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Gastric cancer

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Abstract

Gastric cancer is one of the most common cancers and one of the most frequent causes of cancer-related deaths. The incidence, diagnostic studies, and therapeutic options have undergone important changes in the last decades, but the prognosis for gastric cancer patients remains poor, especially in more advanced stages. Surgery is the mainstay of treatment of this disease, even if it is associated with a high rate of locoregional and distant recurrence. There is ongoing debate regarding the role of adjuvant treatment In advanced disease, palliation of symptoms, rather than cure, is the primary goal of patient management. Several combination therapies have been developed and have been examined in phase III trials; however, in most cases, they have failed to demonstrate a survival advantage over the reference arm. This review summarizes the most important recommendations for the management of patients with gastric cancer.

Keywords: Gastric cancer; Surgery; Chemotherapy; Treatment; Review

1. General information

1.1. Epidemiology

1.1.1. Incidence and mortality

Stomach cancer is one of the most common cancers in Europe ranking fifth [1] after lung, prostate, colorectal and bladder cancers in men and breast, colorectal, lung and cancer of the corpus uteri in women. In Europe, each year there are some 192,000 new cases, representing about 23% of all malignant neoplasms [2]. The male-to-female ratio in incidence rates is about 1.6:1 [2].

The incidence of stomach cancer is higher in lower social classes, but has for many years been declining steadily