Application of Kanglaite Injection (KLT) in treating advanced hepatic cancer (57 cases)

Jiao Wenping, Li Jiang, Wang Fengdong

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PHC represents one of the most common malignant tumors, which is defined as high degree of malignancy, fast growing and poor prognosis. Clinical treatment for PHC is difficult, especially for advanced PHC. Between Aug. 2001 and Jan. 2003, 57 cases of advanced hepatic cancer patients were treated with KLT and the result concluded that KLT can relieve cancer pain, strengthen immune function and improve life of quality.

1. Information and method

1.1 Clinical information

Among 57 cases, 47 cases are female and 10 cases are male, aging from 36-65 and the average age is 59. 20 cases are massive hepatocarcinoma, 19 cases, are hepatocellular tuberous carcinoma, 10 cases have a little quantity of ascites, 37 cases have median-sized quantity of ascites and 5 cases have large quantity of ascites. 14 cases have slight paining, 18 cases have median paining and 25 cases have serious paining. The average Karnofsky before treatment is 56.4. All of diagnosis standards shall be based on the diagnosis and treatment criterion for common cancer in China. All of cases are advanced hepatic cancer patients who can’t operate and accepted radio- and chemo-therapy and have already stopped other treatments for at least one month.

1.2 Treatment regimen

KLT: 200ml, i.v, once a day, 20 days are a cycle, 1-2 cycles are a course (7 days left between every two cycles).

1.3 Observing indicators

Clinical effect: according to the criterion for evaluating clinical effect of solid tumor drafted by WHO, it can be classified as CR, PR, NC and PD, and CR+ PR is defined as being effective. Karnofsky point: Assess KPS before and after treatment. It improved if KPS increased by >10 points while it worsened if KPS decreased by <10 points. It would be stable if KPS change is within 10 points. Evaluation for pain: according to numeric pain intensity scale (NPS) identified by WHO, evaluate intensity of cancer pain before and after treatment. Class1-3 is slight paining, class 4-7 is median paining and class 8-10 is serious paining. Pain relieving: 0 degree means no relief, I-III degree means partial response and IV degree means complete response. Reverse
reaction: Evaluate according to WHO standard on the acute and subacute toxicity.

2. Result

2.1 Short-term clinical effect
There is no CR cases in this group, PR: 8.8%(5/57), NC: 56.1% (32/57) and PD: 35.1% (20/57).

2.2 Karnofsky point
After the application of KLT, 25 cases (43.91%) of KPS increased, of which 20 cases (35.1%) increased by 10 points and 5 cases (8.8%) increased by 20 points.

2.3 Intensity of pain relieving (refer to the Tab.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intensity of pain relieving</th>
<th>case</th>
<th>Intensity of pain relieving</th>
<th>Relieving rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slight</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serious</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4 Reverse reaction
There is no case in this group who has reverse reaction in digestive tract or arrest of marrow bone. Cases of drug allergy are also not observed.

3. Discussion
KLT is extracted from coix seed through modern technology, which can kill cancer cell and improve immune function [2]. KLT can play a role in G2/M period, inhibiting mitosis and proliferation of cancer cell, leading to apoptosis and having reversing effect on MDR. KLT can fight against cachexia through adjusting cell factors and inhibit angiogenesis. KLT would impact gene expression, from gene P53 to gene bc I-2. As for advanced hepatic cancer patient after KLT application, the inhibited immune function of the patient is improved, which may be related with KLT’s function – killing or inhibiting the growth of cancer cell, strengthening immune function, relieving cancer pain, improving life of quality, effectively fighting against cancer cachexia[2].

As a broad spectrum of antitumor drug, KLT can not only kill cancer cell and improve immune function, but only relieve toxicity reaction caused by radiotherapy and chemotherapy. KLT can be defined as a kind of TMC with little side effect and has effects on treating advanced PHC, which
deserves to be used clinically.

Reference
