

## **Treatment of advanced Pancreas Cancer with Chemo- Thermotherapy**

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Background: The results in the therapy of pancreas carcinoma remain disappointing. In nearly all cases the disease progresses, response rates of cytotoxic therapy are low and the 5-year survival rate amounts to 1%. The purpose of our treatment was to enhance the effectiveness of a cytostatic treatment with mitomycin c by combination with regional hyperthermia.

Patients and Methods: In a retrospective analysis 30 patients with advanced pancreatic carcinoma treated with a combined treatment with hyperthermia and chemotherapy were included. 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) (500 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and calcium folinat (200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) was given on day 1-5, mitomycin c (8 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) was injected on day 1. Regional capacitive radiofrequency hyperthermia (13.56 MHz) was applied on day 1, 3, 5 and 10, the duration was 60 minutes. The mean temperature of the tumor tissue was 42°C – 44°C. Treatment was repeated every 4 weeks until progression.

Results: The 30 patients received a total of 94 cycles (median 3, range 1-9) of combined therapy. According to the standard criteria, 1 patient had a complete remission, 10 patients (33,3%) had a partial remission; 12 (40%) had a stable disease. 7 patients (23,3%) did not respond to the therapy and showed progressive disease. Median survival time was 8 months (range 2-53 months), time to progression was 5.5 months (range 1-40 months). In a follow up study it could be shown that the treatment can be improved with even better results. We will present new data and some successfully treated cases.

Conclusion: The combined treatment shows a remarkable outcome in the therapy of advanced pancreatic carcinoma and is well tolerated. The data suggest further evaluation in randomized trials.