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Phase II study of fotemustine in recurrent supratentorial malignant gliomas.

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Abstract

38 adults with recurrent supratentorial malignant gliomas, including glioblastoma multiforme (21), anaplastic astrocytomas (9), probably transformed low-grade astrocytomas (6), pinealoblastoma (1) and non-metastatic tumour of unknown histology (1), were treated with fotemustine 100 mg/m² intravenously every week for 3 consecutive weeks followed by a 5-week rest period. Maintenance treatment consisted of one infusion every 3 weeks. Patients were divided into three groups according to treatment effect. 10 objective responses (26%) with a median time without progression of 32.7 weeks, 18 stabilisations (47%) and 10 failures (26%) were observed. Pathological findings of the initial primary tumour and neurological functional status were unequally distributed in these groups. Haematological and liver toxicities were mild, delayed, transient and reversible. Thrombocytopenia and leukopenia were more frequent (30%) in patients treated with prior chemotherapy. Fotemustine is a well tolerated active drug in recurrent malignant gliomas with an original and short treatment schedule.

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