Approximately two-thirds of patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC) are scheduled to receive chemotherapy; however, many of these patients experience myelosuppression, which can lead to delays in therapy and discontinuation of treatment. This study evaluated the burden of myelosuppression among patients with extensive-stage SCLC treated in the community oncology setting.

**INTRODUCTION**

Recent studies have shown that 80% of patients with SCLC experience myelosuppression during chemotherapy, with 42% experiencing grade ≥ 3 events.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

A retrospective observational study used structured data from The US Oncology Network's iKnowMed (iKM) to identify patients with SCLC treated with chemotherapy in the community oncology setting. The study identified patients by searching for SCLC diagnosis codes, maintaining a cohort for 12 months before diagnosis, and excluding patients who met transfusion criteria.

**RESULTS**

Approximately 75% of patients had grade ≥ 3 anemia, neutropenia, or thrombocytopenia, with 25% of patients experiencing ≥ 3 events of interest.

**DISCUSSION AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Baseline characteristics of patients with myelosuppression are described in Table 1. Patients were generally aged ≥ 65 years, with 21.3% aged ≥ 75 years. The majority of patients had ≥ 1 event of interest, with 10.4% experiencing ≥ 3 events.

**MYELOSUPPRESSION EVENTS**

- **Grade ≥ 3 anemia**: 58.8% of patients had ≥ 1 event of interest, with 25.2% experiencing ≥ 3 events.
- **Grade ≥ 3 neutropenia**: 52.2% of patients had ≥ 1 event of interest, with 15.6% experiencing ≥ 3 events.
- **Grade ≥ 3 thrombocytopenia**: 45.0% of patients had ≥ 1 event of interest, with 8.4% experiencing ≥ 3 events.

**OUTCOMES DURING FOLLOW-UP**

- **Mean number of grade ≥ 3 anemia events during follow-up**: 3.65
- **Mean number of grade ≥ 3 neutropenia events during follow-up**: 2.23
- **Mean number of grade ≥ 3 thrombocytopenia events during follow-up**: 1.52

**POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

- **Dosing to data limitations**: Health care resource allocation in the real-world setting was not captured.
- **Results in the study may not be generalizable beyond community oncology settings**.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Close to one-third of patients received ≥ 3 chemotherapy cycles in the index treatment, which underscores the fragility of patients with ES-SCLC.
- Therapies to protect bone marrow from myelosuppression have the potential to reduce the burden on patients.