The influence of acute kidney disease on the clinical outcomes of patients who received cisplatin, carboplatin, and oxaliplatin

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Abstract

Background and Aims: Cisplatin (CDDP) is used as the first line of treatment for some tumors, but its use may be restricted due to its nephrotoxicity. Carboplatin (CARBO) and oxaliplatin (OXA) are less nephrotoxic alternatives to CDDP. This study has the objective to determine the incidence of acute kidney disease after chemotherapy with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA.

Methods: A clinical study of a retrospective cohort of patients who underwent treatment with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA from January-December 2016. Acute kidney Disease (AKD) was defined as elevated serum creatinine (sCR) levels before and up to 3 months after chemotherapy. Morbidities, type of tumor, and treatment data were recorded.

Results: A total of 212 patients aged 55.5 ± 14.0 years were evaluated. Among the comorbidities, 30% had arterial hypertension (AH) and 11% had diabetes, and 18% were treated with CDDP, 41% with CARBO, and 41% with OXA. There was no difference in sCR levels before and after chemotherapy regardless of the chemotherapy used. The prevalence of eGFRs <60 mL/min after chemotherapy was higher in patients with AH and cardiovascular disease (CVD). The incidence of post-chemotherapy AKD was 7.0% (n = 13) and the mortality rate was 38.2%. Survival was lower in patients with AKD (P = .012).

Conclusions: There was a low incidence of AKD among the patients regardless of the chemotherapy used, but the patients with AKD had shorter survival. In addition, the reduction in eGFR after chemotherapy was greater in patients with AH and CVD.

KEYWORDS
cancer, carboplatin, chemotherapy, cisplatin, nephrotoxicity, oxaliplatin

INTRODUCTION

In 2020, 309 750 cases are expected among men and 316 280 cases among women in Brazil. Most of the cases were nonmelanoma skin cancers. Of the chemotherapeutic drugs used in the clinical treatment of cancer, cisplatin (CDDP) was one of the first platinum-derived drugs discovered and was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1979.
Since its approval by the FDA, CDDP has been used as the first line of treatment for breast, lung, head and neck, and ovary and testis cancers, but its use has been limited due to neurotoxicity, ototoxicity, and nephrotoxicity.\textsuperscript{3-5} The main excretion route of CDDP is through the kidneys, thus nephrotoxicity occurs in ~20% of outpatients and hospitalized patients.\textsuperscript{3}

It is important to note that CDDP nephrotoxicity is dose-dependent and that trials have shown that low doses of CDDP cause late kidney damage differently than high doses of CDDP.\textsuperscript{4-6} Changes in glomerular filtration were found in 20% to 40% of patients 7 to 10 days after the first dose of CDDP was administered.\textsuperscript{6}

The main mechanisms of CDDP-induced damage in the renal tubular cell include DNA damage, changes in cell transport, loss of cell polarity/cytoskeleton, mitochondrial dysfunction, inhibition of fatty acid oxidation, oxidative stress, inflammatory response, activation of apoptotic pathways, activates p53, and apoptosis in renal tubules.\textsuperscript{5,6}

After discovery of CDDP and identification of its side effects, second and third generation drugs derived from CDDP, such as carboplatin (CARBO) and oxaliplatin (OXA) were synthesized to reduce unwanted side effects, including nephrotoxicity.\textsuperscript{7-11} CARBO has the same effect as CDDP on cell proliferation, but CARBO does not reduce the cell detoxification mechanisms that remove free radicals.\textsuperscript{10,11}

OXA induces DNA damage, but to a lesser extent, and more effectively inhibits DNA replication and induces apoptosis in normal and mutant cells than CDDP and CARBO.

It is unclear whether nephrotoxicity remains a risk after switching to CARBO or OXA after a previous cycle of CDDP treatment, studies that evaluate CARBO or OXA nephrotoxicity after a CDDP treatment are needed.\textsuperscript{10-16}

The methods that can assess renal function after long-term treatment with CDDP or CDDP analogs include the serum creatinine (sCR), urea, and fractional sodium excretion.\textsuperscript{17} Although sCR is a standard serological marker, its serum levels are variable and should be evaluated with caution and several variables, including age, sex, muscle mass, and hydration must be considered.\textsuperscript{17}

Therefore, this study aimed to survey the incidence of acute kidney disease in outpatient chemotherapy patients treated with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA and to analyze the clinical factors associated with renal dysfunction occurrences in the chemotherapy patients.

## 2 | METHODS

A clinical, retrospective cohort study of 212 patients >18 years of age who underwent treatment with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA at AC Camargo Hospital, a Cancer Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with assistance, teaching, and research programs was performed to evaluate changes in creatinine levels before and after the start of chemotherapy from January to December 2016. Patients with estimated glomerular filtration rates (eGFRs) >60 mL/min at the beginning of treatment were included in the study and patients with eGFRs <60 mL/min, or who developed AKD due to causes other than chemotherapy were excluded from the study.

Demographic data, including age, sex, comorbidities, oncological disease data, such as date of confirmed diagnosis, tumor staging, and classification of performance status assessed by the Zubrod Scale-ECOG description were collected.

Renal function data (creatinine) were collected before the start of chemotherapy (baseline sCR), at the start of chemotherapy (initial
sCR), and up to 3 months after the end of treatment (sCR after chemotherapy). eGFRs were calculated using the formula established by the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration (CKD-EPI). Mortality and AKD outcomes were analyzed. To identify the presence of Acute kidney diseases (AKD), we used the KDIGO definition, that is: AKI (an sCR increase >0.3 mg/dL compared to the baseline sCR), or GFR <60 mL/min per 1.73 m² for ≤ 3 mo.¹⁸

The characteristics of the study population were described in absolute and relative frequencies in addition to measures of central tendency and dispersion when the variables were continuous. The relative frequencies and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were determined according to the Clopper-Pearson method. The Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate population survival and the log-rank test was used to evaluate differences between groups.

To identify factors associated with outcomes, simple or multiple logistic regression analysis was performed. Pearson’s Chi-Square test or Fisher’s exact test (when indicated) was used to identify variables associated with the outcome. The distribution of the values of the renal function markers according to groups was evaluated using the Mann-Whitney test. The prevalence of outcomes at two different patient follow-ups was compared using the McNemar test. The analyses were performed using the IBM SPSS version 20.0 statistical package. Results with a type I error probability of <5% were considered statistically significant.

### 2.1 ETHICS STATEMENT

This study was approved by AC Camargo Cancer Center Ethics Committee (approval no. 466/12). All ethical measures were taken, and the collection of the data presented was initiated only after approval by the Research Ethics Committee of this institution.

| Table 2 | Values of serum creatinine levels before and after chemotherapy with patients undergoing treatment with platinum derivatives at the AC Camargo Cancer Center (n = 199) |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Chemotherapy**          | **sCR (mg/dL)** | **Median sCR (mg/dL)** | **P**  |
| **Before-CT**             |                |                        |       |
| All (n = 197)             | 0.87 ± 0.32    | 0.80 (0.47-3.05)       | .530  |
| Cisplatin (n = 33)        | 0.83 ± 0.16    | 0.83 (0.83-1.20)       |       |
| Carboplatin (n = 83)      | 0.86 ± 0.35    | 0.86 (0.77-2.43)       |       |
| Oxaliplatin (n = 83)      | 0.90 ± 0.33    | 0.90 (0.85-3.05)       |       |
| **Post-CT**               |                |                        |       |
| All (n = 189)             | 0.86 ± 0.31    | 0.77 (0.40-2.46)       | .899  |
| Cisplatin (n = 31)        | 0.85 ± 0.23    | 0.90 (0.91-1.28)       |       |
| Carboplatin (n = 80)      | 0.85 ± 0.31    | 0.74 (0.74-2.26)       |       |
| Oxaliplatin (n = 83)      | 0.87 ± 0.33    | 0.80 (0.80-2.46)       |       |

Abbreviations: CT, chemotherapy; sCR, serum creatinine; SD, standard deviation.

**Figure 1** Comparison of sCR values after chemotherapy with CDDP vs CARBO vs OXA (n = 19; P = .899)
3 | RESULTS

We evaluated 212 patients treated with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA from January to December 2016 with 51% male and an average age of 55.5 ± 14.0 years. Demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients, including distribution of the chemotherapeutic drugs used and location of the disease are shown (Table 1).

The average pre- and post-chemotherapy sCR levels in patients were 0.87 ± 0.32 and 0.86 ± 0.31 mg/dL, respectively, thus there was no difference in sCR levels before and after chemotherapy. There were also no statistical differences pre- and post-chemotherapy when comparing sCR values between treatment groups (Table 2). The sCR levels before and after chemotherapy with platinum derivatives (n = 199) are shown (Table 2).

The pre-chemotherapy eGFR was 86.7 ± 21.0 mL/min with a median of 88.0 mL/min (18.6-130.4 mL/min). After chemotherapy, the eGFR was 87.16 ± 21.9 mL/min with a median of 90.7 mL/min (24.2-135.6 mL/min). The sCR values for the various treatment groups are shown in Figure 1. Comparisons of sCR values from the CDDP, CARBO, and OXA treatment groups are shown in Figure 2.

The clinical characteristics related to renal dysfunction based on an eGFR <60 mL/min before and after chemotherapy are described in Table 3.

![Figure 2](image-url)  
**FIGURE 2** sCR levels in patients after chemotherapy with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA at the AC Camargo Cancer Center (n = 199; P = .871)

| Characteristics | All N (%) | eGFR < 60 mL/min N (%) | eGFR > 60 mL/min N (%) | P |
|-----------------|----------|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Tumor type      |          |                        |                        |   |
| Solid           | 186 (98.9) | 24 (100)               | 162 (98.8)             | 1.000 |
| Hematological   | 2 (1.1)   | 0 (0)                  | 2 (1.2)                |   |
| Chemotherapy    |          |                        |                        |   |
| Cisplatin       | 31 (16.4) | 3 (12.5)               | 28 (17)                | .878 |
| Carboplatin     | 78 (41.3) | 11 (45.8)              | 67 (40.6)              |   |
| Oxaliplatin     | 80 (42.3) | 10 (41.7)              | 70 (42.4)              |   |
| Comorbidities   | 78 (42.2) | 15 (62.5)              | 63 (39.1)              | .052 |
| AH              | 58 (30.7) | 12 (50)                | 46 (27.9)              | .050* |
| DM              | 21 (11.1) | 5 (20.8)               | 16 (9.7)               | .203 |
| CVD             | 6 (3.2)   | 3 (12.5)               | 3 (1.8)                | .030* |
| Hypothyroidism  | 9 (4.8)   | 0 (0)                  | 9 (5.5)                | .510 |
| Dyslipidemia    | 19 (10.1) | 2 (8.3)                | 17 (10.3)              | 1.000 |
| Dialysis        | 7 (3.7)   | 6 (25)                 | 1 (0.6)                | .000 |
| Obesity         | 6 (3.2)   | 1 (4.2)                | 5 (3.0)                | 1.000 |

Abbreviations: AH, systemic arterial hypertension; CVD, cardiovascular disease; DM, diabetes mellitus.

*P < .05.

**TABLE 3** Evaluation of clinical features in relation to renal dysfunction after chemotherapy with platinum derivatives in patients at the AC Camargo Cancer Center (n = 188)
The significant variables in Table 3 were submitted to simple logistic regression analysis and with this we observed that the presence of preexisting disease was significant $P = .035$, OR $= 2.59$ (95% CI 1.07-6.28), and among these comorbidities, hypertension $P = .032$, OR $= 2.58$ (CI 95% 1.08-6.17) and CVD $P = .016$, OR $= 7.71$ (95% CI 1.46-40.71). Before multiple analysis, hypertension (AH) was not considered a significant factor 0.080, OR $= 2.22$ (95% CI 0.90-5.43) and CVD was significant with 0.041, OR $= 5.91$ (95% CI 1.07-32.54).

Table 3 shows that the presence of morbidities, such as AH and cardiovascular disease (CVD), were significantly more prevalent in patients with eGFRs <60 mL/min after chemotherapy. Survival curves of patients based on eRFG are compared in Figure 3. Among patients with valid data, 13 patients (7.02%) presented with AKD (according to KDIGO criteria) after chemotherapy. The characteristics of these patients are shown in Table 4 and clinical evolution of their disease is shown in Figure 4.

### Table 4 Presence of renal dysfunction after QT with platinum derivatives at the AC Camargo Cancer Center (n = 185)

|                      | All N (%) | Without AKD N (%) | With AKD N (%) | P    |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|------|
| **Chemotherapy**     |           |                   |                |      |
| Cisplatin            | 28 (15.1) | 27 (15.7)         | 1 (7.7)        | .738 |
| Carboplatin          | 77 (41.6) | 71 (41.3)         | 6 (46.2)       |      |
| Oxaliplatin          | 80 (43.2) | 74 (43.2)         | 6 (46.2)       |      |
| CDDP VS Carbo/Oxa    | 28 (15.1) | 27 (15.7)         | 1 (7.7)        | .707 |
| **Tumor type**       |           |                   |                |      |
| Solid                | 182 (98.9)| 169 (98.8)        | 13 (100)       | 1.000|
| Hematological        | 2 (1.1)   | 2 (1.2)           | 0 (0.0)        |      |
| **Comorbidities**    |           |                   |                |      |
| AH                   | 55 (29.7) | 49 (28.5)         | 6 (46.2)       | .749 |
| DM                   | 21 (11.4) | 19 (11)           | 2 (15.4)       | .303 |
| CVD                  | 6 (3.2)   | 6 (3.5)           | 0 (0.0)        | .982 |
| Hypothyroidism       | 9 (4.9)   | 9 (5.2)           | 0 (0.0)        | 1.000|
| Dyslipidemia         | 18 (9.7)  | 18 (10.5)         | 0 (0.0)        | .859 |
| Dialysis             | 7 (3.8)   | 7 (4.1)           | 0 (0.0)        | 1.000|
| Obesity              | 6 (3.2)   | 6 (3.5)           | 0 (0.0)        | 1.000|

Abbreviations: AH, arterial hypertension; AKD, Acute Kidney Disease; Carbo, carboplatin; CDDP, cisplatin; CVD: cardiovascular disease; DM, diabetes; Oxa, oxaliplatin.
The significant variables in Table 4 were submitted to simple logistic regression analysis and with this we observed that the presence of pre-existing diseases was not considered significant $P = .535$ OR $= 1.44$ (CI 95%, 0.449-4.681), even though AH $P = .188$ and CVD $P = .999$.

In general, patients treated with platinum derivatives had a mortality rate of 38%, and there were no survival differences among the chemotherapy treatment groups (Figure 5).

In Cox regression, the presence of AKD was related to higher mortality $P = .015$ with RR $= 2.50$ (95% CI 1.19-5.26).

Among the associated morbidities, we observed incidences of hypertension in 30% of cases, diabetes in 11% of cases, and CVD in 8% of cases, which is compatible with cancer risk factors, such as obesity, smoking, alcoholism, and physical inactivity observed in other study.12

In our study, a predominance of cases had an ECOG of 0 and 1, which are cases with higher performance of clinical conditions, early treatment initiation, and better prognosis than the late onset cases described in other studies.19,20

In our study, we found no significant difference in sCR levels pre- and post-infusion (Table 2 and Figure 2). In our study, there were more cases of patients treated with less nephrotoxic drugs, such as CARBO and OXA, and this may reflect careful selection of appropriate chemotherapy for patients with previous renal dysfunction and effective nephroprotection strategies by the oncology team based on previous studies.11-15,21,22

Among the demographic characteristics of the patients in this study, there was a slight predominance of males over females, and this is consistent with estimates of new cancer cases in Brazil.

FIGURE 4 Survival curves of patients with AKD after chemotherapy at the A.C. Camargo Cancer Center (n = 183; log rank = 0.012)

FIGURE 5 Survival curves of patients treated with CDDP, CARBO, or OXA at A.C. Camargo Cancer Center (n = 210; log rank = 0.246)

4 | DISCUSSION

Among the demographic characteristics of the patients in this study, there was a slight predominance of males over females, and this is consistent with estimates of new cancer cases in Brazil.
However, when assessing renal dysfunction after chemotherapy, the presence of dyslipidemia was no longer significant. Some authors showed that AH and CVD morbidities correlated significantly with renal dysfunction that worsened after treatment with CDDP.\textsuperscript{11,12,21-25} The presence of renal dysfunction did not correlate significantly with lower survival (Figure 4); a non-significant trend of lower survival was seen in patients with eGFRs <60 mL/min than in patients with eGFRs >60 mL/min. Perhaps with a larger sample, a significant survival difference may have been observed. The adequacy of treatment could also affect survival as noted other studies.\textsuperscript{3,21,23}

We were also unable to verify an association between AKD and platinum-derived chemotherapeutics (Table 4), perhaps due to the method used for infusion, or due to the predominance of patients treated with CARBO and OXA, which are less or non-nephrotoxic drugs.\textsuperscript{16,22} However, upon analysis of survival curves of patients who presented with AKD after the start of chemotherapy we found that patients with AKD during treatment had the lowest survival (Figure 4), which is compatible with previous studies.\textsuperscript{1,21,26-30}

In this study, analysis of survival curves based on the chemotherapy agent used showed no differences (Figure 5). In the literature, the use of CDDP associated with the presence of complications due to its recognized toxicity and side effects, and the use of new platinum derivatives associated with adverse events less.\textsuperscript{3,10,16,19,20} This study demonstrated that, regardless of the type of chemotherapy, the presence of AKD or other morbidities may be responsible for a patient’s poorest performance and that multidisciplinary care during platinum-derived chemotherapy should be provided to these patients.

5 | CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we observed a low incidence of nephrotoxicity regardless of whether the treatment scheme included CDDP, CARBO, or OXA. Hypertension and CVD associated with lower eGFR in patients, especially after chemotherapy.

Survival curves of patients based on the type of chemotherapy used did not differ even when CARBO and OXA were used in combination with CCDP. In this study, despite a low incidence of AKD among patients, the presence of AKD associated with the risk of death by more than two times compared to those who did not have AKD.

Future studies may use new techniques to assess kidney function after the use of chemotherapeutics in prospective clinical studies, such as Cystatin C and/or Lipocalin Associated with Neutrophilic Gelatin for a careful assessment of kidney function.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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All authors have reviewed, discussed, and agreed to their individual contributions.

The corresponding author confirms that he has full access to all study data and assumes full responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

TRANSPARENCY STATEMENT

The lead author affirms that this manuscript is an honest, accurate, and transparent account of the study being reported; that no important aspects of the study have been omitted; and that any discrepancies from the study as planned (and, if relevant, registered) have been explained.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

ETHICS STATEMENT

This study was approved by AC Camargo Cancer Center Ethics Committee (approval no. 466/12). All ethical measures were taken, and the collection of the data presented was initiated only after approval by the Research Ethics Committee of this institution.

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