Anthracyclines are among the most active agents in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Anthracycline-containing chemotherapy may even result in long-term survival in some patients who achieve a complete response. Anthracycline combinations have been shown to be superior to single-agent anthracyclines, and dose-intensive regimens to be more effective than standard-dose regimens. Epirubicin is nearly as effective as doxorubicin, but with significantly reduced toxicity. Recent results indicate that the efficacy of chemotherapy may be further enhanced by the combination of anthracyclines with taxanes.
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