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Editorial

Effects of Drugs Used in Cancer Treatment on The Gastrointestinal Tract

Ahmet Özer Şehirli*

Near East University, Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Pharmacology, Turkey

***Corresponding Author:** Ahmet Özer Şehirli, Near East University, Faculty of Dentistry, Department of Pharmacology, Turkey.

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The potential for side effects is the most important factor limiting the treatment in treatments performed during cancer, which is one of the most important problems of recent times [1]. Some of the agents used in this treatment are also used in the treatment of autoimmune diseases due to their immunosuppressive properties. One of the side effects of these agents is the damage they cause in the gastrointestinal tract, which is manifested by symptoms of nausea-vomiting, diarrhea/constipation [2]. It is a condition that occurs as a result of the agents used during chemotherapy affect not only the tumor cell but also healthy cells. Free oxygen radicals, as well as neurotransmitters and hormones such as dopamine, serotonin, histamine, norepinephrine, vasoactive intestinal peptide, gastrin, vasopressin, thyrotropine-releasing hormone, leucine-enkephalin and substance-P, in the damage in the gastrointestinal tract, increase in inflammatory cytokine levels, decrease in endogenous anti-inflammatory and antioxidant enzyme activations play an important role [2-4] Therefore, although the studies carried out to correct this situation are increasing day by day, it still continues to be a problem as a clinic. For this purpose, studies with anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory drugs with antioxidant properties have accelerated, and the development of nanoparticles that only selectively affect tumor cells has been accelerated [5,6].

In conclusion, gastrointestinal damage is an important problem in the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases. This leads to inadequate treatment. Recently, with increasing experimental and clinical studies, survival has started to increase and symptoms have started to decrease. Therefore, with the developments in the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, gastrointestinal damage will decrease and treatment success will increase.

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