

QUALITY OF LIFE OF WEEKLY, DOSE-DENSE VERSUS STANDARD CHEMOTHERAPY FOR OVARIAN CANCER IN THE ICON8 STUDY

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text limited to 250 words

OBJECTIVES: To explore the impact of dose-dense chemotherapy on quality of life (QoL) in women with newly-diagnosed ovarian cancer.

METHODS: ICON8 is a randomised phase III trial of standard vs. weekly dose-dense chemotherapy in newly-diagnosed ovarian cancer. Patients were randomised 1:1:1 to 3-weekly carboplatin AUC5/paclitaxel 175mg/m² (Arm 1), 3-weekly carboplatin AUC5 and weekly paclitaxel 80mg/m² (Arm 2) or weekly carboplatin AUC2 and weekly paclitaxel 80mg/m² (Arm 3). Primary analysis of progression-free survival showed no significant difference between trial arms. All participants took part in the QoL substudy, completing EORTC-QLQ-C30 and OV28 questionnaires at enrolment, before each chemotherapy cycle, then 6-weekly to 9 months. Primary QoL endpoint was global QoL at 9 months, secondary endpoints included social and emotional function, fatigue and neuropathy symptom scores. Statistical significance was assessed by analysis of covariance adjusted for baseline score.

RESULTS: 17,515 QoL questionnaires were completed by 1540 participants. No significant difference between randomised groups was observed in global QoL at 9 months (p=0.08). There was also no difference in emotional function (p=0.21), social function (p=0.83) or fatigue (p=0.42). However, a significant difference was observed in peripheral neuropathy (p<0.001), with higher mean scores at 9 months in both weekly Arms (27.4, 34.2, 31.3 in arms 1,2,3 respectively). Exploratory analysis indicated that this difference continued to 18 months from randomisation.

CONCLUSIONS: Self-reported 9-month global QoL did not differ significantly between treatment arms. Emotional and social function, and fatigue were also similar. However, significantly worse long-term neuropathy was reported by both weekly treatment groups. These results do not support weekly, dose dense treatment in the upfront management of high risk ovarian cancer.