

## **SESSION 1: ESOPHAGEAL/GASTRIC CANCER**

### **Adjuvant Therapy in Gastric Cancer: East vs West Operate First, Chemotherapy Later**

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More than 30 randomized trials have compared adjuvant chemotherapy to surgery alone in resectable gastric cancer, with variable, mostly negative results. While some of the trials were underpowered to detect a significant survival difference, others utilized inferior surgical techniques (i.e. D0/D1 lymph node dissection). According to recent meta-analysis by GASTRIC group, postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy was associated with reduced risk of death in gastric cancer compared with surgery alone (5-y OS increased from 49.6% to 55.3%, HR, 0.82; 95% CI, 0.75-0.90; P<0.001). Recently, two Asian RCTs confirmed survival benefits of postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy for stage II-III gastric cancer patients after gastrectomy with D2 lymph node dissection. ACTS-GC trial is a randomised phase III study to compare adjuvant S-1 vs. surgery alone in Japan. CLASSIC trial is the similar randomised phase III study to compare adjuvant XELOX (capecitabine+oxaliplatin) vs. surgery alone in Korea. Almost similar risk reductions were observed in both studied (3y DFS HR 0.62 in ACTS-GC and 0.58 in CLASSIC), although results in stage III tend to be favor in XELOX according to cross-trial comparison. These findings confirmed survival benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy after D2 dissection. Recent phase II trials of XELOX or SOX for stage III disease confirmed its feasibility in Japanese patients. In contrast, intensified adjuvant chemotherapy using sequential treatment could not show superior outcome (ITACA-S trial or SAMIT trial). In Japan, neoadjuvant chemotherapy has been evaluated in patients with poor prognostic characteristics (type 4 or large type 3) or border-line resectable cases (bulky size lymph node metastasis or para-aortic lymph node metastasis, large type3 or type 4).

Several phase III trial of neoadjuvant chemotherapy are ongoing in Asian countries (PRODIGY trial etc.) and randomized phase II trials of neoadjuvant trastuzumab for HER2+ gastric cancer is ongoing in JAPAN (JCOG1301). We hope these studies provide important information regarding treatment strategies for resectable gastric cancer