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Title: Ifosfamide (IFO) is a valuable alternative to cisplatin (CDDP) for first-line chemotherapy (CT) in advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC): A meta-analysis

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Body: Background: CDDP is the cornerstone of CT in advanced NSCLC while presenting with substantial acute and chronic toxicity. IFO-based regimens were tested in 3 phase III trials with conflicting results. We aimed to compare IFO to CDDP regimens by meta-analysing those studies. Methods: From each trial, we extracted an estimate of the hazard ratio (HR) for group comparisons and aggregated them into a combined HR. Individual patients' data were used when available; otherwise HR and 95% CI were provided by the authors. Results: Three trials are available for the meta-analysis. Sculier et al (2002) compared CDDP (plus carboplatin) with either gemcitabine (GEM)(CCG) or IFO (CCI) to IFO-GEM (IG). Berghmans et al (yet unpublished) randomised patients to CDDP-IFO-GEM (GIP), IG or CDDP-Docetaxel (DP). In the FAST trial (Boni et al, 2012), cisplatin-based regimens (GIP, CDDG-GEM) were compared to GEM-vinorelbine (VNR) and IFO-GEM-VNR.

Meta-analysis results

| | N patients | Q HET | HR | 95% CI |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------|------|-----------|
| GIP vs IG (Berghmans et al) | 460 | | 0.96 | 0.79-1.16 |
| GIP vs IFO-GEM-VNR (Boni et al) | 221 | | 1.40 | 1.06-1.85 |
| CCI vs IG (Sculier et al) | 188 | | 0.75 | 0.55-1.02 |
| CDDP-IFO vs IFO without CDDP | 869 | p=0.01 | 1.01 | 0.73-1.38 |
| DP vs IG (Berghmans et al) | 462 | | 0.93 | 0.77-1.14 |
| CDDP-GEM vs IFO-GEM-VNR (Boni et al) | 217 | | 1.26 | 0.96-1.65 |
| CCG vs IG (Sculier et al) | 186 | | 0.92 | 0.68-1.24 |
| CDDP without IFO vs IFO without CDDP | 865 | p=0.17 | 1.01 | 0.88-1.16 |

Q HET: heterogeneity test; CI = confidence interval Conclusion: Regimens with cisplatin and with ifosfamide are associated with similar survival (at least no detectable difference), suggesting that ifosfamide-based doublets are an alternative to cisplatin-based ones.