

# HYPOMAGNESEMIA AS A POSSIBLE MARKER OF EFFICACY IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH CETUXIMAB IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER

Ruiz Ramos J, Megías Vericat JE, Marrero Álvarez P, Borrell García C, López Briz E, Poveda Andrés JL.  
 H.U.P La Fe (Valencia, Spain)

## BACKGROUND

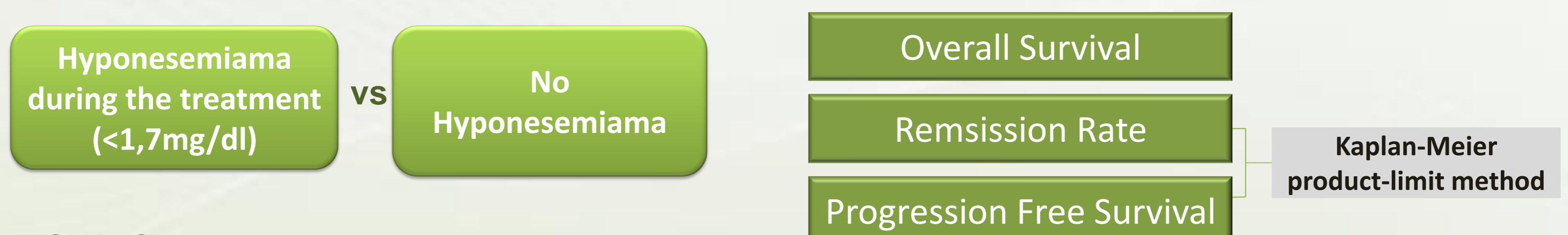
It has been reported that the determination of magnesium levels could be used as a surrogate marker of efficacy in chemotherapy regimens with cetuximab.

## PURPOSE

We investigated hypomagnesemia caused by cetuximab as a predictor of efficacy and outcome in patients affected by head and neck cancer in first-line treatment.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Retrospective observational study (Study period: November 2008-October 2012).
- Patients with head and neck carcinoma treated with cetuximab in first-line treatment, which had magnesium determinations from the start of treatment until one month after the end of treatment with cetuximab.



## RESULTS

- 14 patients (92.8% male)
- Median age: 61 years (range: 21-86)
- Diagnosis:
  - Oral cavity carcinoma (28.6%)
  - Laryngeal carcinoma (21.4%)

	Hypomagnesemia (n=6)	No Hypomagnesemia (n=9)	p
Remission rate	66.7%	37.5%	-
Overall survival (mean; IC95%)	34,8 months (18.8-50.9)	22,4 months (11.9 -32.9)	0.532
Progression free survival (Mean; IC95%)	34.5 months (18.1 -50. 9)	19.7 months (7.8-31.5)	0.456

## CONCLUSIONS

Despite the small number of patients studied, hypomagnesemia could be a marker of efficacy of cetuximab in first line therapy in patients with head and neck cancer. Determination of magnesium levels should be performed routinely in patients treated with cetuximab.