



CORRESPONDENCE

Comment on: “Preventing chemotherapy-induced alopecia: a prospective clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of a scalp-cooling system in early breast cancer patients treated with anthracyclines”

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We have read, with great interest, the recent paper titled “Preventing chemotherapy-induced alopecia: a prospective clinical trial on the efficacy and safety of a scalp-cooling system in early breast cancer patients treated with anthracyclines” by Munzone et al.,¹ which evaluated the effect of a scalp-cooling system on chemotherapy-induced alopecia (CIA). We would like to highlight additional points of discussion regarding this study.

The authors evaluated the concordance between patient and nurse/physician Dean’s score and reported that Cohen’s kappa was 0.41, indicating moderate agreement; however, 53.8% of patients evaluated their hair loss at $\leq 50\%$, whereas 79.8% of the medical staff evaluated patient hair loss at $\leq 50\%$. There was a significant difference between the patient and medical staff evaluations ($p < .001$). This indicates that the medical staff underestimated the CIA. The report of moderate agreement is encouraging; however, we believe that the authors should have been mindful of the potential for missing patient distress.

The authors reported on breast-related quality of life among the patients starting chemotherapy with scalp cooling; however, we believe that some background-related data are lacking. For instance, the success rate, failure rate and Dean’s score could have been reported for the 58 patients who completed the European Organization for Research and Treatment-QOL questionnaire and breast cancer specific module questionnaires. In addition, was there a statistically significant difference regarding body image between the success and failure groups?

We believe that addressing the questions raised would provide a clearer picture of the results of the study by Munzone et al.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

J.K., K.K., M.K. and Y.O. made substantial contributions to study conception and design. J.K. and K.K. were involved in drafting the paper. All authors contributed to and approved all drafts.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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