

Study to compare two combination treatments in Chinese people with stomach cancer

Date of summary: 21 March 2018

What did this study look at?

- There is no agreement on the best way to treat stomach cancer in China.
- The combination of docetaxel, cisplatin and fluorouracil (DCF for short) targets cancer cells in people with stomach cancer. It is available for doctors to prescribe. But DCF can have unwanted side effects.
- In this study, people with stomach cancer received a lower-dose version of DCF to see if it had fewer side effects.
- The researchers compared two types of combination treatments:
 - Treatment 1: Lower-dose DCF.
 - Treatment 2: Cisplatin + fluorouracil.

Who could take part in the study?

- The study took place in several hospitals in China.
- People included in the study had stomach cancer at an advanced stage or which kept coming back (recurrent). People who had already received another treatment for their stomach cancer could not take part.
- Both men and women were included. Their average age was about 55 years.
- **In total, 243 people took part in the study:**
 - Half received treatment 1.
 - Half received treatment 2.

Docetaxel <doe-se-TAKS-el>

is also known as Taxotere <TAKS-ah-tear>

Cisplatin <sis-PLA-tin>

is also known as Platinol <PLA-tin-ol>

Fluorouracil <FLOOR-ah-UR-a-sil>

is also known as 5-FU or Adrucil <ADD-ru-sil>

What were the results of the study?

People who received treatment 1:

- **Lived about 2 months longer**
- **Had a longer time before their cancer got worse**
- **Were more likely to have an improvement in their cancer**

People who received treatment 1 had more side effects

- The most common side effect was low levels of white blood cells. This side effect was seen in about:
 - 9 out of 10 people who had treatment 1.
 - 6 out of 10 people who had treatment 2.
- Serious side effects were seen in:
 - Nearly 8 out of 10 people who had treatment 1.
 - Nearly 5 out of 10 people who had treatment 2.

The researchers compared the results with treatment 1 to the results from an earlier study using the same 3 medicines at their normal dose. They found that treatment 1 is as effective as the normal dose, but has fewer side effects.

How could this study benefit patients?

- Lower-dose DCF works as well as higher-dose DCF in people with stomach cancer and has fewer side effects. So lower-dose DCF could be a new treatment option for people with stomach cancer.
- One study is not enough to find out if a new medicine works. Other studies may find different results than those in this summary.

How to use this summary to help patients and doctors talk about this research

- **Question from patient to doctor:** How important is this research to my care?
- **Question from doctor to patient:** How relevant is this research to what matters most to you?

Are there any plans for future studies?

- This study is completed.
- Other studies are looking at the effect of DCF in more people with stomach cancer.

Who sponsored this study?

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Sanofi would like to thank all of the people who took part in this study.

Further information

Study number: NCT00811447 | **Study start date:** November 2008 | **Study end date:** June 2012

To find out more information on this study, please visit:

- <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00811447>

To find out more information on clinical studies in general, please visit:

- <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/about-studies/learn>
- <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/what-clinical-trials-are>

The full title of this article is:

Randomized multicentre phase III study of a modified docetaxel and cisplatin plus fluorouracil regimen with cisplatin and fluorouracil as first-line therapy for advanced or locally recurrent gastric cancer.

You can find the full article here:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25604851>

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