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Supportive Management during PRRT for Symptomatic Pheochromocytomas or Paragangliomas



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BACKGROUND: Pheochromocytoma (PCC) and Paraganglioma (PGL) are catecholamine-secreting neuroendocrine tumors, and patients with somatostatin receptor-positive disease may benefit from peptide receptor radionuclide therapy (PRRT). Patients are at risk of hormonal crisis and hemodynamic instability. We described the functional outcomes of patients with advanced PCC/PGLs treated with PRRT at our institution.

METHODS: Between 2018-2020, five sequential cases of metastatic PCCs and PGLs received PRRT. With Endocrinology involvement, symptom control was optimized prior to treatment.

RESULTS: 4/5 patients had baseline elevated catecholamines and received alpha-and beta-blockers before PRRT. A fifth patient with carotid artery paraganglioma had no catecholamine elevation, was asymptomatic and did not require alpha/beta-blockade. No patients experienced a hormonal crisis. Case 1 was a 28-year old male with metastatic PGL and refractory hypertension despite maximal alpha/beta-adrenergic blockade. Case 2 was a 28-year old male with recurrent PGL on anti-hypertensives pre-PRRT, but discontinued after cycle 3. Case 3 was a 45-year old male with PGL who progressed on carboplatin/etoposide. He underwent PRRT with complete symptom resolution. Case 4 was a 52-year old female with metastatic PCC and germline SDHB mutation. Her symptoms resolved and she required only doxazosin after 1 cycle. Case 5 was a 61-year old male with a bulky 10cm left carotid PGL (Table 1).

CONCLUSION: Patients with advanced PCC/PGLs can be safely treated with outpatient PRRT with optimized symptom control and multidisciplinary team involvement.

Table 1

Case	Metastatic Sites	Functional Symptoms	Cycle 1-Day 1 Medications
1-PCC	Bone, LN, liver, lung	Hypertension, tachycardia	Doxazosin 8mg BID, Nifedipine 30mg TID, Propranolol 120mg QD
2-PCC	Bone, LN, liver, lung	Hypertension, tachycardia	Prazosin 2mg QD, Metoprolol 25mg BID
3-PGL	LN	Night sweats, hypertension	Prazosin 2mg BID, Atenolol 25mg QD
4-PCC	Bone, LN	Tachycardia	Doxazosin 2mg BID, Atenolol 12.5mg QD
5-PGL	Carotid artery, LN	None	None

LN=lymph node

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