Efficacy of fulvestrant in heavily pretreated postmenopausal women with advanced breast cancer: single center experience from Korea

*Changhoon Yoo1, Sung-Bae Kim1, Jin-Hee Ahn1, Kyung Hae Jung1, Gyung-Yub Gong2, Hee-Jung Kim2, Byung-Ho Son3, Sei-Hyun Ahn3

**Background:** Fulvestrant is a potent estrogen receptor (ER) antagonist with a novel mechanism of action and demonstrated efficacy in pretreated patients with advanced breast cancer. We assessed efficacy and tolerability of fulvestrant in Korean postmenopausal women.

**Materials and Method** A total of 25 patients were identified in Asan Medical Center, Seoul, Korea. Except 6 patients, in whom baseline and follow-up imaging were inadequate, 19 patients were included in this retrospective analysis. Patients received fulvestrant approved dose (250 mg once a month) as second- (n=8), third- (n=7), and fourth-line (n=4) endocrine therapy. Results With a median follow-up of 7.4 months (range 1.2-34.8), patients received median 4 cycles (range, 1-34) of fulvestrant. Median TTP was 5.5 months (95% CI 0.4-10.7) and median OS was 17.9 months (95%CI 2.7-33.1). Among 17 evaluable patients, 1 (5.3%) patient achieved partial response and 10 (52.6%) patients showed stable disease, while 6 (31.6%) patients showed progressive disease. Clinical benefit rate was 26.3%. Adverse events were reported in 4 (21.1%) patients and all were grade I or II. Conclusion The results of our study revealed that fulvestrant was effective and well tolerated in Korean patients with advanced breast cancer who previously treated with several endocrine and chemotherapeutic agents. Further investigations to assess optimal fulvestrant dose and cascade of endocrine therapeutic agents are warranted.

Tertiary syphilis mimicking hepatic metastases of underlying Primary peritoneal serous carcinoma

*Ju-Young Yoon, Dae-Ho Cho, Dae-Eun Kim, Jun-Eul Hwang, Woo-Kyun Bae, Hyun-Jeong Shim, Sang-Hae Cho and Ik-Joo Chung

Tertiary syphilis, especially in cases with visceral gummatous disease, can be confused with cancer of solid organs. We report a case of tertiary syphilis that manifested with an intrahepatic masses in patient who had an underlying primary peritoneal serous carcinoma (PPSC). The patient was diagnosed with PPSC and received six cycles of platinum based chemotherapy. The patient achieved a complete remission of PPSC by chemotherapy. Two hepatic nodules were developed during the follow up period and were initially thought as hepatic metastases from the underlying PPSC based on the radiologic findings. A resection of hepatic nodules was performed for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes because there was no other metastatic focus except for the liver. Unexpectedly, the serology and histology confirmed tertiary syphilis. I describe this case because of its rarity and to emphasize the importance of including tertiary syphilis in the differential diagnosis of a space-occupying lesion even with the diagnosis of an underlying cancer.