

IMMUNOTHERAPY IN NEOADJUVANT TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER: EFFICACY AND SAFETY

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Pembrolizumab is an anti-PD1 monoclonal antibody that is indicated in combination with chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC).

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of Pembrolizumab in TNBC in a tertiary care hospital.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- Retrospective observational study, from April 2023 to August 2024.
- **Variables collected:** age, sex, quality of life status according to the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scale, menopause, tumor size and nodes affected at diagnosis, surgery and number of cycles administered.
- **Effectiveness:** pathological complete response (PCR), evaluated at surgery according to the Miller and Payne scale.
- **Safety:** collecting adverse events (AEs) and classifying the degree of toxicity according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v. 5.0 scale.

RESULTS

36 patients (100% female)

Median age of 51.5 years

ECOG: 0

Premenopausal (50%)

Tumor size: T1 (5.6%), T2 (77.8%), T3 (11.1%), T4 (5.6%)

Affected nodes: N0 (72.2%), N1 (16.7%), N2 (8.3%), N3 (2.8%)

Median number of cycles received was 6 (1-8)

EFFECTIVENESS

Twenty-two (61.1%) underwent surgery, and 86.36% (95% CI, 66.67-95.25) obtained PCR.

SAFETY

AEs in 86.1% of patients.
Grades 1-2 (84.8%) grade 3 (15.2%).

Most frequent AEs: alopecia (38.8%), nausea (36.1%), neutropenia (22.2%), mucositis (19.4%), skin rash (11.1%), hypertransaminasemia (9.7%) and neurotoxicity (9.7%).



Two patients required hospitalization for febrile neutropenia and one for immune-mediated hepatitis (grade 3).

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

Our PCR results were superior to that demonstrated in the pivotal KEYNOTE 522 trial; 86.36% versus 64.8% respectively. Thus, it is demonstrated that the association of pembrolizumab to neoadjuvant chemotherapy in TNBC is effective to obtain complete response. Regarding the safety profile, toxicity was well tolerated, with the exception of hypertransaminemia and neutropenia, which were the most severe.

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