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Background

Platinum-containing regimens are widely used as first-line chemotherapy for unresectable pancreatic neuroendocrine carcinoma (NEC), but second-line chemotherapies have yet to be established.

Objectives

We evaluated the safety and efficacy of everolimus in patients with pancreatic NEC refractory or intolerant to platinum-containing chemotherapy

Methods

This study was a prospective, multicenter, phase II trial in patients with pancreatic NEC after platinum-containing chemotherapy. Everolimus treatment was continued until disease progression or intolerable toxicity was observed. The primary endpoint was progression-free survival (PFS).

Results

Participants comprised 25 patients. Median age was 63 years, median PFS was 1.2 months (95% confidence interval [CI] 0.9–

3.1 months), median overall survival was 7.5 months (95% CI 3.1–13.5 months), overall response rate was 0%, and disease control rate was 39.1%. Common grade 3/4 adverse events were hyperglycemia (20%), thrombocytopenia (16%), and anemia (16%)

Conclusion

The efficacy of everolimus was limited in patients with unresectable pancreatic NEC.