



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

SURVIVAL OUTCOMES IN METASTATIC MELANOMA PATIENTS TREATED WITH PEMBROLIZUMAB EXPERIENCING ADVERSE EVENTS

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Introduction: Pembrolizumab is a humanized monoclonal antibody against programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1), a key immunoinhibitory checkpoint protein implicated in down-regulating anti-tumour immune responses. This intravenous drug is indicated for the treatment of advanced (unresectable or metastatic) melanoma. As it interferes with self-tolerance as well, immun-related adverse events (irAE) are not uncommon.

Objective: We aimed to evaluate retrospectively if there was a correlation between the occurrence of irAE and response to pembrolizumab.

Methods: 42 patients were treated with pembrolizumab in our Institute between 01.09.2015-31.12.2017. End date of follow up was 31.08.2018

Results: Grade 1 irAE were observed in 14 cases (33%), grade 2 in 8 (19%), grade 3 in 7 (16%) and grade 4 in 1 (2,3%). The most common irAEs were skin related (vitiligo, dermatitis, pruritus) (n=7), followed by irAE affecting the thyroid gland (hypothyrosis, hyperthyreosis) (n=5).

Both PFS and OS was longer in the group affected with irAE. PFS was 17 months among the irAE group and 10 months in the non-irAE group (p=0,022). OS was 21 months among the irAE group and 17 months among the non-irAE group (p=0,051).

Conclusion: Based on our results, there is a correlation between developing irAE and efficacy when treating metastatic melanoma patients with pembrolizumab.

