

Use and Effectiveness of Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy for Treatment of Ovarian Cancer

Alexi A. Wright, Angel Cronin, Dana E. Milne, Michael A. Bookman, Robert A. Burger, David E. Cohn, Mihaela C. Cristea, Jennifer J. Griggs, Nancy L. Keating, Charles F. Levenback, Gina Mantia-Smaldone, Ursula A. Matulonis, Larissa A. Meyer, Joyce C. Niland, Jane C. Weeks, and David M. O'Malley

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Alexi A. Wright, Angel Cronin, Dana E. Milne, Nancy L. Keating, Ursula A. Matulonis, and Jane C. Weeks, Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center, Boston, MA; Michael A. Bookman, University of Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, AZ; Robert A. Burger, University of Pennsylvania; Gina Mantia-Smaldone, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA; David E. Cohn and David M. O'Malley, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH; Mihaela Cristea and Joyce C. Niland, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, Duarte, CA; Jennifer J. Griggs, University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, Ann Arbor, MI; and Charles F. Levenback and Larissa A. Meyer, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX.

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Corresponding author: Alexi A. Wright, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Dana 1133, 450 Brookline Ave, Boston, MA 02215; e-mail: alexw@dfci.harvard.edu.

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A B S T R A C T

Purpose

A 2006 randomized trial demonstrated a 16-month survival benefit with intraperitoneal and intravenous (IP/IV) chemotherapy administered to patients who had ovarian cancer, compared with IV chemotherapy alone, but more treatment-related toxicities. The objective of this study was to examine the use and effectiveness of IP/IV chemotherapy in clinical practice.

Patients and Methods

Prospective cohort study of 823 women with stage III, optimally cytoreduced ovarian cancer diagnosed at six National Comprehensive Cancer Network institutions. We examined IP/IV chemotherapy use in all patients diagnosed between 2003 and 2012 (N = 823), and overall survival and treatment-related toxicities with Cox regression and logistic regression, respectively, in a propensity score–matched sample (n = 402) of patients diagnosed from 2006 to 2012, excluding trial participants, to minimize selection bias.

Results

Use of IP/IV chemotherapy increased from 0% to 33% between 2003 and 2006, increased to 50% from 2007 to 2008, and plateaued thereafter. Between 2006 and 2012, adoption of IP/IV chemotherapy varied by institution from 4% to 67% (P < .001) and 43% of patients received modified IP/IV regimens at treatment initiation. In the propensity score–matched sample, IP/IV chemotherapy was associated with significantly improved overall survival (3-year overall survival, 81% v 71%; hazard ratio, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.47 to 0.99), compared with IV chemotherapy, but also more frequent alterations in chemotherapy delivery route (adjusted rates discontinuation or change, 20.4% v 10.0%; adjusted odds ratio, 2.83; 95% CI, 1.47 to 5.47).

Conclusion

Although the use of IP/IV chemotherapy increased significantly at National Comprehensive Cancer Network centers between 2003 and 2012, fewer than 50% of eligible patients received it. Increasing IP/IV chemotherapy use in clinical practice may be an important and underused strategy to improve ovarian cancer outcomes.

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INTRODUCTION

Several randomized clinical trials have demonstrated that intraperitoneal and intravenous (IP/IV) chemotherapy improves survival in women with optimally resected, stage III ovarian cancer, compared with IV chemotherapy alone.¹⁻³ In 2006, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) issued a rare Clinical Announcement encouraging IP/IV chemotherapy use after the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) conducted a randomized trial, GOG-172, that demonstrated a 16-month improvement in median overall survival.

To date, however, few studies have examined the impact of this announcement on the use of IP/IV

chemotherapy in clinical practice or investigated whether the survival benefit in GOG-172 is representative of outcomes outside of clinical trials. This is important because fewer than 3% of adult patients with cancer enroll onto clinical trials, and trial participation may be associated with better survival outcomes,^{4,5} raising concerns about the generalizability of these findings.⁶

Several factors have been identified as potential barriers to integration of IP/IV chemotherapy into practice,^{7,8} including treatment-related toxicities, the absence of a standard regimen, patients' preferences, and the inconvenience of an inpatient regimen.⁸⁻¹⁰ In addition, retrospective studies have

documented higher rates of extra-abdominal cancer recurrences, raising concerns about whether IP/IV chemotherapy provides effective systemic control.^{11,12} Finally, some physicians may believe that alternate chemotherapy regimens (eg, dose-dense paclitaxel) offer comparable survival with fewer toxicities.¹³

In this study, we examined the use of IP/IV chemotherapy over time at six comprehensive cancer centers where structural barriers to IP/IV chemotherapy administration (eg, trained nursing staff and resource intensity)^{7,14} should be rare. In addition, we sought to characterize factors associated with IP/IV chemotherapy use and the regimens delivered, because physicians frequently modify the GOG-172 regimen to minimize toxicities.^{7,10,15} Finally, we examined outcomes associated with IP/IV chemotherapy, including chemotherapy completion, treatment-related toxicities, site(s) of first recurrence, and overall survival. We hypothesized that IP/IV chemotherapy would be associated with improved survival compared with IV chemotherapy, despite frequent modifications to the GOG-172 regimen.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Data Source

The National Comprehensive Cancer Center Network (NCCN) Ovarian Cancer Outcomes Database Project was created in 2005 to examine the adoption and dissemination of IP/IV chemotherapy before the publication of GOG-172¹ and the NCI Clinical Announcement in 2006.⁹ Between October 2005 and June 2012, data were prospectively collected on all patients with newly diagnosed ovarian, fallopian, or primary peritoneal cancers who received all or part of their care at six institutions: City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center. To allow for a comparison of IP/IV chemotherapy use before and after the NCI Clinical Announcement, patient data from October 2003 and September 2005 were abstracted retrospectively.

Medical record abstraction was performed by clinical research associates who received training and support from centralized project staff, resulting in high reliability at audit.^{16,17} Abstracted data included sociodemographic (eg, age, race/ethnicity, income, and zip code), clinical (eg, Charlson comorbidity index¹⁸ and GOG performance status), tumor (eg, stage, grade, histology, and disease sites at diagnosis and recurrence), and treatment (eg, surgical procedures and chemotherapy—agents, route, and first and last date of treatment) characteristics, residual disease, and vital status. Detailed data were collected longitudinally until death for all patients who continued being seen at participating centers. Vital status was confirmed by the National Death Index. The institutional review board at each center approved the overall project, and the Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center's Office for Human Research Studies deemed this study exempt from review.

Study Cohorts

We identified two cohorts of patients with stage III, optimally cytoreduced ovarian cancer (defined by GOG-172 criteria as ≤ 1 cm gross residual disease).¹ In cohort 1, we examined IP/IV chemotherapy use between 2003 and 2012. In cohort 2, we examined factors associated with IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy and compared outcomes of IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy among patients diagnosed after 2006. We excluded clinical trial participants to minimize selection bias^{4,5} and more accurately capture true clinical practice after the NCI Clinical Announcement. For cohort 1, we identified 823 eligible patients who received adjuvant chemotherapy within 90 days of surgery.¹⁹ We excluded patients who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy, were missing a chemotherapy route, or were lost to follow-up or died within 90 days of surgery. For cohort 2, we identified 498 patients from cohort 1 who were diagnosed after January 2006 and treated outside of clinical trials. The study cohort flow diagram is displayed in Figure 1.

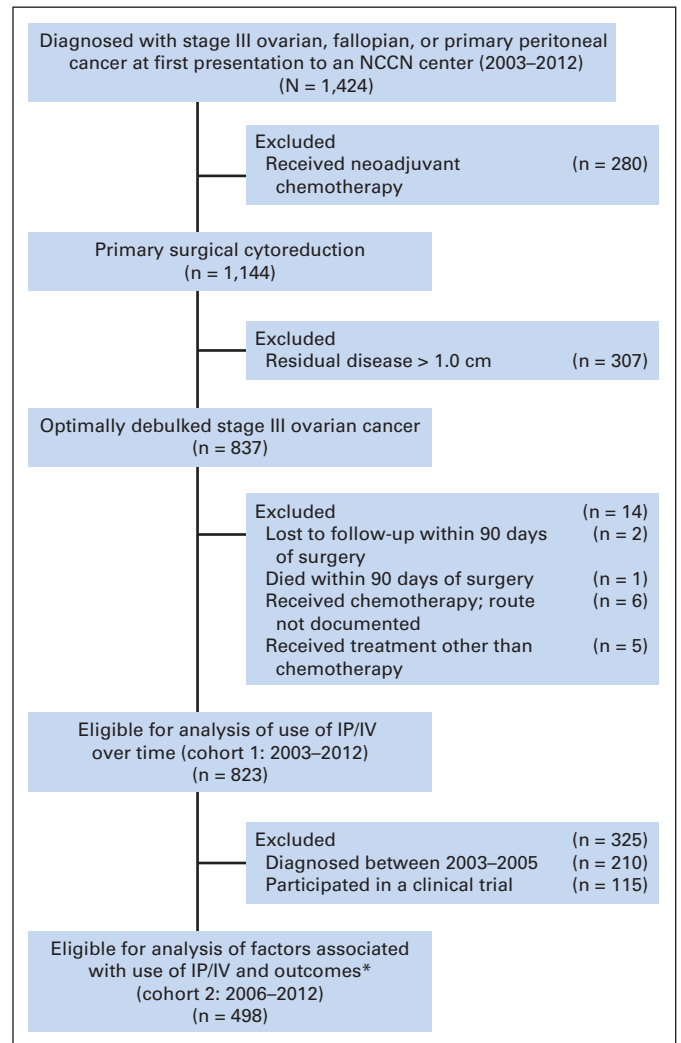


Fig 1. Study cohort. IP/IV, intraperitoneal and intravenous; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network. (*) Propensity scores were overlapping (within 0.5%) for all but one patient who received IP/IV chemotherapy. For the rest of the patients who received IP/IV chemotherapy (n = 201), we obtained one matching patient who received IV chemotherapy using single nearest-neighbor without replacement.

Outcomes

Our primary outcomes of interest were as follows: the proportion of patients receiving IP/IV chemotherapy and overall survival, defined as survival months from the first chemotherapy dose until death or the end of the observation period (February 15, 2013); patients alive after this date were censored. Secondary outcomes included chemotherapy completion, treatment-related toxicities, and site(s) of first disease recurrence. Treatment-related toxicities were defined from the chemotherapy start date until 90 days after completion.²⁰ Medical records were abstracted to obtain the reason for chemotherapy discontinuation (eg, planned therapy ended, toxicity, and cancer progression), and whether additional chemotherapy was delivered. Sites of first disease recurrence were abstracted from notes, imaging, and pathology reports, and categorized as intra-abdominal or distant recurrences.

Independent Variables

For the analysis of factors associated with IP/IV chemotherapy, the independent variables of interest included age at diagnosis, race, Hispanic ethnicity, insurance, income (derived from Census 2000 data linked by patient zip code), GOG performance status, Charlson comorbidity score,¹⁸ primary cancer site, substage, grade, histology, residual disease after surgery, NCCN institution, and year of surgery. For the outcomes analysis, the independent

variable of interest was chemotherapy route (ie, IP/IV or IV) at treatment initiation. IP/IV chemotherapy was defined by the GOG-172 regimen, with other combinations classified as modifications.

Analyses

In cohort 1, we tested for changes in the proportion of patients receiving IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy over time using the Cochran-Armitage test for trend. Among patients who received IP/IV chemotherapy, we examined the proportion who received the GOG-172 regimen, treatment on a clinical trial, or a modified regimen. For cohort 2, we used multivariable logistic regression to examine associations between receipt of IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy and patients' sociodemographic, disease, and institutional characteristics. We included all variables of interest regardless of statistical significance, except for insurance because of collinearity with age.

Outcomes analyses were conducted in a propensity score–matched sample ($n = 402$; 201 patient pairs matched using single nearest neighbor without replacement) to balance measurable confounders between those who received IP/IV and IV chemotherapy; all variables described in Table 1 were used to calculate each patient's propensity of receiving IP/IV chemotherapy. Cox proportional hazards regression was used to examine associations between chemotherapy route and overall survival, with a robust variance estimator to correct for clustering within the matched pairs.²¹ Conditional logistic regression for matched groups was used to assess associations between chemotherapy route and treatment-related toxicities, reasons for treatment discontinuation or modification, and recurrence site(s).

Matching on the propensity score achieved reasonable balance for all measured confounders with the exception of institution (Appendix Table A1, online only). Institution was not significantly associated with overall survival on univariable analysis ($P = .16$, data not shown). Sensitivity analyses were performed to consider the impact of excluding each individual institution from the survival model to ensure that the results were not explained by observations at a single institution. Additional analyses were performed to confirm that the results of the propensity score analysis were robust to different methods (ie, regression adjustment, stratification, and inverse probability weights). A two-sided $P < .05$ was considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were performed with Stata version 13.1 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX).

RESULTS

Use of IP/IV Chemotherapy Over Time

Between 2003 and 2012, 287 (35%) of 823 patients received IP/IV chemotherapy. Figure 2 shows the use of IP/IV chemotherapy over time. From 2003 to 2006, the annualized use of IP/IV chemotherapy increased from 0% to 33% ($P_{\text{trend}} < .001$). IP/IV use increased to nearly 50% from 2007 to 2008, but plateaued thereafter ($P_{\text{trend}} = .79$ for 2006 to 2012). Among patients receiving IP/IV chemotherapy, 29% received the GOG-172 regimen without modification, 28% were enrolled onto clinical trials, and 43% received modified regimens at treatment initiation (Appendix Table A2, online only). The proportion of patients who received modified regimens varied by institution from 7% to 87% ($P < .001$) and frequently involved reductions in dose of IP cisplatin or an IV drug substitution (eg, docetaxel for paclitaxel).

Factors Associated With Use of IP/IV Chemotherapy

Table 1 shows the characteristics of patients receiving IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy after the NCI Clinical Announcement, excluding trial participants (cohort 2). Overall, 202 (41%) of 498 eligible patients received IP/IV chemotherapy. In adjusted analyses, patients who were younger and with fewer comorbidities more often received IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy (both $P \leq .002$). There were no significant differences in IP/IV chemotherapy use by race, ethnicity, sub-

stage, or extent of residual disease. Rates of IP/IV use varied significantly by institution ($P < .001$; unadjusted range, 4% to 67%).

Chemotherapy Completion

Of the 202 women who started IP/IV chemotherapy, 44% completed six or more cycles and 89% were classified as completing planned therapy, compared with 91% of patients receiving IV chemotherapy. Women received a median of five IP/IV cycles (interquartile range, 3 to 6), and completion rates did not differ by receipt of GOG-172 versus modified regimens ($P = .83$; Appendix Table A3, online only).

Chemotherapy-Related Toxicities and Site(s) of First Disease Recurrence

As shown in Table 2, anemia rates were significantly higher in the IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy group (adjusted rates, 10.9% v 5.0%; adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 2.20; 95% CI, 1.04 to 4.65), as were hospitalizations (adjusted rates, 14.4% v 10.0%; AOR, 1.47; 95% CI, 0.82 to 2.64), although this latter difference was not statistically significant. Clinical complications did not otherwise differ by route. Compared with those receiving IV chemotherapy, women who received IP/IV chemotherapy were more likely to change treatments because of treatment-related toxicities (adjusted rates, 20.4% v 10.0%; AOR, 2.83; 95% CI, 1.47 to 5.47) or for other reasons (eg, IP port catheter complication; adjusted rates, 8.5% v 4.0%; AOR, 2.14; 95% CI, 0.87 to 5.26), although this latter difference was not statistically significant. Of the 41 patients who discontinued IP/IV chemotherapy because of toxicities, 13 switched to a new IP/IV chemotherapy regimen, 22 switched to IV chemotherapy, and 6 discontinued adjuvant treatment.

Women treated with IP/IV chemotherapy had higher odds of presenting with distant disease at first recurrence (adjusted rates, 58.8% v 29.4%; AOR, 3.14; 95% CI, 1.34 to 7.36), compared with IV chemotherapy.

Survival Outcomes

Survival curves for the propensity-matched sample are shown in Figure 3. At a median follow-up period of 32 months, 114 patients had died (51 v 63 patients who received IP/IV v IV chemotherapy, respectively). The 3-year overall survival for IP/IV chemotherapy was 81% (95% CI, 73% to 86%) compared with 71% (95% CI, 62% to 78%) for IV chemotherapy.

As shown in Table 3, patients who received IP/IV chemotherapy had a significantly improved overall survival, compared with IV chemotherapy (hazard ratio [HR], 0.68; 95% CI, 0.47 to 0.99), after matching on the propensity score. In addition, the superiority of IP/IV chemotherapy was supported by three alternative propensity score–adjusted models and conventional multivariable adjustment.

In a sensitivity analysis, the adjusted HRs ranged from 0.61 to 0.76 on excluding each institution one by one, indicating that the survival benefit observed was not driven by outcomes at a single institution. For example, on exclusion of institution 3, where 4% of patients received IP/IV chemotherapy, the adjusted HR was 0.70 (95% CI, 0.48 to 1.02); because of the decreased sample size, this result did not meet conventional levels of statistical significance ($P = .06$).

DISCUSSION

In this prospective study of the use and effectiveness of IP/IV chemotherapy in 823 patients at six major cancer centers, we found that fewer

Table 1. Characteristics of Patients Receiving IP/IV or IV Chemotherapy at NCCN Centers (2006-2012)

Characteristic	No. (%)	Unadjusted		Adjusted		
		Receiving IP/IV Chemotherapy (%)	<i>P</i>	Odds Ratio	95% CI	<i>P</i>
Overall	498 (100)	41				
Age, years			< .001			< .001
18-54	144 (29)	49		Reference	—	
55-64	185 (37)	45		0.81	0.48 to 1.39	
65-74	117 (23)	37		0.46	0.25 to 0.86	
> 74	52 (10)	12		0.11	0.04 to 0.32	
Race			.19			.70
White	456 (92)	41		Reference	—	
Non-white	42 (8)	31		0.85	0.36 to 1.99	
Ethnicity			.88			.60
Non-Hispanic	480 (96)	41		Reference	—	
Hispanic	18 (4)	39		0.71	0.20 to 2.52	
Income*			.32			.16
1 (lowest)	125 (25)	34		Reference	—	
2	125 (25)	39		1.86	0.99 to 3.48	
3	124 (25)	44		1.86	0.99 to 3.52	
4 (highest)	124 (25)	44		1.78	0.92 to 3.45	
GOG performance status			.20			.36
0	350 (70)	41		Reference	—	
1-2	70 (14)	33		0.88	0.41 to 1.88	
Unknown	78 (16)	47		0.58	0.27 to 1.23	
Charlson score			< .001			.002
0	381 (77)	45		Reference	—	
1	46 (9)	15		0.20	0.08 to 0.53	
2+	71 (14)	31		0.55	0.29 to 1.06	
Primary site			.05			.42
Ovarian	405 (81)	42		Reference	—	
Fallopian	42 (8)	48		1.50	0.68 to 3.31	
Peritoneal	51 (10)	25		0.73	0.33 to 1.63	
Stage			.55			.78
III†	14 (3)	43		0.72	0.18 to 2.81	
IIIA	30 (6)	30		0.63	0.23 to 1.71	
IIIB	52 (10)	46		1.08	0.50 to 2.30	
IIIC	402 (81)	41		Reference	—	
Histology			.10			.16
Serous	378 (76)	43		Reference	—	
Nonserous	120 (24)	34		0.68	0.39, 1.17	
Grade			.22			.30
I-II‡	97 (19)	35		Reference	—	
III	401 (81)	42		1.37	0.75 to 2.49	
Residual disease			.64			.61
None	183 (37)	42		Reference	—	
≤ 1 cm	145 (29)	42		0.75	0.42 to 1.35	
Optimal	170 (34)	38		0.93	0.53 to 1.64	
Institution			< .001			< .001
1	§	67		3.30	1.15 to 9.47	
2	§	63		1.44	0.66 to 3.13	
3	§	4		0.03	0.01 to 0.13	
4	§	20		0.20	0.08 to 0.46	
5	§	31		0.31	0.13 to 0.71	
6	§	49		Reference	—	
Year of surgery			.12			.07
2006	85 (17)	33		Reference	—	
2007-2008	159 (32)	48		1.89	0.98 to 3.63	
2009-2010	164 (33)	38		0.96	0.49 to 1.89	
2011-2012	90 (18)	39		1.03	0.48 to 2.24	

Abbreviations: GOG, Gynecologic Oncology Group; IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

*Derived from the Census 2000 data linked to patient by zip code. Income was unknown for 21 patients (4%), and was imputed on the basis of the median income of patients separately by institution.

†Includes 14 patients with unknown substage.

‡Includes 21 patients with unknown grade.

§Absolute numbers are suppressed to protect the identity of individual institutions.

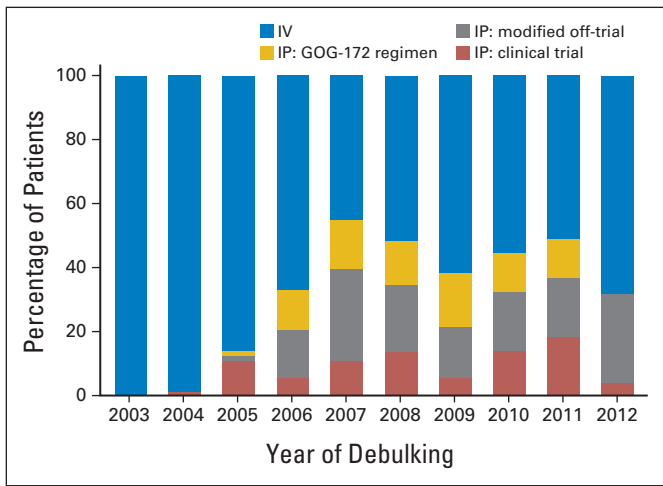


Fig 2. Proportion of patients treated with intraperitoneal (IP) or intravenous (IV) chemotherapy over time at National Comprehensive Cancer Network centers, 2003 to 2012. GOG, Gynecologic Oncology Group.

than 50% of eligible patients received IP/IV chemotherapy over time, even after the NCI Clinical Announcement, despite a clear survival benefit. In addition, we observed marked variation in the adoption of IP/IV chemotherapy by institution and significant heterogeneity in the IP/IV regimens used at treatment initiation. Indeed, 43% of patients received modified regimens. Despite widespread treatment heterogeneity, we observed a significant survival benefit associated with IP/IV versus IV chemotherapy and relatively few differences in treatment-related toxicities between groups, suggesting IP/IV chemotherapy is feasible to use in clinical practice.

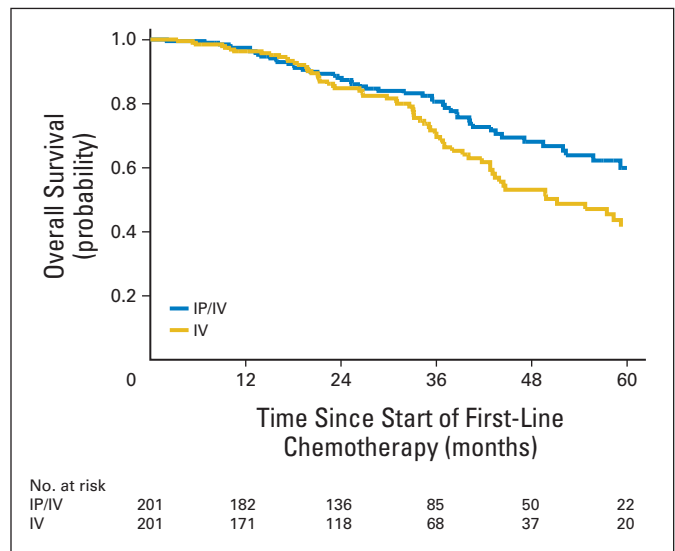


Fig 3. Overall survival with propensity score-matched sample for National Comprehensive Cancer Network patients with optimally cytoreduced, stage III ovarian cancer by first-line chemotherapy administration with intraperitoneal or intravenous (IP/IV) chemotherapy, 2006 to 2012.

To our knowledge, this is the first prospective, multi-institutional, comparative effectiveness study to demonstrate that IP/IV chemotherapy is associated with significantly improved survival among women with optimally debulked, stage III ovarian cancer, outside of a clinical trial. These results extend two previous studies that demonstrated infrequent use of IP/IV chemotherapy among patients treated in an integrated health care network and Medicare beneficiaries.^{22,23} Consistent with these

Table 2. Rates of Toxicities, Chemotherapy Discontinuation or Change, and Site(s) of Disease Recurrence by Route of Chemotherapy (2006-2012)

Event	Propensity Score-Matched Sample				P
	IV, % (n = 201)	IP/IV, % (n = 201)	Odds Ratio for IP/IV v IV	95% CI	
Toxicity					
Hospitalization	10.0	14.4	1.47	0.82 to 2.64	.19
IP catheter complication*	0.5	13.4	27.0	3.67 to 199.0	.001
Diarrhea	1.0	3.0	3.00	0.61 to 15.9	.18
Nausea and vomiting	3.5	5.0	1.50	0.53 to 4.21	.44
Dehydration	3.0	4.5	1.50	0.53 to 4.21	.44
Febrile neutropenia	2.0	2.0	1.00	0.25 to 4.00	.99
Anemia	5.0	10.9	2.20	1.04 to 4.65	.04
Thrombocytopenia	2.0	1.5	0.75	0.17 to 3.35	.71
Infection†	3.5	4.5	1.29	0.48 to 3.45	.62
Neuropathy	29.9	28.4	0.92	0.58 to 1.46	.72
Reason for discontinuation or change in delivery‡					
Planned therapy ended	84.1	70.1	Reference	—	—
Cancer progression	2.0	1.0	0.50	0.09 to 2.73	.42
Toxicity	10.0	20.4	2.83	1.47 to 5.47	.002
Other	4.0	8.5	2.14	0.87 to 5.26	.10
Disease recurrence§					
Intra-abdominal	70.6	41.2	Reference	—	—
Distant	29.4	58.8	3.14	1.34 to 7.36	.008

Abbreviations: IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous.

*Complications include blockage, infection, or leak.

†Infections requiring hospitalization.

‡Odds ratio determined from multinomial logistic regression with planned therapy ended as the base outcome variable. Other includes the following: IP port catheter complication (n = 14), patient/family preferences (n = 4), drug shortage (n = 1), comorbidity (n = 1; patient needed hernia surgery), and unknown (n = 7).

§Among 102 patients (51 matched pairs) with documented disease recurrence.

Table 3. Overall Survival of Patients Treated With IP/IV Versus IV Chemotherapy (2006-2012)

Model	Hazard Ratio	95% CI	P
Unadjusted model	0.66	0.47 to 0.92	.02
Propensity score-adjusted models			
Matching 1:1 (201 matched pairs)	0.68	0.47 to 0.99	.047
Inverse probability weights	0.65	0.46 to 0.92	.02
Regression adjustment	0.66	0.44 to 0.98	.04
Stratification	0.64	0.42 to 0.98	.04
Multivariable-adjusted model*	0.62	0.41 to 0.94	.03

Abbreviations: IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous.
*Adjusting for all variables that were included in the propensity score model.

studies, we found that patient characteristics, including younger age and fewer medical comorbidities, are associated with receipt of IP/IV chemotherapy. In addition, our study extends these results by including patients who closely matched the GOG-172 eligibility criteria and examining clinical outcomes, including survival and treatment-related toxicities, with stringent adjustment for relevant prognostic factors.²⁴

The magnitude of the survival benefit associated with IP/IV chemotherapy we detected is similar to results from randomized clinical trials.^{1-3,9} We observed a relative risk of death in the IP/IV versus IV group of 0.68 (95% CI, 0.47 to 0.99), comparable to that observed in GOG-114 (0.76 [95% CI, 0.61 to 0.96]), GOG-172 (0.75 [95% CI, 0.58 to 0.97]), and a pooled analysis of six randomized trials.^{1,2,9,25} Although randomized trials have demonstrated a clear survival benefit with IP/IV chemotherapy in clinical trials, only 41% of eligible patients at six academic centers received it, suggesting that IP/IV chemotherapy may be currently underused.

Reassuringly, although women treated with IP/IV chemotherapy were more likely to switch chemotherapy routes because of treatment-related toxicities compared with IV chemotherapy, their adjuvant chemotherapy completion rates were not lower overall (IP/IV *v* IV chemotherapy, 89% *v* 91%). Similarly, we did not observe higher rates of neuropathy, dehydration, or infections reported in GOG-172, although we may have been underpowered to detect these differences.^{1,26} This may be because providers modified IP/IV regimens to reduce toxicities or added prophylactic supportive care (eg, IV fluids and growth factors). The heterogeneity in IP/IV regimens we observed confirms that physicians have not adopted a standard IP/IV chemotherapy regimen.

Consistent with previous observational studies, women who received IP/IV chemotherapy were more likely to develop distant metastases at first disease recurrence, instead of experiencing intra-abdominal relapses.^{11,12} This suggests that IP/IV chemotherapy treats disease effectively within the anatomic regions of drug distribution but may compromise systemic disease control. Alternatively, these women may avoid early intra-abdominal recurrences but present with distant recurrences because they experience relapse later in time.

Our finding that IP/IV chemotherapy use varied between such similar academic institutions is surprising, particularly because patients' sociodemographic and disease characteristics are relatively uniform across NCCN centers.¹⁷ This may be partially explained by institutional differences in clinical trial participation. For example, although use of IP/IV chemotherapy was lower at institution 3 than at others, when it was administered, it was usually administered on a clinical trial. Specifically, although 19% of eligible patients received IP/IV chemotherapy between

2006 and 2012 at institution 3 overall (both on and off trials), 87% of these patients were treated on a clinical trial and thus excluded from our study. In contrast, overall IP/IV chemotherapy use ranged from 24% to 68% at other institutions, and the proportion treated on trial varied from 0% to 30%.

Our results suggest that the use of IP/IV chemotherapy may also be influenced by local culture and clinical practice leaders' enthusiasm for treatments and clinical trials.^{27,28} This does not discount the importance of patient preferences.²⁹ Rather, it suggests that women may receive substantially different treatment, depending on where they seek care, even within NCCN centers, and that additional interventions may be required to ensure that IP/IV chemotherapy decision making is more uniform and patient centered. Future studies should directly examine how clinicians' attitudes toward IP/IV chemotherapy are associated with use across centers.

Our study has several limitations. First, we were unable to compare survival differences between different IP/IV chemotherapy regimens because of the number of adaptations observed. Second, the database did not capture dose-dense paclitaxel because the study started in late 2005, before evidence demonstrating improved survival in Japanese populations with dose-dense paclitaxel was available.^{13,30} However, if dose-dense paclitaxel use increased over time, survival in the IV chemotherapy group should have improved, making it more difficult to detect a survival benefit with IP/IV chemotherapy. We expect that this question will be more definitively answered in two randomized clinical trials, the iPocc Trial³¹ and GOG-252.³² Third, the database did not differentiate between inpatient and outpatient administration of IP/IV chemotherapy because prospective data supporting the feasibility of outpatient administration of IP/IV chemotherapy were not published until 2009. Also, we were unable to ascertain progression-free survival (PFS) accurately, although PFS may be more prone to bias than overall survival in clinical practice because it is directly dependent on the frequency of surveillance testing (eg, CA125 or computed tomographic scans).³³ Future studies should examine PFS using a uniform method to monitor disease progression at regular intervals, similar to clinical trials.

Although we expect our results to be more generalizable than clinical trials, they may not be representative of clinical practice outside of academic institutions because most are high-volume hospitals, a factor associated with improved survival.^{34,35} Finally, in this observational study, we cannot exclude the possibility that selection bias contributed to our findings. For example, if healthier patients were more likely to receive IP/IV chemotherapy than less healthy patients, that could explain the survival benefit we observed. Although we could not adjust for unobserved confounders, our rich clinical data and statistical analyses allowed adjustment for key clinical variables with important prognostic implications (eg, performance status, comorbid disease, and extent of residual disease).²⁴

In conclusion, our findings suggest that the use of IP/IV chemotherapy at NCCN centers increased significantly after the publication of GOG-172 and the NCI Clinical Announcement. However, fewer than 50% of eligible women received IP/IV chemotherapy overall, and the integration of IP/IV chemotherapy into clinical practice varied significantly among institutions. Despite frequent modifications to the GOG-172 regimen, we found that use of IP/IV chemotherapy in clinical practice is feasible and associated with improved survival compared with IV chemotherapy, consistent with results from randomized trials. Together, these findings suggest that IP/IV is an important and possibly underused, evidence-based treatment strategy for improving outcomes in ovarian cancer.

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Disclosures provided by the authors are available with this article at www.jco.org.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conception and design: Alexi A. Wright, Jane C. Weeks
Financial support: Alexi A. Wright, Ursula A. Matulonis, Jane C. Weeks
Administrative support: Dana E. Milne, Joyce C. Niland, Jane C. Weeks, David M. O'Malley

Provision of study materials or patients: Alexi A. Wright, Mihaela C. Cristea, Jennifer J. Griggs, Charles F. Levenback, Gina Mantia-Smaldone, Ursula A. Matulonis, Jane C. Weeks, David M. O'Malley

Collection and assembly of data: Alexi A. Wright, Dana E. Milne, Joyce C. Niland, Jane C. Weeks

Data analysis and interpretation: Alexi A. Wright, Angel Cronin, Michael A. Bookman, Robert A. Burger, David E. Cohn, Mihaela C. Cristea, Jennifer J. Griggs, Nancy L. Keating, Charles F. Levenback, Gina Mantia-Smaldone, Ursula A. Matulonis, Larissa A. Meyer, Joyce C. Niland, Jane C. Weeks, David M. O'Malley

Manuscript writing: All authors

Final approval of manuscript: All authors

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Alexi A. Wright

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Angel Cronin

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Dana E. Milne

No relationship to disclose

Michael A. Bookman

Employment: McKesson, US Oncology Research

Honoraria: Genentech

Consulting or Advisory Role: Genentech, Boehringer Ingelheim, AstraZeneca, AbbVie, Sanofi, Novartis, ImmunoGen, Endocyte, Gradalis

Robert A. Burger

Consulting or Advisory Role: Amgen, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Oxigene, Roche

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Genentech

David E. Cohn

No relationship to disclose

Mihaela C. Cristea

No relationship to disclose

Jennifer J. Griggs

No relationship to disclose

Nancy L. Keating

No relationship to disclose

Charles F. Levenback

No relationship to disclose

Gina Mantia-Smaldone

No relationship to disclose

Ursula A. Matulonis

No relationship to disclose

Larissa A. Meyer

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Joyce C. Niland

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Appendix

Table A1. Patient Characteristics After Matching on the Propensity Score for Treatment with IP/IV Chemotherapy versus IV Chemotherapy

Characteristic	IV (n = 201)	IP/IV (n = 201)	Standardized Difference, %*	
			Before Propensity Score Matching	After Propensity Score Matching
Age, years			32.5	11.2
18-54	59 (29)	70 (35)		
55-64	72 (36)	82 (41)		
65-74	59 (29)	43 (21)		
> 74	11 (5)	6 (3)		
Race			12.3	5.8
White	185 (92)	188 (94)		
Nonwhite	16 (8)	13 (6)		
Ethnicity			1.3	2.6
Non-Hispanic	193 (96)	194 (97)		
Hispanic	8 (4)	7 (3)		
Income			5.9	8.0
1 (lowest)	59 (29)	43 (21)		
2	49 (24)	48 (24)		
3	47 (23)	55 (27)		
4 (highest)	46 (23)	55 (27)		
GOG performance status			3.9	0.2
0	140 (70)	141 (70)		
1-2	25 (12)	23 (11)		
Unknown	36 (18)	37 (18)		
Charlson score			37.7	12.0
0	163 (81)	172 (86)		
1	14 (7)	7 (3)		
2+	24 (12)	22 (11)		
Primary site			26.0	15.1
Ovarian	163 (81)	169 (84)		
Fallopian	16 (8)	19 (9)		
Peritoneal	22 (11)	13 (6)		
Stage			2.1	6.3
III	4 (2)	6 (3)		
IIIA	12 (6)	9 (4)		
IIIB	18 (9)	23 (11)		
IIIC	167 (83)	163 (81)		
Histology			15.1	11.9
Serous	150 (75)	160 (80)		
Nonserous	51 (25)	41 (20)		
Grade			11.4	5.2
I-II	38 (19)	34 (17)		
III	163 (81)	167 (83)		
Residual disease			2.4	1.7
None	71 (35)	77 (38)		
≤ 1 cm	61 (30)	61 (30)		
Optimal	69 (34)	63 (31)		
Institution			95.5	50.2
1	†	†		
2	†	†		
3	†	†		
4	†	†		
5	†	†		
6	†	†		
Year of surgery			11.4	9.0
2006	38 (19)	28 (14)		
2007-2008	60 (30)	76 (38)		
2009-2010	70 (35)	63 (31)		
2011-2012	33 (16)	34 (17)		

Abbreviations: GOG, Gynecologic Oncology Group; IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous.

*In general, variables with standardized differences of less than 10% are considered to have negligible differences between treatment groups.

†Absolute numbers are suppressed to protect the identity of individual institutions.

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Table A2. IP/IV Regimens by Institution From 2003 to 2012 (cohort 1)

Regimen	Overall % (N = 287)	Patients Receiving IP/IV by Institution (%) [*]					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
IP/IV with GOG-172, % [†]	29	48	49	0	63	13	0
IP/IV on clinical trial, %	28	19	27	87	30	0	30
Modified IP/IV regimen, % [‡]	43	32	24	13	7	87	70
IV drug substitution	23	3	0	0	4	17	66
IP drug substitution	1	10	0	0	0	0	0
IP dose reduction	16	16	24	13	0	70	0
Other	2	3	0	0	4	0	4

Abbreviations: GOG, Gynecologic Oncology Group; IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous.

^{*}Absolute numbers are suppressed to protect the identity of individual institutions.

[†]GOG-172 regimen is IV paclitaxel, 135 mg/m², on day 1, IP cisplatin, 100 mg/m², on day 2, and IP paclitaxel, 60 mg/m², on day 8.

[‡]Examples include IV drug substitution (eg, docetaxel instead of paclitaxel), IP dose reduction (eg, cisplatin, 75 instead of 100 mg/m²), IP drug substitution (eg, carboplatin for cisplatin), or combined adjustments (eg, IV docetaxel and IP carboplatin).

Table A3. Toxicities and Number of IP Chemotherapy Cycles Delivered by Regimen From 2006 to 2012 Off Trial (cohort 2)

Variable	% Total (N = 202)	% GOG-172 Regimen (n = 81)	% Modified Regimens (n = 121)
No. of IP cycles delivered			
1-2	21	21	20
3-4	19	17	21
5+	60	62	59
Toxicity			
Hospitalization	14.4	19.8	10.7
IP catheter complication [*]	13.4	12.3	14.0
Diarrhea	3.0	3.7	2.5
Nausea and vomiting	5.0	6.2	4.1
Dehydration	4.5	7.4	2.5
Febrile neutropenia	2.0	3.7	0.8
Anemia	10.9	14.8	8.3
Thrombocytopenia	1.5	2.5	0.8
Infection [†]	4.5	3.7	5.0
Neuropathy	28.2	32.1	25.6
Reason for discontinuation or chemotherapy change			
Planned therapy ended	70.3	67.9	71.9
Cancer progression	1.0	2.5	0.0
Toxicity	20.3	24.7	17.4
Other	8.4	4.9	10.7

NOTE. There were no significant differences between groups by regimen (GOG-172 v modified regimen) for number of IP cycles delivered, toxicities, or reason for discontinuation or change in chemotherapy regimen (all $P > .09$) by Fisher's exact test.

Abbreviations: GOG, Gynecologic Oncology Group; IP, intraperitoneal.

^{*}Complications include blockage, infection, or leak.

[†]Infections requiring hospitalization.