Clinical observation on Kanglaite injection in the treatment of advanced cancer failed in previous chemotherapy

Ma Yufang
Oncology Dept., Shiyan City Taihe Hospital, Shiyan 442000, Hubei, China

[Abstract] To observe the therapeutic effect of Kanglaite injection (KLT) in the treatment of terminal cancer patients failed in previous chemotherapy, 25 cases of terminal cancer patients who failed in previous chemotherapy were given Kanglaite injection 200 ml, iv. drip per day for 30 consecutive days. Their therapeutic effect and prognosis were observed and compared with the therapeutic effect and prognosis of the terminal cancer patients failed in chemotherapy and a retrospective analysis was performed. Results: the KPS score of the patients in the treatment group increased 10 points in average, peripheral T-cell subsets CD3, CD4 increased, CD8 decreased and CD4/CD8 elevated. After the treatment mental state, appetite and sleep in most patients were significantly improved. Their pain got reduced with pain remission rate as 80%(8/10) without gastrointestinal reactions and depressed bone marrow, which have been commonly occurred in chemotherapy. So its adverse reactions were mild.

[Key words] Terminal tumor; Drug therapy; Quality of life; Kanglaite Injection

From June 1997 to Dec. 1998 we used Kanglaite injection(KLT) in the treatment of terminal cancer patients who failed in previous chemotherapy and compared with those terminal cancer patients who used simple symptomatic and supportive therapy. The results are summed up and reported as follows.

1 clinical data
1.1 General information
A total of 50 cases were enrolled. All cases were confirmed by histopathological or cytological examinations and failed in previous comprehensive treatment with KPS score of 40-60 points. They were divided into two groups i.e. treatment group and control group. Each had 25 cases. The treatment group had 25 cases with median age of 56 years (36-70 years old), male 13 cases, female 12 cases, KPS score 40-60 points with lung adenocarcinoma 8 cases, lung squamous carcinoma and small cell lung carcinoma and breast cancer 4 cases each, gastric adenocarcinoma 2 cases, large intestine adenocarcinoma, malignant lymphoma, malignant fibrous histiocytoma 1 case each. The control group 25 cases with median age of 55.5 years (39-72 years). Male 12 cases and female 13 cases, KPS scores 40-60 points with lung adenocarcinoma 8 cases, lung Squamous carcinoma, Small cell lung carcinoma and breast cancer 4 cases each, gastric adenocarcinoma and large intestine adenocarcinoma 2 cases each, malignant lymphoma 1 case.

1.2 Method of treatment
The treatment group was treated with Kanglaite injection, Kanglaite injection 200 ml/d, iv, drip for 30 consecutive days as a treatment course. The control group was only given supportive symptomatic treatment. Before and after treatment the patients were checked with their blood routine, tests of liver and kidney functions, B-type ultrasonograph, X-ray chest film, CT and T-cell subsets.

1.3 Evaluation criteria and results
Following two courses of continuous treatment, evaluation of objective therapeutic effect was performed according to “criteria for evaluating the short-term therapeutic effect of Solid tumors” formulated by WHO. The adverse reactions referred to “The Grading standards on Acute and Subacute Toxicity of Cancer Drugs” set up by WHO that can be divided into four grades while patient general status adopted KPS standard.

There were no CR cases in the whole group, PR 10 cases, NC 17 cases, PD the remained 23 cases. The KPS score in the treatment group had risen from 56 points before treatment to 68 points after treatment. Among 10 patients with bone transfer pain 6 cases had partial remission and 2 cases had complete remission with the total effective rate of 80% (8/10). The changes of KPS score and T-cell subsets before and after treatment were shown in Table 1. The changes of T cells subsets before and after treatment in the treatment group showed a significant increase as compared with those of the control group. The differences were tremendously significant (P<0.01).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Changes of T-cell subsets before and after treatment(x±s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group</td>
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<td>Treatment group</td>
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<td>Before treatment</td>
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<td>Control group</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Before treatment</td>
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Note: p<0.01

Among the treatment group evaluation of KPS score after treatment 14 cases were more than 10 points elevated, 10 cases had equivalent to 10 points and 4 cases less than 10 points with the quality of life improvement rate as 56%(14/25). Among the control group KSP score assessment equivalent to 10 points were 10 cases, less than 10 points 15 cases with the quality of life improvement rate 0, P>0.05. There was no significant difference.

2 Discussion
Kanglaite Injection (KLT) is a novel anti-cancer drug extracted from Chinese medicine coix seeds. It has
been clinically and experimentally verified that KLT had anti-cancer effect and immune enhancing function. It also improved the quality of life and could fight against cancer’s cachexia. This paper shows that KLT can effectively alleviate cancer symptoms particularly cancerous bone pain, which is more evident. It can also increase the value of T-cell subsets in advanced cancer patients and significantly extend the survival period of advanced cancer patients. All the 50 cases in the two groups were patients with clinical stage IV cancer. The significance of prolongation of survival period needs to be further evaluated in the future studies. In the study occasional nausea was observed but without significant heart, liver and kidney toxicity. Therefore, KLT can be regarded as one of the effective drugs for advanced cancer patients.

[References]

(End)