

# Clinical outcome of elderly (>70y) advanced pancreatic cancer patients receiving chemotherapy

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## Background

Pancreatic cancer is a disease seen predominantly in elderly patients (pts). However, no standards of care exist for >70y patients. We aimed at evaluating the outcome of elderly pts treated with chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer and the presence of prognostic factors in this subpopulation.

## Patients & Methods

We reviewed the clinical records of patients with PDAC aged  $\geq 70y$  treated with chemotherapy in seven Italian Oncology Units from January 2005 to April 2014. Survival estimates were quantified using Kaplan Meier curves. Tumor stage, ECOG-Performance Status (PS), pre-treatment CEA and CA 19-9, hemoglobin (Hb), neutrophil, lymphocyte and platelet count as well as LDH were included in the Cox analysis to investigate their prognostic significance.

## Results

202 pts were included in this analysis. Median age was 74 years (range 70-88); 108 pts (53.4%) were males; 136 pts (67.3%) had metastatic disease. Median overall survival (OS) was 5.9 months. Median first-line PFS was 3.4 months. Folfirinox was the first-line in 10 pts (5.0%); 105 pts (52.0%) were treated with gemcitabine alone, 87 pts (43.0%) gemcitabine-based doublets, without differences in terms of OS ( $p=0.06$ ). Fifty-five pts (27.2%) were treated with second-line chemotherapy, with a median OS and PFS of 4.2 and 2.3 months, respectively. No differences in terms of OS and PFS were found between mono (29 pts) vs combined (26 pts) second-line chemotherapy ( $p=0.33$ ). Only 9 pts (4.4%) underwent third-line chemotherapy, with an OS of 8.1 months and a PFS of 2.6 months. At multivariate analysis, ECOG-PS $\geq 2$  ( $p=0.002$ ) was an independent prognostic factor for OS. Furthermore, ECOG-PS $\geq 2$  ( $p=0.01$ ) and neutrophil count ( $p=0.02$ ) were significantly associated with PFS.

Patients	202 (%)
Gender	
Male	108 (53.4)
Female	94 (46.6)
Age, years	74y
Range	70-88y
ECOG-PS	
0-1	125 (62)
$\geq 2$	77 (38)
Locally advanced	66 (32.7)
Metastatic disease	136 (67.3)
Treatment with second-line chemotherapy	55 (27.2)
Treatment with third-line chemotherapy	9 (4.4)

Table 1. Patients' characteristics

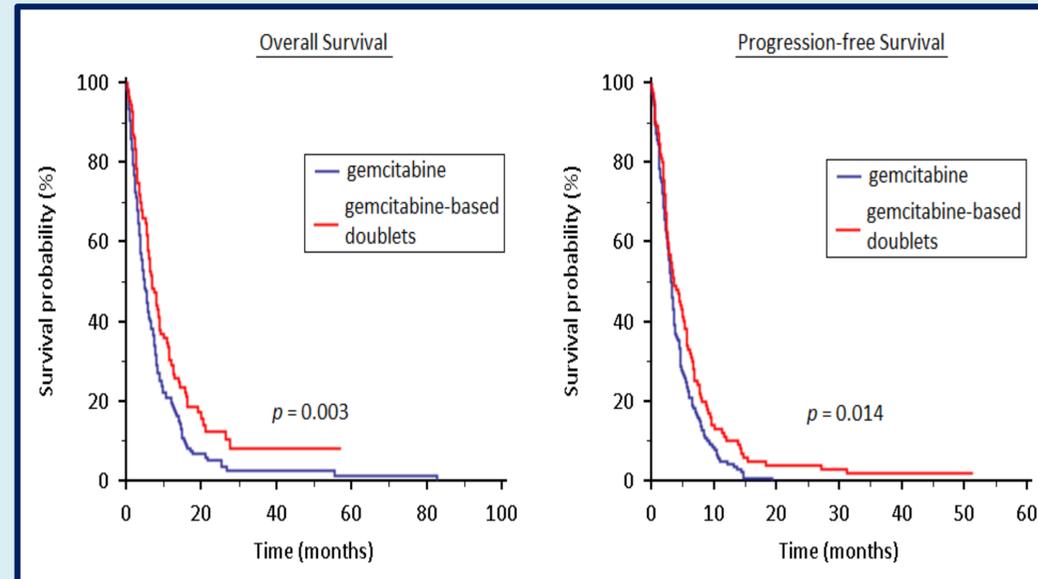


Figure 1. Kaplan-Meier curves for Overall Survival (OS) and Progression-free Survival (PFS) in pts treated with gemcitabine alone or gemcitabine based doublets first-line chemotherapy.

## Conclusions

Chemotherapy appears to have a similar activity in elderly patients as compared to younger patients with pancreatic cancer. However, combined chemotherapy does not occur to be more effective than monotherapy

## References

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