

Evaluation of NRS and NPSI pain scores in advanced ovarian carcinoma patients undergoing surgery and first-line chemotherapy

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1st Editorial decision
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Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-21-00148

Evaluation of NRS and NPSI pain scores in advanced ovarian carcinoma patients undergoing surgery and first-line chemotherapy
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear Dr. Nasare,

Reviewers have now commented on your paper. You will see that they are advising that you revise your manuscript. If you are prepared to undertake the work required, I would be pleased to reconsider my decision.

For your guidance, reviewers' comments are appended below.

The editorial office agrees with the reviewers on their appraisal of your work and therefore cautions you that an entire overhaul of the paper will be necessary to render the manuscript eligible for acceptance. It goes beyond language corrections. For example, the authors should address the comment related to novelty of the work (what does your work add to existing literature?). Structure and presentation of the narrative are also subpar. We will consider these heftily when making an assessment of your revised manuscript, if you choose to submit a

revision.

If you decide to revise the work, please submit a list of changes or a rebuttal against each point which is being raised when you submit the revised manuscript. Also, please ensure that the track changes function is switched on when implementing the revisions. This enables the reviewers to rapidly verify all changes made.

Your revision is due by Nov 28, 2021.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: The objective of the study is interesting, pain is one of the most difficult symptoms to manage related to ovarian cancer and its treatment. Assessing the impact of pain on the well-being of these patients is important for managing analgesia and improving patients' QoL.

However some points of the study need to be clarified: what does the writer mean by pain associated with movement? please explain more clearly in the text

Many sentences in the discussion are not as clear as page 5 line 4-8 the author compares standard chemotherapy with paclitaxel and carboplatin with intraperitoneal therapy with cisplatin, why? Please explain. Also line 25-26-27 have to be explain. The author should compare his findings with more recent literature data, looking for the possible ethiology of the pain in order to explain why it persists during treatment and maybe suggest how to reduce pain and chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy(CIPN). Many pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions are addressing the prevention or relief of CIPN, it could be interesting assesed if they are applicable in India hospitals. The biggest limitation of the study is the lack of a true conclusion, perhaps the lack of follow-up data is crucial for assessing the impact of pain on patients' QoL.

Reviewer 2: This is a prospective cohort study to evaluate the pain and its impact on physical and functional wellbeing of the ovarian cancer patients who got surgery and chemotherapy. Pain was assessed in 110 patients by using the numerical rating scale (NRS) and the Neuropathic Pain Symptom Inventory (NPSI) scale. The authors noted significantly higher incidence of neuropathic pain in the group of patients who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy, compared to adjuvant chemotherapy. They also found that movement-associated pain had a significant association with chemotherapy response and physical/functional well-being. The manuscript is very difficult to read because of poor English and inadequate provision of research context. Furthermore, this study does not seem to convey any new information or knowledge in the corresponding field.

Authors' response

Answers to the reviewers' comments:

Reviewer #1: The objective of the study is interesting; pain is one of the most difficult symptoms to manage related to ovarian cancer and its treatment. Assessing the impact of pain on the well-being of these patients is important for managing analgesia and improving patients' QoL.

Comment 1: However, some points of the study need to be clarified: what does the writer mean by pain associated with movement? please explain more clearly in the text

Answer: As per, your suggestion I have included references in materials and methods and explained in discussion and highlighted.

Comment 2: Many sentences in the discussion are not as clear as page 5 line 4-8 the author compares standard chemotherapy with paclitaxel and carboplatin with intraperitoneal therapy with cisplatin, why? Please explain. Also line 25-26-27 have to be explain.

Answer: The standard chemotherapy of ovarian carcinoma is basically carboplatin and paclitaxel. Cisplatin and carboplatin are both platinum analogs and thus has been compared with our study.

Lines 25-27 are explained and highlighted.

Comment 3: The author should compare his findings with more recent literature data, looking for the possible etiology of the pain in order to explain why it persists during treatment and maybe suggest how to reduce pain and chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN). Many pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions are addressing the prevention or relief of CIPN, it could be interesting assessed if they are applicable in India hospitals.

Answer: Similar research with a comparable study design is difficult to find in the current literature.

The possible aetiology of the persisting pain is described and highlighted in yellow. The pharmacological interventions advised for the patients are described. Most of the patients were prescribed paracetamol, diclofenac (topical), tramadol and rarely morphine for rescue analgesia. Gabapentin and vitamin B12 were advised to them as a supportive treatment of chemo-induced neuropathy. Mentioned in the manuscript.

However, in this study a cumulative data has been taken into consideration as reported by the patients themselves and after analysis no significant differences were found between the study time points.

Comment 4: The biggest limitation of the study is the lack of a true conclusion, perhaps the lack of follow-up data is crucial for assessing the impact of pain on patients' QoL.

Answer: I completely agree with the reviewer but our focus was on the assessment of pain only during the first line treatment and the QoL is still going on.

Reviewer #2: This is a prospective cohort study to evaluate the pain and its impact on physical and functional wellbeing of the ovarian cancer patients who got surgery and chemotherapy. Pain was assessed in 110 patients by using the numerical rating scale (NRS) and the Neuropathic Pain Symptom Inventory (NPSI) scale. The authors noted significantly higher incidence of neuropathic pain in the group of patients who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy, compared to adjuvant chemotherapy. They also found that movement-

associated pain had a significant association with chemotherapy response and physical/functional well-being.

Comment 5: The manuscript is very difficult to read because of poor English and inadequate provision of research context. Furthermore, this study does not seem to convey any new information or knowledge in the corresponding field.

Answer: As per your suggestion, I have rectified the language errors.

Currently, to the best of our knowledge, no study has reported the assessment of pain and its management outcomes in advanced ovarian cancer patients in an Indian tertiary care hospital. So we think that this study will have impact on the better management of pain and identification of the problems that need to be looked into by healthcare professionals. Thank you, reviewers to improve the manuscript for your valuable suggestions.

2nd Editorial decision
03-Dec-2021

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-21-00148R1

Evaluation of NRS and NPSI pain scores in advanced ovarian carcinoma patients undergoing surgery and first-line chemotherapy
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear author(s),

Reviewers have submitted their critical appraisal of your paper. The reviewers' comments are appended below. Based on their comments and evaluation by the editorial board, your work was FOUND SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AFTER MINOR REVISION.

If you decide to revise the work, please itemize the reviewers' comments and provide a point-by-point response to every comment. An exemplary rebuttal letter can be found on at <http://www.jctres.com/en/author-guidelines/> under "Manuscript preparation." Also, please use the track changes function in the original document so that the reviewers can easily verify your responses.

Your revision is due by Jan 02, 2022.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Dear authors,

Thank you for submitting a revised version of your manuscript.

The editorial board has considered your modifications and rebuttal to the reviewers' comments and we have concluded that your paper has successfully passed through peer review.

However, the language is still not up to par with our standards and needs to be seriously addressed.

Please involve a native speaker or contract a service provider. JCTR has editors who can provide linguistic and content editing for a fee. In case of the latter, please contact the editor at m.heger@jctres.com.

Thank you and we are looking forward to a final version of your work.

Michal Heger
Editor

Authors' response

Reviewers' comments:

Dear authors,

Thank you for submitting a revised version of your manuscript.

The editorial board has considered your modifications and rebuttal to the reviewers' comments and we have concluded that your paper has successfully passed through peer review.

However, the language is still not up to par with our standards and needs to be seriously addressed.

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Thank you and we are looking forward to a final version of your work.

Michal Heger
Editor

Response to the reviewers' comments:

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your suggestion.

We have checked our manuscript through Grammarly and made the necessary changes to it. It would have been highly beneficial if we could involve a native speaker or service provider however, due to lack of funds we are unable to do so.

I would be highly obliged if you could consider our re-revised manuscript for publication.

Regards
Dr. Vilas D. Nasare

3rd Editorial decision
09- Jan-2022

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-21-00148R2
Evaluation of NRS and NPSI pain scores in advanced ovarian carcinoma patients undergoing surgery and first-line chemotherapy
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear author(s),

Reviewers have submitted their critical appraisal of your paper. The reviewers' comments are appended below. Based on their comments and evaluation by the editorial board, your work was FOUND SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION AFTER MINOR REVISION.

If you decide to revise the work, please itemize the reviewers' comments and provide a point-by-point response to every comment. An exemplary rebuttal letter can be found on at <http://www.jctres.com/en/author-guidelines/> under "Manuscript preparation." Also, please use the track changes function in the original document so that the reviewers can easily verify your responses.

Your revision is due by Feb 08, 2022.

To submit a revision, go to <https://www.editorialmanager.com/jctres/> and log in as an Author. You will see a menu item call Submission Needing Revision. You will find your submission record there.

Yours sincerely,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Reviewers' comments:

Dear authors,

Thank you for submitting your revised version to JCTR.

I have perused through the manuscript and deemed it eligible for publication pending correction of grammatical/spelling/syntax errors.

Please either engage a native speaker, contract a third party service, or involve a JCTR editor (will incur fee) to help you with linguistics.

After we receive a properly written manuscript we can proceed with its publication.

Thank you for contributing your work to the journal.

Kindest regards,

Michal Heger
Editor

Authors' response

Dear Editor,
JCTRES

12.01,22

Thank you for your valuable suggestions.
We have checked our manuscript through and made the necessary changes to it (highlighted in yellow) and uploaded.

I would be highly obliged if you could consider our re-revised manuscript for publication.

Regards
Dr. Vilas D. Nasare

4th Editorial decision
14-Jan-2022

Ref.: Ms. No. JCTRes-D-21-00148R3
Evaluation of NRS and NPSI pain scores in advanced ovarian carcinoma patients undergoing surgery and first-line chemotherapy
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Dear authors,

I am pleased to inform you that your manuscript has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical and Translational Research.

You will receive the proofs of your article shortly, which we kindly ask you to thoroughly review for any errors.

Thank you for submitting your work to JCTR.

Kindest regards,

Michal Heger
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Clinical and Translational Research

Comments from the editors and reviewers: