European Journal of Cancer (2015) **51**, 2444–2452

Thymoma and thymic carcinoma in children and adolescents: A report from the European Cooperative Study Group for Pediatric Rare Tumors (EXPeRT)

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Retrospective analysis of clinical data and therapeutic characteristics of paediatric patients <18 years with thymic tumours (thymomas and thymic carcinomas) treated between 2000 and 2012 by the cooperating national rare paediatric tumour working groups from France, Italy, Germany and Poland

- 16 children with thymoma (median age 11 years) and 20 with thymic carcinoma (median age 14 years)
- At diagnosis complete primary resection was possible in 11 patients with thymoma and 1 with thymic carcinoma
- Chemotherapy with various regimens was given to 22 children (17 as neoadjuvant); 8 patients with carcinoma had radiotherapy
- 17 children died (15 thymic carcinoma, 2 thymoma)
- 5-year overall survival for patients with thymic carcinoma is 21%

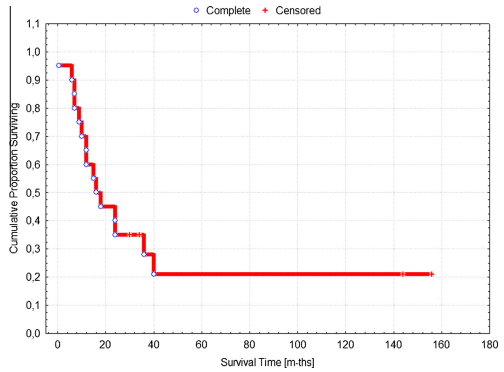

Fig. 1. Overall survival (OS) of 20 patients with thymic carcinoma.

Conclusions

Thymoma generally has good prognosis; radical surgery is the treatment of choice

Thymic carcinoma is associated with paediatric patients to give a very poor prognosis independently of intensive multimodal management: surgery is the most important issue, eventually associated to radiotherapy. The role of chemotherapy is unknown (it seems that it is worth using chemotherapeutic regiments with cisplatin, etoposide and ifosfamide)

Multidisciplinary, multicenter approach and collaboration with adults' physician are neces- sary in order to propose homogenous guidelines.