

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia with Variant Chromosomal Translocations: Results of Treatment with Imatinib Mesylate.

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Abstract

Objective: To evaluate the efficacy of imatinib in chronic myeloid leukemia patients with variant translocations. **Methods:** Forty eight chronic myeloid leukemia patients carrying variant translocations and treated with imatinib at our institute were considered for the study. Survival and response rates were evaluated. **Results:** The median follow up was 48 months(m). Forty three (89.58%) patients achieved complete hematologic response. Thirty one (64.58%) patients achieved complete cytogenetic response and 19(39.58%) achieved major molecular response anytime during their follow up period. Only 18.75% of the patients achieved complete cytogenetic response and major molecular response within the stipulated time frames. The estimated overall survival at 48 m median follow up was 81.2%. The progression free survival was also 81.2% and the event free survival was 79.1%. There was no significant survival difference between low vs intermediate and high risk sokal group. **Conclusion:** We report suboptimal responses to imatinib in chronic myeloid leukemia with variant translocations. Further studies with imatinib and the newer more active drugs dasatinib and nilotinib are justified.

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