

Reply: 'Comment on Phase III randomised controlled trial of neoadjuvant chemotherapy plus radical surgery vs radical surgery alone for stages IB2, IIA2, and IIB cervical cancer: a Japan Clinical Oncology Group trial (JCOG 0102)'

N Katsumata^{*,1}

¹Department of Medical Oncology, Nippon Medical School Musashikosugi Hospital, 1-396, Kosugi-machi, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-city, Kanagawa prefecture 211-8533, Japan

Sir,

We would like to thank Nagano (2013) for their comments on our work, and take this opportunity to respond to the points they raise in their letter. If adjuvant radiotherapy had been given to all patients who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy regardless of the surgical findings, the neoadjuvant therapy might be better. However, the radiation-related morbidity will not reduce. Because the purpose of neoadjuvant chemotherapy is not only to improve survival but also to reduce surgical morbidity, postoperative irradiation, and radiation-related morbidity, recent neoadjuvant trials including our trial were designed that post-operative radiotherapy was delivered if patients had high-risk factors for recurrence (Napolitano *et al*, 2003; Cai *et al*, 2006; Eddy *et al*, 2007).

The trials of neoadjuvant chemotherapy are still ongoing. We need more potent chemotherapy to get more efficacies. Further trials including paclitaxel and/or bevacizumab are warranted to clarify potential benefits of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for cervical cancer.

REFERENCES

Cai HB, Chen HZ, Yin HH (2006) Randomized study of preoperative chemotherapy versus primary surgery for stage IB cervical cancer. *J Obstet Gynaecol Res* 32(3): 315–323.

Eddy GL, Bundy BN, Creasman WT, Spirtos NM, Mannel RS, Hannigan E *et al*. (2007) Treatment of ('bulky') stage IB cervical cancer with or without neoadjuvant vincristine and cisplatin prior to radical hysterectomy and pelvic/para-aortic lymphadenectomy: a phase III trial of the gynecologic oncology group. *Gynecol Oncol* 106(2): 362–369.

Nagano H (2013) Comment on 'Phase III randomised controlled trial of neoadjuvant chemotherapy plus radical surgery vs radical surgery alone for stages IB2, IIA2, and IIB cervical cancer: a Japan Clinical Oncology Group trial (JCOG 0102)'. *Br J Cancer* 109: 2505.

Napolitano U, Imperato F, Mossa B, Framarino ML, Marziani R, Marzetti L (2003) The role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for squamous cell cervical cancer (Ib-IIIb): a long-term randomized trial. *Eur J Gynaecol Oncol* 24(1): 51–59.



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

*Correspondence: Dr N Katsumata; E-mail: nkatsuma@nms.ac.jp
Published online 24 September 2013