştir.

Yazarlık Katkıları

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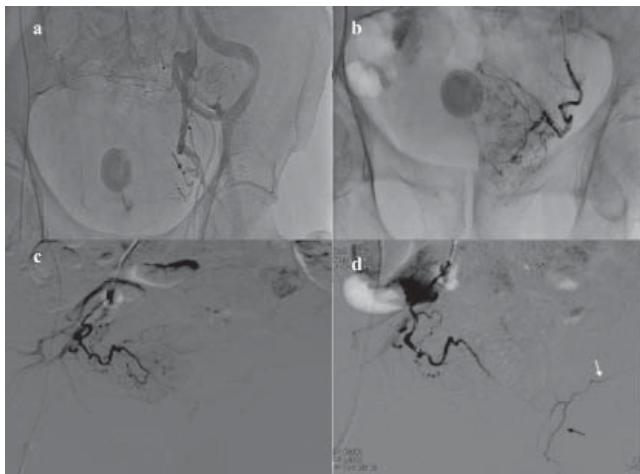


Figure 1. a) Internal iliac arteriogram of a 78-year-old male patient shows the complex internal anatomy of left main iliac artery. Filling the Foley catheter with contrast medium assists in locating the prostate gland and identifying the feeding prostate artery (black arrow). b, c) Superselective prostate artery arteriograms show typical staining of the left and right prostate gland. d) Typical staining in the right prostate artery disappears after embolization, but the collateral arterial structure feeding the left lobe of the prostate is visible during embolization (white arrow). Nevertheless, the embolization was discontinued due to the formation of a shunt to the dorsal penile artery (black arrow)

Discussion

TUR and open prostatectomy have long been considered the gold standard in surgical treatment of BPH. Open prostatectomy is recommended for patients with prostate volume greater than 80 cm³. However, open prostatectomy carries serious risks for many patients with high comorbidity. Furthermore, it is still unclear which patient groups should be included or excluded for PAE. The utility of PAE as an alternative to open prostatectomy is a currently active area of research. In a study comparing TUR and PAE results, Gao et al. (5) emphasized that there was a greater improvement in IPSS, the quality of life (QOL) scores, Q_{max}, and PVR values in the first 3 months with TUR compared to PAE. They also emphasized that PSA and PV values were lower in the TUR group at 24 months compared to the PAE group, and more side effects and complications were observed in the PAE group.

In a similar study, Carnevale et al. (9) reported comparable reductions in IPSS in the PAE and TUR groups, whereas TUR had a greater effect on Q_{max} values, and PV decreased more in the PAE group.

Russo et al. (10) compared open prostatectomy patients with PAE patients and noted greater improvement in IPSS, QOL scores, Q_{max}, PVR, and PSA values at 1 year in the open prostatectomy group. However, they reported better results for International Index of Erectile Function scores, postoperative complications, and length of hospital stay in the PAE group.

While TUR can be performed effectively in many centers, potential complications include hemorrhage requiring transfusion,

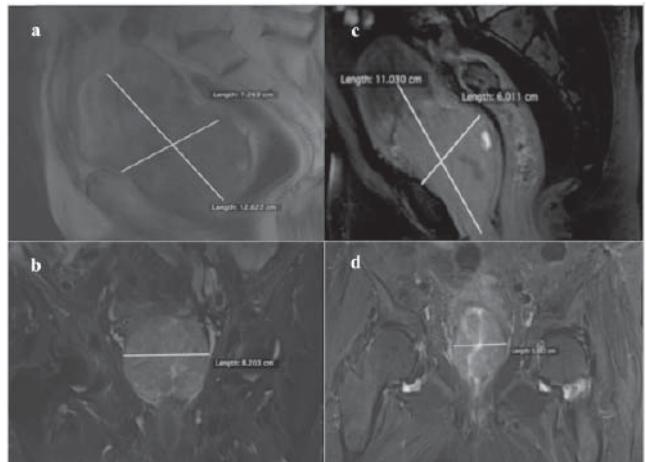


Figure 2. a, b) The largest prostate in our study was measured as 386 cm³ in an 80-year-old male. c, d) At 6 months post-prostate artery embolization, prostate volume was decreased to 192 cm³

TUR syndrome, urethral stricture, urinary incontinence, and retrograde ejaculation (11). Although PAE is still being investigated as an alternative to open prostatectomy and TUR, numerous studies have reported that the procedure relieves lower urinary tract symptoms in BPH patients (3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10). However, it remains unclear which patients should be selected for PAE. Therefore, in the present study we included patients with high comorbidity, those with lower urinary tract symptoms despite undergoing TUR previously, and patients considered high-risk for open prostatectomy. Both patient groups also had prostate volume over 90 cm³. Our results showed statistically significant improvements in total PSA, Q_{max}, TPV, IPSS, and TPV values in all patients (Figure 2). Although the superiority of PAE over TUR or open prostatectomy has not been clearly established in the literature, PAE yielded favorable outcomes for IPSS and other parameters in patients with high comorbidity, suggesting that PAE may be beneficial in this patient group. PAE provided marked benefits at 3 months in all patients, but there was less improvement in values measured between 3 and 6 months.

Study Limitations

The long-term results of this study remain uncertain. Further research is required to investigate the effect of the prostate gland on post-PAE collateralization and the long-term outcomes of PAE. To our knowledge, there has been no study investigating the long-term outcomes in a large patient group. Prospective studies utilizing perfusion imaging methods are needed to investigate prostate gland vascularity following PAE. Another limitation of our study is that we had to use ultrasonography (USG) instead of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for prostate volume measurements. USG is a user-dependent modality and is less sensitive than MRI for measuring prostate gland volume. Another limitation of the study is that there are few centers in Turkey that perform the PAE and awareness of the procedure is generally low. In addition, clinics approach PAE with caution due to the paucity of data regarding its long-term efficacy. Thus, the study included a small number of patients.

Conclusion

Although the indications for PAE are not yet clearly defined, PAE may be an alternative treatment option for BPH patients who have high comorbidity and for whom TUR and open prostatectomy are risky.

Ethics

Ethics Committee Approval: Retrospective study.

Informed Consent: Written informed consent was obtained from all patients.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: İ.O.Y., E.D., A.F., K.S., Concept: E.D., Design: A.F., Data Collection or Processing: İ.O.Y., H.C., Analysis or Interpretation: İ.O.Y., E.D., Literature Search: A.F., H.C., Writing: İ.O.Y.

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çalışmamızda komorbitesi yüksek olan hasta grubunda PAE'nin özellikle IPSS ve diğer parametreler üzerine olumlu etkisi, PAE'nin bu hasta grubunda faydalı etkileri olacağını düşündürmektedir. Tüm hastalarda PAE'nin olumlu etkileri 3 ayda belirgin izlenmiş olup 3-6. ay arasında gözlemlenen değerlerdeki düzelleme daha az olarak saptanmıştır.

Çalışmanın Kısıtlılıkları

Bu çalışmanın uzun dönem sonuçları belirsizliğini korumaktadır. Prostat bezinin PAE sonrası kollateralizayonu ve uzun dönem sonuçları üzerine etkisi araştırılması gereken bir konudur. Bizim bilgilerimize göre literatürde henüz uzun dönem sonuçlarını inceleyen geniş hasta gruptu çalışmalar bulunmamaktadır. Bu konuda PAE sonrası prostat bezini vasküleritesi hakkında perfüzyon görüntüleme yöntemleri ile yapılacak uzun dönem prospektif çalışmalarla ihtiyaç vardır. Ayrıca bu çalışmanın başka bir kısıtlığı ise prostat volümünün ölçümünde tüm hastalarda manyetik rezonans görüntüleme (MRG) kullanılmış olup ultrasonografi (USG) kullanılmıştır. USG ise operatör bağımlı bir modalite olup prostat bezin volümü hakkında değerler elde edilmesinde MRG'ye göre daha az hassas bir yöntemdir. Çalışmanın başka bir kısıtlığı ise henüz ülkemizde PAE uygulanan merkezlerin ve yöntemin bilinirliğinin az olması ve aynı zamanda üroloji kliniklerinde henüz yeni bir yöntem olan PAE işleminin uzun dönem etkinliği hakkında yeterli data olmaması sebebiyle bu yönteme üroloji klinikleri temkinle yaklaşmaktadır. Bu yüzden çalışma az sayıda hasta ile gerçekleştirılmıştır.

Sonuç

PAE endikasyonları hala belirsizliğini korumakla beraber komorbitesi yüksek, TUR ve açık prostatektomi yapılması riskli olan BPH'li hastalarda alternatif bir tedavi yöntemi olabilir.

Etik

Etki Kurul Onayı: Retrospektif çalışmıştır.

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Effects and Mechanisms of Checkpoint Inhibitors (CTLA-4, PD-1 and PD-L1 Inhibitors) as New Immunotherapeutic Agents for Bladder Cancer

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Abstract

Since intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) began to be used for bladder cancer, our understanding of the importance of immune mechanisms in bladder cancer has steadily grown. With developments in immunotherapy in recent years, the use of new immunotherapeutic agents for bladder cancer, especially chemotherapy-resistant invasive and metastatic cancers, has opened the way for research in this area. Of these new therapeutic agents, this article reviews studies published on PubMed or listed on the ClinicalTrials.gov website as of December 2017 regarding the effects and mechanisms of action of checkpoint inhibitors [cytotoxic t-lymphocyte associated protein-4, programmed cell death 1 receptor (PD-1) and PD-1 ligand inhibitors] on bladder cancer. Because checkpoint inhibitors were first used for chemotherapy-resistant bladder cancer after identification of positive expression in tumor cells and especially in tumor-infiltrating mononuclear cells, significant objective response rates and survival advantages have been reported. Research continues regarding the use of these agents as first- and second-line treatment for metastatic disease in combination with chemotherapy; their efficacy in neoadjuvant, adjuvant, and bladder-preserving approaches to muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) disease, and their use in non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), especially BCG-refractory disease. Depending on the results of these ongoing studies, immunotherapy may direct the treatment of bladder cancer in the future.

Keywords: Bladder cancer, immunotherapy, PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4

Introduction

Bladder cancer ranks fifth among the most common types of cancer (1). Seventy-five percent of cases are identified as non-muscle-invasive bladder cancers (NMIBC) [(pathologic stage Ta, T1 and carcinoma in situ (CIS)] following transurethral resection. European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer risk groups have been defined to predict the recurrence and progression of NMIBC, and follow-up and treatment protocols are recommended based on this classification (2). Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) therapy is the only agent that reduces recurrence and progression to muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC), and is especially recommended for high-risk patients (2,3). The search for alternative treatments is ongoing due to the risk of toxicity or unresponsiveness to BCG therapy. Immunotherapy is the most important and newest of these research areas, yet is also the oldest (because it forms the basis of the BCG mechanism of action).

There are several reasons that immunotherapy is a favorable treatment modality for bladder cancer. Firstly, bladder cancer has one of the highest mutation rates among all cancers. Therefore, it has high antigenic potential (4). Secondly, because the tumor is surrounded by a large surface in the intravesical area, it is easily accessible and suitable for local treatment. Thirdly, follow-up is easy because response to treatment can be observed visually. Despite these advantages, however, treatment success in bladder cancer is not at the desired level. For this reason, it is also an important target in research on new immunotherapeutic agents (5).

The aim of this review is to discuss bladder cancer immunology and the role of new immunotherapeutic agents (inhibitors) in the treatment of bladder cancer in light of the current literature. The contents are presented within the following subheadings: Immunotherapy in bladder cancer, BCG and bladder cancer, and checkpoint inhibition and inhibitors. Substantial attention

is given to the most studied group of compounds, checkpoint inhibitors, in the treatment of locally invasive and metastatic bladder cancers. This is followed by sections concerning the role of checkpoint inhibitors in the neoadjuvant and bladder-preserving approach to MIBC and their role in the treatment of NMIBC. Finally, we present checkpoint expressions in urothelial tumors.

The Basis of Immunotherapy in Bladder Cancer

While the relationship between the immune system and the foundations of neoplasia has been known since 1891, BCG was shown to be an effective agent in the treatment of bladder cancer by Morales et al. (6) in 1976. BCG has been used in the treatment of bladder cancer since that time and is still, over 40 years later, recommended for the treatment of high-risk NMIBC.

Bacillus Calmette-Guerin and Bladder Cancer

Calmette et al. (7) developed BCG from *Mycobacterium bovis* as an antituberculosis vaccine. However, after the link between malignancy and the immune system was established, BCG began to be used in the treatment of cancer. After showing efficacy against implanted tumors in mice, BCG was used in leukemia, melanoma, and head and neck cancers; it was first applied in the bladder as endoscopic intravesical injection for melanoma metastasis (8,9). Later, Morales et al. (6) demonstrated the efficacy of intravesical BCG in patients with NMIBC. In their study, which was the first to describe the use of BCG in bladder cancer, patients who had frequent recurrence and could not undergo total resection were treated with 120 mg intravesical BCG and intradermal BCG injections for 6 weeks (6). Since the first studies (6,10), BCG has become a standard therapeutic agent in use from the 1990s to the present, especially for patients with high-risk NMIBC.

The mechanism of action of BCG is based on immune system activation and the immune response. The immune response begins with the macropinocytosis of BCG into the urothelial cells, followed by the upregulation of major histocompatibility complex class 2 molecules and cytokine release. This results in migration of Th1 lymphocytes to the area around the tumor and the formation of a cytotoxic immune response mediated by CD8+ lymphocytes, natural killer (NK) cells, and granulocytes (11).

Checkpoint Inhibition and Inhibitors

Immune checkpoint inhibition is at the forefront of current cancer research. It was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) following positive results from phase 3 trials on checkpoint inhibition in melanoma, non-small cell lung cancer, and renal cell carcinoma. However, the focus of research is inverse to severity in urinary system malignancies, especially urothelial carcinoma. Most of the research and FDA approvals related to checkpoint inhibition pertain to the locally invasive and metastatic patient groups. Therefore, we divided studies investigating checkpoint inhibitors in urothelial carcinoma into those focusing on locally invasive and metastatic bladder cancer in Table 1, MIBC in Table 2, and NMIBC in Table 3.

The mechanism of checkpoint inhibition targets T cell regulation, increasing T cell and antitumor activity by suppressing inhibitor signals. This shows that, in addition to the previously known T cell receptor (TCR) activation, there are many co-stimulatory and inhibitory molecules on the surface of T cells and that these influence T cell behavior (12,13). The most important of these are cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein-4 (CTLA-4) and programmed cell death 1 receptor (PD-1) and its ligands (PD-L1 and PD-L2) (Figure 1), which will be discussed in detail in the next section.

Cytotoxic T-Lymphocyte Associated Protein-4 and Ipilimumab (CTLA-4 Inhibitor)

CTLA-4 expressed on the surface of T cells is known to be among the molecules involved in T cell activation. CTLA-4 competes with CD28, an immunostimulant receptor, for B7 ligands (B7-1 and B7-2) found on the surface of antigen-presenting cells (APCs). However, the B7/CTLA-4 complex inhibits T cell activation in the lymphoid tissue instead of enhancing it as the CD28 complex does. This shows that CTLA-4 inhibition can promote an immune response. Therefore, when the B7/CTLA-4 interaction is blocked by ipilimumab, a monoclonal anti-CTLA-4 antibody, the T cell balance is shifted towards activation, increasing the antitumor effects. Ipilimumab first received FDA approval for metastatic melanoma (14). In one large trial, 799 patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer that progressed after docetaxel chemotherapy for urologic malignancies were given a placebo or ipilimumab following external radiotherapy applied to the bone (15). While no difference in overall survival was observed between the groups, ipilimumab yielded more favorable outcomes in terms of prostate-specific antigen reduction and progression-free

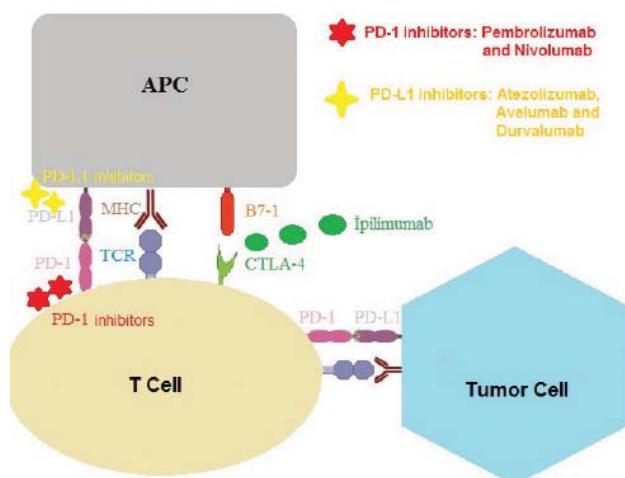


Figure 1. The receptor-ligand relationship in checkpoint inhibition, and the cells and checkpoints affected by inhibitors: cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein-4, programmed cell death 1 receptor, and programmed cell death 1 ligand
CTLA-4: Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein-4, PD-L1: Programmed cell death 1 ligand, PD-1: Programmed cell death 1 receptor, APC: Antigen-presenting cell, TCR: T cell receptor

survival (4 months vs 3.1 months). In another study, 12 patients whose clinical stage was T1-T2N0M0 were given 2 doses of ipilimumab prior to cystectomy and side effects resulted in delayed cystectomy in 2 patients (16). Phase 2 trials evaluating the combination of ipilimumab with gemcitabine and cisplatin in patients with advanced disease are ongoing. Side effects of ipilimumab include vitiligo, rashes, pruritus, anorexia, fatigue, diarrhea, and in a small number of patients, immune-related effects requiring steroid treatment (14). Trials of ipilimumab conducted in the locally invasive and metastatic patient group are presented in Table 1.

Programmed Cell Death 1 Receptor and Its Ligands (PD-L1 and PD-L2)

PD-1 receptor (CD279) and its two ligands PD-1 ligand 1 (PD-L1, B7-H1, and CD274) and PD-1 ligand 2 (PD-L2, B7-DC, and CD273) are cell surface glycoproteins from the B7 family of coinhibitory molecules. PD-L1 is found on the surfaces of APCs, T cells, NK cells, stem cells, and various non-hematopoietic cells in humans (17). PD-L2 has been shown in a few studies to be expressed in a small number of cells. PD-L1 and PD-L2 bind to the PD-1 receptor expressed by T cells, and these ligands are also found in APCs such as macrophages, dendritic cells, and B cells. This receptor and its ligands are important molecules involved in T cell immunomodulation. The PD-1 receptor inhibits TCR-mediated T cell function, as does CTLA-4. However, unlike CTLA-4, they are believed to exert this effect in the tumor microenvironment (18). Upregulation of PD-L1 in tumor cells is considered a mechanism of PD-1 pathway activation and immune escape (19). Indeed, immunohistochemical studies have shown that increased PD-L1 expression is associated with advanced stage bladder cancer and high-grade tumors (20). Therefore, the following sections include a detailed discussion of studies investigating the effect of inhibitory drugs that target PD-1 and PD-L1 in bladder cancer.

Atezolizumab (PD-L1 Inhibitor)

Atezolizumab, a monoclonal immunoglobulin G1 antibody that binds PD-L1, came into use following FDA approval in the treatment of advanced stage bladder cancer that progresses despite platinum-based chemotherapy (12,21). This approval was obtained by examining data obtained from phase 1 and 2 trials and based on the presence of PD-L1 in tissue samples taken from advanced stage patients prior to treatment. In a phase 1 trial, response was observed in 25% of the patients, with 2 patients showing complete response. However, this response was found to rely not on the immunohistochemical scores of tumor cells, but rather on the scores of tumor infiltrating mononuclear cells (TIMCs). In a phase 1 trial involving 68 patients with metastatic urothelial carcinoma who had received prior treatment (93% had previously undergone cisplatin-based chemotherapy; systemic therapy failed in 72%), the objective response rate at 6-week follow-up was 50% among those with a high PD-L1 expression in the TIMCs, compared to only 8.3% among those who were PD-L1 negative. Overall, 57% of patients experienced a side effect such as anorexia, fatigue, nausea, weakness, and shivering (12,13). This was followed by

the results of the phase 2 IMvigor210 (NCT02108652) study (21). In that trial, 310 inoperable and metastatic patients with an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance score of 0 or 1 were evaluated. PD-L1 expression in TIMCs was determined using SP142 assay. Tumors were grouped according to expression rate: <1%; ≥1% to <5%; and ≥5%. The overall response rate was 15% among the 310 patients, and response was found to be associated with expression rates (higher response rate with higher TIMC PD-L1 expression: 26% response rate at with ≥5% expression, 18% with ≥1% to <5% expression, and 15% overall response rate). Median survival time was 11.7 months, and median progression-free survival time was found to be 2.1 months regardless of PD-L1 expression status. In the 2nd cohort of this study (NCT02108652), atezolizumab treatment resulted in an objective response rate of 16% in all patients and a 28% objective response rate in patients with ≥5% PD-L1 expression in TIMCs, after a median follow-up of 1.5 years (21,22). The 12-month overall survival rate of patients with ≥5% PD-L1 expression in TIMCs was 50%, compared to 37% in the entire patient population (21,22).

In terms of the adverse effect profile of atezolizumab in the IMvigor 211 trial (NCT02302807), 69% of patients overall experienced a side effect. The most common adverse effects were fatigue (31%), nausea (14%), anorexia, pruritus, fever, diarrhea, rashes, and arthralgia. Pneumonia and dyspnea were serious side effects (21,22). Based on these results, atezolizumab was approved by the FDA in May 2016 for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma with disease progression during or after platinum-based chemotherapy. A study expected to be completed in the spring of 2018 (NCT02807636) is investigating the effect of atezolizumab ± gemcitabine/carboplatin or chemotherapy with cisplatin alone on patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma. Studies investigating the effects of atezolizumab in MIBC and NMIBC are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

Pembrolizumab (PD-1 Inhibitor)

In February 2017, the FDA approved the evaluation of pembrolizumab as a first-line treatment in patients with urothelial carcinoma who are not eligible for cisplatin-based chemotherapy and as a second-line treatment in patients with urothelial carcinoma that progresses during or after platinum-based chemotherapy. In the phase 1b trial investigating anti-PD-1 pembrolizumab, 33 patients with recurrent or metastatic urothelial cancer were examined and 41% PD-L1 expression was noted in the tumor cells (23). In the median follow-up period of 11 months, overall response and complete response rates of 24% and 10% were obtained. In the KEYNOTE-012 (NCT01848834) phase 1b trial, the objective response rate was 25% and 12-month progression-free survival was 19% in the total population, while the objective response rate was 38% for tumors with positive PD-L1 expression (>1% in tumor nests) (24). In KEYNOTE-012, side effects were observed in 61% of patients, and were most commonly reported as fatigue (18%), peripheral edema (12%), and nausea (9%) (25). In KEYNOTE-052 (NCT02335424), a phase 2 study in which pembrolizumab was given as first-line therapy to patients with

Table 1. Studies of checkpoint inhibitors in locally invasive and metastatic urothelial carcinoma

Study ID	Drugs	Cohort	Design	Phase	N	Primary outcome measure	Schedule
NCT01524991	Ipilimumab, Gemcitabine, Cisplatin	Urothelial carcinoma, 1 arm	Single arm	2	36	One-year overall survival	January 2012- March 2018
NCT02108652 (Cohort 2) (IMvigor 210)	Atezolizumab	Bladder locally invasive/metastatic, 1 arm	Single arm	2	310	Objective response rate	May 2014-May 2018
NCT02302807 (IMvigor211)	Atezolizumab/Vinflunine, Paclitaxel, Docetaxel	Bladder locally invasive/metastatic, 2 arms	Randomized	3	932	Overall survival	January 2015- November 2017
NCT02807636 (IMvigor130)	Atezolizumab/ Carboplatin, Gemcitabine, Placebo, Cisplatin	Urothelial carcinoma, locally invasive/metastatic, 2 arms	Randomized	3	1200	Overall and progression-free survival	June 2016-July 2020
NCT01848834 (KEYNOTE-012)	Pembrolizumab	Cancer, solid tumors including urothelial carcinoma 1 arm	Single arm	1	297	Safety and side effects	May 2013- January 2018
NCT0256436 (KEYNOTE-045)	Pembrolizumab/Vinflunine, Paclitaxel, Docetaxel	Urothelial carcinoma advanced stage, 2 arms	Randomized	3	542	Overall and progression-free survival	November 2014- January 2019
NCT02335424 (KEYNOTE-052)	Pembrolizumab	Urothelial carcinoma, locally invasive/inoperable/metastatic, 1 arm	Single arm	2	350	Objective response rate	February 2015- June 2018
NCT02437370	Pembrolizumab/Docetaxel, Gemcitabine	All urothelial carcinomas	Non-randomized	1	38	Safety and side effects	August 2015- December 2019
NCT01928394	Nivolumab, Ipilimumab, Cobimetinib	Advanced stage, metastatic solid tumors, including bladder	Randomized	1/2	1150	Objective response rate	October 2013- December 2018
NCT02387996 (CheckMate 275)	Nivolumab	Bladder, inoperable/metastatic, 1 arm	Single arm	2	386	Objective response rate	March 2015- October 2018
NCT02632409 (CheckMate 274)	Nivolumab/Placebo	Bladder, upper urinary tract urothelial carcinoma, 2 arms	Randomized	3	640	Disease-free survival	February 2016- May 2020
NCT01693562	Durvalumab	Advanced stage solid tumors, 1 arm	Single arm	1/2	1022	Safety and side effects	August 2012- July 2018
NCT01772004 (JAVELIN solid tumors)	Avelumab	Locally invasive/metastatic solid tumors, including urothelial carcinoma, 1 arm	Single arm	1	1753	Toxicity	February 2013- May 2018
NCT02603432 (JAVELIN bladder 100)	Avelumab	Bladder, locally invasive/metastatic, 2 arms	Randomized	3	668	Progression-free survival, objective response	April 2016-July 2020
NCT02496208	Cabozantinib S-Malate, Ipilimumab, Nivolumab	Metastatic genitourinary tumors	Non-randomized	1	135	Side effects	July 2015- December 2017
NCT02553642	Nivolumab/Nivolumab + Ipilimumab	Bladder, melanoma, metastatic, 1 arm	Single arm	2	70	Response rate	September 2015- September 2018
NCT02516241 (DANUBE)	Durvalumab/Durvalumab + Tremelimumab/Cisplatin, Carboplatin, Gemcitabine	Urothelial carcinoma, stage 4, 3 arms	Randomized	3	1005	Efficacy	November 2015- July 2019

advanced stage inoperable and metastatic urothelial carcinoma, the objective response rate was 24% in the first 100 patient analysis and 36.7% in patients whose PD-L1 expression rates in tumor and immune cells were >10% (26). In the KEYNOTE-045 (NCT02256436) phase 3 trial, the overall survival in the chemotherapy and pembrolizumab randomization in patients with previously treated metastatic urothelial cancer was 10.3 months in the pembrolizumab arm and 7.4 months in the chemotherapy arm (27). Combinations of pembrolizumab with docetaxel or gemcitabine (NCT02437370) and gemcitabine or cisplatin (NCT02690558) are currently being investigated in ongoing studies. Combinations of pembrolizumab with chemotherapy and radiotherapy are also being investigated in studies currently in progress (NCT02662062 and NCT02621151). Studies investigating the effects of pembrolizumab in MIBC and NMIBC are presented in Tables 2 and 3.

Nivolumab (PD-1 Inhibitor)

Nivolumab is a monoclonal antibody against PD-1. Following its use in other types of cancer, nivolumab was approved by the FDA for use in the treatment of renal cell carcinoma in November 2015 and for use in patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma progressing for one year after platinum-based chemotherapy in February 2017. In a trial including patients with metastatic urothelial cancer (NCT01928394), the objective response rates for patients with ≥1% and <1% PD-L1 expression in tumor cells were 24% for 26%, respectively, and overall survival for the entire population was 9.7 months (28). Approximately 21.8% of patients experienced grade 3-4 side effects, the most common of which were lipase elevation (5.1%), amylase elevation (3.8%), and fatigue (28). In the CheckMate 275 study (NCT02387996), an objective response rate of 19.6% was achieved with nivolumab in patients with metastatic urothelial cancer. The objective response rate was 16.1% for those with a low or negative PD-L1 expression in the tumor (<1%), while this rate was 28.4% for those with ≥5% PD-L1 expression (29). CheckMate 274 (NCT02632409) is an ongoing phase 3 trial in which nivolumab is evaluated versus a placebo after surgery in patients with bladder or upper urinary tract cancer.

Durvalumab (PD-L1 Inhibitor)

Durvalumab, a monoclonal antibody against PD-L1, was evaluated by the FDA in February 2016 for patients with inoperable or metastatic urothelial bladder cancer that progressed during or after standard platinum-based chemotherapy.

In a phase 1/2 durvalumab trial involving patients with inoperable or metastatic urothelial bladder cancer (NCT01693562), the objective response rate was 31%, while this rate was 0% in the low/negative PD-L1 subgroup (<25%) and 46% in the high PD-L1 subgroup (≥25%) (30). The most common side effects observed in the study were fatigue (13%), diarrhea (10%), and decreased appetite (8%).

Avelumab (PD-L1 Inhibitor)

This anti-PD-L1 monoclonal antibody is in the early stages of research for more than 15 types of cancer, including bladder cancer. Avelumab has a different mechanism than other PD-L1

Table 2. Studies of checkpoint inhibitors in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer						
Study ID	Drugs	Cohort	Design	Phase	N	Primary outcome measure
NCT02662309 (ABACUS)	Atezolizumab followed by cystectomy	Bladder, MIBC, neoadjuvant effect, 1 arm	Single arm	2	85	Efficacy, pathologic response
NCT02736266	Pembrolizumab followed by cystectomy	Bladder, MIBC, neoadjuvant effect, 1 arm	Single arm	2	90	Efficacy, pathologic response
NCT02662062 (PCR-MIB)	Pembrolizumab, Cisplatin, Radiotherapy	Bladder, MIBC, bladder-preserving approach, 1 arm	Single arm	2	30	Safety and toxicity
NCT02690558	Pembrolizumab, Gemcitabine, Cisplatin	Bladder, MIBC, neoadjuvant combination, 1 arm	Single arm	2	39	Efficacy
NCT02621151	Pembrolizumab, TUR-BT, Gemcitabine, Radiotherapy	Bladder, MIBC, 1 arm	Single arm	2	54	Two-year bladder limited disease rate
NCT02662062	Pembrolizumab/ Cisplatin, Radiotherapy	Bladder, MIBC, 1 arm	Single arm	2	30	Safety
NCT02560636 (PLUMMB)	Pembrolizumab and radiotherapy	Bladder, inoperable MIBC, 1 arm	Single arm	1	34	Safety and toxicity

MIBC: Muscle-invasive bladder cancer, TUR-BT: Transurethral resection of bladder tumour

standard chemotherapy agents are not available for the patient group that is ineligible for platinum-based chemotherapy. Relevant studies involving checkpoint inhibitors and their combinations with chemotherapy and radiotherapy are in the research phase. Some of these studies are presented in Table 2. Besides these, the option of immunotherapy for MIBC patients who are ineligible for cystectomy or want bladder-preserving treatment is one of the current topics being discussed, and there are ongoing studies involving this patient group. Some of these studies are also shown in Table 2.

The Role of Checkpoint Inhibitors in the Treatment of Non-Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer

Research continues regarding the use of checkpoint inhibitors in the treatment of locally invasive and metastatic urothelial carcinoma, especially bladder cancer, and the role of these drugs in treatment. Their combinations with both neoadjuvant and adjuvant chemotherapy and chemo-radiotherapy, and the role of these combinations as first- and second-line therapies constitute a broad research area. A clearer picture is expected to develop in the 2020s. The next step for these treatments, which have already been investigated for NMIBC, involves studies targeting the 40% of the patient population that develops recurrence and progression into MIBC despite intravesical BCG therapy. Some relevant studies that are in progress, especially those involving BCG-refractory patient group, are listed in Table 3.

PD-L1 Expression in Urothelial Tumor Tissue

Studies examining PD-L1 expression levels in urothelial carcinoma have yielded differing results. These studies are briefly summarized in Table 4. In one of those studies, pathologic specimens of 56 patients who underwent radical cystectomy due to bladder cancer were examined and ≥5% PD-L1 expression was observed in 20% of them. However, it was shown that PD-L1 expression and cytotoxic CD8+ T cell density were not associated with the clinicopathologic data (37). Bellmunt et al. (38) reviewed the pathology specimens of 160 patients who underwent transurethral resection of bladder tumour (TUR-BT) or radical cystectomy and defined a threshold of ≥5% for PD-L1 positivity on tumor cells. Positive PD-L1 expression was detected in 40% of TIMCs and was associated with longer survival in metastatic disease (38). In a study of 314 cystectomy specimens, ≥5% PD-L1 expression was observed in urothelial tumor cells and the expression of PD-1 in TIMCs was markedly increased (35). In a study of 65 patients, >12.2% PD-L1 expression was associated with high tumor grade and low recurrence-free survival (39). Another study demonstrated that increasing tumor stage was associated with higher PD-L1 expression positivity rate (≥1%) (7%, 16%, 23%, 30%, and 45% in Ta, T1, T2, T3/4, and CIS tumors, respectively) (20). Yet another report stated that >10% PD-L1 expression was associated with high-grade, muscle invasion, recurrence, and shorter survival (40). However, there are certain factors that make it difficult to directly compare these studies evaluating PD-L1 expression. These include differences in the organ sampled and collection method (TUR-BT, cystectomy, nephroureterectomy), differences in immunohistochemical analysis (formalin-fixed paraffin block vs. frozen tissue), different PD-L1 antibodies

(5H1, M1H1, and Pdcd-1L1) and differences in expression positivity rates (ranging from 1% to 12.2%) (20,35,39).

Conclusion

Although BCG is an important step in the treatment of NMIBC, additional treatments are needed in patients with treatment failure, as in locally invasive or metastatic bladder cancer. Of the immunotherapeutic agents investigated for this purpose, checkpoint inhibitors (CTLA-4, PD-1, and PD-L1 inhibitors) have provided favorable objective response rates and longer survival in locally advanced, inoperable, and metastatic bladder cancer, especially depending on expression levels in TIMCs and tumor cells. Although research priorities are inverse to disease severity, we look forward to the outcomes of ongoing studies in order to use these inhibitors in neoadjuvant, adjuvant, and bladder-preserving approaches to MIBC and in patients with BCG-refractory NMIBC.

Questions

1. What are the role and mechanism of action of *Bacillus Calmette-Guerin* in bladder cancer immunotherapy?
2. What is the role of checkpoints in the immune response and what are the effects of their inhibition?
3. What is the role of checkpoint inhibitors in the current treatment of bladder cancer?
4. What are the expectations regarding checkpoint inhibitors in the treatment of non-muscle invasive bladder cancer?

Ethics

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Concept: S.Ç., Design: S.Ç., Z.S.A., S.A., Data Collection or Processing: S.Ç., Analysis or Interpretation: S.Ç., Z.S.A., S.A., Literature Search: S.Ç., Writing: S.Ç.

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Mesane Kanserinde Yeni İmmünoterapötik Ajanlardan Kontrol Noktası İnhibitörlerinin (CTLA-4, PD-1 ve PD-L1 İnhibitörleri) Etkileri ve Mekanizmaları

Effects and Mechanisms of Checkpoint Inhibitors (CTLA-4, PD-1 and PD-L1 Inhibitors) as New Immunotherapeutic Agents for Bladder Cancer

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Öz

Intravezikal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin'in (BCG) mesane kanseri tedavisinde kullanılmaya başlandığı zamandan beri immün mekanizmaların mesane kanserindeki önemi giderek anlaşılmaya başlamıştır. Son yıllarda immünoterapideki gelişmelerle birlikte yeni immünoterapötik ajanların özellikle kemoterapi dirençli invaziv ve metastatik mesane kanserindeki kullanımı bu alanda araştırmaların yolunu açmıştır. Bu yazı, yeni immünoterapötik ajanlardan kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin [checkpoint inhibitörleri ya da sitotoksik T-lenfosit ilişkili protein-4 (CTLA-4), programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 reseptörü (PD-1) ve programlanmış hücre ölümü ligandi (PD-L1) inhibitörleri] mesane kanseri üzerine etkileri ve etki mekanizmaları, Aralık 2017'ye kadar PubMed'de yayınlanmış ya da clinicaltrials.gov adresinde belirtilmiş olan çalışmalarдан taranarak derlenmiştir. Kemoterapi dirençli mesane kanserinde, CTLA-4, PD-1 ve PD-L1'in özellikle tümörü infiltré eden mononukleer hücre ve tümör hücrelerindeki pozitif ekspresyonlarının saptanmasından sonra kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin tedavide kullanılmaya başlanmasını takiben hastalıkta anlamlı objektif yanıt oranları ve sağkalım avantajları raporlanmıştır. Bu ajanların metastatik hastalıkta birinci ve ikinci basamakta kemoterapi ile kombinasyonu, kasa-invaziv mesane kanseri hastalıkta neoadjuvan, adjuvan ve mesane koruyucu etkinliği ve kasa-invaziv olmayan mesane kanserinde özellikle BCG refrakterlerde kullanımı araştırılmaya devam etmektedir. Mesane kanserinde devam eden çalışmaların sonuçları ile birlikte immünoterapinin gelecekte mesane kanseri tedavisine yön vereceği söylenebilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Mesane kanseri, immünoterapi, PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4

Abstract

Since intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) began to be used for bladder cancer, our understanding of the importance of immune mechanisms in bladder cancer has steadily grown. With developments in immunotherapy in recent years, the use of new immunotherapeutic agents for bladder cancer, especially chemotherapy-resistant invasive and metastatic cancers, has opened the way for research in this area. Of these new therapeutic agents, this article reviews studies published on PubMed or listed on the ClinicalTrials.gov website as of December 2017 regarding the effects and mechanisms of action of checkpoint inhibitors [cytotoxic t-lymphocyte associated protein-4, programmed cell death 1 receptor (PD-1) and PD-1 ligand inhibitors] on bladder cancer. Because checkpoint inhibitors were first used for chemotherapy-resistant bladder cancer after identification of positive expression in tumor cells and especially in tumor-infiltrating mononuclear cells, significant objective response rates and survival advantages have been reported. Research continues regarding the use of these agents as first- and second-line treatment for metastatic disease in combination with chemotherapy; their efficacy in neoadjuvant, adjuvant, and bladder-preserving approaches to muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) disease, and their use in non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC), especially BCG-refractory disease. Depending on the results of these ongoing studies, immunotherapy may direct the treatment of bladder cancer in the future.

Keywords: Bladder cancer, immunotherapy, PD-1, PD-L1, CTLA-4

Giriş

Mesane kanseri en sık gözlenen kanserler arasında beşinci sıradadır (1). Hastaların %75'ini transuretral rezeksiyon sonrası kasa-invaziv olmayan mesane kanserleri (KİOMK) [patolojik evresi Ta, T1 ve karsinoma in situ (CIS)] oluşturmaktadır. KİOMK'de rekürrens ve progresyonu öngörmek adına 'European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer' risk grupları tanımlanmış olup, hastaların takip ve tedavi protokollerini bu sınıflamaya göre önerilmektedir (2). Özellikle yüksek riskli hastalarda önerilen intravezikal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) tedavisi ise rekürrensi ve kas-invaziv mesane kanserine (KİMK) progresyonu azaltan tek ajandır (2,3). BCG tedavisine yanıtsızlık ya da toksisite riski nedeniyle alternatif tedavi arayışları devam etmektedir. Bu arayışlardan en önemlisi ve en yenisini, ki aynı zamanda en eskisini (BCG'nin de etki mekanizmasını oluşturduğu için), immünoterapi araştırmaları oluşturmaktadır. Immünoterapi birçok nedenden ötürü mesane kanseri için iyi bir tedavi şeklidir. Birincisi, mesane kanseri tüm kanserler arasında en çok mutasyona sahip kanserlerdendir. Bu nedendendir ki yüksek antijenik potansiyele sahiptir (4). İkincisi, tümörün intravezikal alanda geniş bir yüzeye komşu olması nedeniyle tümörün lokal tedaviye uygun olması ve kolay ulaşılabilir olmasıdır. Üçüncüüsü ise, tedaviye yanıtın gözle gözlebilme özelliği nedeniyle takip kolaylığının olmasıdır. Fakat bu pozitif özelliklerine rağmen mesane kanserinin tedavi başarısı çok da istenilen düzeyde değildir. Bu yüzden yeni immünoterapötik ajan araştırmaları için de önemli bir kanser olma özelliği taşımaktadır (5).

Bu derlemede temel olarak mesane kanseri immünolojisi ve yeni immünoterapötik ajanların (inhibitorlerin) mesane kanserindeki yerinin güncel literatür eşliğinde sunulması amaçlanmıştır. Buna göre sunum planında öncelikle mesane kanserinde immünoterapi, BCG ve mesane kanseri, kontrol noktası yanı checkpoint inhibisyonu ve inhibitörleri alt başlıklar halinde sırasıyla sunulacaktır. Sunumun büyük kısmını en çok araştırılmış olan, kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin lokal invaziv ve metastatik mesane kanserinde yeri oluşturmaktadır. Sunumun son kısmını kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin KİMK'de neoadjuvan ve mesane koruyucu yaklaşımındaki yeri ile KİOMK'deki yeri alt başlıklar oluşturmaktadır. Son olarak ürotelyal tümörlerde kontrol noktası ekspresyonları sunulacaktır.

Mesane Kanserinde Immünoterapinin Temeli

1891'den beri immün sistem ile neoplazinin temelleri arasındaki ilişki bilinmekte birlikte 1976 yılında Morales ve ark. (6) tarafından BCG'nin mesane kanseri tedavisinde efektif bir ajan olduğu gösterilmiştir. O dönemde beri mesane kanseri tedavisinde kullanılan BCG, 2017 yılında olmamıza rağmen halen yüksek riskli KİOMK tedavisinde önerilmektedir.

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin ve Mesane Kanseri

Calmette ve ark. (7) tarafından Mycobacterium bovis'ten anti-tüberküloz aşısı olarak geliştirilmiştir. Fakat immün sistem ile malignite arası ilişki ortaya konduktan sonra, BCG kanser tedavisinde kullanılmaya başlanmıştır. Farelerdeki implant tümörlere olan etkinliğini takiben lösemi, melanom ve baş boyun kanserlerindeki kullanımını ile birlikte mesanedeği kullanımı ilk kez melanom metastazında endoskopik lezyon içi enjeksiyonu

ile BCG'nin mesanede kullanımı başlamıştır (8,9). Daha sonra Morales ve ark.'nın (6) yaptığı çalışmada intravezikal BCG'nin KİOMK hastalarındaki etkinliği gösterilmiştir. BCG'nin mesane kanserindeki ilk kullanımını gösteren bu çalışmada mesanede sık nüks gelişen ve tam rezeksiyon uygulanamayan hastalarda 6 hafta 120 mg intravezikal BCG ve intradermal BCG enjeksiyonu uygulanmıştır (6). Bu çalışma ile birlikte (6,10) BCG 1990'lardan günümüze standart tedavi ajanı olarak özellikle yüksek riskli KİOMK hastalarında kullanılmaya devam etmektedir.

BCG'nin etki mekanizmasına baktığımızda immün sistem aktivasyonunu ve immün cevabı görmekteyiz. Immün cevap, BCG'nin ürotelyal hücrelere makropinositozu ile başlamaktır, sonrasında MHC sınıf 2 moleküllerinin upregülasyonu ve sitokin salınımı ile devam etmekte ve bunun sonucunda özellikle Th1 lenfositlerin tümör çevresine göçü ve CD8+ lenfositler, doğal öldürücü (NK) hücreler ve granülositler aracılıkla sitotoksik immün cevabin oluşumu ile sonlanmaktadır (11).

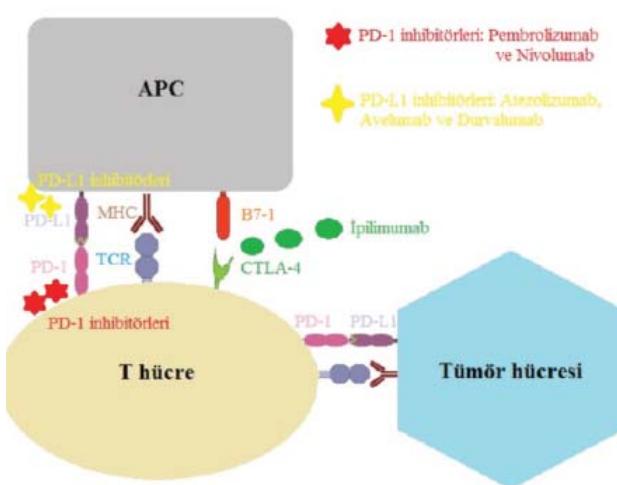
Kontrol Noktası İnhibisyonu ve İnhibitorları

Immün kontrol noktası inhibisyonu son dönemde en çok araştırılan kanser araştırmalarının başında gelmektedir. Özellikle melanom, küçük hücreli dışı akciğer kanseri ve renal hücreli karsinomda kontrol noktası inhibisyonu ile ilgili faz 3 çalışmalarda olumlu sonuçlar alınması üzerine Amerikan Gıda ve İlaç Dairesi 'Food and Drug Administration' (FDA) onayı almıştır. Fakat ürünler sistem malignitelerinde özellikle de ürotelyal karsinomda, araştırmalar tersten ilerlemektedir. Kontrol noktası ile ilgili araştırmaların ve FDA onaylarının çoğu lokal invaziv ve metastatik hasta grubundadır. Bu yüzden ürotelyal karsinomda kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin araştırıldığı çalışmalar Tablo 1'de lokal invaziv ve metastatik mesane kanseri, Tablo 2'de KİMK ve Tablo 3'te KİOMK çalışmaları verilmiştir.

Kontrol noktası inhibisyon mekanizmasına baktığımızda, T hücre regülasyonunun hedeflendiği ve inhibitör sinyallerin azaltılarak T hücre aktivitesi ile anti-tümöral aktivitenin artırıldığını görmekteyiz. Bu bize eskiden bildiğimiz T hücre reseptörü (TCR) aktivasyonunun yanında T hücre yüzeyinde birçok kostimülör ve inhibitör molekülerin varlığını ve bunların T hücre davranışında etkili olduklarını göstermektedir (12,13). Bunlar içerisinde en önemlileri olan sitotoksik T-lenfosit ilişkili protein-4 (CTLA-4), programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 reseptörü (PD-1) ve ligandları (PD-L1 ve PD-L2) (Şekil 1) ve bu moleküllere karşı inhibitör olarak geliştirilen ilaçlar ayrıntılı olarak tartışılacaktır.

Sitotoksik T-lenfosit ilişkili Protein-4 ve İpilimumab (CTLA-4 İnhibitoru)

T hücre yüzeyinde bulunan CTLA-4 ekspresyonunun T hücre aktivasyonunda etkili moleküllerden olduğu bilinmektedir. CTLA-4抗jen sunan hücre (APC) yüzeyindeki B7 ailesinden ligandlar (B7-1 ve B7-2) için immünostimülör reseptör olan CD28 ile yarışarak etkileşime girmektedir. Fakat bu etkileşim, yani B7 ligand ve CTLA-4 kompleksi, CD28 kompleksi gibi T hücre aktivasyonunu artırmak yerine lenfoid dokudaki T hücre aktivasyonunu inhibe etmektedir. Bu da bize CTLA-4 inhibisyonunun immün cevap oluşumunu artırtabileceğini göstermiştir. Bu yüzden bir monoklonal anti-CTLA-4 antikor olan ipilimumab ile B7-CTLA-4 etkileşimi bloke edilerek, T hücre dengesi aktivasyon yönünde değiştirilerek anti-tümöral etkiler



Şekil 1. Kontrol noktası inhibisyonunda reseptör ligand ilişkisi ile inhibitörlerin etkiledikleri hücre ve kontrol noktaları: Sitotoksik T-lenfosit ilişkili protein-4, programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 reseptörü ve programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 ligandi

CTLA-4: Sitotoksik T-lenfosit ilişkili protein-4, PD-L1: Programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 ligandi, PD-1: Programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 reseptörü, APC: Antijen sunan hücre, TCR: T hücre reseptörü

arttırılmaktadır. İpilimumab önce metastatik melanomda FDA onayını almıştır (14). Ürolojik malignitelerden docetaxel tedavisi sonrası progresif seyreden kastrasyon dirençli kemiğe metastatik 799 prostat kanserli hastanın değerlendirdiği geniş serili bir çalışmada kemiğe uygulanan eksternal radyoterapinin ardından placebo ve ipilimumab tedavileri verilmiştir (15). Gruplararası toplam sağkalımda fark gözlenmezken, prostat spesifik antijen düşüşü ve progresyonsuz sağkalımda ipilimumab lehine bulgular saptanmıştır (4 ay ile 3,1 ay). Klinik evresi T1-T2N0M0 olan 12 hastaya sistektomi öncesi 2 doz ipilimumab verilmiş olup 2 hastada yan etkilere bağlı sistektomi gecikmiştir (16). İleri evre hastalığı olan hastalarda ipilimumab ile gemsitabin ve sisplatin kombinasyonunun değerlendirildiği faz 2 çalışma devam etmektedir. Vitiligo, döküntü, kaşıntı, anoreksya, yorgunluk, diyare ve az sayıda hastada gelişen steroid tedavisi gerektirenimmün sistem ilişkili etkiler ilaçın yan etkileridir (14). İpilimumab ile ilgili lokal invaziv ve metastatik hasta grubunda yapılan çalışmalar Tablo 1'de verilmiştir.

Programlanmış Hücre Ölümü-1 Reseptörü ve Ligandları (PD-L1 ve PD-L2)

PD-1 reseptörü (CD279) ve onun iki ligandi olan PD-1 ligand 1 (PD-L1, B7-H1 ve CD274) ve PD-1 ligand 2 (PD-L2, B7-DC ve CD273), koinhibitör moleküller olan B7 ailesinden hücre yüzeyi glikoproteinleridir. PD-L1, insanda APC, T hücreler, NK hücreler, kök hücreler ve çeşitli hematopoietik olmayan hücrelerin yüzeyinde de bulunmaktadır (17). PD-L2'nin ise yapılan sınırlı sayıda çalışmada az sayıda hücrede eksprese olduğu gösterilmiştir. PD-L1 ve PD-L2, T hücrelerinde eksprese edilen PD-1 reseptörüne bağlanır ve bu ligandlar aynı zamanda makrofaj, dendritik hücre ve B hücre gibi APC'lerde bulunur. Bu reseptör ve ligandları T hücre immün modülasyonunda

görev alan önemli moleküllerdir. PD-1 reseptörü, aynı CTLA-4'teki gibi TCR aracılı T hücre fonksiyonunu inhibe etmektedir. Fakat bu etkiyi CTLA-4'ün aksine tümör mikroçevresinde yaptıkları düşünülmektedir (18). Tümör hücrelerinde PD-L1'in upregülasyonu, PD-1 yolunda aktivasyonu ve bağışıklıkta kaçmanın bir mekanizması olarak görülmektedir (19). Zaten immunohistokimyasal (IHC) çalışmalar da, artmış PD-L1 ekspresyonun ileri evre mesane kanseri ve yüksek dereceli tümör ile ilişkili olduğunu göstermiştir (20). Bu yüzden özellikle PD-1 ve PD-L1'e karşı geliştirilen inhibitör ilaçların mesane kanseri üzerindeki etkisini araştıran çalışmalar ayrıntılı olarak tartışılacaktır.

Atezolizumab (PD-L1 İnhibitörü)

Platin bazlı kemoterapide progresyon gösteren ileri evre mesane kanseri tedavisinde PD-L1'i bağlayan monoklonal IgG1 antikoru atezolizumab, FDA onayının ardından kullanıma girmiştir (12,21). Bu onay, faz 1 ve faz 2 çalışmalarından elde edilen veriler incelenerek, tedavi öncesi ileri evre hastalardan alınan doku örneklerinden çalışan PD-L1 varlığına göre alınmıştır. Faz 1 çalışmada %25 hastada yanıt gözlenmişken, iki hastada tam yanıt gözlenmiştir. Fakat bu yanıtta tümör hücrelerindeki IHC skordan ziyade tümörü infiltré eden mononükleer hücrelerdeki (TİMH) skorlar etkili bulunmuştur. Daha önce tedavi görmüş olan (%93 önceden sisplatin bazlı kemoterapi uygulanmış, %72 sistemik tedavi başarısız) metastatik ürotelyal karsinomlu 68 hastalık faz 1 çalışmada; 6 haftalık izlemde TİMH'lerde yüksek PD-L1 ekspresyonu olanlarda objektif cevap oranı %50 iken, PD-L1 negatif olanlarda yanıt sadece %8,3 saptanmıştır. Genel olarak, %57 hastada iştahsızlık, yorgunluk, mide bulantısı, halsizlik ve titreme gibi yan etkilerden herhangi biri gözlenmiştir (12,13). Sonrasında faz 2 çalışma olan IMvigor 210 (NCT02108652) sonuçları gelmiştir (21). Çalışmada 'The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group' performans skoru 0 ya da 1 olan inoperabil ve metastatik olan 310 hasta değerlendirilmiştir. TİMH'lerin PD-L1 ekspresyon durumları SP142 ile incelenmiştir. Ekspresyon oranları <%1, ≥%1 ile <%5 arası ve ≥%5 olan tümörler tanımlanarak gruplandırılmıştır. Toplam yanıt %15 olan 310 hastada, yanıt ekspresyon oranları ile ilişkili bulunmuştur (yanıt oranı PD-L1 ekspresyon seviyesi yüksek olan TİMH'lerde yüksekti: ≥%5 ekspresyon oranında %26, ekspresyon oranı ≥%1 ile <%5 arası olanlarda %18 ve toplamda %15 yanıt oranı). Medyan sağkalım takibi sırasında 11,7 ay, progresyonsuz sağkalım süresi ortanca değeri ise PD-L1 ekspresyon durumuna bakılmaksızın 2,1 ay saptanmıştır. Bu çalışmanın kohort 2'sinde (NCT02108652) 1,5 yıllık medyan takip sonrası atezolizumabın tüm hastalar için %16'lık bir objektif cevap oranı ve TİMH'lerde ≥%5 PD-L1 ekspresyonu olan hastalar için %28'lik objektif cevap oranı ortaya çıkardığını göstermiştir (21,22). TİMH'lerde PD-L1 ekspresyonu ≥%5 olan hastalarda 12 aylık toplam sağkalım oranı %50 iken, tüm hasta popülasyonunda %37 saptanmıştır (21,22). IMvigor 211 çalışmada (NCT02302807) atezolizumabın yan etki profiline baktığımızda genel olarak hastaların %69'unda herhangi bir yan etki vardı. En çok gözlenen yan etkiler arasında yorgunluk (%31), mide bulantısı (%14), iştahsızlık, kaşıntı, ateş, diyare, döküntü ve artralji bulunmuştur. Pnömoni ve nefes darlığı ise ciddi yan etkilerdi (21,22). Bu sonuçlara dayanarak, atezolizumab Mayıs 2016'da FDA tarafından platin bazlı

Çelik ve ark.
Mesane Kanserinde Kontrol Noktası İnhibitorları

Tablo 1. Lokal invaziv/metastatik ürotelyal kansinomda kontrollü noktası inhibitörlerinin araştırıldığı çalışmalar

Çalışma ID'si	İlaçlar	Kohort	Dizayn	Faz	N	Birincil sonlanım	Plan
NCT01524991	Ipilimumab, Gemcitabin, Sisplatin	Ürotelyal kansinom, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	36	Bir yıllık toplam sağkalım	Ocak 2012-Mart 2018
NCT02108652 (Kohort 2) (Mvigor 210)	Atezolizumab	Mesane Lokal invaziv/metastatik, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	310	Objektif yanıt oranı	Mayıs 2014-Mayıs 2018
NCT02302807 (Mvigor211)	Atezolizumab/Minfurunin, Paklitaksel, Doseetskse	Mesane Lokal invaziv/metastatik, 2 kol	Randomize	3	932	Toplam sağkalım	Ocak 2015-Kasım 2017
NCT02807636 (Mvigor130)	Atezolizumab/Karboplatın, Gemcitabin, Plaebo, Sisplatin	Ürotelyal kansinom, Lokal invaziv/metastatik, 2 kol	Randomize	3	1200	Toplam ve progresyonuz sağkalım	Haziran 2016-Temmuz 2020
NCT01848834 (KEYNOTE-012)	Pembrolizumab	Kanser; solid tümörler içinde ürotelyal kansinom, 1 kol	Tek kol	1	297	Güvenlik ve yan etki	Mayıs 2013-Ocak 2018
NCT02256436 (KEYNOTE-045)	Pembrolizumab/Vinflunin, Paklitaksel, Doseetskse	Ürotelyal kansinom İleri evre, 2 kol	Randomize	3	542	Toplam ve progresyonuz sağkalım	Kasım 2014-Ocak 2019
NCT02335424 (KEYNOTE-052)	Pembrolizumab	Ürotelyal kansinom, lokal invaziv/inoperabil/metastatik, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	350	Objektif yanıt oranı	Şubat 2015-Haziran 2018
NCT02437370	Pembrolizumab/Doseetskse, Gemcitabin	Tüm ürotelyal kansinomlar	Non-randomize	1	38	Güvenlik ve yan etki	Ağustos 2015-Aralık 2019
NCT01928394	Nivolumab, Ipilimumab, Cobimetinib	İleri evre metastatik solid tümörler, mesane dahlı	Randomize	1/2	1150	Objektif yanıt oranı	Ekim 2013-Aralık 2018
NCT02387996 (CheckMate 275)	Nivolumab	Mesane, inoperabil/metastatik, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	386	Objektif yanıt oranı	Mart 2015-Ekim 2018
NCT02632409 (CheckMate 274)	Nivolumab / Piasobo	Mesane, üst üriner sistem ürotelyal kansinomu, 2 kol	Randomize	3	640	Hastalıksız sağkalım	Şubat 2016-Mayıs 2020
NCT01693562	Durvalumab	İleri evre solid tümörler, 1 kol	Tek kol	1/2	1022	Güvenlik ve yan etki	Ağustos 2012-Temmuz 2018
NCT01772004 (JAVELIN solid tümörler)	Avelumab	Lokal invaziv/metastatik solid tümörler, ürotelyal kansinom dahlı, 1 kol	Tek kol	1	1753	Toksisite	Ocak 2013-Mayıs 2018
NCT02603432 (JAVELIN mesane 100)	Avelumab	Mesane, Lokal invaziv/metastatik, 2 kol	Randomize	3	668	Progresyonuz sağkalım, Objektif yanıt	Nisan 2016-Temmuz 2020
NCT02496208	Cabozantinib S-Malte, Ipilimumab, Nivolumab	Metastatik genitoüriner tümörler	Non-randomize	1	135	Yan etki	Temmuz 2015-Aralık 2017
NCT02553642	Nivolumab/Nivolumab+Ipilimumab	Mesane, Melanom, Metastatik, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	70	Yanıt oranı	Eylül 2015-Eylül 2018
NCT02516241 (DANUBE)	Durvalumab, Tremelimumab, Sisplatin, Karboplatın, Gemcitabin	Ürotelyal kansinom, Evre 4, 3 kol	Randomize	3	1005	Etkinlik	Kasım 2015-Temmuz 2019

kemoterapi sırasında veya sonrasında hastalık progresyonu bulunan lokal ileri veya metastatik ürotelyal karsinomlu hastaların tedavisi için onay almıştır. 2018 baharında tamamlanması beklenen bir çalışmada (NCT02807636) lokal olarak ilerlemiş veya metastatik ürotelyal karsinomlu hastalarda atezolizumab ± gemitabin/karboplatin veya sisplatin ile tek başına kemoterapi etkisi araştırılmaktadır. Atezolizumabın KİMК ve KİOMK'deki etkilerini araştıran çalışmalar ise Tablo 2 ve Tablo 3'te verilmiştir.

Pembrolizumab (PD-1 İnhibitörü)

Şubat 2017'de FDA, sisplatin bazlı kemoterapi için uygun olmayan ürotelyal karsinomlu hastalarda birinci basamakta kullanımı için ve platin bazlı kemoterapi alırken ya da sonrasında progresyon gelişen ürotelyal karsinomlu hastalarda ikinci basamakta kullanımı için pembrolizumaba inceleme iznini vermiştir. Anti-PD-1 pembrolizumabın araştırıldığı faz 1b çalışmada, tekrarlayan veya metastatik ürotelyal kanserli 33 hasta incelenmiş ve tümör hücrelerinde %41 PD-L1 ekspresyonu kaydedilmiştir (23). Çalışmada medyan takip süresi 11 ay olup %24 toplam yanıt, %10 tam yanıt elde edilmiştir. KEYNOTE-012 (NCT01848834) faz 1b çalışmada toplam polüasyonda objektif yanıt oranı %25 ve 12 aylık progresyonsuz sağkalım %19 saptanmışken, PD-L1 ekspresyonu pozitif olan tümörlerde (tümör yuvalarında >%1) objektif yanıt oranı %38 saptanmıştır (24). KEYNOTE-012'de hastaların %61'inde yan etki gözle见过 olup bu yan etkiler en sık yorgunluk (%18), periferal ödem (%12) ve bulantı (%9) olarak bildirilmiştir (25). KEYNOTE-052'de (NCT02335424) ileri evre inoperabl ve metastatik ürotelyal karsinomlu hastaların birinci basamak tedavisinde pembrolizumab verilen faz 2 çalışmanın ilk 100 hasta analizinde objektif yanıt oranı %24 saptanmış olup, tümör ve immün hücrede PD-L1 ekspresyon oranı >%10 olan hastalarda %36,7 saptanmıştır (26). KEYNOTE-045 (NCT02256436) faz 3 çalışmada, önceden tedavi edilen metastatik ürotelyal kanserli hastalarda kemoterapi ve pembrolizumab randomizasyonunda toplam sağkalım pembrolizumab kolunda 10,3 ay iken kemoterapi kolunda 7,4 ay saptanmıştır (27). Devam eden çalışmalara baktığımızda; pembrolizumab ile dosetaksel ya da gemitabin kombinasyonu (NCT02437370), gemitabin ya da sisplatin kombinasyonu (NCT02690558) araştırılmaktadır. Pembrolizumab ile kemoterapi ve radyoterapi kombinasyonları da devam eden çalışmalarla araştırılmaktadır (NCT02662062) (NCT02621151). Pembrolizumabın KİMК ve KİOMK'deki etkilerini araştıran çalışmalar ise Tablo 2 ve Tablo 3'te verilmiştir.

Nivolumab (PD-1 İnhibitörü)

Nivolumab, PD-1'e karşı oluşturulmuş bir monoklonal antikordur. Nivolumab diğer kanserlerin ardından FDA tarafından Kasım 2015'te renal hücreli karsinom tedavisinde, Şubat 2017'de ise platin bazlı kemoterapi sonrası bir yıl boyunca progresyon gösteren lokal ileri veya metastatik ürotelyal karsinomlu hastalarda kullanımı onaylanmıştır. Metastatik ürotelyal kanserli hastaları içeren çalışmada (NCT01928394), tümör hücrelerinde ≥%1 PD-L1 ekspresyonu olanlar için objektif yanıt oranı %24 iken, PD-L1 ekspresyonu <%1 olanlarda %26 ve tüm toplum için genel sağkalım 9,7 ay saptanmıştır (28). Hastaların yaklaşık %21,8'inde derece 3-4 yan etkiler gözle见过 olup, bunlar lipaz artışı (%5,1), amilaz artışı (%3,8) ve yorgunluk en sık gözlenenleridir (28). CheckMate 275 çalışması (NCT02387996)

Çalışma ID'si	İlaçlar	Kohort	Dizaynı			Plan
			Tek kol	Faz	N	
NCT02662309 (ABACUS)	Atezolizumab sonra sistektomi	Mesane, KİMК, Neoadjuvan etki, 1 kol			85	Etkinlik, patolojik yanıt Şubat 2016-Mart 2019
NCT02736266	Pembrolizumab sonrası sistektomi	Mesane, KİMК, neoadjuvan etki, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	90	Etkinlik, patolojik yanıt Şubat 2017-Haziran 2019
NCT02662062 (PCR-MIB)	Pembrolizumab, Sisplatin, radyoterapi	Mesane, KİMК, Mesane koruyucu yaklaşım, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	30	Güvenilirlik ve toksite Ağustos 2016-Ocak 2024
NCT02690558	Pembrolizumab, Gemstabin ve sisplatin	Mesane KİMК, neoadjuvan kombinasyon, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	39	Etkinlik Mayıs 2016-Mayıs 2024
NCT02621151	Pembrolizumab, TUR-BT, Gemstabin, radyoterapi	Mesane, KİMК, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	54	2 yıllık mesane sınırlı hastalık oranı Ekim 2014-Mayıs 2024
NCT02662062	Pembrolizumab/Sisplatin, radyoterapi	Mesane, KİMК, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	30	Güvenlik Ağustos 2016-Ocak 2024
NCT02560636 (PLUMMB)	Pembrolizumab ve radyoterapi	Mesane, Cerrahi uygun olmayan KİMК, 1 kol	Tek kol	1	34	Güvenilirlik ve toksite Haziran 2016-Haziran 2019

KİMК: Kas-invaziv mesane kanseri, TUR-BT: Transüretral mesane tümörü rezektöyü

Çelik ve ark.
Mesane Kanserinde Kontrol Noktası İnhibitörleri

Tablo 3. Kasa-invaziv olmayan mesane kanserleri hastalarında kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin araştırıldığı çalışmaları							
Çalışma ID'si	İlaçlar	Kohort	Dizaynı	Faz	N	Birincil sonlanım	Plan
NCT02451423	Atezolizumab	Mesane, KİOMK, BCG refrakter, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	42	Kür oranı	Nisan 2016-Aralık 2019
NCT02625961 (KEYNOTE-057)	Pembrolizumab	Mesane, Yüksek risk KİOMK, BCG refrakter, 1 kol	Tek kol	2	260	Tam yanıt oranı, hastalıksız sağkalım	Şubat 2016-Aralık 2021
NCT02324582 (MARC)	Pembrolizumab ve BCG	Mesane, Yüksek risk KİOMK, BCG refrakter, 1 kol	Tek kol	1	15	Güvenilirlik	Haziran 2015-Kasım 2020

BCG: Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, KİOMK: Kasa-invaziv olmayan mesane kanserleri

Tablo 4. Ürotelyal tümör dokusunda programlanmış hücre ölümü ligandi ekspresyonları						
Yazar	N	Doku	Doku koruma yöntemi	PD-1/PD-L1 antikoru	PD-L1 pozitiflik sınırı (%)	Tümör hücrelerindeki PD-L1 ekspresyon oranı (%)
Faraj ve ark. (37)	56	Sistektomi, Mesane	Formalinle sabitlenmiş parafin blok	5H1 PD-L1 fare monoklonal	≥5	20
Bellmunt ve ark. (38)	160	Sistektomi ve TUR-BT, Mesane	Formalinle sabitlenmiş parafin blok	405.9a11 PD-L1 fare monoklonal	≥5	20
Boorjian ve ark. (35)	314	Sistektomi, Mesane	Formalinle sabitlenmiş parafin blok	5H1 PD-L1 fare monoklonal	≥5	12
Nakanishi ve ark. (39)	65	Mesane, üreter, renal pelvis	Frozen patoloji	M1H1 PD-L1 fare monoklonal	>12,2	
Inman ve ark. (20)	280	Mesane	Formalinle sabitlenmiş parafin blok	5H1 PD-L1 fare monoklonal	≥1	28
Wang ve ark. (40)	50	Mesane	Formalinle sabitlenmiş parafin blok	Pdcd-1L1 (H-130) tavşan poliklonal	>10	72

TUR-BT: Transuretral mesane tümörü rezeksiyonu, PD-L1: Programlanmış hücre ölümü ligandi, PD-1: Programlanmış hücre ölümü-1 reseptörü

metastatik ürotelyal kanserli hastalarda nivolumab ile %19,6 objektif yanıt oranı saptanmış olup, tümörde düşük ya da negatif PD-L1 ekspresyonu (<%1) olanlarda objektif yanıt oranı %16,1 iken PD-L1 ekspresyonu ≥%5 olanlarda %28,4 saptanmıştır (29). Mesane veya üst üriner sistem kanseri olan hastalarda ameliyattan sonra plaseboya karşı nivolumabın değerlendirildiği CheckMate 274 adlı (NCT02632409) faz 3 çalışma ise devam etmektedir.

Durvalumab (PD-L1 İnhibitorü)

PD-L1'e karşı monoklonal bir antikor olan durvalumab, Şubat 2016'da FDA tarafından, standart platin bazlı kemoterapi sırasında veya sonrasında progresyon gösteren inoperabil veya metastatik ürotelyal mesane kanserli hastalarda değerlendirme alındı.

Inoperabil veya metastatik ürotelyal mesane kanserli hastalarda faz 1/2 durvalumab çalışmada (NCT01693562) objektif yanıt oranı %31 iken, PD-L1 düşük/negatif alt grubunda (<%25) %0, PD-L1 yüksek (%25%) alt grubunda %46 oranında gözlenmiştir (30). Çalışmada gözlenen en sık yan etkiler yorgunluk (%13), ishal (%10) ve istah azalmasıdır (%8).

Avelumab (PD-L1 İnhibitorü)

Anti-PD-L1 monoklonal antikor, mesane dahil olmak üzere 15'ten fazla kanser türü için araştırılanın ilk aşamalarındadır. Avelumab, diğer PD-L1 inhibitörlerinden farklı mekanizmaya

sahiptir. Etkisi PD-L1 inhibisyonunun yanı sıra antikorlara bağımlı, hücresel sitotoksisiye sahiptir. Bu da tümör hücrelerinin direkt olarak parçalanmasına neden olmaktadır, ancak bu etkisini aynı zamanda PD-L1 ekspresyonu sergileyen diğer hücrelerde de lizise neden olarak spesifik toksisiteler geliştirebilmektedir (31).

JAVELIN solid tümör faz 1b çalışmasında (NCT01772004) platin bazlı kemoterapi sonrası progresyon gözlenen veya platine uygun olmayan hastalarda objektif yanıt oranının %16,5 olduğu gösterilmiştir (32). En sık görülen yan etkiler arasında infüzyonla ilişkili reaksiyonlar (%22,5) ve yorgunluk (%14,7) saptanmıştır (32). Faz 3 JAVELIN mesane 100 çalışması (NCT02603432) halen devam etmektedir.

PD-1/PD-L1 ve CTLA-4 İnhibitor Kombinasyonu

PD-1 esas olarak T hücre aktivasyonunun efektör fazında etkili olmaktadır ve PD-1/PD-L1 etkileşimi öncelikle periferik dokularda抗ijenlerin hafiza T hücrelerine sunumu sırasında oluşur (33). CTLA-4 ise düzenleyici T hücreleri ve bellek CD-4 hücreleri tarafından eksprese edilmektedir ve lenfatik dokulardaki T hücrelerinin erken aktivasyonu sırasında işlev görmektedir (33). Bu yüzden bu iki hedefin inhibisyonuna yönelik tedavilerin kombinasyonunun mantıksal olduğu söylenebilir.

Zaten CheckMate 032 çalışmasının bir parçası olarak, nivolumab ile ipilimumab kombinasyonu araştırılmaktadır: Kohort A'da

(n=26) nivolumab (1 mg/kg) ile ipilimumab (3 mg/kg) ve kohort B'de (n=104) nivolumab (3 mg/kg) ile ipilimumab (1 mg/kg) kombinasyonları uygulanmıştır (34). Daha yüksek doz ipilimumabın araştırıldığı kohortta, daha düşük doza oranla %26'ya karşın %39 yanıt oranı saptanmıştır (34). Fakat her iki grupta genel sağkalım süreleri benzer saptanmıştır (10,2 aya karşın 7,3 ay) (34). Devam eden bir çalışmada (NCT02553642) lokal ileri/inoperabl ya da metastatik ürotelyal karsinomlu hastalarda PD-L1 ekspresyonu ile nivolumab/ipilimumab kombinasyon tedavisine yanıt oranları incelenmektedir. Nivolumab ve ipilimumab kombinasyonlarının değerlendirdiği diğer çalışmalar da (NCT01928394, NCT02496208) Tablo 1'de özetlenmiştir.

Evre 4 ürotelyal mesane kanseri olan hastalarda standart kemoterapiye karşı durvalumab ve CTLA-4 inhibitörü olan tremelimumabın kombinasyonunu değerlendiren DANUBE çalışmasının (NCT02516241) 2019'da tamamlanması beklenmektedir.

Bunların dışında potansiyel terapötik hedefler olarak hücre aktivasyonunu ve etkililiğini düzenleyen B7-H3 ve OX40 gibi T hücre yüzeyi reseptörleri de keşfedilmiştir. Boorjian ve ark. (35) ürotelyal tümörlerde bir glikoprotein olan B7-H3'ün yüksek ekspresyonunun PD-1'in upregülasyonu ile ilişkili olabileceğini öne sürümüştür.

Kas-invaziv Mesane Kanseri Hastalarında Kontrol Noktası İnhibitorlarının Yeri

KİMK'de neoadjuvan MVAC (metotreksat, vinkristin, adriamisin, sisplatin) veya gemcitabin ve sisplatin kombinasyonları önerilen prosedürlerdir. Ancak hastaların büyük kısmı radikal sistektomi sonrası nüks etmektedir (36). Ayrıca platin bazlı kemoterapiye uygun olmayan hasta grubu için standart kemoterapi ajanları ise bulunmamaktadır. Bu alanda kontrol noktası inhibitörleri ve bunların kemoterapi ve radyoterapi ile kombinasyonlarını içeren çalışmalar araştırılma aşamasındadır. Bu çalışmaların bir kısmı Tablo 2'de verilmektedir. Bunun dışında sistektomi için uygun olmayan ya da mesane koruyucu tedavi isteyen KİMK hastaları için de immünoterapi seçeneği gündeme gelen tartışılan konulardan olup, bu hasta grubunda da mevcut devam eden çalışmalar bulunmaktadır. Bu çalışmaların bir kısmı Tablo 2'de verilmiştir.

Kasa-invaziv Olmayan Mesane Kanserleri Hastalarında Kontrol Noktası İnhibitorlarının Yeri

Kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin lokal invaziv ve metastatik ürotelyal karsinomdaki, özellikle de mesane kanserindeki, kullanımı ile bu ilaçların tedavideki yeri araştırılmaya devam etmektedir. Gerek neoadjuvan ve adjuvan kemoterapi ile gerekse kemoterapi ile kombinasyonları ve bu kombinasyonların birinci ve ikinci basamak tedavilerdeki yeri geniş bir araştırma konusunu oluşturmakla birlikte 2020'lerde net bilgilerin oluşacağı yönünde fikir vermektedir. KİMK'deki araştırılan bu tedavilerin sonraki adımıni hiç kuşkusuz intravezikal BCG tedavisi ile %40 rekürrens ve KİMK'ye progresyon gösteren hasta popülasyonuna yönelik araştırmalar oluşturmaktadır. Bu bağlamda özellikle BCG refrakter hasta grubunda başlamış olan bazı çalışmalar Tablo 3'te verilmiştir.

Ürotelyal Tümör Dokusunda PD-L1 Ekspresyonları

Ürotelyal karsinomda PD-L1 ekspresyonlarının incelendiği çalışmalarla farklı sonuçlar sunulmaktadır. Bu çalışmaların kısaca özellikleri Tablo 4'te verilmiştir. Mesane kanseri nedenli radikal

sistektomi yapılmış olan 56 hastanın patolojik spesmenleri incelenmiş olup, %20'sinde ≥%5 PD-L1 ekspresyonu izlenmiştir. Fakat PD-L1 ekspresyonu ve sitotoksik CD8+ T hücre dansitesinin klinikopatolojik verilerle ilişkili olmadığı gösterilmiştir (37). Bellmunt ve ark. (33) transüretral mesane tümörü rezeksiyonu (TURBT) veya radikal sistektomi uygulanmış 160 hastanın patoloji örneklerini incelemiştir, tümör hücrelerinde PD-L1 pozitifliğinin ≥5% varlığı ile tanımlanmıştır. TİMİ'lerde %40 PD-L1 ekspresyonu izlenmiştir ve bu ekspresyonun metastatik hastalıkta uzun sağkalım ile ilişkili olduğu raporlanmıştır. Üç yüz on dört sistektomi örneğinden oluşan bir çalışmada ürotelyal tümör hücreleri tarafından PD-L1'in ≥5% ekspresyonu ve TİMİ'lerde PD-1'in belirgin olarak ekspresyonu artmıştır (35). Altı yaş beş hastanın incelediği bir çalışmada >%12,2 PD-L1 ekspresyonunun tümörde yüksek derece ve düşük rekürrens sağkalım ile ilişkili olduğu belirtilmiştir (39). Başka bir çalışmada ise tümör evresi arttıkça PD-L1 ekspresyon pozitiflik (%≥1) oranının da arttığı gösterilmiştir (sırası ile Ta, T1, T2, T3/4 ve CIS tümörlerde %7, %16, %23, %30 ve %45) (20). Yine başka bir çalışmada >%10 PD-L1 ekspresyonunun yüksek derece, kas invazyonu, nüks ve kısa sağkalım ile ilişkili olduğu belirtilmiştir (40).

PD-L1 ekspresyonunu değerlendiren çalışmalar incelendiğinde,

bu çalışmalarla bazı sınırlılıklar vardır. Bu sınırlılıklar;

dokunun alındığı organ ve alınış şekli (TURBT, sistektomi, nefroüterektomi), IHC değerlendirme farklılıklar (formalin ile sabitlenmiş parafin blok ve frozen doku), farklı PD-L1 antikorları (5H1, M1H1 ve Pdcd-1L1) ve ekspresyon pozitiflik oranlarındaki farklılıklar (%1 ile %12,2 arasında değişmektedir) (20,35,39).

Sonuç

BCG, KİOMK tedavisinde önemli bir basamak olduğu halde, tipki lokal invaziv ya da metastatik mesane kanserinde olduğu gibi, tedavi başarısız hastalarda ek tedavilere ihtiyaç duyulmaktadır. Bu bağlamda araştırılan immünoterapik ajanlardan kontrol noktası inhibitörleri (CTLA-4, PD-1 ve PD-L1 inhibitörleri) lokal ileri, inoperabl ve metastatik mesane kanserinde, özellikle TİMİ ve tümör hücrelerinde ekspresyon durumlarına göre, olumlu objektif yanıt oranları ve sağkalım avantajı sağlanmıştır. Her ne kadar araştırmalar tersinden yüreşe de bu inhibitörlerin KİMK'de neoadjuvan, adjuvan ve mesane koruyucu yaklaşımındaki kullanımı için ve KİOMK'de BCG refrakter hastalardaki kullanımı için araştırma sonuçları beklenmektedir.

Sorular

1. Mesane kanseri immünoterapisinde Bacillus Calmette-Guérin'in yeri ve etki mekanizması nedir?
2. İmmün yanıtta kontrol noktasının yeri ve inhibisyonunun etkileri nelerdir?
3. Mesane kanseri güncel tedavisinde kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinin yeri nelerdir?
4. Kasa-invaziv olmayan mesane kanseri tedavisinde kontrol noktası inhibitörlerinden bekлentiler nelerdir?

Etik

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Metastasis Targeted Therapies in Renal Cell Cancer

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Abstract

Metastatic renal cell cancer is a malignant disease and its treatment has been not been described clearly yet. These patients are generally symptomatic and resistant to current treatment modalities. Radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and hormonal therapy are not curative in many of these patients. A multimodal approach consisting of cytoreductive nephrectomy, systemic therapy (immunotherapy or targeted molecules), and metastasectomy has been shown to be hopeful in prolonging the survival and improving the quality of life in some of these patients. Patients with oligometastatic disease and good performance status have better results following this multimodal approach. Cytoreductive nephrectomy and adjuvant/neoadjuvant systemic therapies (immunotherapy, targeted therapy) have been investigated for treatment options of metastatic renal cancer patients. After better understanding of the genetic basis and the molecular biology of the renal cell carcinoma, targeted molecular therapies and immunotherapies have emerged as more efficient alternative therapy options with moderate adverse effects. Metastasectomy in some of these patients improves survival and quality of life, especially in those with lung and bone metastases. In this review we will summarize treatment options for metastatic renal cancer patients.

Keywords: Cytoreductive nephrectomy, immunotherapy, metastasectomy, metastatic renal cancer, targeted molecular therapy

Introduction

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is a highly vascularized cancer originating in the proximal tubule of the renal cortex, and accounts for approximately 85% of all renal masses. Despite the classic clinical triad of macroscopic hematuria, mass, and side pain, about half of all cases are detected incidentally during imaging. It is more common in males and accounts for about 2-3% of all cancers. The rate of locally advanced disease is approximately 20-25%, and metastasis is common due to its hypervasculature resulting from the molecular mechanisms involved in its etiology [von Hippel-Lindau, hypoxia-inducible factor, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)] due to the poor response of metastatic RCC (mRCC) to chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the development and use of current treatments have only slightly increased overall survival (OS) rates from 5 months to 15 months. Metastasis can occur in a wide variety of sites, commonly affecting the lungs, bones, distant lymph nodes, liver, and brain. In approximately 25-30% of RCC patients, the primary tumor has metastasized despite appearing limited to the kidney in nephrectomy (1). mRCC is associated with very high mortality; the average 2-year OS rate is only 10-20%, with average survival of 10 months (2).

Immunotherapy and target-specific agents developed based on

a clear understanding of the underlying molecular mechanisms of mRCC have offered slight survival advantages. However, it is important to consider that this limited increase in survival may be related to the fact that these treatments have been trialed and used in patients with more advanced and even metastatic disease compared to conventional and established treatment alternatives such as surgery, radiotherapy, or chemotherapy. In addition to these current treatments, the roles of cytoreductive nephrectomy (CN) and metastasectomy in the treatment of mRCC are areas of intensive research. In this review, targeted therapy/immunotherapy options for mRCC patients, the contribution of CN, and metastasectomy methods will be summarized in light of the current literature.

Targeted Therapies/Immunotherapy

In place of immunotherapy containing interferon (IFN) and interleukin (IL)-2, which have more side effects, the less toxic VEGF and target of rapamycin kinase (mTOR) suppressive therapeutic agents are currently favored. The order of use and combinations of agents constitute an important area of research in adjuvant/neoadjuvant targeted therapy/immunotherapy studies. Prior to FDA approval of sorafenib and sunitinib as first-line treatments in 2005, the toxic high-dose IL-2 provided long-term remission in approximately 10% of patients, though

its partial response rate was reported to be slightly better. Moreover, during patient selection, ideal candidates were identified as those with good performance status who had no bone metastasis, low volume tumor, and prior nephrectomy.

The first-line treatments sunitinib and pazopanib are orally administered drugs with multiple targets such as VEGF receptors, platelet-derived growth factor receptors (PDGF), and other tyrosine kinases. As first generation molecules, sunitinib and pazopanib have been found to elicit higher response rates and longer progression-free survival (PFS) rate than both placebo and IFN-alpha, and OS has been reported as 30 months (3,4). Motzer et al. (3) compared sunitinib and IFN in the treatment of mRCC, and reported their respective PFS rates as 11 and 5 months and response rates as 31% and 6%. Escudier et al. (5) compared sorafenib and placebo in patients who did not respond to immunotherapy and radiotherapy, and reported PFS as 5.5 months vs. 2.8 months, respectively. Although sunitinib and pazopanib were found to be equally effective in the COMPARZ study, pazopanib was more advantageous in terms of side effects and quality of life (6). Hudes et al. (7) compared IFN with weekly administered temsirolimus in mRCC patients with poor prognosis and reported longer OS [hazard ratio (HR) 0.73] and PFS (5.5 vs. 3.1 months) in the temsirolimus group. Combined therapy has not been shown to be superior to temsirolimus alone. It was reported that it may be appropriate as first-line treatment in low-risk RCC. Metabolic toxic effects (hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia) are side effects of this class of agents.

Axitinib is an orally administered VEGF inhibitor. A phase 3 trial comparing axitinib and sorafenib as first-line treatment demonstrated adequate safety and efficacy of axitinib and reported that it could be used as a first-line drug (8). It has also been reported that administering bevacizumab in combination with IFN-alpha as first-line treatment provides a higher response rate and longer PFS compared to IFN-alpha alone (9).

Patients whose disease progresses under treatment with a VEGF receptor (VEGFR)-targeted agent can be switched to another VEGFR-targeted agent or an mTOR inhibitor. According to phase 3 trial results, everolimus and axitinib can be used as second-line therapy after first-line VEGF-targeted therapy (10). Everolimus is an orally administered mTOR suppressant and is not recommended as first-line therapy. Placebo-controlled randomized phase 3 trials have shown that everolimus extends PFS in patients who exhibited progression during sunitinib/sorafenib treatment (11). Resistance may develop against VEGF or mTOR-targeted therapies over time. Combined use of VEGF and mTOR-targeted suppressants may delay resistance. Randomized trials comparing the combination of bevacizumab with temsirolimus or everolimus to bevacizumab and IFN-alpha alone showed that combined therapy did not increase efficacy, but resulted in higher rates of drug-induced toxic effects (12,13). In a randomized phase 2 trial, it is reported that the combination of everolimus and lenvatinib [dual VEGFR/fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR) inhibitor] is superior to everolimus alone in terms of PFS and OS (14). In combination therapies, a lower starting dose of each agent is necessary due to increased toxicity. The likely mechanism of resistance involves the tyrosine kinases FGFR, MET, and AXL in an

alternative non-VEGF pathway (15). In a phase 3 trial, treatment with cabozantinib, an inhibitor of VEGF receptor, MET, and AXL, increased PFS and OS more than standard everolimus therapy in patients who developed resistance to first-line VEGF-targeted therapy (16).

Vaccines and the targeting of cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein 4 (CTLA-4), programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1), and programmed cell death protein 1 ligand (PD-L1) as immune checkpoint inhibitors have opened new horizons in immunotherapy. Nivolumab is a fully human monoclonal immunoglobulin G4 antibody specific to PD-1. According to preliminary results, this checkpoint inhibitor elicited a better response compared to everolimus in patients showing progression with VEGF-targeted agents, and also resulted in fewer side effects and improved quality of life (17).

In brief, five antiangiogenic agents (pazopanib, axitinib, bevacizumab, cabozantinib, and lenvatinib), as well as the mTOR inhibitors temsirolimus and everolimus and the immune checkpoint suppressant nivolumab were approved by the FDA after sorafenib and sunitinib. Therapies should be selected according to individual factors, side effects, and comorbidities (caution should be exercised when using mTOR inhibitors in patients with diabetes mellitus or nivolumab in patients with autoimmune diseases).

The treatment of RCC with non-clear cell histopathology is the same as that of RCC, despite having different molecular properties. According to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines, these are rare cases and the chances of success with systemic therapy are low. In the literature, it is reported that sunitinib extends PFS more than everolimus in non-clear cell RCC, especially the papillary type (18). Limited response to chemotherapy was obtained with a doxorubicin and gemcitabine combination in sarcomatoid tumors and with a combination of platinum-based drugs in collecting duct carcinomas.

Various plasma, tissue, and tumor biomarkers are being studied to improve prediction and efficacy in targeted therapies. Further studies are needed to determine the predictive value of mTOR pathway genes TSC1/2 and mTOR genes in the prediction of the efficacy of these inhibitors, and the utility of high pretreatment PD-L1 expression levels as a predictive marker in nivolumab therapy. Intratumoral heterogeneity is an important problem in determining this type of marker.

A randomized phase 2 study demonstrated the superiority of cabozantinib to standard first-line sunitinib in moderate- and low-risk patients (19). Combination treatments such as lenvatinib with everolimus or nivolumab may be considered in cabozantinib-resistant cases. Currently, nivolumab and low-dose ipilimumab (a checkpoint suppressant that inhibits CTLA-4) are being compared with sunitinib. The treatment decision algorithm recommended in mRCC is summarized in Figure 1.

Although RCCs are known to be radiotherapy-resistant tumors, radiotherapy may be beneficial for the palliation of symptoms, especially in select cases with bone or brain metastasis. In patients with malignant and symptomatic bone lesions, it has been suggested that stereotactic ablative radiotherapy and bisphosphonate use may provide metastatic local control. In cases of brain metastasis, surgery, stereotactic radiosurgery

(STRS), or whole-brain radiotherapy may be preferred as other alternatives prior to systemic therapy.

Commonly used risk assessment methods are the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center model (lactate dehydrogenase, corrected calcium, serum hemoglobin, Karnofsky performance status, and time from diagnosis to start of treatment) and the International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium model (IMDC) (Heng Criteria) (low hemoglobin, high calcium, $\leq 80\%$ Karnofsky score, <1 year between diagnosis and initiation of systemic treatment, high neutrophil count, and high platelet count). Differences in systemic or local progression time lead to indecision regarding the application of medical or surgical treatment. Aggressive surgical resection of metastatic foci may not only be palliative, but may also provide long-term remission or cure. These criteria can be used in decisions regarding metastasectomy and first-line therapy. Ongoing studies of combination therapies in mRCC and these agents' mechanisms of action are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Metastasectomy

Metastasectomy can be performed at the same time as nephrectomy to ensure disease-free survival, upon the development of post-nephrectomy recurrence, or after systemic therapy following nephrectomy. It is shown to improve disease-specific survival (DSS) in patients with good overall performance status, with a low volume or number of metastases (solitary is optimal), and with metastasis limited to one organ (adrenal, lungs, bones). A positive response to immunotherapy has been reported to reduce tumor burden and associated metastatic disease by 20-30% and extend PFS or OS. For metastases of the brain and bones it is done as a palliative procedure. In oligometastatic disease, it is of greatest benefit to patients who have long disease-free intervals and are able to undergo full surgical resection. Currently, there is no randomized study comparing metastasectomy with medical treatment. Despite a lack of high-quality evidence, it is reported that

metastasectomy can improve outcomes in selected cases. In a large-scale study in which 28% of patients with mRCC underwent metastasectomy, survival time was 44.3 months among patients who underwent metastasectomy and 16.4 months among those who did not (21). In another series of 278 patients, Kavolius et al. (22) compared patients who underwent curative metastasectomy at the first recurrence with those who underwent noncurative surgery or were treated nonsurgically. Five-year OS was 44%, 14%, and 11%, respectively (22). They obtained the best results in patients with solitary lung metastasis. Positive predictive factors include metastasis in a single location at first recurrence, the number of metastases (≤ 3 foci), complete curative resectability of metastases, long disease-free interval, metachronous recurrence, and good performance status. In a recent systematic review, groups that underwent complete metastasectomy were compared with groups that underwent incomplete metastasectomy or did not undergo metastasectomy. Complete resection was associated with significant increases in DSS and OS (40.8 months vs. 14.8 months). HRs for DSS and OS indicated improved survival with complete resection regardless of organ location (23).

Combination of systemic therapy and metastasectomy: Data concerning the combination of targeted therapy and

Table 1. Selected ongoing studies of combination therapies as first-line treatment in metastatic renal cell carcinoma (20)

Treatment	Study
Pembrolizumab-le Gefitinib vs everolimus-le Gefitinib	CLEAR
Nivolumab-ipilimumab vs sunitinib	CheckMate 214
Atezolizumab-bevacizumab vs sunitinib	IMmotion151
Avelumab-axitinib vs sunitinib	JAVELIN Renal 101
Pembrolizumab-axitinib vs sunitinib	KEYNOTE-426
Autologous dendritic cell immunotherapy-sunitinib vs sunitinib	ADAPT

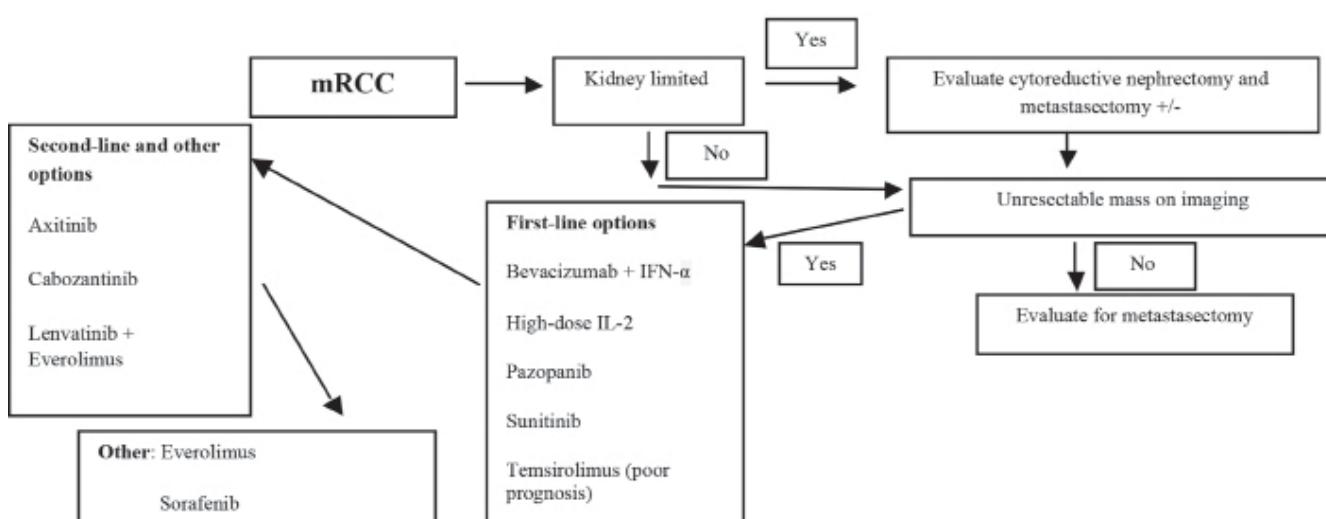


Figure 1. Recommended treatment decision algorithm for metastatic renal cell carcinoma
mRCC: Metastatic renal cell carcinoma, IL-2: Interleukin-2, IFN: Interferon

metastasectomy are extremely limited. The diversity of drugs and heterogeneity in treatment initiation times in the immunotherapy era present serious challenges in analysis. Karam et al. (24) assessed metastasectomy in 22 patients who had previously undergone at least one cycle of targeted therapy as pseudo-neoadjuvant therapy. All detectable masses were removed, 50% of patients survived disease-free, and the other 11 patients (50%) survived without the need for postoperative targeted therapy. Their study showed that targeted agents and metastasectomy provided long-term tumor-free survival in carefully selected patients (24). Prognostic markers can also be used for risk classification before metastasis surgery such as CN. Low-risk patients are more suitable for metastasectomy. Different studies have identified various influential factors, including resectability, disease-free interval, number of metastases, pleural infiltration, synchronous presence of primary RCC and pulmonary metastasis, metastasis >3 cm, presence of a histologically proven mediastinal and/or hilar lymph node.

Wedge resection, segmentectomy, lobectomy, and pneumonectomy can be performed for a solitary lung metastasis in selected cases. Bone metastasis is associated with shorter survival. Metastases in the bones have been associated with substantial bone pain, spinal cord compression with neurologic deficits, pathologic fractures, and/or hypercalcemia (inadequate effect of targeted therapies on the bones). Treatment approaches used in such cases are curettage and cementation and/or internal fixation, complete resection, and closed nailing procedures. Bone metastases are most commonly detected in the femur, humerus, and pelvis. Radiotherapy to the metastatic site can be applied after surgery in these patients. In addition to palliative pain relief, surgery may be recommended for solitary bone metastases to prevent pathologic fractures or spinal cord compression.

Because liver metastasis is an unfavorable indicator of disseminated disease, liver resection is less commonly reported in the literature. A solitary metastasis below 0.5 cm in size does not significantly affect survival. Patients with synchronous metastasis reportedly benefit less from surgery. Retroperitoneal recurrence (RPR) includes pathologically proven ipsilateral soft

tissue/psoas, ipsilateral lymph node, and ipsilateral adrenal involvement. Location of RPR (renal fossa/soft tissue, lymph node, or adrenal tissue) does not seem to affect DSS. Although not supported by sufficient evidence, aggressive resection of RPR may be curative in select patients.

Patients with brain metastasis have poor prognosis, with an average survival time of 4-11 months and a 5-year survival rate of 12%. A palliative approach is usually taken. Although central nervous system lesions may be asymptomatic, they may lead to loss of function, headache associated with edema, neuropathy, and sensory or motor loss over time. Treatment options include whole-brain/conventional radiotherapy, STRS, or surgical resection. Radiosurgery or surgical resection improves survival in select patients. Ikushima et al. (25) compared brain metastasectomy followed by conventional radiotherapy with STRS or conventional radiotherapy alone, and reported median survival times of 18, 25, and 4 months, respectively. Initial number of tumors has been identified as an independent predictive factor for central nervous system recurrence. The role of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in the progression or remission of brain metastases has not yet been clearly defined. The low response rates in survival are partly due to the inability of targeted therapeutic agents to cross the blood-brain barrier.

At 31%, the rate of concurrent thyroid and pancreatic metastases is high. Therefore, if one is detected, the other organ should also be investigated for metastasis. Table 3 shows the major organ metastases that occur in mRCC.

In brief, metastasectomy can improve survival in select cases as part of individualized treatment, and it can also be recommended for patients who do not respond to medical treatment alone. It should be kept in mind that in cases with isolated, resectable metastases, metastasectomy is of greatest benefit to those with long disease-free interval and good overall performance status.

Cytoreductive Nephrectomy

Surgery has an important role in mRCC. The removal of a primary renal tumor in mRCC is referred to as CN. In two randomized phase 3 studies by the Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG) and the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), CN followed by IFN-alpha was shown to provide a significant survival advantage compared to treatment with IFN-alpha alone (11.1 months vs. 8.1 months and 17.0 months vs. 7.0 months, respectively) (27,28). According to retrospective analysis of a large database, CN provided longer survival in those taking VEGF-targeted agents or mTOR inhibitors compared to the unoperated group (17.1 months vs. 7.7 months) (29). Patients with good performance status and low systemic disease burden are ideal candidates for CN. The average interval between surgery and initiating IFN is 19 days. It is not clearly understood why CN improves OS. A primary tumor isolates immune cells and antibodies. Removal of the primary tumor is believed to be important in the treatment of RCC due to immune mechanisms which are associated with spontaneous regression of metastases. Nephrectomy allows these immune factors to act on metastases. RCC causes the release of VEGF, PDGF, FGF, and transforming growth factor beta. Removal of the primary tumor prevents the circulation of these growth hormones, thus reducing angiogenesis in the

Table 2. Targeted agents used in metastatic renal cell carcinoma and their mechanisms of action	
Targeted therapy agent	Inhibited pathway
Bevacizumab	VEGF
Axitinib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Pazopanib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Sunitinib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Sorafenib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Cabozantinib	c-MET, AXL, VEGFR
Lenvatinib	FGFR, VEGFR
Everolimus	mTOR
Temsirolimus	mTOR
Nivolumab	PD1-PDL1

VEGF: Vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGFR: Vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, PDGFR: Platelet-derived growth factor receptors, FGFR: Fibroblast growth factor receptor, mTOR: Mechanistic target of rapamycin, PD1: Programmed cell death protein 1, PDL1: Programmed cell death protein 1 ligand

Table 3. Sites and frequency of metastases in metastatic renal cell carcinoma (26)

Organ	Incidence (%)	5-year overall survival (%)	Characteristics favoring metastasectomy
Lung	45-75	36-50	Complete metastasectomy Lung metastasis (<7) Negative lymph node >23 months RFS Negative mediastinal lymph node Resection if lymph nodes are present
Bone	15-34	35	Solitary metastasis If multiple, only bone
Liver	20	18-43	ECOG 0 pNO in nephrectomy Fuhrman 1-2 in nephrectomy Metachronous metastasis at diagnosis Solitary liver metastasis No extrahepatic involvement
Retroperitoneum	3	18-52	Solitary recurrence pNO in nephrectomy Recurrence size (cm)
Brain	17	12	ECOG 0 Age <60 Solitary lesion
Pancreas	≤1	72	Solitary metastasis No extrapancreatic spread No symptoms
Thyroid	≤1	51	Solitary metastasis Age <70 No metastasis in the contralateral kidney

RFS: Reflux finding score, ECOG: The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group

metastatic region.

Studies on the effect of immunomodulation on mRCC have established that response to IFN-alpha-2b and IL-2 does not exceed 15% in total. The addition of CN enabled reduction of total tumor burden and palliative symptomatic improvement (hematuria, pain, paraneoplastic symptoms such as anemia, hypercalciuria). This palliative improvement also increases tolerance to systemic therapies. However, it is also necessary to consider the perioperative morbidity and mortality of CN in difficult cases. In addition to publications indicating that CN is beneficial, there are also publications which suggest otherwise. It has been suggested that better results are obtained in patients who undergo primary nephrectomy and that metastases respond better to immunotherapy than primary tumors.

Although the SWOG and EORTC studies show that CN is beneficial in mRCC, it is not yet clear which patients will benefit. Certain patient characteristics were identified in those studies which are favorable for CN: Removal of at least 75% of the tumor burden, absence of central nervous system, bone, or hepatic metastasis, adequate pulmonary and cardiac function, the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of 0-1, and dominant clear cell histology. Besides these factors, it has been reported that regional lymph node involvement, vital symptoms, solitary or multiple bone or lung metastasis, sarcomatoid features, and the thyroid-stimulating hormone level >2 mIU/L are associated with poor prognosis. Other studies have identified various prognostic factors for survival: Low serum albumin level, high serum lactate dehydrogenase level, clinical stage T3/T4 tumor, presence of metastatic symptoms, presence of liver metastasis, blood transfusion, presence of a

retroperitoneal or supradiaphragmatic lymph node at least 1 cm in size, age ≥60 years, Afro-American race, tumor grade 3-4, primary tumor >7 cm, sarcomatoid histopathology, the presence of both visceral and distant node metastases, neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio (above or below 4), and good performance status. They suggested that sarcopenia (nutritional status), low body mass index, low preoperative albumin level, and low preoperative hemoglobin level (<3.5 g/dL) are poor prognostic factors. In patients undergoing CN followed by immunotherapy, immunotherapy response rates have been reported as 44% in cases of lung metastasis alone, 22% in cases of bone metastasis, and 14% for metastases in multiple locations. The number and location of distant metastases have been identified as an important prognostic factor for DSS. Lymph node involvement is a negative prognostic factor for survival compared with local disease. The contribution of immunotherapy to survival in patients with positive lymph nodes has not been determined. Trinh et al. (30) used the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results database to examine 1415 patients who underwent CN, 619 of whom had nodal disease. Median DSS was reported as 7 months in cases with lymph node involvement, and OS rates in patients with and without nodal disease were 40.2% and 65.8% at 1 year. At 5 years, these figures fell to 11.5% and 24.8%, respectively, and each additional involved lymph node was reported to increase cancer-specific mortality by 5.1% and overall mortality by 5.6%.

CN can be performed via open or laparoscopic approach. Patients who undergo the laparoscopic procedure generally tend to have shorter hospital stays and can start immunotherapy earlier. Partial nephrectomy can be performed in cases of

asynchronous bilateral renal tumor. Complication rates may be high depending on tumor size. When compared with radical nephrectomy, nephron-sparing surgery can be considered within the context of CN in very carefully selected cases. Complications may delay transition to systemic therapy. An increased complication rate has been reported in patients aged >75 years, those with low performance status, those with high comorbidities, and those with ≥2 metastases. Mortality rate and hospital experience are both correlated with complication rate. CN complication rates vary in the literature, but mortality and morbidity rates are higher compared to radical nephrectomy performed for local disease.

CN combined with systemic therapy is still practiced, while immunotherapy (IFN, IL-2) has been replaced by targeted therapies. The PFS advantage was 11 months in the group that underwent nephrectomy followed by sunitinib versus 6 months in the group treated with sunitinib without nephrectomy (3). Despite the bias in the selection of suitable patients for surgery, the IMDC noted the benefit of CN in terms of OS in the era of targeted therapy (31). According to this, patients with poor prognosis and expected survival less than 12 months did not benefit from surgery. In combination therapy research, studies on CN followed by immunotherapy are older, but studies on CN followed by targeted therapy are emerging. The role of CN is still debated in terms of evidence-based medicine. You et al. (32) performed CN before sunitinib or sorafenib in 45 patients and administered systemic therapy alone to 33 patients. They reported no statistically significant difference between the groups with and without CN in terms of PFS and OS. Gore et al. (33) reported significant improvement in PFS (12 months vs. 6.5 months) in patients who underwent CN prior to using sunitinib. Choueiri et al. (34) assessed the effect of CN on patients receiving targeted therapy. They compared patients who underwent CN followed by sunitinib, sorafenib, or bevacizumab therapy with those who received systemic therapy only. In the CN group, HR was 0.68 ($p=0.04$) for OS, and the overall response rate was 26.3% versus 11.5% in patients without CN. Heng et al. (35) compared patients who underwent CN prior to systemic therapy, and patients treated with targeted therapy only. The median OS of patients who underwent CN was 20.6 months, significantly longer than the 9.5 months in the group without CN. Hanna et al. (36) evaluated CN + targeted therapy in 5374 patients in the National Cancer Database and targeted therapy alone in 10,016 patients. The risk of mortality was found to be lower in the CN group (HR 0.45). Young age, being treated at an experienced center, low tumor stage, and clinically negative lymph nodes have been identified as good prognostic factors with CN. In a meta-analysis, Petrelli et al. (37) examined the OS results of CN and targeted therapy, and reported significantly reduced mortality risk with CN (HR 0.46; $p<0.01$). In the Clinical Trial to Assess the Importance of Nephrectomy (CARMENA) study, mRCC patients were randomized to a sunitinib arm and a CN + sunitinib arm. CARMENA is a non-inferiority study and upon completion will allow a better estimation of the benefits of CN. The outcomes of this study will elucidate the role of CN in the era of targeted therapy. Another important study is the Immediate Surgery or Surgery After Sunitinib Malate in Treating Patients with Metastatic Kidney Cancer (SURTIME) study by the EORTC, which is comparing nephrectomy + sunitinib to

+ nephrectomy. In the SURTIME study, it will be more difficult to analyze the true value of CN.

Conclusion

mRCC is a complex disease and carries a poor prognosis. CN, neoadjuvant/adjuvant systemic immunotherapy/targeted therapy and, if necessary, metastasectomy are current complementary approaches that partially extend the survival of patients. Large-scale, randomized prospective studies are needed to explore possibilities such as optimal sequences and combinations of these therapies.

Questions

1. Which targeted therapeutic agent was not recommended as first-line treatment?

Everolimus.

2. What is the most favorable location for metastasectomy?

The lung.

3. What are two important studies on the combined use of cytoreductive nephrectomy with targeted agents?

The CARMENA and SURTIME studies.

Ethics

Peer-review: Internally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: K.F.N., Concept: K.F.N., Design: K.F.N., Data Collection or Processing: B.Ö., Analysis or Interpretation: B.Ö., Literature Search: B.Ö., Writing: K.F.N..

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Derleme / Review

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Renal Kanserlerde Metastaza Yönelik Tedaviler

Metastasis Targeted Therapies in Renal Cell Cancer

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Öz

Metastatik renal hücreli kanser (mRCC) henüz kesin ve etkin bir tedavisi olmayan malign bir hastalıktır. Bu hastalar çoğu zaman semptomatiktir ve tam tedavileri zordur. Radyoterapi, kemoterapi ve hormonal tedavi bu hastalarda çoğu zaman etkisizdir. Çoklu tedavi yaklaşımı kapsamında sitoredüktif nefrektominin (CN), sistemik tedavilerin (immünoterapi veya hedefe yönelik tedaviler) ve metastazektoninin sağkalımı uzatabildiği ve hayat kalitesini geliştirebildiği bir grup hastada gösterilebilmiştir. Özellikle oligometastatik ve iyi performans durumu olan hasta grubunda çoklu tedaviler kapsamında CN, adjuvan/neoadjuvan sistematik hedefe yönelik tedaviler veya immünoterapiler, metastazektomiler değişik çalışmalarla konu olmaktadır. Renal hücreli kanserin genetik temeli ve moleküler biyolojisini daha iyi anlaşılmışıyla orta düzeyde yan etkilere sahip immünoterapi ve hedefe yönelik tedavi kapsamında çok sayıda alternatif tedaviler gündeme gelmiştir. Metastazektoni de özellikle akciğer ve kemik metastazları için bir grup hastada sağkalma ve yaşam kalitesinin geliştirilmesine katkı verebilmektedir. Bu derlemenede mRCC hastalarında uygulanabilecek tedavi alternatifleri özetlenecektir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sitoredüktif nefrektomi, immünoterapi, metastazektoni, metastatik renal kanser, hedefe yönelik moleküller tedavi

Abstract

Metastatic renal cell cancer is a malignant disease and its treatment has been not been described clearly yet. These patients are generally symptomatic and resistant to current treatment modalities. Radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and hormonal therapy are not curative in many of these patients. A multimodal approach consisting of cytoreductive nephrectomy, systemic therapy (immunotherapy or targeted molecules), and metastasectomy has been shown to be hopeful in prolonging the survival and improving the quality of life in some of these patients. Patients with oligometastatic disease and good performance status have better results following this multimodal approach. Cytoreductive nephrectomy and adjuvant/neoadjuvant systemic therapies (immunotherapy, targeted therapy) have been investigated for treatment options of metastatic renal cancer patients. After better understanding of the genetic basis and the molecular biology of the renal cell carcinoma, targeted molecular therapies and immunotherapies have emerged as more efficient alternative therapy options with moderate adverse effects. Metastasectomy in some of these patients improves survival and quality of life, especially in those with lung and bone metastases. In this review we will summarize treatment options for metastatic renal cancer patients.

Keywords: Cytoreductive nephrectomy, immunotherapy, metastasectomy, metastatic renal cancer, targeted molecular therapy

Giriş

Renal hücreli kanser (RCC) tüm böbrek kitlelerinin yaklaşık %85'ini oluşturan, böbreğin korteksinde proksimal tubül kaynaklı, çok damarlanma gösteren, makroskopik hematürü, kitle ve yan açısından oluşan klasik klinik üçlemesine rağmen yaklaşık yarısı rastlantısal olarak görüntüleme metotları ile saptanan bir kanserdır. Erkeklerde daha sık olarak görürlü ve tüm kanserlerin yaklaşık %2-3'ünü oluşturur. Lokal ileri hastalık oranı %20-25'leri bulmakta, etiyolojisindeki moleküller mekanizmalarla [von Hippel-Lindau, hipoksi uyarılabilir faktör, vasküler endotelyal büyümeye faktörü (VEGF)] sağlanan aşırı damarsal yapısı sebebiyle sıklıkla metastatik olabilmektedir. Metastatik hastalığın kemoterapi ve radyoterapiye yeterli yanıt

vermemesi sebebiyle genel sağkalım overall survival (OS) değerleri 5 aylık sürelerden, ancak güncel tedavilerin geliştirilip kullanılması ile ortalama 15 aylık sürelerle ulaşabilmistiir. Metastaz yerleri sıkılıkla akciğer, kemik, uzak lenf düğümleri, karaciğer, beyin başta olmak üzere çok çeşitlilik gösterebilmektedir. Yaklaşık %25-30 RCC'li hastada nefrektomide hastalık organa sınırlı bulunmasına rağmen hastalık metastaz yapmıştır (1). Metastatik RCC (mRCC) oldukça ölümcül bir hastalık olup ortalama iki yıllık genel sağkalım oranı sadece %10-20 ve ortalama 10 aydır (2). Metastatik böbrek kanserinin altında yatan moleküller mekanizmaların net anlaşılması ile geliştirilen hedefe yönelik ajanlar ve immünoterapi sağkalma kısmen katkı sağlamıştır. Bu tedaviler klasikleşmiş ve kendini ispat etmiş cerrahi, radyoterapi veya kemoterapi gibi tedavi alternatiflerine

göre daha ileri evre hatta metastazlı hastalarda denenme ve kullanılma olanağı bulmuş, bu da sağkalım sürelerindeki kısıtlı artış sürelerinin bu gözle de değerlendirilmesi gerekliliğini düşündürmektedir. mRCC'de bu güncel tedavilere ilave olarak sitoredüktif nefrektomi (CN) ve metastazektominin yeri de yoğun şekilde araştırılmaktadır. Bu derlemede mRCC'li hastalarda hedefe yönelik tedavi/immünoterapi seçenekleri, CN'nin katkısı ve metastazektomi yöntemleri güncel literatur eşliğinde özetlenecektir.

Hedefe Yönelik Tedaviler/İmmünoterapi

Yan etkileri fazla olan interferon (INF) ve interlökin-2 (IL-2) içeren immünoterapi yerine günümüzde daha az toksik VEGF ve rapamisin protein kompleksinin memeli hedefi (mTOR) baskılıyıcı tedavi ajanlarına yönelik olmuştur. Günümüzde adjuvan/neoadjuvan hedefe yönelik tedavi/immünoterapi çalışmalarında kullanımındaki sıralama ve kombinasyonları önemli bir araştırma alanını oluşturmaktadır. 2005'te Amerikan Gıda ve İlaç Dairesi'nin (FDA) sorafenib/sunitinib'i ilk tercih ilaçlar olarak onaylaması öncesinde oldukça toksik yüksek doz IL-2 kısmı yanıt oranını biraz daha iyi bildirilse de, yaklaşık %10 hastada uzun süreli remisyonu sağlayabilmıştır. Üstelik hasta seçiminde ideal adaylar iyi performans durumu olan, kemik metastazı olmayan, düşük hacimli hastalığı olan ve öncesinde nefrektomi geçirenler olarak belirlenmiştir. Birincil sıra tedavide sunitinib ve pazopanib VEGF reseptörlerini, platelet-kaynaklı büyümeye faktörü reseptörlerini ve diğer tirozin kinazlar gibi çoklu hedefleri olan, oral kullanılabilen ilaçlardır. Sunitinib ve pazopanib birincil kuşak moleküller olarak hem plaseboden hem de INF-alfa'dan daha yüksek yanıt oranına ve uzun progresyonuz sağkalım progression-free survival (PFS) oranına sahip bulunmuştur ve genel sağkalım (OS) için de 30 ay olarak bildirilmiştir (3,4). Motzer ve ark. (3) mRCC için sunitinib, INF karşılaştırmasında yayılmışlardır ortalama PFS sunitinib grubunda 11 aya karşılık 5 ay olarak, yanıt oranını ise %31'e karşı %6 olarak bildirmiştir. Escudier ve ark. (5) immünoterapi/radyoterapiye yanıt vermeyen hastalarda sorafenib ile plaseboyu kıyaslaşmışlar ve ortalama PFS'yi 5,5 aya karşı 2,8 ay olarak bildirmiştir (5). COMPARZ çalışmada sunitinib ve pazopanib eşit derecede etkin bulunsa da, yaşam kalitesi ve yan etkiler açısından pazopanib daha avantajlı bulunmuştur (6). Hudes ve ark. (7) kötü прогнозlu mRCC hastalarında haftalık verilen temsirolimus ile INF'yi karşılaştırmışlar, temsirolimus grubunda OS daha uzun zarar oranı (HR) 0,73 ve PFS ise 5,5'e karşı 3,1 ay bulunmuştur. Kombine tedavinin tek başına temsirolimusa üstünlüğü gösterilememiştir. Düşük riskli RCC için birinci sıra tedavi seçeneği olabileceği bildirilmiştir. Metabolik toksik etkiler (hiperglisemi, hiperlipidemi, hipercolesterolem) bu sınıfın yan etkileridir. Axitinib ise oral kullanılan bir VEGF inhibitördür. Axitinib'i sorafenib ile birinci sıralama için karşılaştırılan faz 3 çalışmada, yeterli güvenlik ve etkinlik gösterilmiş, axitinib'in ilk tercih ilaç olarak kullanılabileceği bildirilmiştir (8). Yine birinci sıra tedavide Bevacizumab'ın INF-alfa ile beraber uygulanması sadece INF-alfa kullanınlara

nazarın daha yüksek yanıt oranına ve uzun PFS oranı sağladığı bildirilmiştir (9). VEGF reseptörü (VEGFR) hedefli bir ajan kullanılırken hastalığı ilerleyen hastalarda diğer bir VEGFR hedefli ajan veya mTOR inhibitörüne geçilebilir. Faz 3 çalışma sonuçlarına göre birincil sıra VEGF hedefli tedavi sonrası ikincil sırasında everolimus ve axitinib kullanılabilir (10). Everolimus oral kullanılan mTOR baskılıyıcıdır, birinci sıra tedavi için önerilmemektedir. Sunitinib/sorafenib kullanırken progresyon gösteren hastalarda plasebo kontrollü randomize çalışmalarında bunun PFS'yi uzattığı faz 3 çalışmalarında gösterilmiştir (11). Zamanla VEGF veya mTOR hedefli tedavilere karşı direnç gelişebilir. VEGF ve mTOR hedefli baskılıyıcıların kombine kullanılması direnci geciktirebilir. Bevacizumab ile temsirolimus veya everolismus beraberliği randomize çalışmalarında bevacizumab ve INF-alfa ile karşılaştırılmış, etkinlik artışı görülmez iken, ilaçlara bağımlı toksik etkiler artmıştır (12,13). Randomize faz 2 çalışmasında everolismus ve lenvatinib [iki VEGFR-fibroblast büyümeye faktör reseptör (FGFR) inhibitörü] kombinasyonunun sadece everolismus'a nazarın PFS veya OS'da daha iyi olduğu bildirilmiştir (14). Kombinasyon tedavilerinde başlangıç dozunu her bir ajan için artan toksisite açısından daha düşük tutmak gereklidir. Olası direnç mekanizması alternatif non-VEGF yolunda FGFR, MET ve AXL tirozin kinazları içerir (15). Faz 3 çalışmada ilk sıra VEGF hedeflenmiş tedavi sonrası direnç gelişen hastalarda bir VEGF reseptör, MET ve AXL inhibitörü olan cabozantinib alan hastalarda standart everolismus tedavisi alanlara nazarın PFS ve OS uzamıştır (16). İmmünoterapi kapsamında aşilar ve immün kontrol noktası araclarının baskılıyıcıları olarak sitotoksik T-lenfosit antijen 4'ün (CTLA-4), programmed cell death protein-1(PD-1), programmed cell death protein-1 ligandının (PD-L1) hedeflenmesi yeni ufuklar açmaktadır. Nivolumab PD-1'e özgün tam insan monoklonal immünoglobulin G4 antikorudur. Çalışmaların erken sonuçlarına göre bu kontrol noktası inhibitörü, VEGF hedeflenmiş ajanlarla progresyon gösteren hastalarda everolismus alanlara nazarın daha iyi yanıt alınabilmiş ve OS uzamıştır ve düşük yan etki ile hayat kalitesinin geliştirilebilmesi sağlanmıştır (17). Özetleyerek olursak sorafenib ve sunitinib sonrası 5 antianjiojenik ajan pazopanib, axitinib, bevacizumab, cabozantinib ve lenvatinib, ayrıca mTOR inhibitörleri temsirolimus ve everolimus, immün kontrol noktası baskılıyıcısı nivolumab FDA onayı almıştır. Tedaviler kişisel faktörler, ilaçların yan etkileri ve eşlik eden diğer bozukluklara göre seçilmelidir (diabetes mellitus'ta mTOR inhibitörleri, otoimmün hastalıklarda ise nivolumab dikkatli kullanılmalıdır). Berrak hücreli olmayan histopatolojideki RCC'de, moleküler özellikleri farklı olsa da tedavileri RCC gibidir. National Comprehensive Cancer Network rehberine göre bunlar nadir olgular olup, sistemik tedavi ile başarı şansları düşüktür. Literatürde özellikle papiller tipte olmak üzere non-RCC'de sunitinib'in everolismusa nazarın PFS'yi daha iyi uzattığı bildirilmiştir (18). Kemoterapiyle sınırlı yanıt doksorubisin ve gembazatin kombinasyonu şeklinde sarkomatoid tümörlerde, gembazatin ve platin bazlı ilaçların kombinasyonu ise toplayıcı kanal karsinomlarında alınabilmiştir. Plazma, doku

ve tümör kaynaklı çeşitli biyobelirteçler ile hedefe yönelik tedavilerde öngörü ve etkinliklerinin artırılması üzerinde çalışılmaktadır. mTOR yolağına ait TSC1/2 ve mTOR genleri bu inhibitörlerin etkinliğini öngörmede, tedavi öncesi dönemde yüksek seviyelerde ki PD-L1 ekspresyonu nivolumab tedavisinde öngörüşel bir belirteç olabilmesi için daha çok çalışmaya ihtiyaç vardır. İntratümöral heterojenite bu tip belirteç tespitinde önemli bir sorundur. Randomize faz 2 bir çalışma orta ve zayıf riskli hastalarda cabozantinib standart birincil basamak sunitinib'e üstünlüğü göstermiştir (19). Cabozantinib'e dirençte lenvatinib ve everolimus veya nivolumab gibi kombin tedaviler düşünülebilir. Güncel olarak nivolumab ve düşük doz ipilimumab (bir kontrol noktası baskılıcısı, CTLA-4'ü engeller) ile sunitinib karşılaştırılmıştır. Şekil 1'de mRCC'de önerilen tedavi karar algoritması özetlenmiştir. RCC radyoterapiye dirençli tümörler olarak bilinse de semptomların palyasyonu için radyoterapi uygulanabilir, özellikle kemik veya beyin metastazında bazı olgularda fayda sağlayabilmektedir. Kötü ve semptomatik kemik lezyonlarında stereotaktik ablatif radyoterapi ve bifosfanat kullanımı ile metastatik lokal kontrolü sağlayabileceği ileri sürülmüştür. Beyin metastazlarında sistemik tedavi öncesi cerrahi veya stereotaktik radyocerrahi veya tüm beyine radyoterapi diğer alternatif olarak tercih edilebilir. Risk belirleme yöntemleri olarak sıklıkla Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) modeli (LDH, düzeltilmiş kalsiyum, serum hemoglobini, Karnofsky performans durumu ve tanıdan tedaviye başlama anına kadar geçen süre) veya International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium (IMDC) modeli (Heng Criteria) (hemoglobinin düşük olması, kalsiyumun yüksek olması, Karnofsky skorunun ≤%80 olması, sistemik hale gelmesinin bir yıldan kısa olması, nötrofil sayısının yüksekliği ve trombosit sayısının yüksekliği) kullanılır. Hastalığın sistemik veya lokal progresyon zamanındaki farklılıklar medikal-cerrahi tedavinin

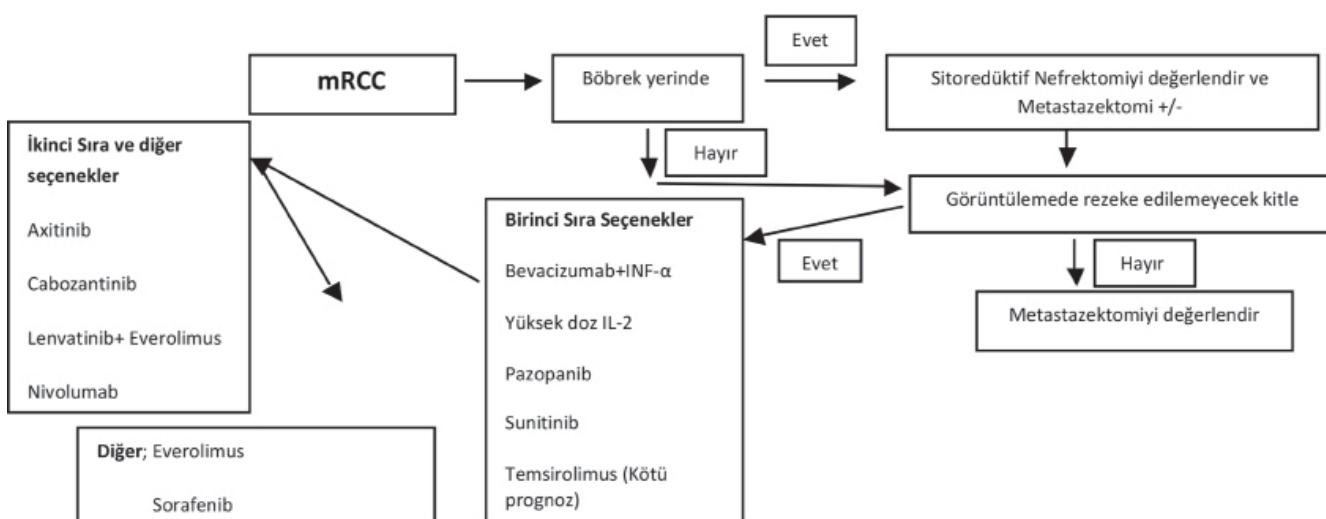
uygulanmasında karasızlığa yola açar. Metastatik odakların agresif cerrahi rezeksiyonu sadece palyatif değil, uzun dönem remisyon veya kür de sağlayabilir. Bu kriterler metastazektomi ve birincil sıra tedavi seçiminde kullanılabilir. Tablo 1 ve 2'de mRCC'de süren kombinasyon çalışmaları ve bu ajanların etki mekanizmaları özetalenmiştir.

Metastazektomi

Nefrektomi esnasında hastalıksızlığı sağlamak amacıyla, nefrektomi sonrası rekürrens esnasında veya nefrektomiyi takiben yapılan sistemik tedavi sonrası da yapılabilir. Genel performans değerlendirmeleri iyi olan, metastaz volümü veya sayısı az olan (en uygun soliter), tek organla sınırlı (adrenal, akciğer, kemik) metastazlı hastalarda kansere özgü sağkalma (DSS) olumlu katkısı olduğu gösterilmiştir. İmmünoterapiye olumlu yanıt tümör yükünün ve ilişkili metastatik hastalığı %20-30 azalttığı PFS veya OS'yi uzattığı bildirilmiştir. Beyin ve kemikte palyasyonu sağlar. Oligometastatik hastalıkta uzun hastalıksızlık dönemleri ve cerrahi tam rezeksiyon yapılabilenler en fazla yarar görenlerdir. Günümüzde metastazektomi ile medikal tedaviyi kıyaslayan randomize bir çalışma yoktur.

Tablo 1. Metastatik renal hücreli kanserde ilk sıra tedavi için devam eden seçilmiş kombinasyon tedavileri (20)

Tedavi	Çalışma
Pembrolizumab-lenvatinib vs everolimus-lenvatinib vs sunitinib	CLEAR
Nivolumab-ipilimumab vs sunitinib	CheckMate 214
Atezolizumab-bevacizumab vs sunitinib	IMmotion151
Avelumab-axitinib vs sunitinib	JAVELIN Renal 101
Pembrolizumab-axitinib vs sunitinib	KEYNOTE-426
Otolog dendritik hücre immünoterapisi-sunitinib vs sunitinib	ADAPT



Şekil 1. Metastatik renal hücreli kanserde önerilen tedavi karar algoritması
mRCC: Metastatik renal hücreli kanser IL-2: İnterlökin-2, INF: İnterferon

Kanıt seviyesinin eksikliğine rağmen metastazektonin seçilmiş olgularda tedaviye katkı sağlayabildiği bildirilmiştir. Geniş ölçekli bir çalışmada mRCC'li hastaların %28'ine metastazektoni yapılmış, yapılan ve yapılmayan hastalarda sağkalım (44,3'e karşı 16,4 ay) olmuştur (21). Kavolius ve ark. (22) 278 hastada ilk tekrarda küratif metastazektoni uyguladığı hastaları, nonküratif cerrahi ve cerrahi dışı tedavi uygulananlarla karşılaştırmışlardır. Beş yıllık OS %44, %14 ve %11 olarak bulunmuştur (22). En iyi sonuçlar tek akciğer (AC) metastazı olan hastalarda saptanmıştır. Olumlu öngörü faktörleri; ilk rekurrenste tek yerde (lokasyon) metastazın olması, metastaz sayısı (≤ 3 odak) ve küratif tam rezeksyonunun yapılabilmesi, uzun hastalıksız dönemin olması ve rekurrensin metakron, hastanın performans durumunun iyi olmasıdır. Güncel bir sistematik derleme tam metastazektoni ile tam olmayan veya metastazektoni yapılmayan gruplar karşılaştırılmıştır. DSS ve OS'da belirgin artış raporlanmıştır (ortalama 40,8'e karşı 14,8 ay). HR çalışmada DSS ve OS için organ yerleşimine bağlı olmaksızın tam rezeksyon ile geliştirilmiştir (23). Sistemik tedavi ve metastazektoni birlaklılığı: Çok az bilgi hedefe yönelik tedavi ile metastazektoni birlaklılığı konusunda mevcuttur. İmmünoterapi yanında ilaçların çeşitliliği ve başlanma zamanı konusundaki heterojenlik ciddi analiz sıkıntılara yol açmaktadır. Karam ve ark. (24) 22 hastada metastazektoniyi değerlendirmiştir, öncesinde en az bir seans yalancı neoadjuvan tedavi olarak hedefe yönelik tedavi uygulamışlardır. Görünür tüm kitleler çıkarılmış, %50 hasta hastalıksız, diğer 11 hastada (%50) postop hedeflenmiş tedavi ihtiyacı olmamadan sağ kalmıştır. Bu çalışmada hedefe yönelik ajanlar ve metastazektoni iyi seçilmiş hastalarda uzun dönem tümörsüz bir sağkalım sağladığı gösterilmiştir (24). Risk sınıflamasındaki sağkalım belirteçleri CN gibi metastaz cerrahisi öncesinde de kullanılabilir. İyi risk grubu hastalar metastazektoniye daha uygundur. Değişik çalışmalarında

rezeksyon yapılabılırlığı, hastalıksız dönem, metastaz sayısı, plöral infiltrasyon, primer RCC ile pulmoner metastazın senkron mevcudiyetini, metastazın 3 cm'den büyük olması, histolojik olarak kanıtlanmış mediastinal ve/veya hilar lenf nodu önemli bulunumuştur. Seçilmiş olgularda AC'deki tek metastazda kama rezeksyon, segmentektomi, lobektomi ve pnömonektomi uygulanabilir. Kemik metastazı daha kötü sağkalımla ilişkilidir. Kemik metastazları belirgin kemik ağrıları, nörolojik kayıplı spinal kord basıları, patolojik kırıklar ve/veya hiperkalsemi morbiditesi ile ilişkili bulunmuştur (hedefe yönelik tedavilerin kemiğe yetersiz etkisi). Bu olgularda küretaj ve sementleme ve/veya internal fiksasyon, tam rezeksyon ve kapalı civileme operasyonları yapılabilir. En sık kemik metastazları femur, humerus ve pelviste saptanmıştır. Bu hastalara operasyon sonrası metastaz yeriner radyoterapi de uygulanabilir. Palyatif ağrı rahatlamasına ek olarak patolojik kırıklar veya spinal kord basisının önlenmesi amacıyla tek kemik metastazlarında cerrahi önerilebilir. Yaygın hastalığın olumsuz bir göstergesi olarak literatürde karaciğer (KC) rezeksyonuna daha az rastlanılmaktadır. Boyutu 0,5 cm altında, soliter metastaz sağkalımı önemli oranda etkilemez. Senkron metastazlı hastalar cerrahiden daha az fayda görmüşlerdir. Retroperitoneal rekurrens patolojik olarak kanıtlanmış ipsilateral yumuşak doku/psaos, ipsilateral lenf nodu ve ipsilateral adrenal tutulumunu kapsar. DSS de RPR'nin lokasyonu (renal fossa/yumuşak doku, lenf nodu ve adrenal doku) arasında fark saptanmıştır. Kanıt düzeyi yetersiz de olsa seçilmiş hastalarda RPR'nin agresif rezeksyonu olası küratif olabilir. Beyin metastazı olnarda прогноз kötü olup, ortalama sağkalım 4-11 ay olup, 5 yıllık sağkalım %12'dir. Yaklaşım genelde palyatifdir. Merkezi sinir sistemi (MSS) lezyonları asemptomatik olabilmesine rağmen, zamanla fonksiyon kaybına, ödemle baş ağrısına, nöbete duysal veya motor kayıplara sebep olabilir. Tedavide tüm beyin/konvansiyonel radyoterapi, stereotaktik radyocerrahi (STRS) veya cerrahi rezeksyon uygulanabilir. Seçilmiş hastalarda radyocerrahi veya cerrahi rezeksyon sağkalımı geliştirir. Ikushima ve ark. (25) beyin metastazektoni ve takiben konvansiyonel radyoterapiyi STRS ve sadece konvansiyonel radyoterapi ile kıyaslamışlardır ortalama sağkalımı sırasıyla 18, 25 ve 4 ay olarak bildirmiştir (25). Başlangıçtaki tümör sayısı MSS rekurrensinde bağımsız bir öngörü faktörü olarak belirlenmiştir. Tirozin kinaz inhibitörlerinin beyin metastazlarında progresyon veya remisyona ile ilgili henüz kesin bir tanımlama yapılamamıştır. Sağkalımdaki bu düşük cevap oranları kısmen hedefe yönelik tedavi ajanlarının kan-beyin bariyerini geçme yeteneğinin yetersizliğine bağlıdır. Tiroid ve pankreatik metastazların %31 ile eş zamanlı insidansı yüksektir. Bu yüzden biri saptanınca diğer organa da metastaz olup olmadığı araştırılmıştır. Tablo 3'te mRCC'de başlıca organ metastazları gösterilmiştir. Özetlersek kişilendirilmiş bir tedavinin parçası olarak iyi seçilmiş olgularda metastazektoni sağkalımı geliştirdiği gibi, tek başına medikal tedavi ile yanıt alınamayan olgularda da önerilebilir. İzole cerrahi olarak çıkarılabilen olgularda hastalık tekrar aralıklarının uzun olduğu ve genel performans durumu iyi olan hastalar metastazektoniden en çok fayda gören grubu oluşturduğu bilinmelidir.

Tablo 2. Metastatik renal hücreli kanserde kullanılan hedefe yönelik ajanlar ve etki mekanizmaları

Hedefe yönelik ajan	Etki yolağındaki inhibisyon
Bevacizumab	VEGF
Axitinib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Pazopanib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Sunitinib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Sorafenib	VEGFR, PDGFR
Cabozantinib	c-MET, AXL, VEGFR
Lenvatinib	FGFR, VEGFR
Everolimus	mTOR
Temsirolimus	mTOR
Nivolumab	PD-1 PD-L1

VEGF: Vasküler endotelial büyümeye faktörü, VEGFR: Vasküler endotelial büyümeye faktörü reseptörü, PDGFR: Trombosit türübü büyümeye faktörü reseptörleri, mTOR: Rapamisin protein kompleksinin memeli hedefi, PD-1: Programmed cell death protein-1, PD-L1: Programmed cell death protein-1 ligand

Tablo 3. Metastatik renal hücreli kanserde metastaz yerleşimleri ve sıklığı (26)

Organ	İnsidans (%)	5 yıl genel sağkalım (%)	İyi metastazektomi özellikleri
Akciğer	45-75	36-50	Tam metastazektomi AC metastazı (<7) Negatif lenf nodu RFS 23 aydan uzun Negatif mediasten lenf nodu Lenf nodları varsa rezeksyonu
Kemik	15-34	35	Soliter metastaz Eğer çoklu ise sadece kemik
Karaciğer	20	18-43	ECOG 0 Nefrektomide pN0 Nefrektomide Furhman 1, 2 Tanida metakron metastaz Soliter KC metastazı Ekstrahepatik tutulumun olmaması
Retroperiton	3	18-52	Soliter rekürrens Nefrektomide pN0 Rekürrensin boyutu (cm)
Beyin	17	12	ECOG 0 Yaş <60 Soliter lezyon
Pankreas	≤1	72	Soliter metastaz Ekstrapankreatik yayılımın olmaması Semptom olmaması
Tiroid	≤1	51	Soliter tiroid metastazı Yaş <70 Karşı böbrekte metastaz olmaması

KC: Karaciğer, ECOG: Doğu Kooperatif Onkoloji Grubu, AC: Akciğer, RFS: Nükssüz sağkalım oranı

Sitoredüktif Nefrektomi

mRCC'de cerrahinin önemli bir rolü vardır. mRCC'de primer renal tümörün alınması sitoredüktif cerrahıdır. İki randomize (The Southwest Oncology Group; SWOG ve The European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer; EORTC çalışmaları) faz 3 çalışmada CN'nin sağkalım avantajı önceden INF-alfa alan ve cerrahi yapılmayanlara göre istatiksel anlamlı olduğu gösterilmiştir (11,1 aya karşı 8,1 ay; 17,0 aya karşı 7,0 ay) (27,28). Geniş veri tabanı taramalı retrospektif verilere göre VEGF hedefli veya mTOR inhibitörü alanlarda CN'nin cerrahi yapılmayan grubuna nazaran daha uzun sağkalım sağladığı bildirilmiştir (17,1 aya karşı 7,7 ay) (29). İyi performans durumundaki ve sistemik hastalık yükü düşük olan hastalar CN'ye ideal adaydır. Cerrahi sonrası INF başlama süresi 19 ortalama gündür. CN sonrası OS gelişmesindeki sebep henüz tam anlaşılamamıştır. Primer tümör immün hücreler ve antikorların tecridini sağlar. RCC'nin tedavisinde immün mekanizmaların önemi primer tümörün çıkarılması sonrası metastazların spontan regresyonu fikrine dayanır. Nefrektomi etkinliğini artırarak metastazlarda etkisine sebep olur. RCC, VEGF, platelet-kökenli büyümeye faktörü, FGF ve transforme edici büyümeye faktörü beta salınmasını sağlar. Primer tümörün çıkartılması bu büyümeye hormonlarının dolaşımını engeller ve metastatik alanda anjiogenez inhibe olur. İmmünonmodülasyonun mRCC'de ki etkisi konusundaki çalışmalarla INF alfa-2b'ye ve IL-2'ye toplam %15'i geçmeyen yanıtının olduğu bilinmektedir. CN gündeme gelmiş ve bu sayede total tümör yükü azaltıldığı

gibi palyatif semptomatik bir katkısı da sağlanmıştır (hematüri, ağrı, paraneoplastik semptomlar-anemi, hiperkalsüri). Bu palyatif iyileşme sistemik tedavilere toleransı da artırtır. Ancak CN'nin zorlu olgularda perioperatif morbidite ve mortalitesini de göz önüne almak gereklidir. CN'nin fayda sağladığını belirten yayınlar gibi aksini ileri süren yayınlarda mevcuttur. Primer nefrektomi yapılanların daha iyi sonuç verdiği fikri ve immünoterapi tedavilerine metastazların primer tümöre nazaran daha iyi yanıt verdiği görüşleri ileri sürülmüştür. SWOG ve EORTC çalışmaları CN'nin mRCC'de faydalı olduğunu gösterse de hangi hastanın fayda göreceği henüz net bilinmemektedir. CN'den fayda görecek hastaların bazı özellikleri tanımlanmışlardır; tümör yükünün en az %75'inin çıkarılması, MSS kemik veya KC metastazının olmaması, yeterli pulmoner ve kardiyak fonksiyon, Doğu Kooperatif Onkoloji Grubu performans durumunun 0/1 olması ve baskın berrak hücre histolojisidir. Bunun dışında literatürde kötü прогнозun rejiyonel lenf nodu tutulumu, yaşamsal semptomlar, kemik ya da AC yerine metastazın çoklu veya tekli olması, sarkomatoid özelliğinin olması, tiroid uyarıcı hormon seviyesinin 2 mIU/L'den çok olmasıyla ilişkili olduğunu bildirmiştir. Başka çalışmalarında sağkalım için prognostik faktörler belirlemiştir; serum albumin seviyesinin düşük olması, serum LDH düzeyinin yüksek olması, klinik evre T3/T4 tümör, metastatik semptomlarının olması, KC metastazının varlığı, kan transfüzyonu, en az 1 cm'lik retroperitoneal veya supradiyaphragmatik lenf nodu varlığı, ≥60 yaş, Afriko-Amerikanır, tümör derecesinin 3/4 olması, primer tümör boyutunun >7 cm olması, sarkomatoid

histopatoloji, viseral ve uzak nodu metastazının ikisinin de olması, nötrofilin lenfosite oranını (NLR) 4'ün altı ve üstü ve performans durumunun iyi olmasıdır. Sarkopeninin (beslenme durumu), vücut kitle indeksi düşüklüğü, preop albuminin düşüklüğü, hemoglobin preop düşüklüğü (3,5 g/dL altında) kötü prognostik faktör olduğunu ileri sürmüştür. CN ve sonrası immünoterapi alan hastalarda immünoterapiye yanıt oranları sadece AC metastazında %44, kemikte %22, çoklu lokasyonlarda ise %14 bulunmuştur. Uzak metastaz sayı ve yeri kansere özgü sağkalımda önemli bir prognostik faktör olarak belirlenmiştir. Lenf nodu tutulumu sağkalımda lokalize hastalığa göre olumsuz bir prognostik faktördür. Lenf nodu pozitif hastalarda immünoterapinin sağkalımı katkısı saptanmamıştır. Trinh ve ark. (30) Gözlem, Epidemiyoloji ve Sonuçlar data bankasından CN yapılan 1415 hastayı incelemeler 619 hastada lenf nodu pozitif bulmuşlardır. Ortanca kansere özgü sağkalım lenf nodu tutulumunda 7 ay, bir yıllık genel sağkalım ise lenf nodu tutulumunda %40,2'ye karşı olmayanlarda %65,8 olarak bildirilmiştir. Bu oran beş yıllık genel sağkalımda %11,5'e karşı %24,8 olarak saptanmış, her bir ilave lenf nodu tutulumunun kansere özgü mortaliteyi %5,1 ve genel mortaliteyi ise %5,6 oranında arttırdığı bildirilmiştir. CN açık veya laparoskopik yapılabılır genel eğilim laparoskopik olanların hastane kalış sürelerinin kısa olması ve immünoterapiye daha çabuk başlanabilmesidir. Asenkron bilateral böbrek tümörü sebebiyle metastatik hastalıkta parsiyel nefrektomi uygulanabilir. Tümör boyutlarına bağlı olarak komplikasyon oranları yüksek olabilir. Çok iyi seçilmiş olgularda nefron koruyucu cerrahi radikal nefrektomi ile karşılaşıldığında CN kapsamında düşünülebilir. Komplikasyonlar sistemik tedaviye geçiş geciktirebilir. >75 yaş, düşük performans skaları ve yüksek komorbiditeler iki veya daha çok metastazi olanlarda artmış komplikasyon oranı bildirilmiştir. Mortalite oranı ve hastanenin tecrübe ile komplikasyon oranı ilişkili bulunmuştur. CN komplikasyon oranları literatürde değişikendir ama mortalite ve morbidite oranları lokalize hastalıkta yapılan radikal nefrektomiye nazaran daha çoktur. Halen CN'nin sistemik tedavi ile kombinasyonu gündemde olup, immünoterapinin (INF, IL-2) yerini hedefe yönelik tedaviler almıştır. PFS avantajı sunitinib öncesi nefrektomi uygulanan grupta, nefrektomisiz gruba nazaran 11 aya karşı 6 ay olmuştur (3). IMDC cerrahi için seçilen iyi hasta seçimindeki yanlışlığa rağmen, hedefe yönelik tedaviler çağında CN'nin genel sağkalım sonuçları açısından yararını belirtmiştir (31). Buna göre kötü прогнозlu ve sağkalım bekletisi 12 aydan çok olmayan hastalar cerrahiden fayda sağlamamışlardır. Kombine tedavilerde CN sonrası immünoterapi çalışmaları daha eski olmasına rağmen, hedefe yönelik tedavi öncesi CN ile ilgili çalışmalar yeni gündeme gelmiştir. CN yeri halen kanıt dayalı tıp açısından yeri tartışılmalıdır. You ve ark. (32) 45 hastaya CN sonrası sunitinib veya sorafenib, 33 hastaya ise sadece sistemik tedavi uygulamışlardır. CN olan veya olmayan grupta PFS ve OS açısından istatistiksel fark saptamamıştır. Gore ve ark. (33) ise

sunitinib kullanımı öncesi CN uygulanan hastalarda PFS'yi 12 aya karşı 6,5 ay olarak anlamlı bildirilmiştir. Choueiri ve ark. (34) hedefe yönelik tedavi alan hastalarda CN etkisini değerlendirmiştir. Bir grup CN'yi takiben sunitinib, sorafenib, bevacizumab kullanırken, diğerleri sadece sistemik tedavi verilmiştir. CN grubunda HR OS için 0,68 ($p=0,04$) ve toplam yanıt oranı %26,3'e karşı %11,5 bulunmuştur. Heng ve ark. (35) hastalara sistemik tedavi öncesi CN uygulamışlar, bir kısmına ise hedefe yönelik tedavi vermişlerdir. CN uygulanan grubun OS değerleri 20,6 aya karşı 9,5 ay olarak anlamlı bulunmuştur. Hanna ve ark. (36) National Cancer Data Base'de ki 5374 hastada CN + hedefe yönelik tedavi, 10016 hastada ise sadece hedefe yönelik tedaviyi incelemiştir. CN grubunda ölüm riski daha düşük bulunmuştur (HR, 0,45). Genç yaş, tecrübeli merkezde tedavi, düşük tümör evresi, klinik olarak negatif lenf nodları CN ile iyi prognostik faktör olarak ilişkili bulunmuştur. Petrelli ve ark. (37) meta-analizde OS açısından CN veya hedefe yönelik tedavi sonuçlarını incelemiştir ve ölüm riskini CN için (HR 0,46; $p<0,01$) bulmuşlardır. The Clinical Trial to Assess the Importance of Nephrectomy (CARMENA) çalışmasında mRCC hastaları randomize olarak sunitinib kullanılanlar ve CN sonrası sunitinib kullanılanlarla kıyaslanmıştır. CARMENA çalışması yetersiz olmama çalışması olup, CN faydalarnı tahmin etmemize sonlanınca yarayacaktır. Bu çalışmanın sonucu bize hedefe yönelik tedaviler çağında CN'nin yerini gösterecektir. Diğer önemli bir araştırma EORTC'nin the çalışmasıdır Metastatik Böbrek Kanseri ile Tedavideki Sunitinib Malat Sonrası Acil Cerrahi veya Cerrahi (SURTME) bunda nefrektomi + sunitinib, sunitinib + nefrektomi kolları kıyaslamaktadır. SURTIME çalışmasında ise CN'nin gerçek değerini analiz etmek daha zor olacaktır.

Sonuç

mRCC kompleks bir hastalık olup, prognozda oldukça kötüdür. CN, neoadjuvan/adjuvan sistemik immünoterapi/hedefe yönelik tedavi ve gerektiğinde metastazektomi bugün için birbirini tamamlayan hastanın sağkalımını kısmen uzatan yöntemlerdir. Bunların sıralaması, kombinasyonları gibi olasılıklar hakkında geniş ve randomize prospektif çalışmalarla ihtiyaç vardır.

Sorular

1. Hangi hedefe yönelik tedavi ajanı birinci sırada önerilmemiştir? Everolimus.
2. Metastazektomi için en uygun lokasyon nerestir? Akciğerler.
3. Sitoredüktif nefrektominin hedefe yönelik ajanlarıyla kombine kullanımı ile ilgili iki önemli çalışma hangileridir? CARMENA ve SURTIME çalışmaları.

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A Rare Side Effect of Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin Therapy: Reactive Arthritis

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Abstract

Approximately 70-80% of bladder cancers are superficial tumors and not muscle invasive. Complete transurethral resection of the bladder tumour (TUR-BT) is the standard approach to these patients. Intravesical treatments such as adriamycin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, mitomycin-c and Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) may be performed after TUR-BT in order to prevent further recurrence or progression. BCG is generally used in high-risk patients and causes local or systemic side effects in less than 5% of patients. Osteoarticular side effects are very rare and usually manifest as joint pain and arthritis (%0.5-1). In this case report, we present the management of reactive arthritis in a patient treated with intravesical BCG for bladder cancer.

Keywords: Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, bladder cancer, reactive arthritis

Introduction

Bladder cancer is the seventh most common cancer in males worldwide, and eleventh most common when both genders are considered. It is 3-4 times more common in men than in women, especially after 60 years of age. Histopathologically, more than 90% of bladder cancers are transitional cell carcinomas and 70-80% are muscle non-invasive. Approximately 70% of non-invasive bladder cancers are Ta tumors, 20% are T1 tumors, and 10% are carcinoma in situ (1). The treatment approach in these cases is complete transurethral resection of bladder tumor (TUR-BT). A well-performed TUR-BT allows correct staging and administration of intravesical treatment, which can prevent recurrence or progression (2,3,4). These intravesical treatments include adriamycin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, mitomycin-c, and Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG).

BCG is obtained from an attenuated strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* (5). Intravesical BCG application, performed since 1976, is believed to have an antitumor effect (5,6,7). Severe local or systemic side effects related to BCG occur in less than 5% of patients. Local side effects include cystitis findings, hematuria, granulomatous prostatitis, and epididymuritis. Systemic side effects may manifest as fever, allergic reaction, sepsis, arthralgia, or arthritis (8,9). Of these adverse systemic effects, osteoarticular involvement is rare, occurring in 1-5% of cases. Osteoarticular side effects usually manifest clinically with joint pain and arthritis (0.5-1%) (10,11). In this case report, we present a patient who

developed reactive arthritis after undergoing TUR-BT for non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer and intravesical BCG treatment.

Case Report

Ultrasound examination in a 43-year-old male patient with hematuria revealed a pelvic mass approximately 3 cm in diameter. In cystoscopy, a papillary formation about 3 cm in size was observed on the left sidewall and was resected. Following TUR-BT, T1G3 was identified in histopathological examination and intravesicular BCG therapy was planned. The first instillation was done on postoperative day 18. After the fifth instillation, the patient developed complaints of fever (38.2 °C), fatigue, and pain, redness, and tenderness in his right big toe. The following day he developed pain in the right knee and shoulder joints and was readmitted to the hospital. After consultation with the rheumatology department, laboratory analysis of complete blood count, acute phase reactants, complete urinalysis, urine culture, and serological markers was requested. Complete blood count revealed leukocytosis (white blood cell count: $14.2 \times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$), acute phase reactants were elevated (C-reactive protein: 15.7 mg/dL), and erythrocyte sedimentation rate was 18 mm/L. Urinalysis and urine culture were normal. Serologic examination was negative for rheumatoid factor negative and positive for human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-B27. Anteroposterior X-rays of the right foot and knee were taken. X-ray to investigate the cause of swelling in the knee revealed no evidence other than edema in the soft tissue (Figure 1). The orthopedics and traumatology

department was consulted and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the right knee joint was requested. MRI of the right knee joint revealed fluid accumulation around the medial and collateral ligaments. Samples of the fluid were obtained under sterile conditions. On microscopic examination, 10-12 leukocytes were observed in each field. Cultures of the fluid were negative. Therefore, a diagnosis of septic arthritis was excluded.

Reactive arthritis secondary to intravesical BCG treatment was suspected due to fever, oligoarthritis, and HLA-B27 positivity. The patient was treated with prednisolone (32 mg/day for 7 days, followed by 24 mg/day), betamethasone (once a week), and diclofenac sodium. Steroid therapy was tapered and discontinued after 3 months, and the patient's complaints resolved completely (Figure 2).

The patient provided informed consent for his case to be presented in this report.



Figure 1. Soft tissue edema in the patient's right knee



Figure 2. The knee appears normal after treatment

Discussion

Osteoarticular side effects rarely develop due to intravesical BCG therapy. In a 2006 review, Tinazzi et al. (6) screened 48 articles and classified 61 autoimmune complications developed after intravesical BCG treatment. They reported that 64% of the patients developed joint pain and arthritis, 24% had Reiter's syndrome, 4% had arthritis and fever, 2% had psoriatic arthritis, and 2% had Sjogren's syndrome.

Reactive arthritis secondary to intravesical BCG treatment is usually seen in the fifth and sixth decades. It typically occurs after the fourth or fifth instillation. Onset occurred after the fifth instillation in our case. It is characterized by asymmetric oligoarticular involvement. The most commonly involved joints are the knee, wrist, and ankle. In addition to arthritis, patients may exhibit dactylitis, urethritis, and uveitis (7,12,13,14). Elevated acute phase reactants, inflammatory response in the synovial fluid, and negative mycobacterial cultures of synovial fluid are expected findings of laboratory studies. Other findings should raise suspicion of septic arthritis. Blood and urine analyses negative for infection support a diagnosis of reactive arthritis (7,9,11). We suspected reactive arthritis in our case due to the asymmetric articular involvement as well as the patient's high acute phase reactants levels and our findings of 10-12 leukocytes/field and negative cultures of fluid obtained from the knee.

The mechanism by which reactive arthritis develops secondary to intravesical BCG therapy is not yet clear. In a case report published in 2002, Pardalidis et al. (15) claimed that mycobacterial heat shock protein 65 shared similar homology to human cartilage tissue, and suggested that this may cause cross-reaction and increase cytokine production. The increase in cytokine release activates CD8+ T cells, and cellular immunity may lead to tissue damage (15). This autoimmune response is more common after intravesical BCG treatment in individuals who are positive for HLA-B27 and B7 (6). About 60% of patients are HLA-B27 positive, as was our patient.

Reactive arthritis secondary to intravesical BCG therapy resolves with treatment in most cases. The condition may become chronic in small proportion of patients, but they can be treated with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and corticosteroids either alone or in combination, and if necessary, immunosuppressive treatments such as methotrexate can be used (6,7).

Antituberculous therapy may also be needed in some patients who do not respond to treatment (7). The condition resolved in our patient after a successful three months of treatment with combined corticosteroid and NSAID.

Reactive arthritis is a rare side effect of intravesical BCG therapy. Despite the low incidence of osteoarticular side effects, it should be remembered that such reactions are more likely to occur in HLA-B27 and HLA-B7 positive patients.

In the event of osteoarticular side effects, the patient should be evaluated in collaboration with relevant departments, particularly rheumatology, to determine whether the clinical presentation is inflammatory in nature, to rule out septic arthritis, and to initiate treatment as early as possible.

Ethics

Informed Consent: It was taken.

Peer-review: Internally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: V.İ., Concept: B.K., V.İ., Design: B.K., Data Collection or Processing: B.K., Analysis or Interpretation: M.Z.T., E.E., Literature Search: B.K., Writing: B.K.

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Intravezikal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin Tedavisinin Nadir Görülen Yan Etkisi: Reaktif Artrit

A Rare Side Effect of Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin Therapy: Reactive Arthritis

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Öz

Mesane kanserlerinin yaklaşık %70-80'ini yüzeyel tümörler oluşturur. Bu hastalarda yaklaşım, tümörün tamamen transuretral rezeksiyonudur (TUR-M). İyi yapılmış bir TUR-M ve sonrasında uygulanacak intravezikal tedaviler ile daha sonraki nüks veya progresyon önlenebilecektir. Bu intravezikal tedaviler adriamisin, doksurubisin, epirubisin, mitomisin-c ve Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) olarak sıralanabilmektedir. BCG'ye bağlı lokal veya sistemik ciddi yan etkiler hastaların %5'inden azında görülmektedir. Sistemik yan etkiler içerisinde oldukça nadir izlenen osteoartiküler yan etkiler ise %1-5 oranında görülmektedir. Osteoartiküler yan etkiler genellikle eklem ağrısı ve artrit ile klinik vermektedir (%0,5-1). Bu olgu sunumunda mesane kanseri nedeniyle intravezikal BCG tedavisi verilen hastada gelişen reaktif artritin yönetimini sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Intravezikal Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, mesane kanseri, reaktif artrit

Abstract

Approximately 70-80% of bladder cancers are superficial tumors and not muscle invasive. Complete transurethral resection of the bladder tumour (TUR-BT) is the standard approach to these patients. Intravesical treatments such as adriamycin, doxorubicin, epirubicin, mitomycin-c and bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) may be performed after TUR-BT in order to prevent further recurrence or progression. BCG is generally used in high-risk patients and causes local or systemic side effects in less than 5% of patients. Osteoarticular side effects are very rare and usually manifest as joint pain and arthritis (%0.5-1). In this case report, we present the management of reactive arthritis in a patient treated with intravesical BCG for bladder cancer.

Keywords: Intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, bladder cancer, reactive arthritis

Giriş

Mesane kanseri tüm dünyada erkek popülasyonda en sık görülen yedinci, her iki cinsiyet göz önüne alındığında en sık görülen on birinci kanserdir. Özellikle altmış yaşından sonra olmak üzere, erkeklerde kadınlara oranla 3-4 kat daha sık görülmektedir. Histopatolojik olarak %90'ından fazlası transizyonel hücreli karsinom olup ortalama %70-80'ini kasa invaze olmayan mesane kanserleri oluşturur. Kasa invaze olmayan mesane kanserlerinin yaklaşık %70'i Ta, %20'si T1 lezyon ve %10'u karsinoma in situdur (1). Bu hastalarda yaklaşım, tümörün tamamen transuretral rezeksiyonudur (TUR-M). İyi yapılmış bir TUR-M ile doğru evreleme yapılabilecek ve uygulanacak intravezikal tedaviler ile daha sonraki nüks veya

progresyon önlenebilecektir (2,3,4). Bu intravezikal tedaviler adriamisin, doksurubisin, epirubisin, mitomisin-c ve Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) olarak sıralanabilmektedir.

BCG zayıflatılmış Mycobacterium bovis suşundan elde edilmektedir (5). 1976 yılından bu yana yapılan intravezikal BCG uygulaması ile antitümör etkinlik sağlanması düşünülmektedir (5,6,7). BCG'ye bağlı lokal veya genel ciddi yan etkiler hastaların %5'inden azında görülmektedir. Lokal yan etkiler sistitizm bulguları, hematüri, granüلومatöz prostatit ve epididimiorşit olup; sistemik yan etkiler ise ateş, alerjik reaksiyonlar, sepsis, artralji veya artrit olarak sınıflandırılabilir (8,9). Sistemik yan etkiler içerisinde oldukça nadir izlenen osteoartiküler yan etkiler ise %1-5 oranında görülmektedir. Osteoartiküler yan etkiler genellikle eklem ağrısı ve artrit ile

klinik vermektedir (%0,5-1) (10,11). Biz bu olgu sunumumuzda kasa invaziv olmayan mesane kanseri nedeniyle TUR-M yapılan ve sonrasında intravezikal BCG tedavisi uygulanırken reaktif artrit gelişen olgumuzu sunduk.

Olgu Sunumu

Kırk üç yaşında erkek hastaya hematüri nedeniyle yapılan ultrasonografide mesanede yaklaşık 3 santimetrelük kitle saptandı. Bunun üzerine yapılan sistoskopide sol yan duvarda yaklaşık 3 santimetrelük papiller oluşum izlendi ve rezeke edildi. TUR-M sonrası histopatolojik incelemede T1G3 mesane kanseri saptanması üzerine intravezikal BCG tedavisi planlandı. Postoperatif 18. günde ilk instilasyonu yapılan hastanın beşinci instilasyonundan sonra ateş (38,2), halsizlik, sağ ayak başparmağında ağrı, kızarıklık ve hassasiyet gibi şikayetleri gelişti. Bir gün sonra sağ diz ekleminde ve sağ omuz ekleminde ağrıları olan hasta hospitalize edilerek romatoloji bölümune konsülte edildi. Romatoloji konsültasyon sonucuyla tam kan sayımı, akut faz reaktanları, tam idrar tetkiki, idrar kültürü ve serolojik markerleri istendi. Tam kan sayımında lökositoz izlendi (beyaz kan hücresi sayısı: $14,2 \cdot 10^3/\mu\text{L}$), akut faz reaktanlarında artış saptandı (C-reaktif protein 15,7 mg/dL, eritrosit sedimentasyon hızı 18 mm/L). Tam idrar tetkiki ve idrar kültürü normal olan hastanın yapılan serolojik incelemelerinde romatoid faktör negatif, insan lökosit antijeni (HLA)-B27 pozitif saptandı. Sağ ayak ve diz eklemine yönelik direkt grafiler çekildi. Diz ekleminde oluşan şişlik nedeniyle çekilen direkt grafide yumuşak dokuda ödem dışında bulgu saptanmadı (Resim 1). Ortopedi ve travmatoloji bölümüğe konsülte edilip sağ diz eklemine yönelik manyetik rezonans görüntüleme istendi. Sağ diz ekleminin manyetik rezonans görüntülemesinde medial ve kolateral ligamanların çevresinde yoğun mayı saptandı. Mayının steril şartlarda örneklemesi yapılmış mikroskopik değerlendirmesinde her sahada 10-12 lökosit izlendi. Kültürde üreme olmadı. Mayı kültürünün steril olması nedeniyle septik artrit tanısından uzaklaştırıldı.

Ateş, oligoartrit ve HLA-B27 pozitifliği olması üzerine intravezikal BCG tedavisine sekonder reaktif artrit düşünüldü. Hastaya prednizolon (7 gün 32 mg/gün, ardından 24 mg/gün), betametazon (haftada bir) ve diklofenak sodyum tedavisi başlandı. Hastanın steroid dozları azaltılarak üçüncü ayın sonunda tedavi tamamlandı ve tüm şikayetleri geriledi (Resim 2).

Hastadan olgu sunumunda kullanılmak üzere bilgileri onayı ile alınmıştır.

Tartışma

Intravezikal BCG tedavisi sırasında gelişen osteoartiküler yan etkiler nadir görülmektedir. Tinazzi ve ark. (6) tarafından 2006



Resim 1. Sağ diz ekleminde yumuşak doku ödemi



Resim 2. Tedavi sonrası normal diz grafisi

yılında yapılan derlemede 48 yayın taranmış, intravezikal BCG tedavisi sırasında gelişen 61 otoimmün komplikasyon sınıflandırılmıştır. Yapılan çalışmada, hastaların %64'ünde eklem ağrısı ve artrit, %24'ünde Reiter sendromu, %4'ünde artrit ve ateş, %2'sinde psöriyatik artrit, %2'sinde ise Sjogren sendromu geliştiği bildirilmiştir (6).

Intravezikal BCG tedavisine sekonder reaktif artrit genellikle beşinci ve altıncı dekadda görülmektedir. En sık dört ya da beşinci instilasyondan sonra meydana gelmektedir. Bizim olgumuzda da beşinci instilasyondan sonra izlenmiştir. Karakteristik olarak asimetrik oligoartiküler tutulum şeklinde izlenmektedir. En sık tutulan eklemler diz, el bileği ve ayak bileği olarak sayılabilir. Artritin yanı sıra daktilit, üretrit ve üveit de tabloya eşlik edebilir (7,12,13,14). Yapılan laboratuvar incelemelerinde akut faz reaktanlarında artış, eklem sıvısında enflamatuvardır yanıt ve eklem sıvısı mycobacteria kültürünün negatif olması beklenir. Aksi halde septik artrit ön planda akla gelmelidir. Kan ve idrar tahlillerinin enfeksiyon açısından negatif olması reaktif artrit lehinedir (7,9,11). Olgumuzda üç eklemin asimetrik tutulması; ayrıca kanda akut faz reaktanlarının yüksek bulunması, diz ekleminden yapılan ponksiyon sonucu 10-12 lökosit olup kültürde üreme olmaması ön planda reaktif artrit tanısını akla getirmiştir.

Intravezikal BCG tedavisine sekonder reaktif artrit gelişiminin mekanizması henüz çok açık değildir. Pardalidis ve ark. (15) 2002 yılında yayinallydiği olgu sunumunda, mycobakteriumun sahip olduğu HSP 65'in (ısı şok proteinii) insan kıkıldak dokusuyla benzer homolojiye sahip olduğunu, bu durumun çapraz reaksiyona neden olup sitokinlerin salınımını artırabileceğini bildirmiştirlerdir. Sitokinlerin salınımının artışına bağlı olarak CD8 aktive olup hücresel immünite ile doku hasarı meydana gelebilmektedir (15). Bu otoimmün cevap HLA-B27 ve B7 pozitif bireylere intravezikal BCG uygulaması sonrası daha sık görülmektedir (6). Bizim olgumuzda da olguların yaklaşık %60'ında olduğu gibi HLA-B27 pozitiftir.

Intravezikal BCG tedavisine sekonder reaktif artrit, hastaların büyük bir kısmında tedaviyle gerilemektedir. Hastaların arasında kronik olabilmekle beraber bu hastaların tedavisinde non-steroidal antienflamatuvlar ilaçlar (NSAID), kortikosteroidler tek başına veya kombinе kullanılabilmekte; ihtiyaç halinde metotreksat gibi immünsupresan tedavilere de başvurulabilmektedir (6,7).

Bazı olgularda tedaviye direnç söz konusu olduğunda antitüberküloz tedavi de gerekebilmektedir (7). Olgumuzda üç aylık tedavi (kortikosteroid ve NSAID kombinasyonu) ile başarılı bir sonuç alınmış olup hastalık gerilemiştir.

Intravezikal BCG tedavisinin nadir yan etkilerinden biri de reaktif artrittir. Her ne kadar osteoartiküler yan etkiler az görülse de HLA-B27 ve HLA-B7 pozitif hastalarda bu yan etkilerin çıkma olasılığının daha fazla olduğu akla getirilmelidir.

Osteoartiküler yan etkiler görüldüğünde romatoloji başta olmak üzere ilgili kliniklerle irtibat halinde olunup tablonun enflamatuvardır yanıt ve ortaya konulmalı, septik artrit tanısı her zaman ekarte edilmeli ve en kısa süre içinde tedaviye başlanılmalıdır.

Eтик

Hasta Onayı: Hastadan olgu sunumunda kullanılmak üzere bilgileri onayı ile alınmıştır.

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Prostate and Bladder Metastases of Malignant Melanoma: Case Report

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Abstract

Prostate or bladder metastases of malignant melanoma (MM) are rarely encountered in clinical practice. To our knowledge, coexistence of prostate and bladder metastasis of MM has not been reported to date. We present the case of a 58-year-old male who was diagnosed with MM of the umbilical skin 2.5 years earlier and who presented to us with intermittent painless macroscopic hematuria and lower urinary tract symptoms. The prostate and bladder lesions were removed as completely as possible by transurethral resection. Pathological examination demonstrated simultaneous prostate and bladder metastases of MM.

Keywords: Bladder, malignant melanoma, metastases, prostate

Introduction

Secondary tumors of prostate and bladder are usually seen as metastasis or direct tumoral extension (1). Metastasis of malignant melanoma (MM) to prostate or bladder rarely causes hematuria and lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) before it becomes a systemically manifest disease (1). Although, prostate or bladder metastasis of MM generally detected during autopsy and extremely rare in clinical practice, with less than 20 cases reported for bladder metastasis and only 2 cases reported for prostate metastasis of MM in the last 30 years in the English literature (2). We report a case of simultaneously detected MM metastases into the prostate and bladder. To our knowledge, this is the first reported case of metastatic MM of the prostate and bladder identified simultaneously.

Case Report

A 58-year-old male patient presented with recurrent painless gross hematuria for one month and LUTS for 3 months. He had a history of wide local excision for his umbilical mass and inguinal lymph node dissection 2.5 years ago, which is

diagnosed as MM pathologically. He had received interferon alpha treatment for 2 years until bilateral pulmonary metastasis and mediastinal lymphadenopathy occurred 4 months ago. Physical examination revealed excision scar on the umbilicus and right lower quadrant. Digital rectal examination revealed an asymmetrically enlarged, irregular and firm prostate. Prostate-specific antigen level was within normal limits (0.62 ng/mL). Urinalysis, urine culture and urine cytology were normal except hematuria. Ultrasonographic evaluation revealed moderate hydronephrosis on the right kidney and increased bladder wall thickness, especially, at the right side with irregular borders, hypoechoic segmental lesions occupied almost whole prostate and bladder are also demonstrated. Magnetic resonance imaging of the abdomen showed filling defect and wall thickening at the right side of bladder and multiple lymphadenopathy located on obturator, para-iliac and inguinal regions. Large mass lesion in the bladder with prostatic involvement and right ureterohydronephrosis also noted. During cystoscopy, darkly (black) pigmented lesions were seen on the prostatic urethra, bladder neck and trigone (Figure 1a,b and c). Then, palliative transurethral resection of the

lesions was performed (Figure 1a and 1c). After transurethral resection of lesions, hematuria ceased and the LUTS subsided. Histologic sections obtained from both prostate and bladder neck composed of sheets of the neoplastic cells with large eosinophilic cytoplasm and large and darkly basophilic nuclei (Figure 2a and 2b). During cystoscopy, darkly (black) pigmented lesions were seen on the prostatic urethra, bladder neck and trigone (Figure 1a, b, c). Then, palliative transurethral resection of the lesions was performed (Figure 1a, c). After transurethral resection of lesions, hematuria ceased and the LUTS subsided. Histologic sections obtained from both prostate and bladder neck composed of sheets of the neoplastic cells with large eosinophilic cytoplasm and large and darkly basophilic nuclei (Figure 2a, b). Immunohistochemical (IHC) study illustrated human melanoma black-45 and MART1 positivity which are rather specific for MM (Figure 2c, d). Some of these cells also had conspicuous nucleoli and some of them contained intracytoplasmic melanin pigmentation (Figure 2b, e). Informed consent form was obtained from the patient.

Discussion

MM is an aggressive neoplasm and its incidence is increasing worldwide (3). MM is potentially curable when detected early and treated appropriately. Recurrence and metastasis are not uncommon, which also carries a grave prognosis with significant morbidity and mortality (4). Except the regional

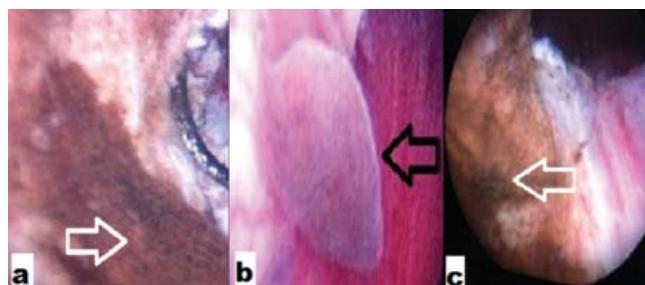


Figure 1. a, b, and c) Transurethral resection of lesions which located at bladder and prostate performed at the same time to relief his symptoms

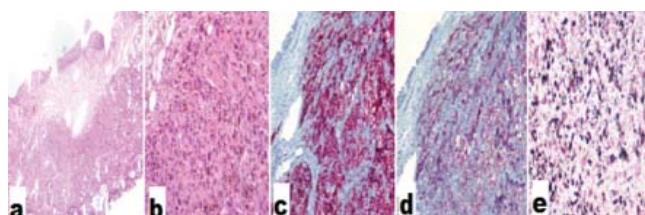


Figure 2. a) Neoplastic infiltration beneath the urothelium (hematoxylin and eosin, 20x). b) The same tumor is also seen in the prostate. Tumor cells contained an intracytoplasmic brown pigment (melanin) (hematoxylin and eosin, 100x). c) Human melanoma black-45 and d) MART1 immunoreactivity (100x immunohistochemical). e) Histochemical staining with Masson Fontana verified the existence of intracytoplasmic melanin pigment (Masson Fontana, 200x)

lymph nodes, most common metastasis sites for MM are lungs, liver and brain. Hence, its metastasis can be seen any organs of the human body, clinicians can be faced with various clinical presentation related with affected organs (1,3).

Involvement of urinary system and male genital organs by a secondary tumor can be seen either as a direct tumoral extension or metastasis (1). Metastatic neoplasm of the urinary bladder and prostate are extremely rare and 2% of the bladder tumors and 2.1% of the prostate tumors are related with metastases from the other primary tumors, respectively (5,6). Actually, genitourinary system is a common site for metastasis of MM, as many as 37% metastases had been found in autopsy series of patients with MM. Probably other organ metastasis might have caused dead of the patients with MM before the emergence of urinary symptoms (7).

Most common presenting complaints of urinary metastasis of MM are LUTS and painless macroscopic hematuria (2). Although LUTS might be more prominent in patients with prostatic metastasis than bladder metastasis, symptomatic ambiguity and resemblance with benign prostatic hyperplasia, overactive bladder or urinary tract infection symptoms may lead to misdiagnosis and delay correct therapy (2,5). Unfortunately, macroscopic hematuria is a delayed clinical sign of locally advanced disease for bladder metastasis of MM (2,4).

Though urine cytology may have detected melanoma cells in prostate and bladder metastases of MM, cytomorphology and special stain must be combined with previous clinical history of patient's melanoma for the accurate diagnosis cystoscopic findings (8). Clinicians must be remember that, without site predominating, the location of the primary lesion is also highly variable and metastatic lesions of the MM could be detected soon after or over 20 years later (2).

Systemic metastasis of MM are compatible with stage 4 disease and these patients have poor median survival of 6-10 months and less than 5% surviving more than 5 years (8,9). First sites of the metastasis, number of the metastases and resectability of the metastasis are very important prognostic factors about survival rates (4). Non-visceral metastases at first relapse i.e. in skin, subcutaneous tissues, distant lymph nodes and lung also related with better survival rate than visceral metastasis i.e. in liver, bone and brain (4).

Treatment approaches in the urinary metastasis consists of conservative management that includes radiotherapy, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and endoscopic resection of the lesions for moderating symptoms. Partial or complete cystectomy and radical prostatectomy should be thought as a treatment modality for the patient potentially curable with solitary metastasis and with longer life expectancy (4,8,9).

Despite extensive clinical researches and promising development about immune modulation and numerous immunotherapy strategies, the treatment options for metastatic MM have been limited, therefore the prognosis of this entity is still poor regardless of treatment modality and the survival rate of these patients has not changed over the past 30 years (4,10). Management of metastatic MM should be tailored to the patient's condition, symptoms and number and size of metastases, clinicians should be considering a poor prognosis of stage 4 disease when choosing treatment modality also.

Ethics

Informed Consent: Informed consent form was obtained from the patient.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Authorship Contributions

Concept: H.C.I., Design: A.G., Z.D., Data Collection or Processing: A.G., S.Y., Analysis or Interpretation: H.C.I., Y.K., Literature Search: S.Y., Writing: A.G., Z.D.

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