Secondary gastrectomy for stage IV gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma after induction-chemotherapy.

Abstract:
With improved chemotherapeutic regimens, metastasized gastric cancer may show a good response rendering an initially unresectable tumor resectable. We performed a retrospective analysis on the outcome of stage IV gastric cancer patients treated by chemotherapy followed by oncologic resection in a western institution. From August 1988 to December 2010, a total number of 1,817 patients underwent surgery for gastric cancer at the Department of Surgery, Technical University of Munich. A retrospective analysis of our prospective gastric cancer database identified 58 patients with stage IV gastric cancer having undergone induction chemotherapy followed by surgery in an individualized treatment concept. After induction chemotherapy usually consisting of 2 cycles of PLF (cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin), resection was performed with or without removal of metastases in patients without disease progression. Patients were followed up until death or loss to follow up. The three most common metastatic locations were liver (27.6 %), distant lymph nodes (22.4 %), and peritoneum (19.0 %). Of patients, 13.8 % had metastases in more than one location. Thirty-day mortality was 5.2 %, 90-day mortality was 13.8 %, while overall postoperative morbidity accounted for 24 %. In 19 (32.8 %) patients, a complete resection without any macroscopic tumor residues was
achieved. In 39 (67.2 %) patients, tumors could not be completely removed with either local residual disease or residual disease at distant sites. Overall median survival was 20 months, while patients without residual tumor survived significantly longer (72 months) than patients with residual disease (12 months, p = 0.001). Secondary surgery of metastasized gastric cancer may be justified in selected cases without progression under induction chemotherapy. An achievable complete removal of the primary tumor and metastases appears the main selection criterion for patients benefitting from this approach.