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Title: Single agent gemcitabine or docetaxel in the second-line therapy for patients with non-small cell lung cancer previously treated with platin-based chemotherapy

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Body: Purpose: To compare the efficacy and toxicity of gemcitabine versus docetaxel in the second-line setting of the NSCLC patients who previously treated with platin-based combination chemotherapy. Patients and Methods: We retrospectively evaluated the medical records of 57 patients treated with single agent gemcitabine or docetaxel in second-line setting of advanced NSCLC who received one prior a platinum-based therapy. Results: Fifty-seven patients were included in this study. The mean age of patients was 56.72±8.39 years. There were 55 (96.5%) male patients and 2 (3.5%) female patients. Forty of them received docetaxel and 17 of them received gemcitabine. The mean number of chemotherapy cycles was 6.8±4.0 in the gemcitabine group, 4.6±3.0 cycles in the docetaxel group. Overall response rates were 8% and 12% for gemsitabine and docetaxel, respectively (p=0.02). The median time to progression was 8 and 5 months gemcitabine and docetaxel, respectively. The median survival time was 22 versus 21 months for gemcitabine and docetaxel, respectively. There was no difference in overall survival between two groups. In addition, there was no difference between two groups in terms of incidence of the adverse effects. All of the hematological side effects were in grade 1/2. No major toxicity was encountered to stop the drug for both groups. Conclusion: Treatment with gemcitabine demonstrated clinically equivalent efficacy and safety profile compared with docetaxel treatment in the second-line setting for patients with NSCLC.