Clinical Observation on the Effect of Kanglaite Injection on the Survival Quality of Senile Patients with Advanced Cancer

Shen Mingyue, Li Li, Yang Hongju

Senile patients with advanced Cancer have often been treated for merely the prolongation of survival time on the basis of alleviating the symptoms and improving the quality of life because they usually lost the opportunity for surgery, or they are incapable of implementing regular radio or chemotherapy. In this paper we collected the data of 27 cases of senile patients with advanced cancer who were hospitalized and treated with KLT Injection for a total of 55 case times and observed and summarized on the quality of life, palliation of their symptoms such as pains etc during the period from Jan. 198 to Oct. 2001.

1. Dates and Method
1.1 Clinical Data
There were 27 cases of senile patients with advanced cancer, all of them were diagnosed by pathologic, cytological or imageological examinations. Age: 72.1 ± 15.24 (64-90), they all were perfectly conscious and could describe their subjective symptoms. We employed KLT Injection 200ml, intravenous infusion, qd for 55 case-times, the average treatment course = 36.67 ± 27.89 (20-215) days.

1.2 Observation indexes
Pain evaluation: the pain severity was evaluated according to WHO’s Numerical Rating system, 1-3 mild pain, 4-7 moderate pain, 8-10 severe pain. Evaluation on quality of life: According to Karnofsky scale in “The Commonly Used statistical Indexes and Methods in Diagnosis and Treatment of Commonly occurred Malignant Tumors in China” promulgated by the Ministry of Health in 1989.

2. Results
2.1 Degree of cancer pain relief See Tab. I, 0: no relief; 1: pain relieved for 1/4; 2: pain relieved for 1/2; 3: pain relieved for over 2/3; 4: pain relieved completely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity of pain</th>
<th>No. of cases</th>
<th>Degree of pain relief</th>
<th>Relief Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0 1 2 3 4</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2 1 15 7 5</td>
<td>84.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3 3 3 2 1</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In total</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5 4 18 10 13</td>
<td>90.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the treatment, 80% of the mild pain could be controlled, while 84.84% of the moderate pain and 75% of the severe pain could be alleviated. 0 was defined as no relief,
which accounted for 9.9% (5/55), 1-3 as “Partial relief”, which accounted for 58.1% (32/55), 4 as “complete relief”, which accounted for 23.63% (13/55).

2.2 Changes of the scores of the quality of life after the treatment: See Tab. 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Cases</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>14.54</td>
<td>32.72</td>
<td>27.27</td>
<td>18.18</td>
<td>7.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the treatment of KLT Injection, the scores of the quality of life in 44% of the patients were enhanced.

3. Discussion

For senile patients, whose survival quality had been seriously declined, and whose opportunity to accept surgery and radiotherapy had lost, the major purpose of the treatment was to raise their survival quality, and prolong their life span. It has been demonstrated from the data in this paper that following the treatment of KLT Injection, 85% of the patients had an increase in the score of quality of life to varying degrees.

Pain is the most commonly occurred symptom of advanced cancer patients, which causes severe suffering to the patients. According to the statistics of WHO, 60-90% of the advanced cancer patients had pain to varying degrees, 70% of them had pain as their major symptom. In this group all the cases were advanced cancer patients their incidence of pain was 100%.

As a novel anticancer drug, KLT Injection can not only inhibit the growth of tumor, raise immunity of organism and provide high energy nutrients, but also control pains. Wu Liangcum et al. conducted a clinical observation and found that pain relief rate of KLT Injection was over 90% [1]. In this group the data have revealed that after 55 case-times treatment, the relief rate of cancer pain reached 81%, partial relief 58.1%, complete relief 23%.

Our data suggested that following a prolonged treatment course of KLT Injection, all the senile advanced cancer patients have shown their quality of life improved, their symptom of pain relieved and no toxic and side effects observed in their hematological, digestive, hepatic and renal systems. However, the preparation available now has some irritant effect on blood vessels, which causes local pain and difficulty to perform a venipuncture, thus creating a situation, under which part of senile patients cannot stand a comparatively long treatment cones. If the dosage form of this drug can be further improved, this will be of benefit to more senile patients.
References


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Shen Mingyue (1965- ) female, a native of Kunming, Physician-in-charge, engaging in geriatric work.