POSSIBLE ROLE OF GRANULOCYTE COLONY-STIMULATING FACTOR (FILGRASTIM) IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RADIATION INDUCED ORAL MUCOSITIS AND DYSPHAGIA.

J.-M. Deneufbourg, P. Piret, F. Boniver and M. Collette. Radiation Oncology, University Hospital, B-4000 LIEGE, Belgium.

Purpose.

Mucositis and dysphagia are serious acute side-effects of radiotherapy (RT) in head and neck area in case of concomitant chemotherapy or accelerated hyperfractionation. The therapeutic role of filgrastim was investigated in a pilot study.

Patients and Methods.

Mucositis (MU) and dysphagia (DY) were evaluated among patients irradiated for oral cavity and oropharynx carcinomas (6 weeks split-course with 15 days rest, 63 grays TDF dose, 2 opposed fields/session, cobalt rays). 15 patients were given filgrastim (F group) 3 microgr/kg for 6 days at the end of each RT sequence. As controls, 45 comparable cases (C group) received conventional support only.

Results.

	mid RT				end RT			
	% MU		% DY		% MU		% DY	
grade	F	C	F	C	F	C	F	C
0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2
1	10	9	17	9	58	5	20	7
2	54	24	33	41	17	26	47	48
3	36	65	50	41	25	67	27	34
4	0	2	0	7	0	2	0	9

X2 with Yates correction $p<0.01$

Conclusion. Filgrastim might reduce the severity of radiation induced acute oral complications. Work is in progress to determine proper dosing and timing and to statistically ascertain the benefit through a larger accrual.