

# Efficacy and tolerability of Tapentadol in patients affected by chemotherapies induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN): a prospective study

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## Introduction

Peripheral neuropathy is the most common neurological complication in cancer. Many chemotherapy treatments induce peripheral neuropathy (CIPN). TP has been developed for the management of moderate–severe chronic pain and recent studies in various pain models reported that the TP was well tolerated and effective in reducing intensity of pain. The aim of this prospective, open label study was to evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of TP in CIPN

**Methods:** CIPN were consecutively enrolled in a prospective open label study at the Neurooncology Unit of the Regina Elena National Cancer Institute in Rome. During the titration phase, each patient initially received doses of TP 50 mg twice a day. All patients underwent: Pain intensity (NRS) and DN4. Also for the quality of life evaluation all patients underwent EORTC QLQ-C30 and EORTC QLQ-CIPN2 QLQ-CIPN20.

**Results** We enrolled 31 patients, 20 were females with a mean (SD) age of 57.8 (12,2). We observed that 61.3% of patients are responders to TP therapy (CI 95% from 44.1 to 78.4). Also TP reduced the DN4 mean value from 6.36 (1.4) at T0 to 4.18 (0,73) at T5 ( $p < 0.01$ ) (fig 1 and 2). We observed that patients treated with TP have an improvement on the quality of life.

**Conclusions:** These data confirmed that TP is well tolerated and efficacy in the treatment of neuropathic pain. The limit of this study may be the heterogeneity of the population and its small sample size.

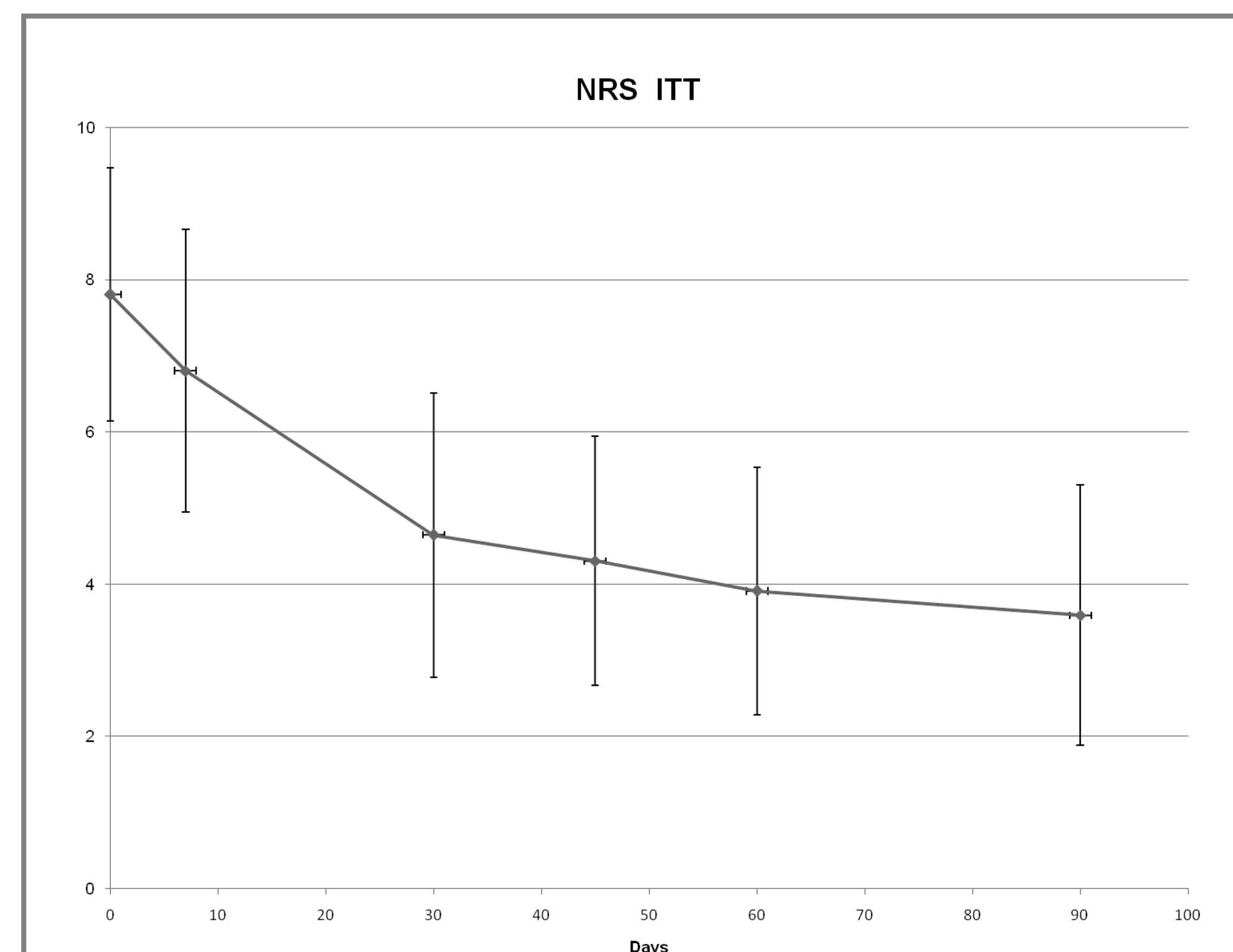


Fig 1 the variation of NRS during TP therapy

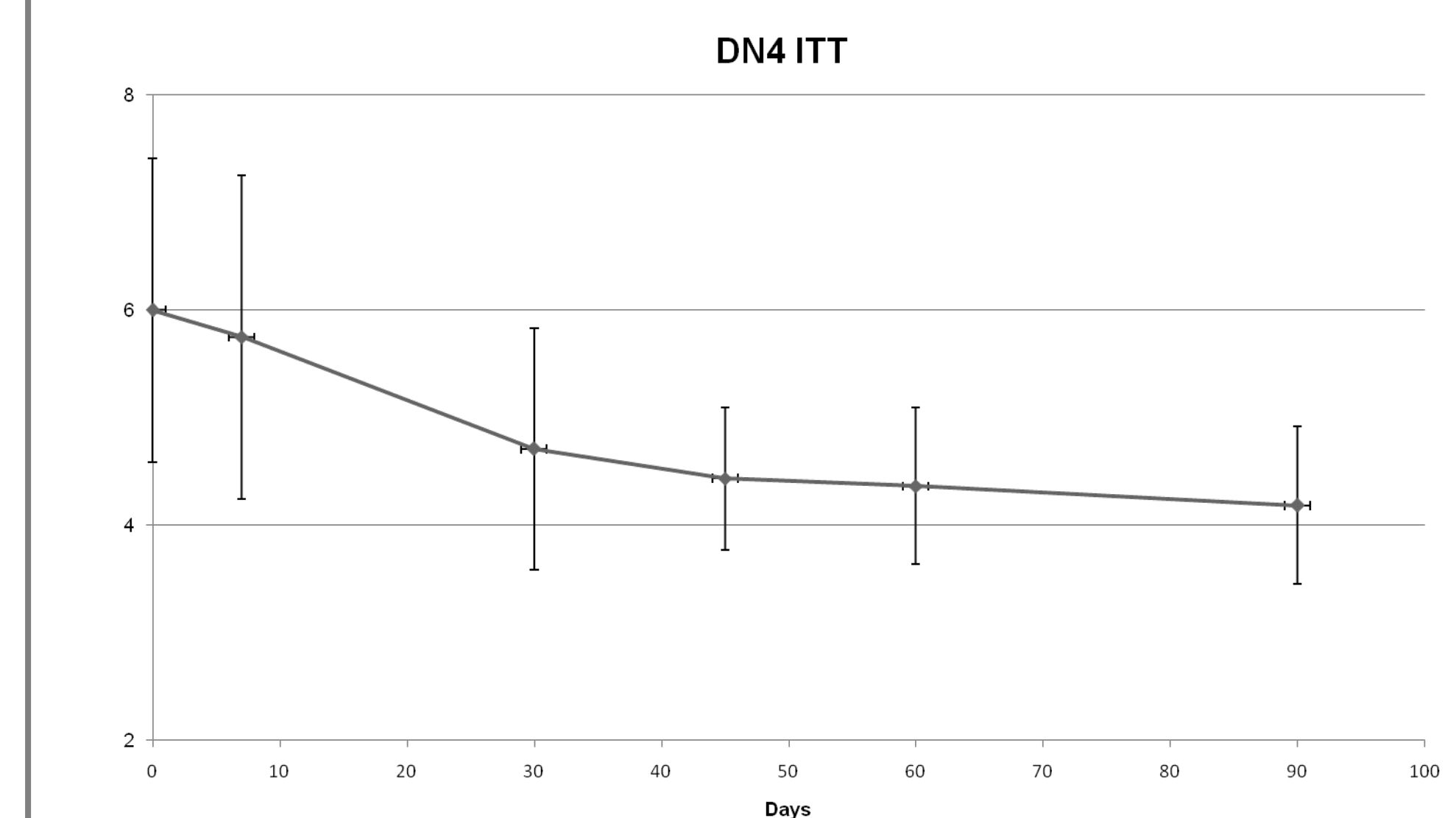


Fig 2 the variation of DN4 during TP therapy

1. Mercadante S, Porzio G, Adile C, Aielli F, Cortegiani A, Dickenson A, Casuccio A (2014) [Tapentadol at medium to high doses in patients previously receiving strong opioids for the management of cancer pain](#). Curr Med Res Opin 30:2063-8
2. Coluzzi F, Raffa RB, Pergolizzi J, Rocco A, Locarini P, Cenfra N, Cimino G, Mattia C (2015) [Tapentadol prolonged release for patients with multiple myeloma suffering from moderate-to-severe cancer pain due to bone disease](#). J Pain Res 8:229-38