Safety and Efficacy of Kanglaite® Combined with Chemotherapy for Gastric Cancer

Yi-Ping Zhan1,2, Xin-En Huang1*, Jie Cao1, Yan-Yan Lu1, Xue-Yan Wu1, Jin Liu1, Xia Xu1, Jin Xiang3, Li-Hong Ye2*

Abstract

Objective: To observe efficacy and side effects, as well as the impact on quality of life, of Kanglaite® (Coix Seed Oil) injections combined with chemotherapy in the treatment of advanced gastric cancer patients. Method: A consecutive cohort of 60 patients were divided into two groups: the experimental group receiving Kanglaite® Injection combined with chemotherapy and the control group with chemotherapy alone. After more than two courses of treatment, efficacy, quality of life and side effects were evaluated. Results: The response rate and KPS score of experimental group were significantly improved as compared with those of the control group (P<0.05). In addition, gastrointestinal reactions and bone marrow suppression were significantly lower than in the control group (P<0.05). Conclusions: Kanglaite® Injection enhanced efficacy and reduced the side effects of chemotherapy, improving quality of life of gastric cancer patients; use of Kanglaite® injections deserves to be further investigated in randomized control clinical trials.

Keywords: Kanglaite injection - chemotherapy - advanced gastric cancer treatment

Clinical Safety and Efficacy of Kanglaite® (Coix Seed Oil) Injection Combined with Chemotherapy in Treating Patients with Gastric Cancer

Yi-Ping Zhan1,2, Xin-En Huang1*, Jie Cao1, Yan-Yan Lu1, Xue-Yan Wu1, Jin Liu1, Xia Xu1, Jin Xiang3, Li-Hong Ye2*

Introduction

Gastric cancer is one of the most frequent cancers in the world. The highest incidence and mortality rate are in Eastern Asia (Jemal et al., 2011). In China, gastric cancer has become a significant cancer burden and one of the key issues regarding cancer prevention and treatment. It was predicted that, in 2005, 0.3 million deaths and 0.4 million new cases from gastric cancer thus would rank the third most common cancer (Yang, 2006). The main treatment modalities for gastric cancer available are: surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunochemotherapy, multimodality therapy etc. Chemotherapy is one of the treatment options available in advanced gastric cancer. It may relieve gastric cancer-related symptoms, improve quality of life and prolong survival in some patients who respond to treatment. How to increase efficacy and decrease toxicities of chemotherapy remains a focus in this area.

Kanglaite® (Coix Seed Oil) Injection, which had been confirmed with anti-tumor activity, is one of Chinese herb Preparations that is developed and manufactured by Zhejiang Kanglaite Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd in China (Li 2005). It is mainly used for the treatment of no-small cell lung cancer, liver cancer, gastric cancer etc (Lian et al., 2006; Zhu et al., 2009). We hypothesize that it is effective when applied with chemotherapy in the treatment of gastric cancer. Another aim of this study is to evaluate toxicities of Kanglaite® when combined with chemotherapy.

Materials and Methods

Patient

All the patients were required to be pathologically diagnosed with gastric cancer, with Karnofsky performance status≥60, aged between 18 and 75 years, predicted survival time≥3 months. With adequate bone marrow (white blood cell count>4.0x10^9 and platelet count >100x10^9), and liver function (bilirubin and transaminases <2 times the upper limit normal), no heart and kidney disease, and signed an informed consent before chemotherapy.

Patients excluded from this study if they failed to complete two cycles of chemotherapy, with any serious medical or psychiatric condition, or other malignancies. Pregnant or lactating women are excluded from the study.

Treatment

In experimental group, Kanglaite® Injection combined with DOC regimen, which consisted of docetaxel (D), oxaliplatin (O) and capecitabine (C). Docetaxel and
Sixty patients fulfilled eligibility and had completed at least 2 cycles of treatment. All patients were divided into two groups. No statistically significant difference was found between two groups of patients regarding age, sex, and clinical stage (P > 0.05).

No CR was observed in all patients. The response rate in experimental group (CR+PR) was 40%, while that in control group was 16.7%, with statistically significant difference (p<0.05). The clinical benefit rate of two groups (CR+PR+SD) were 86.7% (in experimental group), 66.7% (in control group) respectively, without statistical significance (p>0.05) (Table 1).

Quality of life before and after treatment

KPS score of experimental group increased in 15 cases (50%), 10 cases stable and 5 cases decreased, while that of control group increased in 6 cases (20%), 13 cases stable and 11 cases decreased. The difference between two groups was statistically significant (p<0.05) (Table 2).

Toxicity

All patients underwent toxicity assessment. Treatment related side effects were reversible, and no termination of chemotherapy or death caused by adverse events occurred. The main adverse effects were bone marrow suppression, gastrointestinal symptoms, neurotoxicity, oral mucositis, and hand-foot syndrome etc. The statistical significance differences were discovered between two groups in terms of leukopenia (50% in experimental vs. 43.3% in control group), thrombocytopenia (30% in experimental vs. 43.3% in control group), diarrhea (33.3% in experimental vs. 46.7% in control group) and nausea/vomiting (53.3% in experimental vs. 66.7% in control group) (Table 3).

Discussion

Gastric cancer chemotherapy was still not normalized and standardized. Chemotherapy could reduce the rate of recurrence and metastasis, and prolongs survival time. But, chemotherapy often brings about serious side effects. Therefore, how to reduce side effects of chemotherapy, in the meantime increase efficacy and improve quality of life have aroused more and more attention. It is a distinguishing feature of traditional Chinese medicine to contribute in this area.

The main ingredient of Kanglait® Injection is Coix seed oil, which has been used to treat cancers in Chinese traditional medicine (Yu et al., 2008; Yu et al., 2008). It can induce tumor cell apoptosis, block tumor cell mitosis, improve immune function, reduce the toxicity of chemotherapy, and relieve cancer pain etc.
Kanglaite® Injection has been developed and manufactured by Zhejiang Kanglaite Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd in China. Study of anti-tumor mechanism of Kanglaite® Injection has been performed in many research centers of China, and demonstrated a blockage of tumor cell mitosis at the boundary of G2 and M phases of the cell cycle, an increase in tumor cell apoptosis and expression of Fas/Apo-1 gene and a decrease in expression of Bel-2 gene (Li, 2005; Lian et al., 2006; Zhu et al., 2009).

Our study suggested that Kanglaite® Injection combined with Chemotherapy could enhance efficacy of chemotherapy, reduce side effects caused by chemotherapy, and improve quality of life. Thus, Kanglaite® Injection deserves to be further investigated by randomized controlled clinical trials.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Xin-En Huang is supported in part by a grant from Jiangsu Provincial Administration of Chinese Medicine (LZ11091), and in part from a special research fund of Organization Department of Jiangsu Provincial Party Committee, Talent Work Leading Group of Jiangsu Province (333 High-level Talents Training Project).

References


