

Editorial Manager(tm) for Breast Cancer Research and Treatment
Manuscript Draft

Manuscript Number:

Title: Correlation between docetaxel-induced skin toxicity and the use of steroids and H2 blockers: A multi-institution survey

Article Type: Epidemiology

Keywords: CYP3A4; docetaxel; drug exposure; facial erythema; hand-foot syndrome; H₂ Blocker

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3 **Original article for Breast Cancer Research and Treatment**
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6 **Correlation between docetaxel-induced skin toxicity and the use of steroids and H₂ blockers: A**
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9 **multi-institution survey**
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37 **Running Head**
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39 H₂ blockers increase incidence of docetaxel-induced skin toxicity
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44 Part of this study was presented as a poster discussion in the “Patient Care: Cancer-Related
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47 Complications” session (abstract number 9536) at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Society of
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51 Clinical Oncology.
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57 The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.
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3 **Abstract**
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6 **Background**
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9 Steroids and H₂ blockers are commonly used as supportive care for taxane-containing chemotherapy, but
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11 they also affect docetaxel's primary metabolizer, cytochrome P₄₅₀ 3A4. This retrospective observational
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13 study was performed to better understand the effects of these compounds on docetaxel-induced skin
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15 toxicities, specifically hand-foot syndrome (HFS) and facial erythema (FE), a relationship that is currently
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17 poorly understood.
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25 **Patients and methods**
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28 Member institutions of the Japan Breast Cancer Research Group were invited to complete a questionnaire
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30 on the occurrence of grade 2 or higher HFS and FE among patients treated between April 2007 and
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32 March 2008 with docetaxel as an adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapeutic treatment for breast cancer.
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38 **Results**
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41 We obtained data for 993 patients from 20 institutions. Twenty percent received H₂ blockers, and all
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43 patients received dexamethasone. Univariate and multivariate analyses revealed that H₂ blockers are
44
45 associated with a significantly higher incidence of both HFS and FE. The incidence of FE was
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47 significantly higher for the docetaxel + cyclophosphamide (TC) regimen than for non-TC regimens
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49 combined. Dexamethasone usage did not affect the incidence of either HFS or FE.
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57 **Conclusion**
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Use of H₂ blockers as premedication in breast cancer patients receiving docetaxel significantly increases the risk of both HFS and FE.

Key words

CYP3A4, docetaxel, drug exposure, facial erythema, hand-foot syndrome, H₂ blocker

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6 **INTRODUCTION**
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12 Docetaxel is one of the most active chemotherapeutic agents against breast cancer [1]. Data
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14 from a randomized trial show an increased tumor response with increasing docetaxel dose within a dose
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16 range of 60–100 mg/m² administered every 3 weeks [1]. In general, the incidence and severity of adverse
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18 events increases with docetaxel dose. Previously, docetaxel dose was limited by hematologic toxicities
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20 such as febrile neutropenia [2]; however, their impact has been drastically reduced by the use of
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22 granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (GCSF) as prophylaxis. Thus, in recent years, non-hematologic
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24 toxicities have become more clinically important. The incidence and severity of a number of
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26 non-hematologic toxicities, such as fluid retention (FR), are associated with increasing docetaxel dose [1].
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28 In our own clinical practice, we have recently experienced many cases of docetaxel-induced hand-foot
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30 syndrome (HFS) and facial (cheek) erythema (FE), especially among patients receiving relatively high
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32 doses of docetaxel for adjuvant and neoadjuvant chemotherapy.
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48 Corticosteroids administered over 3 days, starting 2 days prior to chemotherapy, have been
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50 shown to delay the onset of docetaxel-induced FR. In one study, patients who received
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52 methylprednisolone premedication had significantly delayed onset of FR. and received a significantly
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54 higher median cumulative dose of docetaxel before the onset of FR [3]. Among patients treated with TAC
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3 (docetaxel, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide) and given corticosteroid premedication (starting 1 day prior
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6 to chemotherapy), Suh et al. [4] found that corticosteroid postmedication (three 8 mg doses, b.i.d., until 1
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9 day after chemotherapy) yielded no improvement in the incidence of severe FR on day 2.
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12 Both docetaxel-induced cumulative FR and the means by which corticosteroids delay its onset
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14 remain poorly understood. One possible explanation involves induction of the cytochrome P₄₅₀ (CYP)
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16 system. Clinically relevant doses of dexamethasone (e.g. 8 mg orally two times a day for 5 days),
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18 reportedly increase hepatic cytochrome P₄₅₀ 3A4 (CYP3A4) activity by an average of 25.7% [5]. Thus,
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20 dexamethasone treatment could potentially bring about a clinically significant increase in the clearance of
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22 CYP3A4 substrates such as docetaxel.
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32 H₂ blockers, such as cimetidine and ranitidine, are weak inhibitors of CYP3A4 [6]. A single
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34 dose of cimetidine (800 mg orally) was found to have a small but significant effect (30% increase) on the
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36 area under the concentration–time curve (AUC) of midazolam. Five days of cimetidine treatment (400 mg
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38 orally b.i.d.) increased the AUC of epirubicin by 50% (not statistically significant due to a small sample
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40 size) [7]. Cimetidine also reportedly affects the pharmacokinetics of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU): pretreatment
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42 with cimetidine for 4 weeks led to an increased 5-FU plasma concentration and AUC [8]. For oral 5-FU,
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44 the AUC was increased by 72% and for intravenous 5-FU, the AUC was increased by 27% and total body
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46 clearance was decreased by 28% [8].
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57 Although H₂ blocker premedication is not mandatory for docetaxel, it is commonly prescribed
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3 in Japan, probably as a result of the common practice of administering H₂ blocker premedication for
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6 paclitaxel treatment. Another possible explanation is that clinicians are aiming to minimize the
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9 gastrointestinal side effects of dexamethasone, although there is no convincing evidence to support this
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12 usage [9]. We hypothesized that H₂ blockers would increase the incidence of docetaxel-induced skin
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15 toxicity, given their inhibitory effect on the enzymes that metabolize docetaxel. We also hypothesized that
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18 use of steroids prior to chemotherapy would decrease the incidence of these toxicities via the reverse
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21 action. In the present retrospective observational study, we aimed to gather data to investigate these
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25 hypotheses.
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31 **PATIENTS AND METHODS**

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38 Nearly 100 institutions belonging to the Japan Breast Cancer Research Group were invited to
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41 complete a questionnaire, asking them to use existing medical records to retrospectively investigate the
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44 occurrence of grade 2 or higher HFS and FE among patients treated between April 2007 and March 2008
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47 with docetaxel as an adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapeutic treatment for breast cancer. Twenty of
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50 these institutions returned data on patients. We asked that cases of HFS and FE be classified in
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53 accordance with the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events
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3 The following data were collected on a per-institution basis: (1) docetaxel dose; (2)
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6 chemotherapeutic agents concurrently administered; (3) whether steroids or H₂ blockers were used; (4)
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9 occurrence of grade 2 or higher HFS or FE. Furthermore, we also ascertained the standard doses and
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12 regimens for steroids and H₂ blockers used by each institution (i.e. data on doses and regimens for
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15 docetaxel, steroids and H₂ blockers was based on institutional policy rather than individual patients'
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18 records).
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22 Statistical analyses were performed using the chi-squared test and multivariate logistic
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25 regression.
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28 This observational study using only the existing medical records was approved by the Ethics
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31 Committee of Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, and performed according to the
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34 Declaration of Helsinki and the Ethical Guidelines for Epidemiological Research of the Ministry of
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37 Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology and the Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare of
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40 Japan. Although informed consent from patients is not a formal requirement for a study of this type (as
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43 per the above-mentioned guidelines), each subject was publicly provided with the opportunity to opt out
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46 of this study.
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57 **RESULTS**

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7 Patient characteristics
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10 Of the nearly 100 institutions that were invited to participate, questionnaires were returned by
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12 22, of which two institutions had no eligible patients, leaving 20 institutions that returned data. Data on
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14 993 patients was available. Details of the drugs received by the 993 patients are provided in Table 1.
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19 The chemotherapeutic regimens used were as follows: docetaxel monotherapy (T), docetaxel +
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21 cyclophosphamide (TC), docetaxel + capecitabine (TX), and docetaxel + trastuzumab (TH). A total of
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23 760 (76.5%) patients received docetaxel at a dose of 75 mg/m², and 852 patients were treated with
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25 docetaxel monotherapy. H₂ blockers were administered to about 20% of patients. Three H₂ blockers,
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27 ranitidine, famotidine and lafutidine, were used. Dexamethasone was the only steroid administered, and
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29 all patients in the present study received dexamethasone. The dose of dexamethasone used on days 1 and
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31 2 varied, depending on the chemotherapeutic regimen used and institutional preference, but 8 mg was the
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33 most commonly used dose on both days.
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48 Univariate analysis of factors affecting skin toxicity incidence
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51 Table 2 shows the relationship between the incidence of HFS and FE and the institutional
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53 policy with respect to H₂ blockers, steroids and chemotherapeutic regimen. HFS and FE occurred in
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55 15.8% and 10.4% of patients, respectively. The incidence of FE but not HFS differed significantly
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3 between the TC regimen and other regimens combined (FE: odds ratio [OR] 2.73, $P = 0.010$; HFS: OR
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6 0.58, $P = 0.245$). Given that the TX regimen was used in a very small number of patients (less than 5%),
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9 we did not compare the incidence of HFS and FE in this group with that of other regimens, particularly
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12 given that the TX regimen is already known to be associated with a higher incidence of HFS [10,11]. Use
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15 of H₂ blockers significantly increased the incidence of both HFS (OR 2.55, $P < 0.001$) and FE (OR 3.00,
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18 $P < 0.001$). Lafutidine was associated with a significantly higher OR than the other two H₂ blockers for
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21 both HFS (OR 11.73, $P < 0.001$) and FE (OR 18.48, $P < 0.001$). There was no general relationship
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24 between the dose of steroid on day 1 and/or day 2 and the incidence of either HFS or FE, although there
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27 was a small but significantly higher incidence of FE among patients receiving >8 mg of dexamethasone
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30 on day 1 compared with those who received ≤ 8 mg (OR 1.80, $P = 0.006$).
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38 Cumulative incidence of HFS and FE

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41 The cumulative incidences of HFS and FE are depicted in Figure 1. Given that most adjuvant
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44 and neo-adjuvant docetaxel-based chemotherapy regimens involve four cycles, we investigated
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47 cumulative toxicity for cycles 1 and 2, and cycles 3 and after. Grade 2 or higher HFS occurred in 5% of
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50 patients in cycle 1, and increased as chemotherapy continued. When an H₂ blocker was used, 20% of
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53 patients developed grade 2 or higher HFS by cycles 3 and after. The cumulative incidence of HFS in the
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56 absence of an H₂ blocker was about half that seen when an H₂ blocker was used.
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3 The incidence of FE was also affected by the use of an H₂ blocker. In the absence of an H₂
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6 blocker, the cumulative incidence of FE by cycles 3 and after was less than a quarter of that seen when an
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9 H₂ blocker was used.
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11 12 13 14 15 16 Multivariate analysis of factors affecting skin toxicity incidence 17

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19 Tables 3 and 4 show the relationships between steroid (day 1: Table 3; day 2: Table 4) and H₂
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22 blocker institutional policies, chemotherapy regimen and HFS and FE incidence as determined by
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25 multivariate logistic regression analysis. Use of a steroid on days 1 and 2 was a confounding factor, so we
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28 performed separate analysis for patients who used steroids on these days.
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32 The two multivariate logistic regression analyses show that use of H₂ blockers significantly
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35 increased the incidence of HFS and FE. Lafutidine had the strongest influence on the incidence of both
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38 HFS and FE. Ranitidine seemed to have the least influence, although there was still a significant increase
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41 in the incidence of FE (OR 2.58; $P = 0.029$) with day 2 steroid use, and a non-significant increase in FE
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44 incidence with day 1 steroid use (OR 2.17; $P = 0.101$)
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48 Both multivariate analyses showed that the TC regimen was associated with a significantly
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51 increased risk of FE but not HFS relative to the other regimens combined. There was no relationship
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54 between the dose of dexamethasone given as premedication on day 1 or after chemotherapy on day 2 and
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57 the incidence of either HFS or FE.
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6 **DISCUSSION**
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10 This was a retrospective multi-institutional observational study designed to investigate the
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12 correlation between docetaxel-induced skin toxicity and the use of steroids and/or H₂ blockers. We found
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14 that H₂ blockers, especially famotidine, significantly increased the incidence of HFS and FE. The dose of
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16 dexamethasone, given either as premedication on day 1 or after chemotherapy on day 2, did not affect the
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18 incidence of either HFS or FE. We also found that the TC regimen is associated with a significantly
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20 higher risk of FE but not HFS relative to other regimens.
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28 The major limitations of our study are, first, that this is a retrospective analysis, with all the
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30 associated drawbacks. Second, the doses and regimens of steroids and H₂ blockers used in our analysis are
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32 based on institutional policies rather than individual patients' data. Although we found that famotidine was
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34 associated with a significantly higher incidence of HFS and FE, only one institution used famotidine, so
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36 observer bias may have contributed to this outcome. A further drawback is that pharmacokinetic data
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38 from the patients were not available. The best study design to answer the question of whether H₂ blockers
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40 increase the incidence of skin toxicity due to increased docetaxel AUC would be a randomized controlled
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42 trial, comparing docetaxel with or without H₂ blockers, with HFS and FE incidences as endpoints, and
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44 including an analysis of docetaxel pharmacokinetics. However, it would not only be prohibitively
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46 expensive to conduct such a trial, but also unethical to assign patients to the H₂ blocker arm, because it
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3 would place them at risk of an adverse outcome in the absence of apparent clinical benefit.
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6 In vitro studies indicate that CYP3A4 is the major enzyme involved in docetaxel metabolism
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9 [12]. Less than 10% of unmetabolized docetaxel is excreted into the feces, and total urinary excretion is
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12 also less than 10% [13]. Total activity of enzymes in the CYP3A family has been identified as a strong
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15 predictor of docetaxel clearance and most likely accounts to a large extent for the observed
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18 inter-individual variability in drug clearance and plasma concentration AUC. Although the fact that
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21 docetaxel is predominantly metabolized by CYP3A makes the agent subject to a host of enzyme-mediated
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24 drug interactions, little data is available on potential interactions in humans [14]. CYP3A expression
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27 varies as much as 40-fold between individuals, which may be due to factors including genetic mutations
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30 and up- or down-regulation by environmental stimuli [15]. In fact, there is a wide overlap in the AUC
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33 values of patients receiving different doses of docetaxel (e.g. 75 and 100 mg/m²), in spite of drug dose
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36 being calculated on the basis of body surface area [16], which could be explained by a drug–environment
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39 interaction.
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44 A decrease in total body clearance and an increase in the AUC of docetaxel is associated with
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47 increased frequency and severity of side effects [17]. The AUC of docetaxel is reportedly a significant
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50 predictor of severe neutropenia, with a 50% decrease in docetaxel clearance corresponding to a 4.3-fold
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53 increase in the risk of grade 4 neutropenia and a 3.0-fold increase in the risk of febrile neutropenia [17].
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57 Skin toxicities, such as HFS and FE, and nail toxicity, especially those higher than grade 2, affect patient
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3 compliance and the dose intensity of chemotherapy, both of which might lower the efficacy of treatment.
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6 A recent study has indicated that skin toxicity occurs in 53% of patients and nail toxicity occurs in 51% of
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8 patients receiving docetaxel [18]. Battegay [19] suggested that the antiangiogenic properties of taxanes
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10 may be involved in the pathogenesis of nail toxicity. Wasner et al. [20] suggested the existence of a
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12 neurogenically mediated inflammatory process. However, little is known about the mechanism underlying
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14 drug-induced HFS and FE, except that the two conditions seem to be dose related. In a Japanese study
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16 involving a low dose of docetaxel (60 mg/m²), there was a generally low incidence HFS and FE [21].
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25 In order to decrease the incidence of docetaxel toxicity, especially FR, dexamethasone (8 mg
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27 orally b.i.d. for 3 consecutive days starting 24 hours before docetaxel infusion) is often used. This seems
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29 to be effective for reducing the incidence and severity of FR [22], but the effect on skin toxicity is not
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31 well understood. In our analysis, the dose of steroid on either day 1 or day 2 had little impact on the
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33 incidence of grade 2 or higher HFS and FE. Since most institutions included in this study start
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35 dexamethasone therapy just prior to chemotherapy infusion, we were unable to determine whether
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37 dexamethasone given the day before chemotherapy has any effect on the incidence of skin toxicity. Since
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39 dexamethasone at doses used clinically increases CYP3A4 activity (with extensive inter-subject
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41 variability) [5], an increase in docetaxel clearance might be a factor explaining the lower incidence of FR,
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43 although this hypothesis requires confirmation by a well-designed clinical pharmacology study.
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56 For paclitaxel, the incidence of infusion reactions can be reduced by the intravenous
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3 administration of H₁ receptor antagonists plus H₂ receptor antagonists 30 minutes prior to paclitaxel
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6 infusion [23], an approach that has become the standard premedication for paclitaxel administration.
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9 Although H₁ and H₂ receptor antagonists are not mandatory premedications for docetaxel, some
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12 physicians opt to use similar premedications for docetaxel as for paclitaxel, hoping that this might reduce
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15 the risk of infusion reactions and other toxicities associated with docetaxel treatment. Another rationale
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18 for using H₂ receptor antagonists is to protect the gastric mucosa against dexamethasone premedication.
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22 Standard doses of H₂ receptor antagonists are not effective for preventing non-steroidal anti-inflammatory
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25 drug (NSAID)-induced gastric mucosal damage [9,24]. Whether H₂ receptor antagonists are effective in
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28 reducing the incidence of gastric mucosal damage due to dexamethasone has not been established, and
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31 they are not routinely recommended unless a concurrent dose of a NSAID is prescribed. H₂ receptor
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34 antagonists are classified as weak inhibitors of CYP3A4 activity [25]. Clinically significant drug
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37 interactions with H₂ receptor antagonists, especially with cimetidine and chemotherapeutic agents such as
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40 epirubicin and 5-FU have been reported [7,8], although the contribution of CYP3A4 to the metabolism of
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43 epirubicin and 5-FU has not been studied extensively. It is possible that concurrent administration of H₂
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46 receptor antagonists inhibits the CYP3A4-mediated metabolism of docetaxel, causing higher incidences
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49 of HFS and FE, although we do not have pharmacokinetic data to confirm this. Since H₂ receptor
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52 antagonists such as cimetidine are likely to be co-prescribed or self-administered with anti-neoplastic
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57 drugs, oncologists should be aware of this potential drug interaction.
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3 Cyclophosphamide, used in the TC regimen, is inactivated by side-chain oxidation mediated by
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6 CYP3A4, the same enzyme involved in docetaxel metabolism [26]. This competition might be the one of
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9 the mechanisms involved in the increased toxicity of the TC regimen, as observed in the present study.
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12 However, it is difficult to explain why the TC regimen was associated with an increased frequency of FE
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15 but not HFS. One possible explanation is that in our analysis the high incidence of HFS in the TX
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18 regimen, a non-TC regimen, diminished the difference between TC and combined non-TC regimens,
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21 despite the very small number of patients treated using the TX regimen. An alternative explanation is that
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24 different mechanisms underlie the occurrence of HFS and FE.
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28 Our retrospective observational study suggests that concurrent use of H₂ receptor antagonists with
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31 docetaxel-based regimens may increase the incidence of grade 2 or higher skin toxicities such as FE and
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34 HFS, possibly via an inhibitory effect of H₂ receptor antagonists on the CYP3A4-mediated clearance of
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37 docetaxel. Also, the TC regimen may increase FE but not HFS. The dose of dexamethasone on days 1 and
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40 2 seems to play no role in skin toxicity.
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44 The occurrence of a specific side-effect can be used to predict the likelihood of treatment success,
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47 with dose-related toxicity possibly indicating an adequate concentration for efficacy. For aromatase
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50 inhibitors and tamoxifen, there is some evidence that women with vasomotor symptoms have a lower risk
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53 of recurrence than those without [27]. Co-administration of tamoxifen with the selective serotonin
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56 reuptake inhibitor paroxetine to reduce vasomotor symptoms inhibits the activation of tamoxifen to its
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3 main active metabolite, endoxifen, possibly resulting in reduced treatment efficacy [28]. It remains
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6 unclear whether dexamethasone given 24 hours prior to chemotherapy reduces the severity of peripheral
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9 edema via the stimulation of CYP3A4 enzyme, leading to lower docetaxel exposure. Only clinical
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12 pharmacological studies will answer this question. However, it is certainly clear that we must always
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3 **FIGURE**
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6 **Figure 1.** Cumulative incidence of (A) hand-foot syndrome (HFS) and (B) facial erythema (FE) among
7 patients treated with docetaxel as an adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapeutic treatment for breast
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10 patients treated with docetaxel as an adjuvant or neoadjuvant chemotherapeutic treatment for breast
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12 cancer ($N = 993$). All, all patients; H2+, patients who received an H₂ blocker; H2-, patients who did not
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14 receive an H₂ blocker.
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3 **TABLES**
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7 **Table 1.** Details of medications received by patients treated with docetaxel as an adjuvant or neoadjuvant
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10 chemotherapeutic treatment for breast cancer
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Factor	Category	No. of patients	No. of institutions
Total no. patients		993 (100.0%)	20
Docetaxel dose (mg/m ²)	25	6 (0.6%)	1
	60	10 (1.0%)	3
	70	35 (3.5%)	1
	75	760 (76.5%)	15
	80	80 (8.1%)	1
	Other	102 (10.3%)	3
Regimen	T	852 (85.8%)	20
	TC	74 (7.5%)	11
	TX	43 (4.3%)	8
	TH	24 (2.4%)	6
Medication			
H2 Blocker	-	718 (72.3%)	12
	+	195 (19.6%)	6
	Ranitidine	87 (8.8%)	3
	Famotidine	73 (7.4%)	2
	Lafutidine	35 (3.5%)	1
	Dependent on patient	80 (8.1%)	2
D1 Dex (mg)	6	45 (4.5%)	1
	8	460 (46.3%)	9
	10	112 (11.3%)	2
	12	197 (19.8%)	4
	16	110 (11.1%)	3
	20	6 (0.6%)	1
	21	62 (6.2%)	1
	24	1 (0.1%)	1
D2 Dex (mg)	0	80 (8.1%)	5

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	2	146 (14.7%)	3
	4	158 (15.9%)	6
	8	532 (53.6%)	8
	16	75 (7.6%)	2
	18	2 (0.2%)	1

T, docetaxel monotherapy; TC, docetaxel + cyclophosphamide; TX, docetaxel + capecitabine; TH,
docetaxel + trastuzumab; D1 Dex, dose of dexamethasone used on day 1; D2 Dex, dose of
dexamethasone used on day 2.

Table 2. Relationship between the incidence of hand-food syndrome (HFS) and facial erythema (FE) and institutional policies for use of H₂ blockers, steroids, and chemotherapy regimens (univariate analysis)

		Incidence	Odds ratio	95% CI	<i>P</i> value
HFS					
H2 blocker	-	66/718 (9.2%)	Reference	—	—
	+	40/195 (20.5%)	2.55	(1.66, 3.92)	<0.001
	Ranitidine	7/87 (8.1%)	0.86	(0.38, 1.95)	0.725
	Famotidine	14/73 (19.2%)	2.34	(1.24, 4.43)	0.009
	Lafutidine	19/35 (54.3%)	11.73	(5.76, 23.89)	<0.001
D1 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	76/505 (15.0%)	Reference	—	—
	>8	81/488 (16.6%)	1.12	(0.80, 1.58)	0.504
D2 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	143/916 (15.6%)	Reference	—	—
	>8	14/77 (18.2%)	1.20	(0.66, 2.20)	0.553
Regimen	Non-TC	149/919 (16.2%)	Reference	—	-
	TC	8/74 (10.8%)	0.58	(0.23, 1.46)	0.245
FE					
H2 blocker	-	25/718 (3.5%)	Reference	—	—
	+	28/195 (14.4%)	3.00	(2.64, 8.18)	<0.001
	Ranitidine	8/87 (9.2%)	2	(1.23, 6.43)	0.015
	Famotidine	6/73 (8.2%)	1	(0.98, 6.26)	0.054
	Lafutidine	14/35 (40.0%)	18.48	(8.43, 40.52)	<0.001
D1 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	39/505 (7.7%)	Reference	—	—
	>8	64/488 (13.1%)	1.80	(1.19, 2.74)	0.006
D2 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	100/916 (10.9%)	Reference	—	—
	>8	3/77 (10.3%)	0.33	(0.10, 1.07)	0.065
Regimen	Non-TC	91/919 (9.9%)	Reference	—	—
	TC	12/74 (16.2%)	2.73	(1.27, 5.85)	0.010

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TC, docetaxel + cyclophosphamide; Non-TC, includes docetaxel monotherapy, docetaxel + capecitabine,
and docetaxel + trastuzumab. D1 steroid, dose of dexamethasone used on day 1; D2 steroid, dose of
dexamethasone used on day 2.

Table 3. Relationship between incidence of hand-foot syndrome (HFS) and facial erythema (FE) and institutional policies on day 1 steroid dose, H₂ blocker usage and chemotherapy regimen (multivariate analysis)

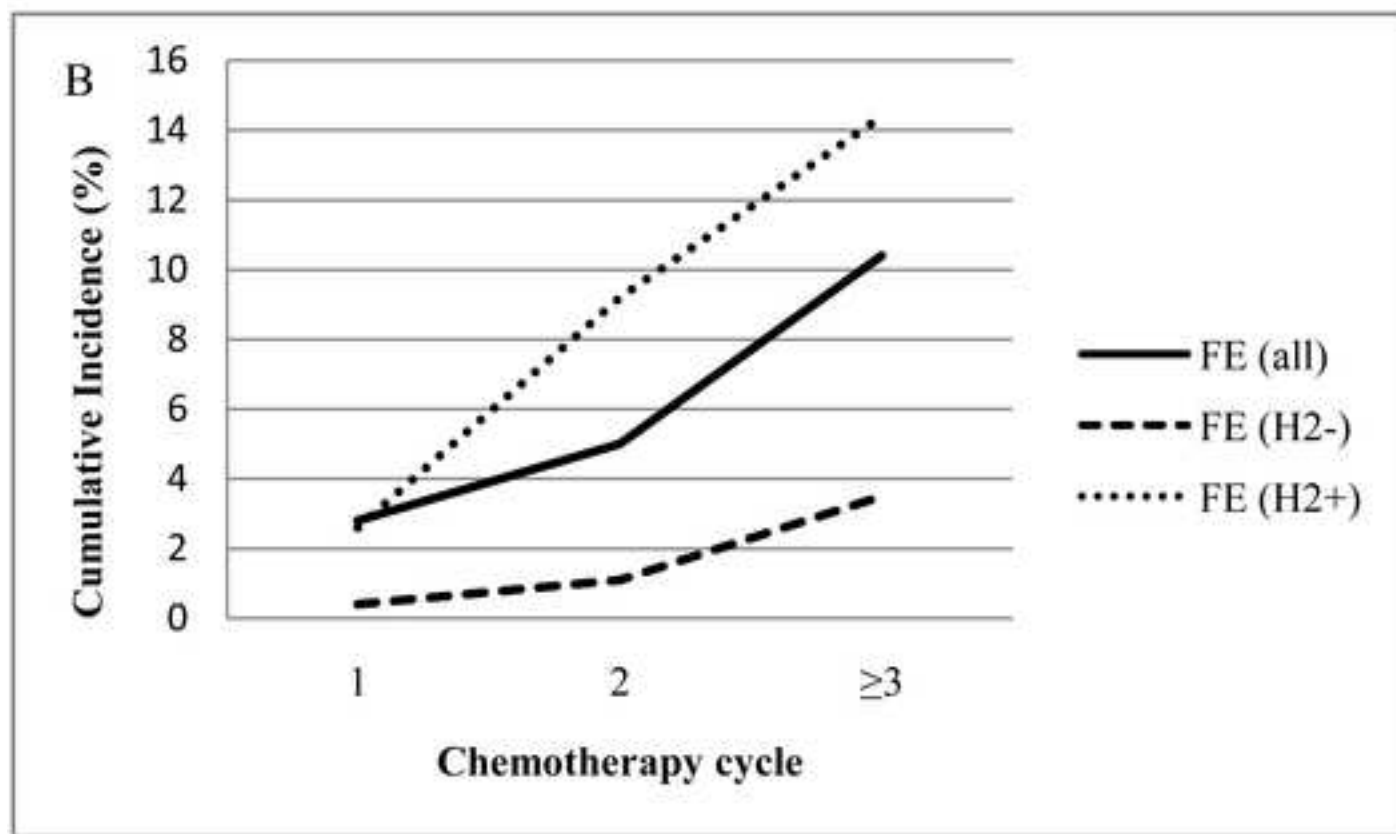
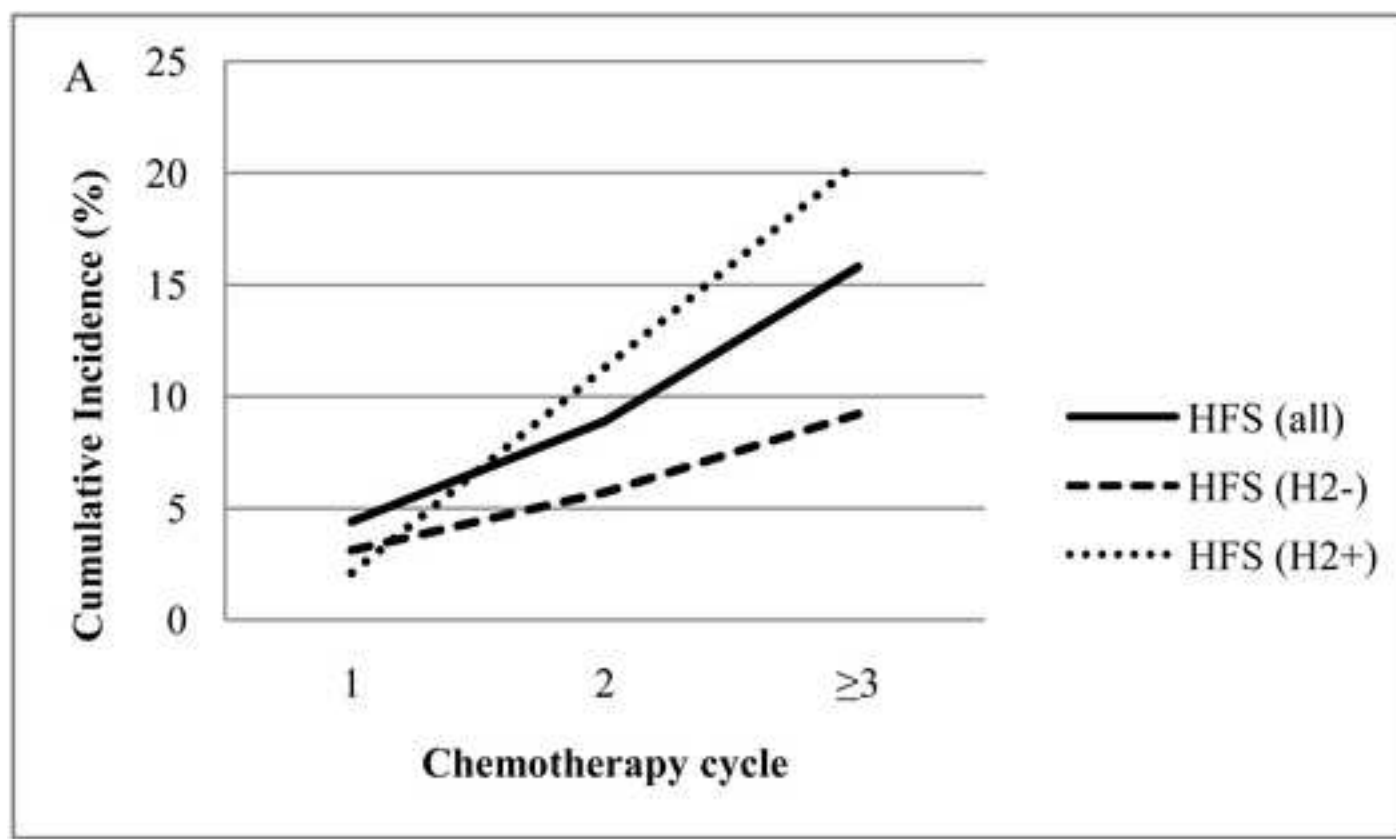
Event	Factor	Usage	Odds ratio	95% CI	<i>P</i> value
HFS	H ₂ blocker	-	Reference	—	—
		+	2.88	(1.78, 4.67)	<0.001
		Ranitidine	1.10	(0.46, 2.64)	0.833
		Famotidine	2.45	(1.28, 4.67)	0.007
	Lafutidine	14.52	(6.61, 31.89)	<0.001	
	D1 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	Reference	—	—
		>8	0.70	(0.43, 1.13)	0.145
Regimen	Non-TC	Reference	—	—	
	TC	0.77	(0.30, 1.99)	0.595	
FE	H ₂ blocker	-	Reference	—	—
		+	4.09	(2.17, 7.70)	<0.001
		Ranitidine	2.17	(0.86, 5.47)	0.101
		Famotidine	2.92	(1.12, 7.60)	0.028
	Lafutidine	18.75	(7.66, 45.92)	<0.001	
	D1 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	3	—	—
		>8	2	(0.70, 3.01)	0.319
Regimen	Non-TC	1	—	—	
	TC	4.29	(1.89, 9.73)	<0.001	

TC, docetaxel + cyclophosphamide; Non-TC, includes docetaxel monotherapy, docetaxel + capecitabine, and docetaxel + trastuzumab; D1 steroid, dose of dexamethasone used on day 1.

Table 4. Relationship between incidence of hand-foot syndrome (HFS) and facial erythema (FE) and institutional policies on day 2 steroid dose, H₂ blocker usage and chemotherapy regimen (multivariate analysis)

Event	Factor	Usage	Odds ratio	95% CI	P value
HFS	H ₂ blocker	-	Reference	—	—
		+	2.42	(1.56, 3.74)	<0.001
		Ranitidine	0.91	(0.40, 2.06)	0.822
		Famotidine	1.85	(0.91, 3.74)	0.089
		Lafutidine	11.97	(5.84, 24.5)	<0.001
	D2 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	Reference	—	—
		>8	1.74	(0.86, 3.51)	0.121
	Regimen	Non-TC	Reference	—	—
TC		0.74	(0.29, 1.90)	0.528	
FE	H ₂ blocker	-	Reference	—	—
		+	5.31	(2.97, 9.47)	<0.001
		Ranitidine	2.58	(1.11, 6.01)	0.029
		Famotidine	3.72	(1.35, 10.28)	0.011
		Lafutidine	22.46	(9.96, 50.63)	<0.001
	D2 steroid (mg/day)	≤8	3	—	—
		>8	2	(0.15, 2.09)	0.392
	Regimen	Non-TC	1	—	—
TC		4.42	(1.95, 10.05)	<0.001	

TC, docetaxel + cyclophosphamide; Non-TC, includes docetaxel monotherapy, docetaxel + capecitabine, and docetaxel + trastuzumab; D2 steroid, dose of dexamethasone used on day 2.



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Title of article: Correlation between docetaxel-induced skin toxicity and the use of steroids and H2 blockers: A multi-institution survey

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2011/3/11