Weekly Regimen Not Optimal for cisplatin

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BY DOUG BRUNK
San Diego Bureau

Palm Springs, Calif. — Women with cervical cancer who received weekly cisplatin treatment had significantly worse progression-free survival rates and significantly worse toxicity than did those who received cisplatin 5 days in a row every 21 days, according to results of a long-term, single-site, retrospective study.

The finding is important, because about 5 years ago the weekly regimen became the standard of care, due primarily to the ease of weekly dosing and the lower cost of outpatient administration, Dr. Mark Einstein said in an interview at the annual meeting of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists.

“In the past we used to do an inpatient infusional dosing of cisplatin concomitantly with radiation therapy for the treatment of locally advanced cervical cancer,” he explained. “In 2001 there was a switch over to outpatient weekly regimens, but there was never really a trial to show that the [outcomes] are the same between the two regimens.”

He and his associates studied 77 consecutive patients with stages IB2-IV cervical cancer who were treated with cisplatin concomitant with external radiotherapy and two 9-Gy high-dose-rate brachytherapy insertions at the Montefiore Medical Center of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, N.Y., between 1995 and 2004. The 50 women in the 5-day treatment group received cisplatin 20 mg/m² for 5 days in a row every 21 days, according to results of a long-term, single-site, retrospective study.

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