Lung cancer therapy treatments in the elderly

KEYWORDS: Lung Neoplasms; Aged; Treatment Outcome

Lung cancer is one of the most frequent malignant diseases. Every third person that died of the malignant disease was treated of lung cancer too. It is predominantly a disease of the elderly. The main aim of this report is to estimate the percentage of the elderly in the whole number of patients with lung cancer, to determine the type of a treatment, and to predict the outcome according to the following: the age, socioeconomic background, tumor histopathology, and histological gradus. From 1995 through 1999, 69 lung cancer patients were treated at the Oncology and Pulmonary Departments, Medical Center in Gornji Milanovac. In the main group were the patients older than 60 years (34); in the control group were all the others (35). The average age of the patients in the main group was 66.8 and in the control group 51.3 years. Statistical difference was found after the analysis of the social status and educational level of the patients. Histopathology and histological gradus of tumor were similar. Both groups were treated by multimodal methods. Statistical difference was verified since in the main group chemotherapy was most frequent method of choice. Comparing the appearance of relapse to the appearance of metastasis, a statistical difference was found. The methods of choice and final results were similar. Lung cancer is the most common cause of cancer-related deaths among both men and women. It usually appears in the elderly from lower social class. At the time of diagnosis the cancer is frequently in advanced stage so the multimodal treatment with chemotherapy is used. Although lung cancer may be curable if detected early, most cases are fatal.

Transcutaneous radiotherapy as a single treatment modality in older patients with uterine cancers

KEYWORDS: Uterine Neoplasms; Radiotherapy; Aged

Standard treatment of inoperable malignant uterine tumors connotes combined application of transcutaneous and intracavitary radiotherapy. Total irradiation dose and the percent involvment of these application modalities depend on the disease stage, tumor size, patient age, concurrent diseases etc. The aim of was to establish the frequency of use and role of transcutaneous radiotherapy as a single modality for inoperable uterine malignancies in older patients. At the Clinic of Oncology in Knez Selo from 1993 to 2001 transcutaneous radiotherapy of women over 65 years of age as a single modality for inoperable malignant uterine tumor treatment (FIGO, IIB, IIIA, IIIB, IVA and IVB) was used for 20 patients - in 14 patients for cervical and in 6 patients for corpus uteri tumors. Median age of the patients was 73 years for both groups (65-83 years), with the average pelvic dose of 48.6 Gy in 24 sessions. Transcutaneous radiotherapy for uterine cancers can be applied as a single modality with a palliative or curative intention. For intracervical tumors and when brachytherapy is not possible, after 40 - 45 Gy to the pelvis, a dose to the tumor site may be applied with small and oblique portals to the total dose of over 70 Gy (without technical possibilities in our institution). Based on the literature data and our own experience we believe that single transcutaneous radiotherapy for inoperable uterine tumors in older women should be individudalized and selective. As a necessity, it should be applied for shorter life expectancy (due to disease seriousness or age) and as a must in case of technical impossibility to administer brachytherapy or in case of serious concomitant diseases.