

### The Effects and Surgical Morbidity of Preoperative Combined Chemoradiotherapy for Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer

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**Purpose:** The aim of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness and surgical morbidity of preoperative chemotherapy for locally advanced rectal cancer.

**Methods:** Between December 1997 and March 2000, 36 patients with locally advanced rectal cancer (clinical stage II or III) were treated with preoperative chemoradiation. The regimen consisted of bolus intravenous leucovorin, 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, plus 24-hour continuous intravenous 5-Fluorouracil, 425 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, Days 1-5, 29 concurrent radiotherapy 4,500 cGy over 5 weeks. Surgery was performed 4-8 weeks after completion of the chemoradiotherapy.

**Results:** Grade 3-4 toxicity during chemoradiotherapy was low: hematological toxicities 2.8%, gastrointestinal toxicities 5.5% and skin toxicities 8.3%. Complete response rate was 16.7% and partial response rate 47.2%. The rate of downstaging for tumor was 65.5%. The overall rate of resectability was 94.1%. In 13 of 22 patients planned APR, the sphincter was preserved. The overall rate of surgical morbidity was 23.5% but there was no postoperative mortality. One patient needed a reoperation because a complication may be associated with preoperative chemoradiotherapy.

**Conclusions:** Preoperative chemoradiotherapy for advanced rectal cancer seems to afford some potential advantages: patients are able to tolerate higher therapy doses with low toxicities; tumor downstaging rates are high; sphincter preservation is possible; but perioperative morbidity has generally not increased. And so we recommend the preoperative chemoradiotherapy may be one of the best treatments

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**Key Words:** Rectal cancer, Locally advanced, Preoperative chemoradiotherapy

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2001

T1 T2 가 , 가 , 가

1997 12 2000 3 28 ,

Table 1. Characteristics of patients

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| No. of patients         | 36              |
| Mean age (range)        | 62.5 (39-81) yr |
| Gender (M : F)          | 22 : 14         |
| Clinical stage of tumor |                 |
| T2 with positive node   | 1               |
| T3                      | 25              |
| T4                      | 10              |
| Tumor level             |                 |
| Upper (7-12 cm)         | 10              |
| Lower ( $\leq 7$ cm)    | 26              |
| Dose of radiation       |                 |
| 4,500 cGy               | 35              |
| 4,500+booster 540 cGy   | 1               |

36 (Clinical staging)

MRI , CT (complete response), 50% 가 (partial re-  
 (T3, T4), 가  
 MRI , CT (complete response), 50% 가 (partial re-  
 (T3, T4), 가  
 가 (no response)<sup>12,13</sup>  
 modified National  
 Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria<sup>7,14</sup>  
 가  
 62.5  
 가 22 가 14  
 T3가 25 , T4가 10 , T2  
 가 1 ,  
 12 cm , 7 cm 가 26  
 , 7-12 cm 가 10  
 (Table 1).  
 4,500 cGy 5  
 5 ,  
 5 leucovorin 20  
 5-Flurouracil  
 8.3% , 5.5% , 2.8%  
 , 4  
 (Table 2).  
 2) (downstaging)  
 6  
 (16.7% :  
 (D2 ) 32 ,  
 23 , 17 (47.2%) (Table 3, Fig. 1).  
 2 (frozen  
 가 가  
 32

5 ,  
 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 30  
 (5-FU) 425 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 24  
 CT MRI ,  
 ,  
 6 (4-8 ) (16.7% :  
 (D2 ) 32 ,  
 23 , 17 (47.2%) (Table 3, Fig. 1).  
 2 (frozen  
 가 가  
 32

2  
 (complete response),  
 가  
 (partial re-  
 response), 가  
 (no response)<sup>12,13</sup>  
 modified National  
 Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria<sup>7,14</sup>  
 가  
 1)  
 3  
 8.3% , 5.5% , 2.8%  
 , 4  
 (Table 2).  
 2) (downstaging)  
 6  
 (16.7% :  
 (D2 ) 32 ,  
 23 , 17 (47.2%) (Table 3, Fig. 1).  
 2 (frozen  
 가 가  
 32

pelvis)

**Table 2.** Acute toxicity of chemoradiotherapy

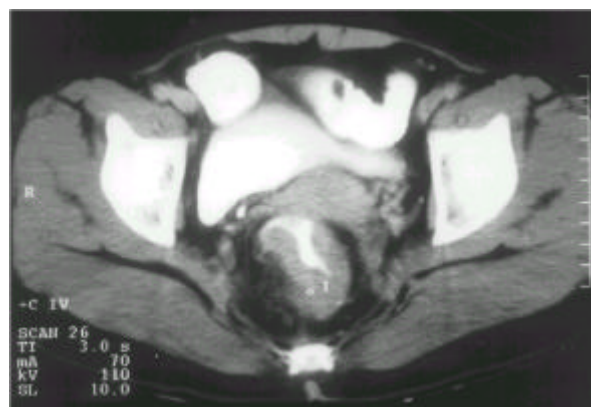
|               | Grade*       |              |             |   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---|
|               | 1            | 2            | 3           | 4 |
| Hematological | 9<br>(25.0%) | 4<br>(11.1%) | 1<br>(2.8%) | — |
| Intestinal    | 3<br>(8.3%)  | 4<br>(11.1%) | 2<br>(5.5%) | — |
| Skin          | 7<br>(19.4%) | 3<br>(8.3%)  | 3<br>(8.3%) | — |

\*according to the modified National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria

**Table 3.** The types of response according to the clinical and pathologic stages

| Clinical stage<br>(TNM) | Response     |               |               | Rate of<br>response |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
|                         | Complete     | Partial       | No (pro)      |                     |
| II                      | 4            | 3             | 2             | 7/9<br>(77.8%)      |
| III                     | 2            | 14            | 9 (2)         | 16/27<br>(59.3%)    |
| Total                   | 6<br>(16.7%) | 17<br>(47.2%) | 13<br>(36.1%) | 23/36<br>(63.9%)    |

Pro = progression



**Fig. 1.** Pelvic CT shows marked rectal wall thickening and periserosal fat infiltration before chemoradiation (left). Same level pelvic CT after chemoradiation, considerable improvement of wall thickening and periserosal fat infiltration is seen (right).

**Table 4.** Effect of chemoradiotherapy on the staging of rectal cancer (AJCC/UICC)

| Stage  | Initial clinical stage | Final pathologic stage |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------|
| T0, N0 | —                      | 4 (12.5%)              |
| I      | —                      | 2 (6.3%)               |
| II     | 8 (25%)                | 17 (53.1%)             |
| III    | 24 (75%)               | 9 (28.1%)              |
| Total  | 32 (100%)              | 32 (100%)              |

**Table 5.** Distribution of pathologic T stage vs. clinical T stage (%)

| cT    | pT       |         |          |           | Total     |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|       | pT0      | pT1     | pT2      | pT3       |           |
| cT2   | —        | 1 (3.1) | —        | —         | 1 (3.1)   |
| cT3   | 6 (18.8) | 1 (3.1) | 3 (9.4)  | 11 (34.4) | 21 (65.6) |
| cT4   | —        | —       | 1 (3.1)  | 9 (28.1)  | 10 (31.3) |
| Total | 6 (18.8) | 2       | 4 (12.5) | 20 (62.5) | 32 (100)  |

pT = Pathologic T stage; cT = Clinical T stage

**Table 6.** Types of surgery and resectability

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Curative operations        | 32    |
| Anterior resection         | 2     |
| Low anterior resection     | 17    |
| Coloanal anastomosis       | 4     |
| Abdominoperineal resection | 9     |
| Palliative colostomy*      | 2     |
| No operation <sup>†</sup>  | 2     |
| Rate of resectability      | 94.1% |

\*Frozen pelvis; <sup>†</sup> Refusal of operation, but clinical complete response.

**Table 7.** The rate of sphincter preservation according to the tumor level

| Tumor level          | Sphincter preserved | Sphincter not preserved | Total     |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Lower ( $\leq 7$ cm) | 13 (59.1%)          | 9 (40.9%)               | 22 (100%) |
| Upper ( $> 7$ cm)    | 10 (100%)           | —                       | 10 (100%) |
| Total                | 23 (71.9%)          | 9 (28.1%)               | 32 (100%) |

2 :  
 2 가 8 (25%), 3 가 24 (75%) , 1 , 1  
 가 4 (12.5%), 1 가 2 (6.3%), 2 17  
 (53.1%), 3 9 (28.1%) (Table 8).  
 (Table 4). (T stage)  
 downstaging T2 T1 1 , T3 T0 6 , T1 1 5)  
 , T2 3 , T4 T2 1 , T3 9 21 29 (18  
 (65.5%) (Table 5). 44 ) , 4 (12.5%)  
 3) 1 (3.1%) 28  
 , 2 11  
 2 34 20 , 1 19  
 가 가 32 94.1% . 2  
 . 2 10 cm, 12 cm .  
 douglas pouch가  
 가 , 17  
 가 , 4 ,  
 9 (Table 6). 23  
 71.9% 가 ,  
 22 13 (59.1%)  
 (Table 7).  
 4)  
 , 8  
 (23.5%)  
 가  
 6 .

**Table 8.** Operative morbidity and mortality

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Perioperative mortality                          | 0         |
| Patients with complications                      | 8 (23.5%) |
| Major  |           |
| Wound dehiscence                                 | 1         |
| Anastomotic leakage*                             | 1         |
| Minor  |           |
| Delayed perineal wound healing<br>(over 30 days) | 5         |
| Abdominal wound infection                        | 3         |
| Urinary retention                                | 4         |
| Urinary tract infection                          | 2         |

\*Technical problem

**Table 9.** Preoperative chemoradiation for rectal cancer

| Author                         | Pts<br>n | Selection<br>criteria | Treatment |                    | Grade 3+toxicity % |         | Pathologic<br>CR % | Sphincter<br>saving % |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|
|                                |          |                       | Rad<br>Gy | Chemotherapy       | Hemat.             | Diarrh. |                    |                       |
| Chari,<br>Duke Univ.           | 43       | T2-3                  | 45        | Bolus 5FU+CDDP X2  | 14                 | 19      | 27                 | 14                    |
| Rich,<br>M.D. Anderson         | 77       | T1-3<br>(75% T3)      | 45        | PVI 5FU            | 6                  | 1       | 29                 | 68                    |
| Grann,<br>MSKCC                | 32       | T3                    | 50.4      | Bolus 5FU/LV X2    | 12                 | 16      | 9                  | 85                    |
| <sup>13)</sup><br>Yonsei Univ. | 33       | T3-4                  | 45 50.4   | 5FU/LV X2          | —                  | —       | 10                 | ?                     |
| In this study<br>PMC           | 36       | T3-4                  | 45        | CI 5FU+Bolus LV X2 | 2.8                | 5.5     | 12.5               | 59.1                  |

Rad = radiation; CR = complete response; CDDP = cisplatinium; PVI = protracted venous infusion; CI = continuous infusion

5-FU 425 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 3 8.3%, 5.5%, 2.8%

2 3 15-18 21%, 16%, 5%, 6%

Chari<sup>24</sup> 14%, Grann<sup>14</sup> 12%, Rich 1%, Grann<sup>14</sup> 5-FU 24 bolus Chari<sup>24</sup> 5-FU Cisplantin

3-6,19-22 5-FU가 radiation sensitizer 7,8,23 가 25,26 가 5-FU 27 Jajan<sup>28</sup> 가 (Table 9). Chari<sup>24</sup> T2, T3 (4,500 cGy) 12.5% 5-FU 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, cisplatin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 5 9 27% (Table 9). bolus (2 cycles) , Rich<sup>5</sup> Grann<sup>14</sup> 13 9 12.5% Chari<sup>24</sup> Rich<sup>5</sup> (4,500 cGy) 5-FU 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 5 27 29% , Grann<sup>14</sup> 13 Grann<sup>14</sup> T3 32 T3, T4 (5,040 cGy) 5-FU 325 mg/m<sup>2</sup> , Chari<sup>24</sup> Rich<sup>5</sup> T1, T2 leucovorin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> bolus 5 (2 cycles) , 13 T3, T4 33 , Chari<sup>24</sup> Rich<sup>5</sup> T1, T2 (4,500 5,040 cGy) 5-FU 450 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, leucovorin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 5 (2 cycles) 65.5% , 가 T3 T4 가 (T2 24 (75%) 가 9 (28.1%) 가 36 (4,500 cGy) 가 29 2 (5.6%) , 13 3 (9.1%) Jajan 5-FU 425 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, leucovorin 20 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 5 (2 cycles) 24 Grann<sup>14</sup> 13 29 4 (3%) , Jajan<sup>29</sup> Minsky<sup>7</sup> 가 , 5-FU 가 가 425 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 350 mg/m<sup>2</sup> 3 2 3 48% 13% , 75%

2 :

가 가 , 가 30  
가 가 , 가 55.5% 가  
가 , 6 , 8.8% (3 )  
11.7% (4 ), 1 1  
94.1% <sup>13</sup> 91% , Janjan <sup>29</sup>  
71.9% ,  
59.1% 가 . Minsky <sup>1</sup>  
가 (T2, 2; T3, 28)  
30  
(5,040 cGY) 83% downstaging  
, Grann <sup>14</sup> Rich <sup>5</sup> 85%, 68% , Chari <sup>24</sup> 25  
3 가 , Rich <sup>5</sup> 27 5%, 5 93%,  
3 가 , 3 83%, Grann <sup>14</sup> 22 4%,  
0%, 3 100% .  
3.1% ,  
2  
5 ,  
가 <sup>6,22,23</sup> Shumate <sup>6</sup>  
가 . Janjan  
<sup>29</sup>  
1%, 8%, 3% 가  
1% ( 1 ) 가  
, 가  
. Habar-Gama <sup>30</sup>  
53.6%, 9% ,  
9.8%, 3.8%, 2.5%, 2.5% ,  
5.1%, 2.5%

가

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