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Topotecan in Heavily Pre-Treated Paediatric Solid Tumours

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AIM

Topotecan is a camptothecin analog which has yielded promising results in patients with relapsing solid tumours. However, its administration has been thus far confined mainly to adult patients. In our study we are presenting our own experience of topotecan administration in 3 paediatric patients with resistant to therapy solid tumours.

RESULTS

All 3 of them were boys aged 4 months, 7 ½ and 13 years respectively. The first had a rhabdoid tumour of the kidney, the second bilateral Wilms' with pulmonary metastases and the third rhabdomyosarcoma of the thigh with metastases in the retroperitoneal lymph nodes. Topotecan

was being administered at a dose of 1.5 mg/m² as a 30 min infusion on 5 consecutive days on a 3 – weekly basis. Two cycles per patient were administered. The drug was generally well tolerated. Its main toxicity was myelosuppression. All 3 children initially had their tumour stabilized but in a short period of time the tumours progressed and the patients eventually succumbed.

CONCLUSIONS

We conclude that topotecan seems to be well tolerated by children and is showing at least some therapeutic potential in previously heavily treated paediatric solid tumours. Larger cohorts of patients are needed for more concrete conclusions to be drawn.