



MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

USE OF IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS PROLONGED OVERALL SURVIVAL IN A JAPANESE POPULATION OF ADVANCED MALIGNANT MELANOMA PATIENTS: RETROSPECTIVE SINGLE INSTITUTIONAL STUDY

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Background: Recent clinical trials have shown that immune checkpoint inhibitors significantly improved the survival of patients with advanced melanoma. However, these previous studies comprised mainly Caucasians, in which superficial spreading melanoma is the major clinical type. In contrast, Asians have higher frequencies of acral lentiginous melanoma and mucosal melanoma.

Observation: We retrospectively collected the data for 45 melanoma patients who treated with checkpoint inhibitors and for control, 24 melanoma patients treated with chemotherapy alone before immune checkpoint inhibitors. The patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors had significantly better overall survival than those treated with chemotherapy alone ($P < 0.0001$). Improved overall survival was observed in both the superficial spreading melanoma and the acral lentiginous melanoma patients. In addition, multivariate analyses revealed that the use of immune checkpoint inhibitors associated with favorable prognosis ($P = 0.0001$), indicating the use of immune checkpoint inhibitors is an independent factor associated with favorable outcome.

Key message: Our study revealed that immune checkpoint inhibitors could also improve the prognosis of melanoma among Asian population.

