

Thomas Jefferson University Jefferson Digital Commons

Department of Medical Oncology Faculty Papers

Department of Medical Oncology

1-2014

E5501: phase II study of topotecan sequenced with etoposide/cisplatin, and irinotecan/cisplatin sequenced with etoposide for extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer.

Taofeek K. Owonikoko Emory University

Joseph Aisner Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

Xin Victoria Wang Harvard School of Public Health; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Suzanne E. Dahlberg Harvard School of Public Health; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Eric H. Rubin Merck Research Laboratories

Lettus know access to this document benefits you

Follow this and additional works at: https://jdc.jefferson.edu/medoncfp

Part of the <u>Oncology Commons</u>

Recommended Citation

Owonikoko, Taofeek K.; Aisner, Joseph; Wang, Xin Victoria; Dahlberg, Suzanne E.; Rubin, Eric H.; Ramalingam, Suresh S.; Gounder, Murugesan; Rausch, Paul Gregory; Axelrod, MD, Rita S.; and Schiller, Joan H., "E5501: phase II study of topotecan sequenced with etoposide/cisplatin, and irinotecan/cisplatin sequenced with etoposide for extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer." (2014). *Department of Medical Oncology Faculty Papers*. Paper 56. https://jdc.jefferson.edu/medoncfp/56

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in

Authors

Taofeek K. Owonikoko; Joseph Aisner; Xin Victoria Wang; Suzanne E. Dahlberg; Eric H. Rubin; Suresh S. Ramalingam; Murugesan Gounder; Paul Gregory Rausch; Rita S. Axelrod, MD; and Joan H. Schiller



HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2016 January 08.

Published in final edited form as: *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol.* 2014 January ; 73(1): 171–180. doi:10.1007/s00280-013-2338-z.

E5501 - Phase II Study of Topotecan Sequenced with Etoposide/ Cisplatin, and Irinotecan/Cisplatin Sequenced with Etoposide for Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer

Taofeek K. Owonikoko¹, Joseph Aisner², Xin Victoria Wang³, Suzanne E. Dahlberg³, Eric H. Rubin⁴, Suresh S. Ramalingam¹, Murugesan Gounder², Paul Gregory Rausch⁵, Rita S. Axelrod⁶, and Joan H. Schiller⁷

¹Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia ²Rutgers - Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey ³Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts ⁴Merck Research Laboratories, North Wales, Pennsylvania ⁵Frederick Memorial Hospital, Frederick, Maryland ⁶Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania ⁷University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

Abstract

Purpose—Sequence dependent improved efficacy of topoisomerase I followed by topoisomerase 2 inhibitors was assessed in a randomized phase II study in extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (SCLC).

Methods—Patients with previously untreated extensive stage SCLC with measurable disease, ECOG performance status of 0 to 3 and stable brain metastases were eligible. Arm A consisted of topotecan (0.75 mg/m²) on days 1, 2 and 3, etoposide (70 mg/m²) and cisplatin (20 mg/m²) [PET] on days 8, 9 and 10 in a 3-week cycle. Arm B consisted of irinotecan (50 mg/m²) and cisplatin (20 mg/m²) on days 1 and 8 followed by etoposide (85 mg/m² PO bid) on days 3 and 10 [PIE] in a 3week cycle.

Results—We enrolled 140 patients and randomized 66 eligible patients to each arm. Only 54.5% of all patients completed the planned maximum 6 cycles. There were grade 3 treatment-related adverse events in approximately 70% of the patients on both arms including 6 treatment-related grade 5 events. The overall response rates (CR+PR) were 69.7% (90% CI: 59.1–78.9%, 95% CI: 57.1–80.4%) for arm A and 57.6% (90% CI: 46.7–67.9%, 95% CI:44.8–69.7%) for arm B. The median PFS and OS were 6.4 months (95% CI: 5.4–7.5 months) and 11.9 months (95% CI: 9.6–13.7 months) for arm A and 6.0 months (95% CI: 5.4–7.0 months) and 11.0 months (95% CI: 8.6–13.1 months) for arm B.

Conclusion—Sequential administration of topoisomerase inhibitors did not improve on the historical efficacy of standard platinum-doublet chemotherapy for extensive stage SCLC.

Disclosures - None

Name and address for correspondence: Joseph Aisner, MD, Cancer Institute of New Jersey, 195 Little Albany Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1914, Phone: (732) 235-7401, aisnerjo@umdnj.edu.

Keywords

small cell; topoisomerase; clinical trial; topotecan; irinotecan; sequential administration; survival

Introduction

Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) constitutes approximately 10–15% of all cases of lung cancer diagnosed in the US.[1,2] A large majority, more than two-thirds, of the SCLC patients present with extensive stage disease, indicating disease spread beyond the primary hemithorax and contiguous regional lymph nodes.[3,4] The initial chemotherapy responsiveness in SCLC and improved survival fueled the early optimism that SCLC is potentially curable with systemic therapy.[5] The two drug regimen, cisplatin plus etoposide, became the most commonly employed systemic therapy due to its improved toxicity profile and efficacy in comparison to the older CAV or CAE regimens.[6,7]

Despite the high response rate associated with frontline regimens, extensive stage SCLC essentially remains an incurable disease. Patients with resistant disease suffer early relapse with disease progression occurring within a year of treatment. Those with initially chemosensitive disease achieve longer time to disease progression but show diminished tumor responsiveness to chemotherapy at the time of recurrence. Despite the use of second line therapy or retreatment with the frontline regimen in cases with durable response off chemotherapy lasting more than 90 days, the overall survival at 5 years remains less than 5%.[8-10] New approaches explored in the last two decades have yielded no major therapeutic breakthroughs in this disease. While topoisomerase 2 (TOP-2) active agents such as etoposide and doxorubicin have long showed activity, the topoisomerase-1 (TOP-1) camptothecin derivatives inhibitors: topotecan and irinotecan, also later showed activity initially in the salvage setting and subsequently as part of frontline therapy.[11–14] The empiric addition of topotecan to frontline therapy in extensive stage SCLC failed to improve on the efficacy of cisplatin/etoposide, but substitution of irinotecan for etoposide in combination with cisplatin produced superior outcome in Japanese patients.[15,16] However, large randomized studies in the Western population failed to reproduce this efficacy benefit of irinotecan, and demonstrated greater toxicity.[17,18]

Rubin et al. explored the mechanism of action and development of resistance to the TOP-1 agents, camptothecins in preclinical models. These studies provided strong rationale for the further integration of these agents into the frontline therapy of extensive stage SCLC. This preclinical work showed that resistance to TOP-1 inhibitors may be mediated in part, by the down-regulation of the TOP-1 target, along with a compensatory increase in TOP-2 expression. Conversely, treatment with TOP-2 inhibitors results in a down-regulation of TOP-2 and compensatory up-regulation of TOP-1.[19,20] Furthermore, point mutations in TOP-1 resulted in increased sensitivity to cisplatin,[21] thus suggesting that intercalating cisplatin within the TOP-1, TOP-2 alternations might further enhance drug activity and overcome resistance. Initial validation of this preclinical observations was carried out in several phase I studies.[22–25] Consistent with the preclinical model prediction, peripheral blood monocytes showed reciprocal changes in the expression of TOP-1 and TOP-2

Owonikoko et al.

enzymes with sequential administration of their inhibitors. Since both TOP-1 and TOP-2 inhibitors are effective SCLC therapy, we expected a systematic exploitation of this mechanism to induce greater susceptibility of SCLC to the cytotoxicity of these agents and result in improved response and survival. The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group therefore conducted this randomized phase II study to evaluate the triple regimens of topotecan followed by etoposide plus cisplatin (PET) as well as the combination of irinotecan plus cisplatin followed by oral etoposide (PIE) in patients with previously untreated extensive stage SCLC.

Materials and Methods

Eligibility

Eligibility included extensive stage SCLC with measurable disease and an ECOG performance status of 0–3. Prior systemic chemotherapy or thoracic irradiation was not allowed but prior radiotherapy for CNS metastasis was permitted, provided the patient had no evidence of progression in the brain before enrolment. Other salient eligibility requirements included: adequate hematologic, hepatic, and renal function within 4 weeks before randomization defined as WBC > 4000/mm³ and platelets > 100,000/mm³, bilirubin < $2 \times$ upper limit of normal, SGPT (ALT) and SGOT (AST) < $2.5 \times$ upper limit of normal in patients with liver metastases; calculated creatinine clearance > 30mls/minute. Patients with prior diagnosis of any other type of malignancies within 5 years of enrolment were excluded except for treated basal or squamous cell skin cancer, or carcinoma in situ of the cervix.

Treatment

Eligible patients were randomized to one of two arms (A or B). Patients on arm A received topotecan (0.75 mg/m² IV) on days 1, 2 and 3 followed one week later by etoposide (70 mg/m² IV) and cisplatin (20 mg/m² IV) on days 8, 9 and 10 in a 3-week cycle schedule (PET). G-CSF: 5mcg/kg/day subcutaneously was administered starting day 11 of each cycle until WBC recovery > 10,000/mm³. Treatment on arm B consisted of irinotecan (50 mg/m² IV) and cisplatin (20 mg/m² IV) on days 1 and 8 and etoposide (85 mg/m2 PO bid) on days 3 and 10 of each cycle (PIE). Cycles were repeated every 3 weeks for a total of 6 cycles in the absence of disease progression, withdrawal of consent or intolerable toxicities that, in the opinion of the treating physician, threatened the well-being of the patient.

Dose Modification

Before starting a new cycle, patients were evaluated for treatment emergent toxicities graded according to the National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI-CTCAE) version 2. In addition to instituting appropriate supportive care measures, dose modification was effected as appropriate for the agent presumed most likely responsible for the toxicity. Accordingly, topotecan dose was reduced by 25% for febrile neutropenia, or a nadir absolute neutrophil count of <500/mm³ for 5 days or more during the previous cycle, and by 50% for nadir platelets count <25,000/mm³.

Owonikoko et al.

Irinotecan dose was reduced by 25% for febrile neutropenia, a nadir absolute neutrophil count of < 500/mm³ lasting 5 days or nadir platelets <25,000/mm³ during the previous cycle. Etoposide dose was reduced by 25% for febrile neutropenia or nadir ANC of 750–999/mm³. A 50% dose reduction was instituted for ANC <750/mm³ and platelets <50,000/mm³ while a 25–50% dose reduction was required for hepatic toxicity. Renal toxicity with creatinine elevation above 2mg/dL, grade 2 neurotoxicity or grade 3 gastrointestinal toxicity required a 50% reduction in the dose of cisplatin.

Dose re-escalation was allowed in cases of hematologic toxicities as tolerated but not in cases of grade 3 or 4 non-hematologic toxicities.

Efficacy

All enrolled patients had documented measurable disease on cross sectional anatomic imaging at baseline (not more than two weeks before randomization). Follow-up scans were obtained after every 2 cycles during treatment. Post treatment follow up scans were obtained once every 3 months for 2 years from study entry and once every 6 months between 2 and 3 years from study entry. Efficacy was assessed and graded according to the RECIST 1.0 guidelines as Complete Response (CR), Partial Response (PR), Stable Disease (SD) or Progressive Disease (PD). Confirmation of objective response classification (CR or PR) was required on a follow up scan obtained not earlier than four weeks from when the patient first met the objective response criteria.

Survival

All patients, including those whose protocol therapy was discontinued, were followed for response until progression and for survival for 3 years from the date of randomization. There were no specific follow-up requirements for patients surviving more than 3 years from study entry.

Statistics

Patients were randomized to the two treatment arms in equal numbers using permuted blocks without stratification with dynamic balancing on main institutions. The primary study endpoint was objective response frequency. The secondary efficacy endpoint was response duration. The study design called for a total accrual of 70 patients in each arm in order to have 63 eligible patients in the primary analysis. A treatment would be considered efficacious if the true response rate exceeded 35%. Using a two-stage design, a treatment arm was to be terminated if fewer than 6 objective responses were observed in the first 27 eligible patients enrolled in that arm. The treatment arm was to be declared efficacious if a total of 16 or more objective responses were observed.

For each arm, if the true response frequency was 0.2, the probability of stopping early was 0.54, and the probability of declaring the treatment efficacious was 0.1. If the true response frequency was 0.35, the probability of stopping early was 0.05, and the probability of declaring the treatment efficacious was 0.9. This design had 0.44, 0.72 and 0.93 probabilities to declare at least one treatment arm efficacious when the true response rates were 0.20 and 0.25, 0.20 and 0.30, and 0.20 and 0.35 in the two arms, respectively. The corresponding

conditional probabilities of selecting the correct treatment arm were 0.82, 0.93 and 0.98. These probabilities were determined by simulations. After a total of 9 months of treatment plus follow-up on 63 patients, the null hypothesis of a 9-month median survival was to be rejected in favor of the alternative that median survival exceeds 9 months if 38 patients were still alive. This test had a 0.04 significance level (exact binomial) and an 80% power to detect survival distributions where the 33rd percentile was 9 months or longer.

The data cut-off date for this analysis was January 24, 2012. The primary efficacy analyses excluded ineligible patients, while the toxicity analysis included all treated patients. Overall survival (OS) is defined as the time from randomization to death from any cause, with follow-up censored at the date of last contact. Progression free survival (PFS) was defined as time from randomization to documented progression or death without progression. Patients without documented progression or death reported were censored at the time of last documented disease evaluation. Duration of response was defined as the length of time between the date of confirmed response and the date of disease progression. Patients without documented progression were censored at the time of last documented disease evaluation.

Kaplan-Meier estimates were used for event-time distributions. Fisher's exact test (categorical variable with two categories), χ^2 test (categorical variable with three or more categories) and Wilcoxon test (continuous variable) were used to test for differences in baseline characteristics between the two arms. Confidence intervals for response frequencies were computed using the method of Atkinson and Brown.[26]

Results

The study was conducted between March 2004 and April 2008, and accrued a total of 140 patients. There were 6 ineligible patients and 2 patients who never started treatment, leaving 132 cases in the primary analysis (Figure 1 is a consort diagram summarizing the patient enrollment and randomization procedures).

Patient Characteristics

Full patient demographic factors and disease characteristics at the time of enrollment are presented in Table 1. The two study arms were well matched except for significant difference in age at enrollment (median age higher in arm B than arm A; Wilcoxon test p = 0.039) and better kidney function in patients in arm A than in arm B (Wilcoxon test p = 0.046).

Treatment

54.5% of the enrolled patients received the planned maximum 6 cycles of treatment (59.1% in arm A and 50% in arm B). Two eligible patients never started treatment; one due to withdrawal of consent, the other because of an elevated liver function test. One of 6 ineligible patients did not receive treatment.

Adverse Events

All patients who started assigned treatment, including ineligible patients, were included in the analysis of adverse events, giving 69 patients on arm A (PET) and 68 patients on arm B (PIE) for the adverse event analysis. More than 70% of the patients on both arms experienced treatmentrelated adverse events of grade 3 or higher. There were 6 treatment-related grade 5 events, all of which were due to infectious complication and neutropenia. Eight additional grade 5 events were considered unrelated to treatment. Details of all grades 3, 4 & 5 adverse events are provided in Table 2.

Response

Primary efficacy analysis was based on the 66 patients enrolled on each arm of the study. There were 46 PRs on arm A (PET) and 1 CR and 37 PRs on B (PIE). The overall response rates (CR+PR) were 69.7% (90% CI: 59.1–78.9%, 95% CI: 57.1–80.4%) for arm A (PET), and 57.6% (90% CI: 46.7–67.9%, 95% CI: 44.8–69.7%) for arm B (PIE), all adjusted for the two-stage design. Based on a prespecified response rate of 35%, both arms of the study met the required efficacious threshold defined in the study design. Twenty seven cases were inevaluable (13 on arm A, 14 on arm B). The median response duration was 6.0 months (95% CI: 5.0–7.0 months) for arm A and 6.0 months (95% CI: 5.0–8.3 months) for arm B (Figure 2).

Survival

The median OS was comparable between both arms, 11.9 months (95% CI: 9.6–13.7 months) for arm A and 11.0 months (95% CI: 8.6–13.1 months) for arm B (Figure 3). Similarly, median PFS was 6.4 months (95% CI: 5.4–7.5 months) for arm A and 6.0 months (95% CI: 5.4–7.0 months) for arm B (Figure 4). There were 43 patients in arm A (PET) and 39 patients in arm B (PIE) who survived more than 9 months. Under the null hypothesis of a 9-month median survival, the probabilities of having 39 or more, and 43 or more patients alive after 9 months were 0.009 and 0.088 for patients treated with the PET and PIE regimens, respectively (exact binomial).

Discussion

The sequence dependent potentiation of TOP-1 and TOP-2 inhibitors provided sufficient rationale to test the regimens of etoposide /cisplatin combination alternating with topotecan as well as the combination of irinotecan/cisplatin followed by oral etoposide in extensive SCLC patients. The study met the prespecified statistical endpoints of response rate of 35% but did not confer any significant improvement in progression free or overall survival when compared to the historical efficacy data of standard cisplatin /etoposide doublet chemotherapy. Despite the preclinical rationale, the strategy of alternating topoisomerase inhibitors in order to improve clinical efficacy could not be validated in this study.

Topotecan as a single agent showed promising single agent activity with objective response in approximately 40% of previously untreated patients,[27] and comparable efficacy with better tolerability than multi-agent chemotherapy, CAV, in the salvage setting.[28] The integration of topotecan into the frontline as part of a triplet therapy in the form of

maintenance therapy, or in combination with other classes of cytotoxic chemotherapy was not promising and led to increased toxicity and diminished quality of life.[15,29–33] Similarly a phase III study compared topotecan/cisplatin to topotecan/etoposide or cisplatin/ etoposide in chemotherapy-naïve extensive stage SCLC and showed the topotecan/etoposide as inferior. Topotecan/cisplatin was superior to cisplatin/etoposide (median survival: 44.9 vs. 40.9 weeks; p = 0.40; median TTP: 27.4 vs. 24.3 weeks, p = 0.01) and showed significantly higher overall response rates for the (55.5% vs. 45.5%, p = 0.01). However, increased hematologic toxicity did not support the standard use of this for SCLC.[34] The combination of oral topotecan with IV cisplatin appeared better tolerated, but survival was not superior to standard regimen of etoposide/cisplatin.[35] The Hellenic Oncology Research Group studied sequential (4 cycles of cisplatin etoposide followed by 4 cycles of topotecan) versus alternating (1 cycle of cisplatin/etoposide alternating with 1 cycle of topotecan) schedule but showed no significant difference in response rates, median time to progression (TTP) or OS.[36]

Irinotecan is an established frontline agent for the treatment of SCLC in Japanese patients, with comparable activity but greater toxicity than etoposide –cisplatin in Western populations. Irinotecan is likewise frequently used as a salvage regimen in the US patient population.[16,8] The result of our study is not superior to the clinical efficacy observed with irinotecan as part of a doublet chemotherapy.[37–40] Similarly, the incorporation of irinotecan into a triplet regimen of carboplatin, etoposide and irinotecan failed to improve the clinical efficacy in a prior study.[41] Given the disparity between the preclinical and clinical findings, it seems worthwhile to explore the potential reasons for the failure of these two sequential combinations to improve on outcome results. First, one may question whether reduced dose intensity of cisplatin to minimize toxicity might have compromised the overall efficacy, but a randomized study by Ihde et al showed no dose-dependent effect over a 2-fold range of the cisplatin dose intensity.[42] Secondly, while our patient population, was mostly Caucasian, SWOG study 0124 showed the outcome with cisplatin/ irinotecan to be similar to cisplatin/etoposide in this population.

Finally, pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic correlation in surrogate samples analyzed in the course of phase I clinical trials showed that TOP-2 expression induced by TOP-1 inhibitor therapy is short-lasting (<24 hours) such that for optimal efficacy, the administration of a TOP-2 inhibitor should be scheduled to occur within this narrow window following the administration of the TOP-1 inhibitor.[43,23] In a study testing sequential alternation of TOP-1 and TOP-2 inhibitors in acute leukemia, Saraiya et al showed by sequential study of the target leukemia cells that the optimal timing of the sequential administration of TOP-1 and TOP-2 inhibitors was approximately 6 hours, and much longer interval lacked the reciprocal target modulation and clinical efficacy.[44] In an attempt to minimize toxicity, the TOP-2 inhibitor, etoposide, was administered after 72 hours of the TOP-1 inhibitor administration in both arms of our study. In conclusion, our results along with published reports from other phase II and phase III trials do not support the incorporation of topotecan or irinotecan along with standard cisplatin/etoposide regimen in the frontline treatment of extensive stage SCLC. The 72 hour based sequential use of TOP-1 and TOP-2 inhibitors failed to improve outcomes and produced more toxicity than socalled standard etoposide cisplatin. The results from the original phase I study and those from

leukemia patients suggest that the 72 hour based sequencing to reduce potential toxicities may not have been an adequate test of this hypothesis derived from intriguing preclinical observations of a potential mechanism of drug resistance

Acknowledgement

This study was conducted by the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (Robert L. Comis, M.D., Chair) and supported in part by Public Health Service Grants CA23318, CA66636, CA21115, CA107868, CA16116, CA13650 and from the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health and the Department of Health and Human Services. Its content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Cancer Institute.

References

- Siegel R, Naishadham D, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2012. CA: a cancer journal for clinicians. 2012; 62(1):10–29. [PubMed: 22237781]
- Owonikoko TK, Ragin CC, Belani CP, Oton AB, Gooding WE, Taioli E, Ramalingam SS. Lung cancer in elderly patients: an analysis of the surveillance, epidemiology, and end results database. J Clin Oncol. 2007; 25(35):5570–5577. [PubMed: 18065729]
- Abrams J, Doyle LA, Aisner J. Staging, prognostic factors, and special considerations in small cell lung cancer. Seminars in oncology. 1988; 15(3):261–277. [PubMed: 2837831]
- 4. Zelen M. Keynote address on biostatistics and data retrieval. Cancer chemotherapy reports Part 3. 1973; 4(2):31–42. [PubMed: 4580860]
- Aisner J, Alberto P, Bitran J, Comis R, Daniels J, Hansen H, Ikegami H, Smyth J. Role of chemotherapy in small cell lung cancer: a consensus report of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer workshop. Cancer treatment reports. 1983; 67(1):37–43. [PubMed: 6311413]
- Turrisi AT 3rd, Kim K, Blum R, Sause WT, Livingston RB, Komaki R, Wagner H, Aisner S, Johnson DH. Twice-daily compared with once-daily thoracic radiotherapy in limited small-cell lung cancer treated concurrently with cisplatin and etoposide. N Engl J Med. 1999; 340(4):265–271. [PubMed: 9920950]
- 7. Sundstrom S, Bremnes RM, Kaasa S, Aasebo U, Hatlevoll R, Dahle R, Boye N, Wang M, Vigander T, Vilsvik J, Skovlund E, Hannisdal E, Aamdal S. Cisplatin and etoposide regimen is superior to cyclophosphamide, epirubicin, and vincristine regimen in small-cell lung cancer: results from a randomized phase III trial with 5 years' follow-up. J Clin Oncol. 2002; 20(24):4665–4672. [PubMed: 12488411]
- Owonikoko TK, Behera M, Chen Z, Bhimani C, Curran WJ, Khuri FR, Ramalingam SS. A systematic analysis of efficacy of second-line chemotherapy in sensitive and refractory smallcell lung cancer. J Thorac Oncol. 2012; 7(5):866–872. [PubMed: 22722788]
- Giaccone G, Ferrati P, Donadio M, Testore F, Calciati A. Reinduction chemotherapy in small cell lung cancer. Eur J Cancer Clin Oncol. 1987; 23(11):1697–1699. [PubMed: 2828074]
- Stuart-Harris R, Raghavan D, Fox RM, Peretz G, Crombie C, Teriana N, Young I, Bye P, Tiver K, Green D. Chemotherapy for small cell lung cancer: induction and reinduction with VOCA. Aust N Z J Med. 1987; 17(3):279–282. [PubMed: 2823761]
- Johnson DH, Greco FA, Strupp J, Hande KR, Hainsworth JD. Prolonged administration of oral etoposide in patients with relapsed or refractory small-cell lung cancer: a phase II trial. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 1990; 8(10): 1613–1617. [PubMed: 2170589]
- Slichenmyer WJ, Rowinsky EK, Donehower RC, Kaufmann SH. The current status of camptothecin analogues as antitumor agents. Journal of the National Cancer Institute. 1993; 85(4): 271–291. [PubMed: 8381186]
- Masuda N, Fukuoka M, Kusunoki Y, Matsui K, Takifuji N, Kudoh S, Negoro S, Nishioka M, Nakagawa K, Takada M. CPT-11: a new derivative of camptothecin for the treatment of refractory or relapsed small-cell lung cancer. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 1992; 10(8):1225–1229. [PubMed: 1321891]

- Ohe Y, Saijo N. Topoisomerase I targeting agents in small-cell lung cancer. Current oncology reports. 2001; 3(2):170–178. [PubMed: 11177750]
- Schiller JH, Adak S, Cella D, DeVore RF 3rd, Johnson DH. Topotecan versus observation after cisplatin plus etoposide in extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer: E7593--a phase III trial of the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group. J Clin Oncol. 2001; 19(8):2114–2122. [PubMed: 11304763]
- Noda K, Nishiwaki Y, Kawahara M, Negoro S, Sugiura T, Yokoyama A, Fukuoka M, Mori K, Watanabe K, Tamura T, Yamamoto S, Saijo N. Irinotecan plus cisplatin compared with etoposide plus cisplatin for extensive small-cell lung cancer. N Engl J Med. 2002; 346(2):85–91. 346/2/85 [pii]. [PubMed: 11784874]
- 17. Hanna N, Bunn PA Jr, Langer C, Einhorn L, Guthrie T Jr, Beck T, Ansari R, Ellis P, Byrne M, Morrison M, Hariharan S, Wang B, Sandler A. Randomized phase III trial comparing irinotecan/ cisplatin with etoposide/cisplatin in patients with previously untreated extensive-stage disease small-cell lung cancer. J Clin Oncol. 2006; 24(13):2038–2043. [PubMed: 16648503]
- Lara PN Jr, Natale R, Crowley J, Lenz HJ, Redman MW, Carleton JE, Jett J, Langer CJ, Kuebler JP, Dakhil SR, Chansky K, Gandara DR. Phase III Trial of Irinotecan/Cisplatin Compared With Etoposide/Cisplatin in Extensive-Stage Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Clinical and Pharmacogenomic Results From SWOG S0124. J Clin Oncol. 2009; 27(15):2530–2535. [PubMed: 19349543]
- Rubin EH, Li TK, Duann P, Liu LF. Cellular resistance to topoisomerase poisons. Cancer Treat Res. 1996; 87:243–260. [PubMed: 8886456]
- 20. Rubin E, Wood V, Bharti A, Trites D, Lynch C, Hurwitz S, Bartel S, Levy S, Rosowsky A, Toppmeyer D, et al. A phase I and pharmacokinetic study of a new camptothecin derivative, 9aminocamptothecin. Clin Cancer Res. 1995; 1(3):269–276. [PubMed: 9815982]
- Saleem A, Ibrahim N, Patel M, Li XG, Gupta E, Mendoza J, Pantazis P, Rubin EH. Mechanisms of resistance in a human cell line exposed to sequential topoisomerase poisoning. Cancer Res. 1997; 57(22):5100–5106. [PubMed: 9371509]
- 22. Mok TS, Wong H, Zee B, Yu KH, Leung TW, Lee TW, Yim A, Chan AT, Yeo W, Chak K, Johnson P. A Phase I-II study of sequential administration of topotecan and oral etoposide (toposiomerase I and II inhibitors) in the treatment of patients with small cell lung carcinoma. Cancer. 2002; 95(7):1511–1519. [PubMed: 12237920]
- 23. Dowlati A, Levitan N, Gordon NH, Hoppel CL, Gosky DM, Remick SC, Ingalls ST, Berger SJ, Berger NA. Phase II and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic trial of sequential topoisomerase I and II inhibition with topotecan and etoposide in advanced non-small-cell lung cancer. Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2001; 47(2):141–148. [PubMed: 11269740]
- 24. Aisner J, Musanti R, Beers S, Smith S, Locsin S, Rubin EH. Sequencing topotecan and etoposide plus cisplatin to overcome topoisomerase I and II resistance: a pharmacodynamically based Phase I trial. Clin Cancer Res. 2003; 9(7):2504–2509. [PubMed: 12855624]
- 25. Huisman C, Postmus PE, Giaccone G, Smit EF. A phase I study of sequential intravenous topotecan and etoposide in lung cancer patients. Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical Oncology / ESMO. 2001; 12(11):1567–1573. [PubMed: 11822756]
- Atkinson EN, Brown BW. Confidence limits for probability of response in multistage phase II clinical trials. Biometrics. 1985; 41(3):741–744. [PubMed: 4074823]
- Schiller JH, Kim K, Hutson P, DeVore R, Glick J, Stewart J, Johnson D. Phase II study of topotecan in patients with extensive-stage small-cell carcinoma of the lung: an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Trial. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 1996; 14(8):2345–2352. [PubMed: 8708727]
- 28. von Pawel J, Schiller JH, Shepherd FA, Fields SZ, Kleisbauer JP, Chrysson NG, Stewart DJ, Clark PI, Palmer MC, Depierre A, Carmichael J, Krebs JB, Ross G, Lane SR, Gralla R. Topotecan versus cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, and vincristine for the treatment of recurrent small-cell lung cancer. J Clin Oncol. 1999; 17(2):658–667. [PubMed: 10080612]
- Hosomi Y, Shibuya M, Niho S, Ichinose Y, Kiura K, Sakai H, Takeda K, Kudo S, Eguchi K, Matsui K, Masuda N, Ando M, Watanabe K. Phase II study of topotecan with cisplatin in Japanese patients with small cell lung cancer. Anticancer research. 2011; 31(10):3449–3456. [PubMed: 21965760]

- 30. Sorensen M, Lassen U, Jensen PB, Osterlind K, Jeppesen N, Jensen BB, Mellemgaard A, Rytter C, Langer SW. Phase II study of a 3-day schedule with topotecan and cisplatin in patients with previously untreated small cell lung cancer and extensive disease. J Thorac Oncol. 2008; 3(8): 902–906. [PubMed: 18670309]
- 31. Lyss AP, Herndon JE 2nd, Lynch TJ Jr, Turrisi AT, Watson DM, Grethlein SJ, Green MR. Novel doublets in extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer: a randomized phase II study of topotecan plus cisplatin or paclitaxel (CALGB 9430). Clin Lung Cancer. 2002; 3(3):205–210. discussion 211-202. [PubMed: 14662044]
- 32. Felip E, Rosell R, Domine M, Santome L, Garrido P, Font A, Carrato A, Terrasa J, Vadell C, Mane JM, Baselga J. Sequential dose-dense paclitaxel followed by topotecan in untreated extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer: a Spanish Lung Cancer Group phase II study. Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical Oncology / ESMO. 2003; 14(10):1549–1554. [PubMed: 14504057]
- 33. Jett JR, Hatfield AK, Hillman S, Bauman MD, Mailliard JA, Kugler JW, Morton RF, Marks RS, Levitt R. Alternating chemotherapy with etoposide plus cisplatin and topotecan plus paclitaxel in patients with untreated, extensive-stage small cell lung carcinoma: a phase II trial of the North Central Cancer Treatment Group. Cancer. 2003; 97(10):2498–2503. [PubMed: 12733149]
- 34. Fink TH, Huber RM, Heigener DF, Eschbach C, Waller C, Steinhauer EU, Virchow JC, Eberhardt F, Schweisfurth H, Schroeder M, Ittel T, Hummler S, Banik N, Bogenrieder T, Acker T, Wolf M. Topotecan/cisplatin compared with cisplatin/etoposide as first-line treatment for patients with extensive disease small-cell lung cancer: final results of a randomized phase III trial. J Thorac Oncol. 2012; 7(9):1432–1439. [PubMed: 22895140]
- 35. Eckardt JR, von Pawel J, Papai Z, Tomova A, Tzekova V, Crofts TE, Brannon S, Wissel P, Ross G. Open-label, multicenter, randomized, phase III study comparing oral topotecan/cisplatin versus etoposide/cisplatin as treatment for chemotherapy-naive patients with extensive-disease small-cell lung cancer. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 2006; 24(13):2044–2051. [PubMed: 16648504]
- 36. Baka S, Agelaki S, Kotsakis A, Veslemes M, Papakotoulas P, Agelidou M, Agelidou A, Tsaroucha E, Pavlakou G, Gerogianni A, Androulakis N, Vamvakas L, Kalbakis K, Mavroudis D, Georgoulias V. Phase III study comparing sequential versus alternate administration of cisplatin-etoposide and topotecan as first-line treatment in small cell lung cancer. Anticancer research. 2010; 30(7):3031–3038. [PubMed: 20683051]
- 37. Schmittel A, Sebastian M, Fischer von Weikersthal L, Martus P, Gauler TC, Kaufmann C, Hortig P, Fischer JR, Link H, Binder D, Fischer B, Caca K, Eberhardt WE, Keilholz U. A German multicenter, randomized phase III trial comparing irinotecan-carboplatin with etoposide-carboplatin as first-line therapy for extensive-disease small-cell lung cancer. Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical Oncology / ESMO. 2011; 22(8):1798–1804. [PubMed: 21266516]
- 38. Lara PN Jr, Natale R, Crowley J, Lenz HJ, Redman MW, Carleton JE, Jett J, Langer CJ, Kuebler JP, Dakhil SR, Chansky K, Gandara DR. Phase III trial of irinotecan/cisplatin compared with etoposide/cisplatin in extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer: clinical and pharmacogenomic results from SWOG S0124. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 2009; 27(15):2530–2535. [PubMed: 19349543]
- 39. Hanna N, Bunn PA Jr, Langer C, Einhorn L, Guthrie T Jr, Beck T, Ansari R, Ellis P, Byrne M, Morrison M, Hariharan S, Wang B, Sandler A. Randomized phase III trial comparing irinotecan/ cisplatin with etoposide/cisplatin in patients with previously untreated extensive-stage disease small-cell lung cancer. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 2006; 24(13):2038–2043. [PubMed: 16648503]
- 40. Schmittel A, Fischer von Weikersthal L, Sebastian M, Martus P, Schulze K, Hortig P, Reeb M, Thiel E, Keilholz U. A randomized phase II trial of irinotecan plus carboplatin versus etoposide plus carboplatin treatment in patients with extended disease small-cell lung cancer. Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical Oncology / ESMO. 2006; 17(4): 663–667. [PubMed: 16423848]
- 41. Charpidou A, Tsagouli S, Tsimpoukis S, Vassias A, Makrilia N, Stratakos G, Gkiozos I, Syrigos K. Triplet combination of carboplatin, irinotecan, and etoposide in the first-line treatment of

extensive small-cell lung cancer: a single-institution phase II study. Anti-cancer drugs. 2010; 21(6):651–655. [PubMed: 20386306]

- 42. Ihde DC, Mulshine JL, Kramer BS, Steinberg SM, Linnoila RI, Gazdar AF, Edison M, Phelps RM, Lesar M, Phares JC, et al. Prospective randomized comparison of high-dose and standard-dose etoposide and cisplatin chemotherapy in patients with extensive-stage small-cell lung cancer. Journal of clinical oncology : official journal of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. 1994; 12(10):2022–2034. [PubMed: 7931470]
- 43. Hammond LA, Eckardt JR, Ganapathi R, Burris HA, Rodriguez GA, Eckhardt SG, Rothenberg ML, Weiss GR, Kuhn JG, Hodges S, Von Hoff DD, Rowinsky EK. A phase I and translational study of sequential administration of the topoisomerase I and II inhibitors topotecan and etoposide. Clin Cancer Res. 1998; 4(6):1459–1467. [PubMed: 9626463]
- 44. Saraiya B, Gounder M, Dutta J, Saleem A, Collazo C, Zimmerman L, Nazar A, Gharibo M, Schaar D, Lin Y, Shih W, Aisner J, Strair RK, Rubin EH. Sequential topoisomerase targeting and analysis of mechanisms of resistance to topotecan in patients with acute myelogenous leukemia. Anti-cancer drugs. 2008; 19(4):411–420. [PubMed: 18454051]

Owonikoko et al.



Figure 1.

Consort diagram showing enrolment, eligibility and randomization of patients on the study

Owonikoko et al.





Months from Registration

Figure 2.

Kaplan-Meier curves showing the duration of response in patients who achieved objective responses on both arms of the study

Owonikoko et al.



Months from Registration

Figure 3.

Kaplan-Meier curves for overall survival measured from randomization until death or censorship for all eligible patients treated on both arms of the study.

Owonikoko et al.



Months from Registration

Figure 4.

Kaplan-Meier curves for progression-free survival measured from time of randomization until disease progression, death or censorship for all eligible patients treated on both arms of the study

Table 1 Patient demographics and disease characteristics

Demographic details and comparison of salient patient and tumor characteristics between the 2 arms of the study

| Variable | Category | A (PET) N=66 | B (PIE) N=66 | Total N=132 |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Age | Median (IQR) | 60 (53,68) | 64 (58,70) | 63 (56,69) |
| Age | <65 | 39(59.1) | 33(50.0) | 72(54.5) |
| | >=65 | 27(40.9) | 33(50.0) | 60(45.5) |
| Gender | Male | 41(62.1) | 33(50.0) | 74(56.1) |
| | Female | 25(37.9) | 33(50.0) | 58(43.9) |
| Race | White | 63(95.5) | 63(95.5) | 126(95.5) |
| | Black | 3(4.5) | 3(4.5) | 6(4.5) |
| Performance Status | 0 | 27(40.9) | 19(28.8) | 46(34.8) |
| | 1 | 29(43.9) | 35(53.0) | 64(48.5) |
| | 2 | 6(9.1) | 8(12.1) | 14(10.6) |
| | 3 | 4(6.1) | 4(6.1) | 8(6.1) |
| Weight Loss in Previous 6 Months | <5% | 46(69.7) | 39(60.9) | 85(65.4) |
| | 5-<10% | 14(21.2) | 13(20.3) | 27(20.8) |
| | 10-<20% | 4(6.1) | 9(14.1) | 13(10.0) |
| | >=20% | 2(3.0) | 3(4.7) | 5(3.8) |
| Degree of Involvement of Metastatic Sites | Single Lesion | 3(4.5) | 5(7.6) | 8(6.1) |
| | Single Site | 17(25.8) | 16(24.2) | 33(25.0) |
| | Multiple Lesions and Sites | 46(69.7) | 45(68.2) | 91(68.9) |
| Pleural effusion present | No | 39(59.1) | 44(66.7) | 83(62.9) |
| | Yes | 27(40.9) | 22(33.3) | 49(37.1) |
| Pleural effusion malignant | No | 5(18.5) | 0(0.0) | 5(10.2) |
| | Yes | 5(18.5) | 7(31.8) | 12(24.5) |
| | Unknown | 17(63.0) | 15(68.2) | 32(65.3) |
| | No | 64(97.0) | 62(93.9) | 126(95.5) |
| Previous Radiation | Yes | 5(7.6) | 6(9.1) | 11(8.3) |

Owonikoko et al.

| Variable | Category | A (PET) N=66 | B (PIE) N=66 | Total N=132 |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | No | 65(98.5) | 63(95.5) | 128(97.0) |
| Previous Surgery | Yes | 1(1.5) | 3(4.5) | 4(3.0) |
| | No | 61(92.4) | 60(90.9) | 121(91.7) |
| CNS Metastases | Yes | 5(7.6) | 6(9.1) | 11(8.3) |

Randomization was balanced except for age and kidney function

Author Manuscript

Grade 3, 4 & 5 Adverse Events

Details of all grade 3, 4 and 5 toxicities recorded on both arms of the study. Toxicity grading was according to the NCI CTCAE guidelines version 2

| Adverse Event | | | Treatme | nt Arms | | |
|----------------------------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | | A (PET) | | | B (PIE) | |
| | | Grade | | | Grade | |
| | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
| Hemoglobin | 19 | 1 | | 9 | 1 | |
| Leukocytes | 12 | 7 | | 28 | 4 | |
| Neutrophils | 20 | 13 | | 37 | 6 | |
| Platelets | 20 | 1 | | 4 | | |
| Transfusion – Platelets | 1 | | | | | |
| Transfusion - PRBC | 26 | | | 16 | | |
| SVT - Arrhythmia | | | | 1 | | |
| Hypotension | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Thrombosis/Embolism | | | | 1 | | |
| Visceral arterial ischemia | | 1 | | | | |
| Cardiac - other | 1 | | | | | |
| Fatigue | 12 | 3 | | 15 | 1 | |
| Weight loss | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Constitutional | | | | | | 1 |
| Skin – other | | | | 1 | | |
| SIADH | | | | 1 | | |
| Anorexia | 4 | | | 9 | 3 | |
| Constipation | | | | 1 | | |
| Dehydration | 9 | | | 12 | | |
| Dyspepsia | 1 | | | | | |
| Ileus | | | | 1 | | |
| Nausea | 4 | | | 7 | | |
| Vomiting | 4 | | | 7 | | |
| | | | | | | |

Author Manuscript

Owonikoko et al.

| | | A (PET) | | | B (PIE) | |
|---|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Grade | | | Grade | |
| | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
| Diarrhea | 3 | | | 24 | 1 | |
| GI-other | | | | | 1 | |
| Hemorrhage | | | | 1 | | |
| CNS hemorrhage | | | | | | - |
| Epistaxis | - | | | | | |
| Hemoptysis | 1 | | | | | |
| Alkaline phosphatase | - | | | 1 | | |
| Bilirubin | - | | | 1 | | |
| SGOT | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | |
| SGPT | 3 | 1 | | 4 | 1 | |
| Febrile Neutropenia | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| Infection with grade 3 or 4 neutropenia | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | e, |
| Infection without neutropenia | 4 | | | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Hyperkalemia | 1 | | | | | |
| Hypermagnesemia | | 1 | | | | |
| Hypokalemia | 3 | | | 1 | | |
| Hypomagenesemia | 3 | | | 6 | | |
| Hyponatremia | 1 | | | 3 | 1 | |
| Hypophosphatemia | | | | | 1 | |
| Muscle weakness | 1 | | | 4 | | |
| Confusion | | | | | 3 | |
| Depressed level of consciousness | | | | 1 | | |
| Depression | | | | 1 | | |
| Motor neuropathy | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Syncope | 1 | | | | | |
| Abdominal pain | | | | 4 | | |

Author Manuscript

Owonikoko et al.

| Adverse Event | | | Treatme | ent Arms | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|---------|----------|---------|-------|
| | | A (PET) | | | B (PIE) | |
| | | Grade | | | Grade | |
| | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) | 3 (%) | 4 (%) | 5 (%) |
| Earache | | | | 1 | | |
| Myalgia | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Dyspnea | 4 | | | 4 | 1 | |
| hypoxia | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Pneumonitis/Pulmonary Infiltrates | | | | 1 | | |
| Pulmonary -Other | | | | | | 1 |
| Renal failure | | | | | 1 | |