Seeber A, Binder M, Steiner A, Wolff K, Pehamberger H. 

**Treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma with dacarbazine plus fotemustine.**

Department of Dermatology, University of Vienna Medical School, Austria.

Despite the poor prognosis of metastatic malignant melanoma, polychemotherapy with dacarbazine and fotemustine has shown promising results in several studies. We report on the clinical efficacy of a new sequential administration regimen with dacarbazine at a dose of 200 mg/m² followed 24 h later by fotemustine 100 mg/m² every 4 weeks in 63 patients with metastatic melanoma. A complete response was noted in 3 patients (5%), a partial response in 4 patients (6%), stable disease in 33 patients (5%) and progressive disease in 23 patients (37%). The duration of the 3 complete responses was 5, 14+ and 60+ months, for the 4 partial responses, 3, 4, 6 and 13 months. The median duration for stable disease was 4 months. The best response rates were obtained for lung and lymph node metastases. Toxicity was mild and mainly limited to haematological without pulmonary side-effects. Although there was a relatively low objective response rate, this chemotherapy regimen as a palliative treatment, is potentially valuable for patients with progressive stage IV melanoma.