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**Advances in clinical studies on anti-tumour and supportive care effects of specific mistletoe preparations: Viscum album [L.] extract therapy versus no antineoplastic therapy in patients with locally advanced or metastatic pancreatic cancer: A randomized clinical trial (ISRCTN 70760582)**

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**Introduction:** The patients with advanced pancreatic cancer have dismal prognosis. When deciding on specific treatment the impact on the quality of life should be taken into account.

**Objectives:** To compare overall survival (OS) and quality of life (QoL) of patients with locally advanced or metastatic adenocarcinoma of the pancreas receiving Viscum album (L.) (VaL) or no antineoplastic therapy.

**Methods:** The efficacy of VaL (Iscador®Qu special) was tested by a randomized clinical trial including 220 patients. Primary endpoint was OS observed over 12 month. Secondary efficacy parameters included all 15 QoL-dimensions of the EORTC QLQ-C30. Tumour-related symptoms and body weight were recorded at each visit.

**Results:** Median OS of VaL versus control was 4.8 vs. 2.7 months (HR<sub>adjusted</sub>=0.485; p<0.0001). A significant advantage of VaL was observed for 13 of the 15 QoL dimensions (p=0.001), with 10 dimensions showing a clinically relevant improvement of 10 units. Analysis of tumour-related symptoms, and change in body weight (post-hoc), confirmed the favourable effects on QoL. No VaL-related adverse event (AE) or serious AE were observed.

**Conclusions:** VaL therapy led to a relevant increase of OS and quality of life without causing any side-effects. VaL may provide a comprehensive second-line therapy for advanced pancreatic cancer patients.

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