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## **Is there a place for taxoids in patients with advanced sarcomas?**

**N. Delepine**, E. Guikov, B. Markowska, H. Cornille, S. Alkallaf, G. Delepine

*Teenager Oncologic Service, Avicenne Hôpital, 93000 Bobigny, France*

**Purpose:** following data of Lyden about the high efficacy of taxol in mice with either alveolar or embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) (Med. Ped. Onc. Vol. 29, 5, 1997, 067) we decided to test the efficacy of taxoids in advanced sarcomas.

**Methods:** in 3 cases of advanced sarcomas, we tested a salvage chemotherapy (CT) with taxoids. We treated a 21 y. old girl with metastatic RMS with a second peritoneal relapse with taxol, 4 cycles of 435 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per cycle (145 mg/m<sup>2</sup> D1, D5 and D9 docetaxel) every 3 wk. A second patient (p.), 27 y. old, with an huge pulmonary metastatic osteosarcoma (OS) was treated by taxol with the same scheme. A third p., 20 y. old, with bone metastatic OS was treated by Docetaxel 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 3 wk as a fourth line therapy.

**Results:** the 3<sup>rd</sup> p. had an objective partial response (duration of response: 6 months in case 1 and 2, 4 in case 3). In the first case, side effects of taxol were mild: anorexia, headaches and gastric pain, erythema and cutaneous hyperestheia at the end of each course despite of the high dose of taxol. In the second case, asthenia, exfoliation grade II, cumbersome nails changes were deeply marked. Side effects of docetaxel were limited to diarrhea and grade III neutropenia.

**Conclusion:** Taxoids had a definite effect on highly pretreated sarcomas. Further studies with its use as second line therapy, could help to determine better its role in sarcomas. 8

