Efficacy of Dexrazoxane in Preventing Anthracycline Cardiotoxicity in Breast Cancer

Ariane V.S. Macedo, MD, MS,a,b Ludhmila A. Hajjar, MD, PhD,a,c Alexander R. Lyon, MD,d Bruno R. Nascimento, MD, PhD,a Alessandro Putzu, MD,e Lorenzo Rossi, MD,f Rafael B. Costa, MD,h Giovanni Landoni, MD,g,h Angélica Nogueira-Rodrigues, MD, PhD,i Antonio L.P. Ribeiro, MD, PhD,a

ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVES The authors performed a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized and nonrandomized trials on the efficacy of dexrazoxane in patients with breast cancer who were treated with anthracyclines with or without trastuzumab.

BACKGROUND Breast cancer treatment with anthracyclines and trastuzumab is associated with an increased risk of cardiotoxicity. Among the various strategies to reduce the risk of cardiotoxicity, dexrazoxane is an option for primary prevention, but it is seldom used in clinical practice.

METHODS Online databases were searched from January 1990 up to March 1, 2019, for clinical trials on the use of dexrazoxane for the prevention of cardiotoxicity in patients with breast cancer receiving anthracyclines with or without trastuzumab. Risk ratios (RRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using a random-effects model meta-analysis.

RESULTS Seven randomized trials and 2 retrospective trials with a total of 2,177 patients were included. Dexrazoxane reduced the risk of clinical heart failure (RR: 0.19; 95% CI: 0.09 to 0.40; p < 0.001) and cardiac events (RR: 0.36; 95% CI: 0.27 to 0.49; p < 0.001) irrespective of previous exposure to anthracyclines. The rate of a partial or complete oncological response, overall survival, and progression-free survival were not affected by dexrazoxane.

CONCLUSIONS Dexrazoxane reduced the risk of clinical heart failure and cardiac events in patients with breast cancer undergoing anthracycline chemotherapy with or without trastuzumab and did not significantly impact cancer outcomes. However, the quality of available evidence is low, and further randomized trials are warranted before the systematic implementation of this therapy in clinical practice. (J Am Coll Cardiol CardioOnc 2019;1:68–79) © 2019 The Authors. Published by Elsevier on behalf of the American College of Cardiology Foundation. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/).
Breast cancer (BC) is the leading cause of cancer death in women (1). Significant progress has been made in both diagnostics and treatment improving survival. Cardiotoxicity (CTX) is a significant problem during or after BC treatment due to radiotherapy (2,3), estrogen deprivation (4), cytotoxic chemotherapy (5), or related to targeted therapies, especially anti-human epidermal growth factor 2 (HER2) agents (6).

Among the commonly used cytotoxic drugs, anthracyclines (ANTs) are the main cardiotoxic chemotherapy responsible for acute and chronic cardiac damage (7). Acute damage related to ANT administration is associated with dose-dependent cardiac dysfunction, although many additional factors influence risk including age, pre-existing cardiovascular disease (11-14), and additional cancer therapies. For example, among targeted BC therapies, trastuzumab, a humanized monoclonal antibody targeting HER2, may lead to cardiomyopathy, especially when associated with ANT or taxanes (15-18).

**Methods**

The present systematic review was performed according to the recommendations of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (35,36) and the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (37). A Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses checklist is provided in Supplemental Table 1. This systematic review was registered in the PROSPERO database (CRD42017077462).

**Search strategy.** Two investigators (A.V.S.M. and A.P.) independently searched MEDLINE (access through PubMed), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and Embase from January 1990 up to 2017. In addition, DEX was associated with an increase in second primary malignancies, interfered with chemotherapy, or increased the risk of early death in children (32-34). In addition, none of the systematic reviews have evaluated the cardioprotective effect of DEX exclusively in BC patients treated with ANT with or without trastuzumab.

The aim of this study was to provide the first comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis incorporating studies that evaluated the cardioprotective efficacy of DEX exclusively in BC patients treated with ANT with or without trastuzumab in both early and metastatic settings.
to March 1, 2019. The search strategy for PubMed is available in the Supplemental Appendix.

**STUDY SELECTION.** After the identification of all relevant studies, 2 authors (A.V.S.M. and A.P.) independently performed study selection, and discrepancies were resolved by consensus. Eligible studies met the following PICOS criteria: 1) Population: all-stage BC patients undergoing ANT-based chemotherapy; 2) Intervention: DEX; 3) Comparison intervention: placebo or any treatment; 4) Outcome: clinical heart failure (CHF) or cardiac event; and 5) Study design: randomized controlled trial (RCT) or observational trial. Exclusion criteria were pediatric studies and studies with overlapping populations. Eligible studies also had to contain complete data regarding the outcomes under evaluation in the meta-analysis.

The primary outcome was the development of symptomatic CHF (expressed as clinical heart failure according to study definition) or a cardiac event (expressed as subclinical heart failure defined as histopathological abnormal findings in endomyocardial biopsy, ventricular function abnormalities [assessed by echocardiography or radionuclide ventriculography], or hospital admission due to cardiac causes). We accepted each study’s definition of subclinical CTX, considering that it was plausible and sufficiently comparable to be pooled (Supplemental Table 2).

Secondary outcomes were interference in oncologic treatment associated with DEX exposure, such as...
as the oncologic response rate, overall survival, and progression-free survival.

Studies evaluating other types of tumors or in which the outcomes in the BC group could not be assessed separately, case-control studies, studies in children, studies in which the use of DEX did not have a comparator group (placebo or no treatment), literature reviews, studies in animals, pharmacokinetic studies, pharmacoeconomic studies, case reports, and studies in which the outcomes of interest were not assessed were excluded from the analysis (Supplemental Table 3).

**DATA EXTRACTION.** After the literature search, data from eligible studies were independently extracted by 2 authors (A.V.S.M. and A.P.) using standardized forms. Patients’ characteristics, treatment, regimens, outcomes of interest, and follow-up period were systematically collected by 2 investigators (A.V.S.M. and A.P.). Divergences were resolved by consensus.

**STUDY QUALITY ASSESSMENT (RISK OF BIAS).** Two independent reviewers (A.V.S.M. and A.P.) assessed the quality of the included trials. For nonrandomized trials, the Good Research for Comparative Effectiveness checklist was used (38,39) (Supplemental Table 4). For randomized controlled trials, we used the Cochrane Collaboration Group methods (37). Eventual divergences were resolved by consensus. We rated the potential risk of bias by applying a rating of “low,” “high,” or “unclear” to each study (Supplemental Figures 1 and 2).

### TABLE 1 Characteristics of the Included Studies

| First Author (Ref. #) | Chemotherapy Regimen | Design | Population/Previous Anthracycline Yes/No | N | Dose of Dexrazoxane or Dose Ratio of Dexrazoxane to Anthracycline | Control | Trastuzumab | Follow-Up | Mean or Median Cumulative Dose of Anthracycline* in mg/m² (Range) in Each Group if Available |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Randomized controlled trials** | | | | | | | | | |
| Lopez et al. (45) | High-dose epirubicin | Single center | Advanced and metastatic BC/No | 92 | DEX 1,000 mg/m² | No therapy | No | NM | Control: 489 mg/m²; DEX: 533 mg/m² |
| Marty et al. (41) | Doxorubicin or epirubicin-based chemotherapy | Multicenter | Advanced and metastatic BC/Yes | 154 | 20:1 DEX:DOX dose ratio or 10:1 DEX:EPI | No therapy | No | 5 yrs | Control: 608 mg/m² (244-900 mg/m²); DEX: 669 mg/m² (247-936 mg/m²) |
| Speyer et al. (42) | 5-fluorouracil, doxorubicin, and cyclophosphamide (FAC) | Multicenter | Advanced and metastatic BC/Yes | 150 | 20:1 DEX:DOX | No therapy | No | 5 yrs | Control: 407.4 mg/m² (25-950 mg/m²); DEX: 538 mg/m² (50-2,150 mg/m²) |
| Sun et al. (43) | Epirubicin and cyclophosphamide | Single center | Early-stage BC with concurrent type 2 diabetes mellitus/No | 80 | 10:1 DEX:EPI | Placebo | No | 126 days | In both groups: 266 mg/m² |
| Swain et al. (44) | FAC | Multicenter | Advanced and metastatic BC/No | 349 | 10:1 DEX:DOX | Placebo | No | 3 yrs | <100-2,700 mg/m² anthracycline cumulative dose in each group; NM |
| Swain et al. (44) | FAC | Multicenter | Advanced and metastatic BC/No | 185 | 10:1 DEX:DOX dose ratio | Placebo | No | 3 yrs | <100-1,750 mg/m² anthracycline cumulative dose in each group; NM |
| Venturini et al. (20) | 5-fluorouracil, epirubicin, and cyclophosphamide or high-dose epirubicin | Multicenter | Advanced and metastatic BC/Yes | 160 | 10:1 DEX:EPI dose ratio | No therapy | No | NM | Control: 488 mg/m² (66-667 mg/m²); DEX: 390 mg/m² (33-800 mg/m²) |
| **Retrospective trials** | | | | | | | | | |
| Kim et al. (46) | Doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, taxol, and trastuzumab | Single center | Early-stage BC/No | 175 | 10:1 DEX:DOX dose ratio | No therapy | Yes | 32.3 months | In both groups: 240 mg/m² |
| Tahover et al. (47) | Doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide | Single center | Nonmetastatic BC/No | 822 | 10:1 DEX:DOX dose ratio | No therapy | Yes | 7 yrs | In both groups: 420 mg/m² |

*The epirubicin dose was converted to a doxorubicin-equivalent dose: 50 mg doxorubicin = 90 mg epirubicin.

**BC** = breast cancer; **DEX** = dexrazoxane; **DOX** = doxorubicin; **Epi** = epirubicin; **NM** = not mentioned.
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. We calculated the risk ratio (RR) with the 95% confidence interval (CI) for dichotomous variables. We reported the p value for the comparison between the groups, and a p value ≤0.05 was considered statistically significant. Heterogeneity between trials was explored by the chi-square test with significance set at a p value ≤0.10 and quantified with inconsistency measure (I²). The random-effects model was applied because significant heterogeneity (in populations, interventions, and settings) was anticipated; we used τ² to quantify between-study variance. We performed publication bias plots for the overall primary outcomes (Supplemental Figures 2 and 3). We did not test publication bias because fewer than 10 trials were included in the analysis (37). The analysis was performed on an intention-to-treat basis whenever possible, as reported by the original studies. For overall survival and progression-free survival data, we applied the generic inverse variance function to combine logs of hazard ratios (HRs). We extracted the HR with 95% CI, and we obtained the log HR and standard deviation from the Kaplan-Meier curves using the Parmar method when HR was not presented (40). A prespecified subgroup analysis was performed hypothesizing that patients with previous exposure to ANT would have had greater benefit from DEX. Post hoc subgroup analyses were performed to assess possible differences in the effect estimates between randomized and retrospective trials and between patients with early or advanced/metastatic cancer. Post hoc sensitivity analysis comparing random- and fixed-effects models was performed (Supplemental Table 5).

We used the software Review Manager (RevMan [Computer program], Version 5.3, The Nordic Cochrane Centre, The Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark) or Comprehensive Meta-Analysis software (Version 3.3.070, Biostat, Englewood, New Jersey).

RESULTS

SEARCH RESULTS. A total of 196 publications were selected from the initial search, and a total of 188 records were excluded (Figure 1). Finally, 7 randomized trials (20,41-45) and 2 retrospective cohorts (46,47), all evaluating BC patients, were included in the systematic review and the meta-analysis. One article reported the results of 2 randomized trials (44). Major exclusions (articles excluded [19,21,48-56] with reasons) are reported in Supplemental Table 3.

STUDY CHARACTERISTICS. The characteristics of the 9 studies are reported in Table 1. We included a total of 2,177 female patients with metastatic/advanced BC (5 trials and 1,100 patients), nonmetastatic BC (1 trial and 822 patients), or early-stage BC (2 trials and 255 patients). All patients received doxorubicin or epirubicin as ANT-based chemotherapy. The average cumulative dose of ANTs ranged from 240 mg/m² to 713 mg/m², and the dose ratio of DEX to ANT was 10:1 or 20:1. Trastuzumab was part of the treatment only in the 2 retrospective cohorts included.

No randomized trials were judged as low risk of bias in all bias domains. Three trials had low risk of bias in the randomization process, 1 in allocation concealment, 1 in double blinding and blinding of outcome assessor, and 6 in selective reporting. All trials had at least 1 domain at high risk of bias (Figure 2, Supplemental Figure 1). The retrospective
cohort studies were considered to be of moderate quality (Supplemental Table 4).

CARDIAC TOXICITY. DEX therapy was associated with a lower risk of CHF compared with the control in patients receiving ANT-based chemotherapy alone (7 of 575 [1.22%] with DEX vs. 56 of 605 [9.26%] with control; RR: 0.19; 95% CI: 0.09 to 0.40; p < 0.001), with only RCTs reporting these data (Figure 3).

Cardiac events were also lower in patients allocated to DEX when compared with the control (64 of 683 [9.4%] with DEX vs. 219 of 1,414 [15.5%] with the control; RR: 0.36; 95% CI: 0.27 to 0.49; p < 0.001). The effect estimate was similar when limiting the analysis to RCTs (RR: 0.36; 95% CI: 0.26 to 0.49; p < 0.001) or retrospective studies (RR: 0.33; 95% CI: 0.03 to 3.39; p = 0.35) (Figure 3).

In 2 of 9 studies (20,41), patients had already received ANT-based chemotherapy months or years previously. Among these patients who were re-exposed to ANT, DEX possibly reduced the risk of CHF (RR: 0.27; 95% CI: 0.07 to 1.07; p = 0.06) and the risk of cardiac events (RR: 0.32; 95% CI: 0.19 to 0.54; p < 0.001). The benefit of adding DEX to ANT treatment was also consistent in the subgroup of patients who were exposed to ANT for the first time. The risk of CHF was significantly reduced (RR: 0.15; 95% CI: 0.06 to 0.39; p < 0.001) as well the risk of cardiac events (RR: 0.37; 95% CI: 0.24 to 0.58; p < 0.001) (Table 2).

The funnel plots addressing publication bias for the overall primary outcomes are reported in Supplemental Figures 2 and 3. In sensitivity analysis, results were similar when a fixed-effects model was used (Supplemental Table 5).

ONCOLOGIC OUTCOMES AND OVERALL SURVIVAL. In 5 randomized trials, the partial and complete response rates were assessed at different follow-up intervals. Similar results were noted in groups exposed or not to DEX (complete response rate [RR: 1.10; 95% CI: 0.75 to 1.61; p = 0.62] and partial response rate [RR: 0.88; 95% CI: 0.75 to 1.02; p = 0.10]). Stable disease was reported in only 3 randomized trials, and similar results were noted between groups (RR: 0.92; 95% CI: 0.70 to 1.20; p = 0.54) (Figure 4).
Overall survival was also similar between groups (HR: 1.01; 95% CI: 0.86 to 1.17; p = 0.91) (Figure 5). No subgroup effects were found when stratifying the trials according to previous ANT exposure (Table 2). Progression-free survival was similar between the groups (HR: 0.97; 95% CI: 0.76 to 1.25; p = 0.81) (Figure 5). However, in the subgroup of studies including patients with more advanced disease...
re-exposed to ANT chemotherapy, the use of DEX was associated with a decreased risk of disease progression (HR: 0.68; 95% CI: 0.49 to 0.94; p = 0.02). In the subgroup of studies without previous exposure to ANT, DEX was associated with no significant difference on progression-free survival (HR: 1.13; 95% CI: 0.95 to 1.34; p = 0.17) (Table 2).

**DISCUSSION**

Our review is the first and largest meta-analysis performed to date to explore the potential of DEX in the prevention of cardiotoxicity in BC patients exposed to ANT. In our systematic review and meta-analysis including patients with both early and advanced/metastatic BC exposed to ANT, we observed a lower rate of clinical heart failure and cardiac events in patients receiving DEX compared with controls without a detrimental effect on the oncological response (Central Illustration).

This study adds to the existing data an analysis of 2,177 BC patients exposed to anthracycline analyzing cardiovascular outcomes. Previous studies included both adult and pediatric populations (33,57,58), which limited the interpretation of the cardioprotective effect in BC patients.

An important question is whether cardioprotective drugs reduce the antitumor efficacy of ANT and thereby compromise oncology treatment and affect survival (59). A previous systematic review including several types of tumors in adults and children suggested that patients treated with DEX might have a reduced response rate (60). However, an update of the same meta-analysis did not confirm these findings (33), and our results are aligned to the contemporary data, which show DEX does not compromise cancer treatment.
For many years, trastuzumab-related CTX was considered to be predominantly temporary and reversible with drug interruption or discontinuation. More recent data partially modified this assumption (61,62), reporting a non-negligible incidence of long-term CTX. A large, retrospective study of Chen et al. (63) reported on 45,537 elderly women with early BC have a higher risk of heart failure or cardiomyopathy in those who received trastuzumab after ANT therapy. As significant reduction in the occurrence of cardiac events when DEX was added to the ANT-based chemotherapy in BC patients was confirmed by our analysis. Regarding BC patients exposed to both ANT and trastuzumab, the cardioprotective effect of DEX was similar, but it is important to acknowledge that evidence comes from 2 retrospective studies and that prospective RCTs are lacking.

A significant reduction in the occurrence of cardiac events when DEX was added to the ANT-based chemotherapy in BC patients was confirmed by our analysis. Regarding BC patients exposed to both ANT and trastuzumab, the cardioprotective effect of DEX was similar, but it is important to acknowledge that evidence comes from 2 retrospective studies and that prospective RCTs are lacking.

Pharmacological prevention of CTX is not widely used. Angiotsenin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, and β-blockers (13,64–66) have been tested as an option for primary prevention, but the level of existing evidence is not sufficiently strong to indicate these treatments routinely for BC patients treated with ANT and/or trastuzumab (67). Our study reinforces DEX as an effective cardioprotective agent in BC patients receiving ANT-based chemotherapy, and it is the only present option for primary prevention in this population.

When we analyzed the studied subgroups, we did not find any difference suggesting a higher cardioprotective effect of DEX in a specific subpopulation of BC patients. Nonetheless, most evidence is of low quality to allow definite recommendations. An assessment of the methodological quality of the studies included in this review was performed using the Cochrane "risk of bias" tool (37) for assessing the risk of bias in each included RCT. We found that no randomized trials were judged as low risk of bias in all bias domains. The domains with more studies classified as high risk of bias were "performance bias" due to knowledge of the allocated interventions by participants and personnel during the studies and "attrition bias" due to the amount, nature, or handling of incomplete outcome data. Future high-quality RCTs should be performed on DEX in BC patients avoiding all potential sources of bias, which could compromise the reliability of their results.

Uncertainty regarding oncological outcomes has also limited DEX prescribing (59). In the present meta-analysis, we found no difference between the DEX and control groups regarding the oncological response rate and survival, suggesting no influence of DEX on ANT-anticancer activity in the BC populations studied.
When assessing the meta-analysis data concerning progression-free survival, we found a substantial statistical heterogeneity and a large prediction interval for HR. As part of a possible explanation for this heterogeneity, we found a favorable effect for the use of DEX in the BC patient subgroup previously treated with ANT, with higher rate of progression-free survival. These findings should be considered with caution and hypothesis generating. In addition, it should be noted that some studies in preclinical models showed that DEX has an intrinsic antitumor activity and that its use can enhance the benefit of ANT, potentially also contributing to its therapeutic effect (68).

**STUDY LIMITATIONS.** We highlight several limitations of our study. We relied on the reporting of CTX and/or clinical cardiac events, and there may be some patients with subclinical CTX who are not included. The definitions of CTX and cardiac events also vary widely between the studies included, and none reported cardiac biomarkers to detect CTX. We did not assess the impact of the use of DEX in combination with ANT on hematologic toxicities. The clinical significance of this excess of hematologic toxicity could impact antitumor efficacy. We believe that this is unlikely because there were no adverse effects on these parameters in our review.

**CONCLUSIONS**

DEX reduced the risk of clinical heart failure and cardiac events in BC patients undergoing ANT chemotherapy with or without trastuzumab and did not significantly impact cancer outcomes. Nonetheless, due to the low quality of the actual evidence available, further randomized trials are warranted before the systematic implementation of this therapy for primary cardioprotection.

**ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:** Dr. Ariane Vieira Scarlatelli Macedo, Instituto de Cardiologia e Cardi-oncologia Especializado, Rua Mato Grosso 306/cj 1507 Higienópolis, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. E-mail: arianevsm@yahoo.com.br. Twitter: @md_arianemacedo.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**COMPETENCY IN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:** In patients treated for both early and advanced/metastatic breast cancer exposed to anthracyclines, dexrazoxane reduces the occurrence of clinical heart failure and cardiac events without a detrimental effect on oncological outcomes.

**TRANSLATIONAL OUTLOOK:** Future, large-scale randomized trials are needed to establish the effects of dexrazoxane in breast cancer patients receiving anthracyclines with or without trastuzumab on both cardiovascular and oncological outcomes.

---

**REFERENCES**

1. Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Siegel RL, Torre LA, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics 2018. GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. CA Cancer J Clin 2018;68:394-424.
2. Evans ES, Prosnitz RG, Yu X, et al. Impact of patient-specific factors, irradiated left ventricular volume, and treatment setup errors on the development of myocardial perfusion defects after radiation therapy for left-sided breast cancer. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2006;66:1125-34.
3. Gaglardi G, Lax I, Oottonghe A, Rutqut LE. Long-term cardiac mortality after radiotherapy of breast cancer-application of the relative seriality model. Br J Radiol 1996;69:839-46.
4. Amir E, Seruga B, Niraaula S, Carlsson L, Ocan A. Toxicity of adjuvant endocrine therapy in post-menopausal breast cancer patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis. J Natl Cancer Inst 2011;103:1299-309.
5. Ng R, Better N, Green MD. Anticancer agents and cardiotoxicity. Semin Oncol 2006;33:2-14.
6. Moslehi JJ. Cardiovascular toxic effects of targeted cancer therapies. N Engl J Med 2016;375:1457-67.
7. Bird B, Swain S. Cardiac toxicity in the new breast cancer survivors: review of potential cardiac c factors, irradiated left ventricular application of the relative seriality model. Br J Radiol 1996;69:839-46.
8. Hilfliger-Kleiner D, Ardehali H, Fischmeister R, Burridge P, Hirsch E, Lyon AR. Late onset heart failure after childhood chemotherapy. Eur Heart J 2019;40:798-800.
9. Vlassopoulou G, Chatzistamoulidou A, Mylonas C, Stratigos M, Negrou G, et al. Cardiac dysfunction: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Eur J Prev Cardiol 2016;23:768-96.
10. Tzeng S, Liu X, Bawa-Khalfe T, et al. Identification of the molecular basis of doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity. Nat Med 2012;18:1639-42.
11. Panfilipollia N, Cevallos J, Moliner P, et al. Activity and outcomes of a cardio-oncology service in the United Kingdom—a five year experience. Eur J Heart Fail 2018;20:1721-31.
12. Zamorano JL, Lancellotti P, Muñoz DR, et al. 2016 ESC Position Paper on cancer treatments and cardiovascular toxicity developed under the auspices of the ESC Committee for Practice Guidelines: the task force for cancer treatments and cardiovascular toxicity of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). Eur Heart J 2016;37:2768-801.
13. Cardinale D, Colombo A, Bachetti G, et al. Early detection of anthracycline cardiotoxicity and improvement with heart failure therapy. Circulation 2015;131:1981-8.
14. Kly B, Carver JR. Biomarker approach to the detection and cardioprotective strategies during anthracycline chemotherapy. Heart Fail Clin 2011;7:23-31.
15. Keeve DL. Trastuzumab-associated cardiotoxicity. Cancer 2002;95:1592-600.
16. Bengala C, Zamagni C, Pedrazzoli P, et al. Cardiac toxicity of trastuzumab in metastatic breast cancer patients previously treated with high-dose chemotherapy: a retrospective study. Br J Cancer 2006;94:1016-20.
17. Glomen DJ, Leyland-Jones B, Shak S, et al. Use of chemotherapy plus a monoclonal antibody against HER2 for metastatic breast cancer that overexpresses HER2. N Engl J Med 2001;344:783-92.
18. Bowels EJ, Wellman R, Feigelson HS, et al. Risk of heart failure in breast cancer patients after anthracyline and trastuzumab treatment: a retrospective cohort study. J Natl Cancer Inst 2012;104:1293-305.
19. Speyer JL, Green MD, Kramer E, et al. Protective effect of the bispiperazinedione ICRF-187 against doxorubicin-induced cardiac toxicity in women with advanced breast cancer. N Engl J Med 1988;319:745-52.
20. Venturini M, Michiello A, Del Mastro L, et al. Multicenter randomized controlled clinical trial to evaluate cardioprotection of dexrazoxane versus no cardioprotection in women receiving epirubicin chemotherapy for advanced breast cancer. J Clin Oncol 1996;14:3112-20.
21. Kolaric K, Bradamante V, Cervik J, et al. A phase-II trial of cardioprotection with cardiotoxicity (ICRF-187) in patients with advanced breast cancer receiving 5-fluorouracil, doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide. Oncology 1995;52:251-5.
22. Hasnoff BB, Kuschak JE, Valovich JC, Creighton AM. A QASR study comparing the cytotoxicity and DNA topoisomerase II inhibitory effects of bisdioxopiperazine analogs of ICRF-187 (dexrazoxane). Biochem Pharmacol 1995;50:953-8.
23. Lyu YL, Kerrigan JE, Lin CP, et al. Topoisomerase IIb mediated DNA double-strand breaks: implications in doxorubicin cardiotoxicity and prevention by dexrazoxane. Cancer Res 2007;67:8839-46.
24. Yancy CW, Jessup M, Bozkurt B, et al. 2013 ACCF/SCA guideline for the management of heart failure: a report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. J Am Coll Cardiol 2013;62:e147–239.
25. ESC Guidelines 2016. ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure 2012: the task force for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure 2012 of the European society of cardiology. Developed in collaboration with the Heart Failure Association (HFA) of the ESC. Eur Heart J 2012;33:1787-847.
26. Grupo de Estudos em Insuficiência Cardíaca da Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia (GEIC/SBC), Sociedade Brasileira de Oncologia Clínica, Instituto do Coração – Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de São Paulo, et al. I Brazilian guideline for cardio-oncology from Sociedade Brasileira de cardiologia. Arq Bras Cardiol 2011;96:1-52.
27. Schuchter LM, Hensley ML, Mopel NJ, Winer EP. 2002 update of recommendations for the use of chemotherapy and radiotherapy protectants: clinical practice guidelines of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. J Clin Oncol 2002;20:2895–903.
28. Zincaré (dexrazoxane for injection). Available at: https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2012/020212s013lbl.pdf. Accessed July 9, 2019.
29. Armenian SH, Lacchetti C, Barac A, et al. Prevention and monitoring of cardiac dysfunction in survivors of adult cancers: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline. J Clin Oncol 2016;35:893–911.
30. Tebbi CK, London WB, Friedman D, et al. Dexrazoxane-associated risk for acute myeloid
Dexrazoxane for Cardioprotection in Breast Cancer

Macedo et al.

leukemia/myelodysplastic syndrome and other secondary malignancies in pediatric Hodgkin’s disease. J Clin Oncol 2007;25:493-500.
31. European Medicines Agency. Cardioxane. Available at: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/medicines/human/referal/cardioxane. Accessed July 9, 2019.
32. Lipshultz SE, Adams MJ, Colan SD, et al. Long-term cardiovascular toxicity in children, adolescents, and young adults who receive cancer therapy: pathophysiology, course, monitoring, management, prevention, and research directions: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association. Circulation 2013;17:1927-95.
33. Van Dalen EC, Caron HN, Dickinson HO. Cardioprotective interventions for cancer patients receiving anthracyclines. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2011;6:CD003917.
34. Chow EJ, Asselin BL, Schwartz CL, et al. Late mortality after dexrazoxane treatment: a report from the Children’s Oncology Group. J Clin Oncol 2015;33:2639–45.
35. Liberati A, Altman DG, Tetzlaff J, et al. The PRISMA statement for reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses of studies that evaluate healthcare interventions: explanation and elaboration. BMJ 2009;339:b2700.
36. Moher D, Shamseer L, Clarke M, et al. Preferred reporting items for systematic review and meta-analysis protocols (PRISMA-P) 2015 statement. Syst Rev 2015;4:1.
37. Higgins J, Green S. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions, Version 5. Chichester, UK: The Cochrane Collaboration, 2011.
38. Dreyer NA, Bryant A, Velentgas P. The GRACE checklist: a validated assessment tool for high quality observational studies of comparative effectiveness. J Manag Care Spec Pharm 2016;22:1107–13.
39. Dreyer NA, Velentgas P, Westrich K, Dubois R. The GRACE checklist for rating the quality of observational studies of comparative effectiveness: a tale of hope and caution. J Manag Care Spec Pharm 2014;20:301-8.
40. Parmar MK, Torri V, Stewart L. Extracting summary statistics to perform meta-analyses of the published literature for survival endpoints. Stat Med 1998;17:2815-34.
41. Marty M, Espie M, Llombart A, Monnier A, Lipshultz SE, Rifai N, Dalton VM, et al. The effect of dexrazoxane on myocardial injury in doxorubicin-treated children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. N Engl J Med 2004;351:145-53.
42. Walker DM, Fisher BT, Seif AE, et al. Dexrazoxane use in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic or myeloid leukemia from 1999 and 2009: analysis of a national cohort of patients in the pediatric health information systems database. Pediatr Blood Cancer 2013;60:616-20.
43. Loew CA, Mischel PS, Karlberg GR, et al. Cardiac autonomic function in epirubicin-treated breast cancer patients. J Am Coll Cardiol 2007;49:133-9.
44. Diez-Vial J, de la Fuente M, Rosell R, et al. Protective effect of dexrazoxane on myocardial contractility in breast cancer patients undergoing high-dose epirubicin treatment. J Cancer Res Clin Oncol 2014;140:1529-36.
45. Lopez M, Vici P, Di Lauro R, et al. Randomized prospective clinical trial of high-dose epirubicin and dexrazoxane in patients with advanced breast cancer and soft tissue sarcomas. J Clin Oncol 1998;16:86-92.
46. Kim H, Lee JE, Youn HJ, Song BJ, Chae BJ. Cardioprotective effect of dexrazoxane in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer who receive anthracycline based adjuvant chemotherapy followed by Trastuzumab. J Breast Cancer 2017;20:82-90.
47. Tahvori E, Segal A, Isacson R, et al. Dexrazoxane added to doxorubicin-based adjuvant chemotherapy of breast cancer: a retrospective cohort study with a comparative analysis of toxicity and survival. Anticancer Drugs 2017;28:787–94.
48. Bingsao W, Xinyan Y, Li W, Hong H, Zhibo X, Zhenfeng L. Protective effect of dexrazoxane on the heart in elderly breast cancer patients after adjuvant chemotherapy. J Modern Oncol 2016;33:2639–45.
49. Maral J, Vinke J, Oskam R, Cunha Zhong Liu Za Zhi 2013;35:135-40.
50. Michelotti A, Venturini M, Tilabali C, et al. Single agent epirubicin as first line chemotherapy for metastatic breast cancer patients. Eur J Cancer 1996;32:48-52.
51. Zhenfeng L. Protective effect of dexrazoxane on chemotherapy of breast cancer: a retrospective equivalence study of two intravenous dexrazoxane formulations (Cardioxane and ICRF-187) in patients with advanced breast cancer, treated with 5-fluorouracil-doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide (FDC). Eur J Drug Metab Pharmacokinet 1999;24:69-77.
52. Sun F, Shi J, Geng C. Dexrazoxane improves cardiac autonomic function in epirubicin-treated breast cancer patients with type 2 diabetes. Medicine 2016;95:e5228.
53. Tallarico D, Rizzo V, Di Maio F, et al. Myocardial cytoprotection by trimetazidine against anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity in anticancer chemotherapy. Angiology 2003;54:219-25.
54. Payne DL, Nohria A. Prevention of chemotherapy-related cardiotoxicity: the results of P9425. Blood 2009;114:2051-9.
55. Lipshultz SE, Rifai N, Dalton VM, et al. The effect of dexrazoxane on myocardial injury in doxorubicin-treated children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. N Engl J Med 2004;351:145-53.
56. Walker DM, Fisher BT, Seif AE, et al. Dexrazoxane use in pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic or myeloid leukemia from 1999 and 2009: analysis of a national cohort of patients in the pediatric health information systems database. Pediatr Blood Cancer 2013;60:616-20.
57. Van Dalen EC, Caron HN, Dickinson HO, Kremer LC. Cardioprotective interventions for cancer patients receiving anthracyclines. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2008;2:CD003917.
58. Wang SY, Long JB, Hurria A, et al. Cardiovascular events, early discontinuation of trastuzumab, and their impact on survival. Breast Cancer Res Treat 2014;146:411-9.
59. Witteles RM, Bosch X. Myocardial protection during cardiotoxic chemotherapy. Circulation 2015;132:1835-45.
60. Chen J, Long JB, Hurria A, Owsu C, Steingart RM, Gross CP. Incidence of heart failure or cardiomyopathy after adjuvant trastuzumab therapy for breast cancer. J Am Coll Cardiol 2012;60:2504-12.
61. Gulati G, Heck SL, Reh AH, et al. Prevention of cardiac dysfunction during adjuvant breast cancer therapy (PRADA): a 2 x 2 factorial, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind clinical trial of candesartan and metoprolol. Eur Heart J 2016;37:1671-80.
62. Boekhout AH, Gietema JA, Kerlkaarn BM, et al. Angiotensin II-receptor inhibition with candesartan to prevent trastuzumab-related cardiotoxic effects in patients with early breast cancer: a randomized clinical trial. JAMA Oncol 2016;2:1030-7.
63. Avila MS, Ayub-Ferreira SM, de Barros Wanderley MR Jr., et al. Carvedilol for prevention of chemotherapy-related cardiotoxicity: the CECCY trial. J Am Coll Cardiol 2018;71:2281-90.
64. Payne DL, Nohria A. Prevention of chemotherapy-induced cardiomyopathy. Curr Heart Fail Rep 2017;14:398-403.
65. Dickey JS, Gonzalez Y, Aryan B, et al. Mitotempol and dexrazoxane exhibit cardioprotective and chemotherapeutic effects through specific protein oxidation and autophagy in a syngeneic breast tumor preclinical model. PLoS One 2013;8:e70575. 

Key Words: cardiomyopathy, cardioprotection, cardiotoxicity, dexrazoxane, doxorubicin, heart failure, meta-analysis, survivorship, trastuzumab

APPENDIX

For supplemental tables and figures, please see the online version of this paper.