standard CCR with weekly Cisplatin plus 3D conformal pelvic radiotherapy followed by brachytherapy (BT)) and group B (received the standard CCR and BT). The primary end point: the assessment of response rate and local control. The secondary end points: assessment of the 2 years overall survival (OS) and progression free survival (PFS).

Results The median age was 54 years old and a range of 44 years old with a performance status (0, 1). The majority of patients had squamous cell carcinoma (88.24% group A vs. 94.12% group B) and most of the patients were FIGO stage IIIC, IVA and IIB (41.18%, 32.35% and 20.59% in group A vs. 32.35%, 17.65% and 17.65% in group B respectively). CT abdomen and pelvis done at time of diagnosis showed pathological enlarged lymph nodes in 64.71% and 58.82% of patients in group A and B respectively. After NAC, 97.06% of the patients achieved partial response with a reduction of tumor volume by 76.07% and only 2.94% had stable disease. Higher partial response in groups A (55.88% in group A vs. 32.35% in group B, *p* value 0.151) and higher overall response rate (ORR) in group A (79.41% vs. 70.59%) while local control was higher in group B (91.18% vs. 97.06%, *p* value 0.614). The 2 years PFS was 91% in group A and 97.1% in group B and OS of 100% as all the patients remain alive till the end of the 2 years follow up.

Conclusion The addition of NAC to the standard CCR achieved a higher partial response rate and ORR with a reasonable local control of the disease. This can facilitate the CCR plane and subsequently the brachytherapy planning parameters in locally advanced cases with no inferiority of the PFS and OS compared to the standard.

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378 MUCOADHESIVE BILAYER VAGINAL TABLET AS A POTENTIAL ADJUVANT TREATMENT FOR CERVICAL CANCER

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Introduction/Background Cervical cancer (CC) is described as cancer that occurs in the cells located in the cervix. Each year, more than 500,000 women are diagnosed with CC and the disease results in over 300,000 deaths across the world. Infection by high-risk oncogenic subtypes of human papillomavirus (HPV); HPV16 and HPV18, is the cause for almost all cases of CC. In developed countries, CC incidence and mortality have more than halved over the past 30 years as they were able to establish successful national HPV screening and vaccination programs. However, this disease remains persistent and has become one of the leading causes of death among women in developing (low to middle-income) countries; mostly in African countries. Adapting to low resources, developing countries have practiced a feasible and cost-effective solutions with the screen and treat approach instead. Screening usually involves visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) or Lugol's iodine (VILI) that gives immediate results, facilitating instantaneous treatment strategies and prevents loss to follow-up. Treatments includes loop electrosurgical excision procedure

(LEEP), cryotherapy or cold-knife conization. This research proposes the development of a self-administered chemotherapeutic vaginal tablet formulation that would complement these current treatment strategies.

Methodology The bilayer tablets were prepared one layer at a time, using a single punch direct compression machine. Tablets were then evaluated using the pharmacopeial guideline that include tablet uniformity, hardness, friability and content uniformity. Swelling test was performed by simple immersion of the tablets in dissolution medium for 24 hours, the tablet's weight before and after were recorded. The drug release profile was evaluated by in vitro drug dissolution test using the USP paddle method in 2% aqueous sodium dodecyl sulphate (SDS) solution; maintained at 100rpm, 37±1°C and in sink conditions. All samples were measured spectroscopically. Cell viability after treatment with the drugs was determined using the MTT assay on Ca-ski cells.

Results Results showed that the tablet of this combination are uniform and durable in compliance to pharmacopeial standards, a swelling study shows promising potential for mucoadhesion and has an extended in vitro drug release profile over 72 hours. In vitro cell culture with Ca-Ski cells however, did not show a synergistic effect but only a small additive effect was observed.

Conclusion A vaginal tablet offers an easy application and direct localized access to the cervix; adjacent to the cancerous tissue. The advantages of vaginal drug delivery include (i) bypassing hepatic first pass-effect; (ii) low systemic drug exposure; and (iii) higher bioavailability. A bilayer tablet provides an opportunity to deliver two active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) simultaneously for a synergistic pharmacological effect. Additionally, the different layers physically avoid chemical incompatibilities. Chitosan and polyacrylic acid are the polymers employed for their mucoadhesive property. These polymers also provide an extended and a controlled drug release rate. 5-fluorouracil (5FU) a drug developed and used for the treatment of cancer for more than 50 years was selected as the primary API. Cell studies showed the first combination formulated; 5FU and disulfiram did not show a synergistic effect. Other API will be investigated in combination with 5FU in order to achieve the synergistic effect desired.

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383 CHANGES IN THE PROTEOME OF CERVICOVAGINAL FLUID DURING HPV INFECTION IN HPV-VACCINATED WOMEN

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Methodology This study was approved by the Institute Research Medical Ethics Committee. The study involved 62 patients vaccinated against HPV, aged 19 to 45 years. The