



Second-Opinion-Centre at the European Competence Centre for Ovarian Cancer: an complementary approach in the interdisciplinary management as part of the Interdisciplinary Online Tumor Conference "Gynecological malignancies"

supported by

NOGGO – North-Eastern Society of Gynecologic Oncology



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I. Introduction & Abstract:

Clinical management of advanced gynecological malignancies requires multimodal strategies of treatment and intensive interdisciplinary collaboration. Nowadays attending physicians are confronted with rising information flow about diagnostic and therapy; international and national guidelines, diverse recommendations of professional societies, evidence-based clinical trials, internet. Participation in clinical trials is essential for the "State of the Art" therapy of patients with gynecological cancers. Request or referral of patients to a specialized clinic are a classical procedure for recommendation in the modern cancer therapy. Interdisciplinary cooperations at specialized hospital units allows optimization and improvement, and guarantee adequate management of systemic cancer diseases. But for general practicing gynecologists, oncologist or internalists logistic problems (e.g., large distances, inappropriate appointments of the meetings) are often the main cause to the non-participation to the tumor boards. For this reason we initiated the concept of the interdisciplinary online tumor conference "Gynecological Malignancies" as multiinstitutional project in Germany. As a complementary part of this project we offer the opportunity of presentation of patient casuistics for all persons involved in the therapy management of patients with complex gynecological diseases, as also for the patients itself. The Patient case have to be enrolled via mail, fax or over our established homepages: www.online-tumorkonferenz.de or <http://www.eierstockkrebs-forum.de>. Using the established didactic concept of our online tumorconference¹ we examine the patient's episcrisis with respect to individual condition, morbidity and preferences. A special focus for the recommendation is the consideration of national and international guidelines (ESGO, EORTC, ASCO, NCI, AGO), as also review of current scientific results and overview of open clinical trials. In the recommendation approach all cooperating partners: gynecologists, radiologists, oncologists and pathologists are involved by need. Here we present the evaluation of the volume and efficacy of the Second-Opinion-Centre for the period from January 2005 to September 2008. We present a potential benefit of enrolling patient's cases in this project and also positive effects on the quality of the clinical management and on study enrollment.

II. Methods:

Screening process, online review of current updates of international guidelines and national standards, management and support to the participants are performed by the "online conference manager".

Five Step leading from Screening to Recommendation:

1. Submission of current patient data (online, fax)

Pathological Report
Surgery Report
Medical History
Current Performance Status
Preference of the Patient to Therapy
The Question/s on the tumor board

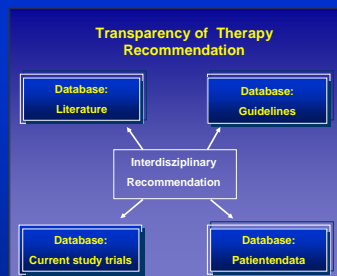
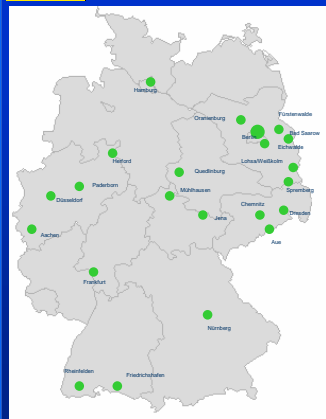
2. Review of submitted data

3. Contact to cooperating experts for special opinion (optional)

4. Recommendation process

4. Preparing of written protocol for each patient, mail-order and online update of the database

III. Results:



Cooperating Departments from Charité University Hospital Berlin

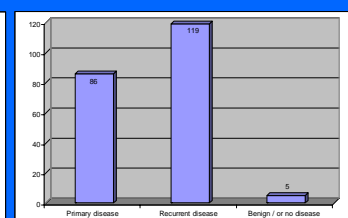
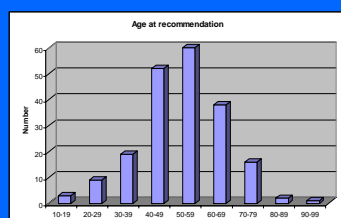
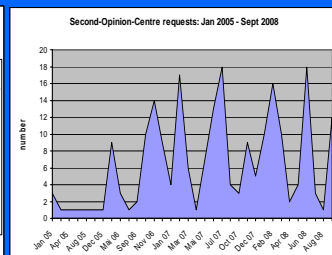
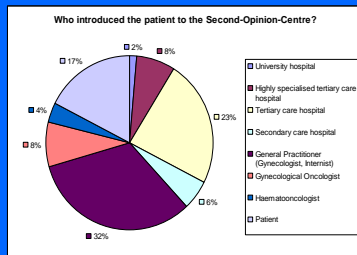
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- *Department of Haematology and Oncology, Charité Campus Virchow and Campus Mitte
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- *Department of Pathology, Charité Campus Mitte
- *Department of Urology, Charité Campus Virchow
- *Department of Pediatrics and Oncology, Charité Campus Virchow
- *Department of Anaesthesiology, Charité Campus Virchow

Localization	Histology	Number
Vulva	Vulva Cancer	2
Vagina	Vaginal Cancer	1
Cervix	Cervical Cancer	6
	Cervical Cancer	2
Uterus	Adenocarcinoma	13
	Stromasarcoma	16
	Leiomyosarcoma	3
	Carcinosarcoma	7
	Leiomyomatosis	1
Fallopian tube	Tubar Cancer	1
	Malignant mixed-mullerian Tumor of the Fallopian tube	3
Ovary	Benign ovarian cyst	1
	Cystadenoma	1
	Fibrothecoma	1
	Epithelial Ovarian Cancer	100
	Malignant mixed-mullerian Tumor of the Ovary	2
	Carcinosarcoma	1
	neuroendocrine Tumor of the Ovary	1
	Borderline Tumors of the Ovary	14
	Sex Cord Stroma Tumors	
	Granulosa Stromal Cell Tumor	5
Sertoli-Lyedig Stromal Cell Tumor	1	
Sex Cord Tumors		
Teratoma	2	
Peritoneum	Peritoneal cancer	6
	Pseudomyxoma peritonei	1
Mamma	Invasive Breast cancer	6
Others	Cystadenoma of the Appendix	1
Family history of cancer		1
All		200

Recommendation: therapy / diagnostic / follow-up	Patients*	Percentage
Chemotherapy	88	44 %
Radiochemotherapy	14	7 %
Radiotherapy	6	3 %
Surgery followed by chemotherapy	22	11 %
Surgery	22	11 %
Antihormonal therapy	8	4 %
Biologicals (Avastin, Anti CA125, Removab)	5	2,5 %
Bisphosphonates	1	0,5 %
Supportive and complementary therapy (G-CSF, Epoetin, Nutrition)	1	0,5 %
Further interventional diagnostic	24	12 %
"Wait and see" strategy	6	3 %
Follow-up	29	14,5 %
Cancer screening	1	0,5 %

*Cave: multiple answers

Recommendation for study enrollment	Patients	Percentage
Yes	23	11,5 %
No	159	79,5 %
n/a	18	9 %



IV. Conclusions:

current status of implementation :

- Start of the Second-Opinion-Centre: January 2005
- Establishment as interdisciplinary platform for specialists from secondary and tertiary care hospitals, generals paractitioners and patients
- 200 presented patient cases with therapy recommendations
- Chemotherapy, surgery +/- chemotherapy, further diagnostics and instruction for the follow-up are the most frequently indicated recommendations
- From all participants - from and from clinic, from patient
- Acceptance of therapy recommendation have to be analysed in further process
- Essential part of the Certified European Competence Centre for Ovarian Cancer
- The Concept of Second-Opinion-Center is feasible and represents an additional possibility for attending physicians and their patients
- Educational platform for interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration
- Positive effect on study enrollment and implementation of guidelines and new clinical standards in the management and patient's care of gynecological malignancies

¹ Online Tumor Conference in the clinical management of gynecological cancer: Experience from a pilot study in Germany. Chekerov R, Chekerov R, Denkert C, Boehmer D, Suesse A, Widira A, Rummel B, Giese A, Mustica A, Lichtenegger W, Sehoul J. Int J Gynecol Cancer. 2008; Jan-Feb;18(1):1-7. Epub 2007-Apr-27

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