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Abnobaviscum® significantly lowers the recurrence rate in patients with relatively early pancreatic cancer

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Background : Abnobaviscum® F is an anti-malignant tumor drug derived from Viscum Album, parasitic to ash trees. It is known to normalize the immune response, suppressing the proliferation of cancer cells. We retrospectively investigated the anticancer effect of the Abnobaviscum® F in patients with resected pancreatic cancer.

Methods : We reviewed total 604 patients who underwent radical resection for pancreatic cancer from January, 2005 to December, 2019 in Severance hospital, Seoul, Korea. The patients were divided into two groups according to whether Abnobaviscum® F was administered (Viscum group) or not (Control group) and clinicopathologic characteristics, disease free and overall survival were compared after propensity score matching.

Results : Of 604 patients, 113 patients received Abnobaviscum® F therapy and 1:1 propensity score matching(PSM) was performed (113 vs 113). Clinicopathologic characteristics and disease severity did not differ between two groups after PSM. Viscum group showed superior results in 1 year disease free survival compared with control group (Viscum 66.4% vs Control 55.2%, $p=0.015$), however overall survival did not differ statistically (Viscum 93.2% vs Control 89.6%, $p=0.292$). In subgroup analysis, viscum group showed superior disease free survival especially in relatively early cancer such as node negative (Viscum 75.8% vs Control 66.8%, $p=0.014$), no adjuvant chemotherapy (Viscum 100.0% vs Control 61.5%, $p=0.003$, R0 resection (Viscum 68.3% vs Control 55.2%, $p=0.007$ and stage I, II disease (Viscum 65.1% vs Control 37.4%, $p=0.011$), however failed to prove superior overall survival. Viscum therapy did not improve disease free nor overall survival in node positive, chemotherapy performed, R1 resection and advanced stage patients. In multivariate analysis, viscum therapy, positive lymph node metastasis and lympho vascular invasion were significant risk factor for disease free survival.

Conclusions : Viscum treatment significantly lowered the recurrence rate in patients with relatively early pancreatic cancer. This anticancer effect based on the immune enhancement should be further analyzed, and large scale randomized controlled study is warranted

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