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Efficacy of Capecitabine and Temozolomide in Small Bowel (Midgut) Neuroendocrine Tumors

*Taymeyah Al-Toubah, Brian Morse, Jonathan Strosberg
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Tampa, FL*

BACKGROUND: The capecitabine/temozolomide regimen has proven significant activity in pancreatic NETs, however data are limited in NETs of the small bowel (midgut).

METHODS: Retrospective study of all patients with metastatic midgut NETs seen at Moffitt Cancer Center between 1/2008 and 6/2019 treated with CAPTEM.

RESULTS: 32 patients with proven or suspected primary small bowel NETs (excluding duodenum) were identified. 6 patients were found to have a radiographic response (19%), 5 of whom had high-grade (well-differentiated) disease. Only 1 patient among 23 with low/intermediate grade disease responded (4%), whereas the response rate for patients with high-grade disease was 56%. Among patients with low/intermediate-grade disease, 44% discontinued for poor tolerability.

CONCLUSION: The CAPTEM regimen appears to have activity in patients with WD high-grade small bowel NETs, and is largely inactive in patients with low/intermediate grade tumors. In this cohort of patients, tolerability was relatively poor among patients with low/intermediate grade tumors. CAPTEM use should largely be reserved for midgut NET patients with high-grade disease.

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