Supplementary Table S1 Baseline characteristics and treatment information

	Carboplatin plus 5-FU (*n* = 102)	Cisplatin plus 5-FU (*n* = 71)	Best supportive care (*n* = 83)
History of previous cancer	11 (10.8)	2 (2.8)	5 (6)
Base of tongue	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)
Floor of month	2 (2.0)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)
Cervical lymph node metastasis	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)
Supraglottis	2 (2.0)	1 (1.4)	2 (2.4)
Glottis	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)	0 (0)
Hypopharynx	2 (2.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Pyriformis	3 (2.9)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tonsil	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lung	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)
Concurrent two primary cancer	3 (2.9)	7 (9.9)	0 (0)
Base of tongue	0 (0)	1 (1.4)	0 (0)
Supraglottis	0 (0)	2 (2.8)	0 (0)
Soft palate	0 (0)	1 (1.4)	0 (0)
Hypopharynx	0 (0)	1 (1.4)	0 (0)
Pyriformis	1 (1.0)	2 (2.8)	0 (0)
Tonsil	2 (2.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Organ metastasis, n (%)			
Lung	24 (23.5)	12 (16.9)	16 (19.3)
Lymph node	28 (27.5)	25 (35.2)	41 (49.4)
Liver	20 (19.6)	13 (18.3)	21 (25.3)
Bone	10 (9.8)	4 (5.6)	12 (14.5)
Brain	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Adrenal gland	2 (2.0)	1 (1.4)	1 (1.2)
Peritoneum	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	1 (1.2)
Pleura	3 (2.9)	0 (0)	6 (7.2)
Spleen	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kidney	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Small bowel	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Subsequent therapy	27 (26.5)	19 (26.8)	
Second line treatment	27 (26.5)	19 (26.8)	
Paclitaxel	23 (22.5)	14 (19.7)	
Pembrolizumab	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)	
Clinical trial	3 (3.0)	3 (4.2)	
Carboplatin plus 5-FU	0 (0)	1 (1.4)	
Third line treatment	2 (2.0)	4 (5.6)	
Carboplatin plus etoposide	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)	
Capecitabine plus oxaliplatin	0 (0)	1 (1.4)	

Paclitaxel	1 (1.0)	2 (2.8)	
Fourth line treatment	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	
Docetaxel	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	
Fifth line treatment	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	
Gemcitabine	1 (1.0)	0 (0)	

Supplementary Table S2 Baseline characteristics after propensity score matching

	Carboplatin plus 5-FU (*n* = 71)	Cisplatin plus 5-FU (*n* = 71)	P-value
Age ≥ 65 years, n (%)	10 (14.1)	5 (7.0)	0.275
Sex, n (%) Male Female	 67 (94.4) 4 (5.6)	 67 (94.4) 4 (5.6)	1.000
ECOG PS, n (%) 0 1 2 3 4	 0 51 (71.8) 20 (28.2) 0 0	 0 61 (85.9) 10 (14.1) 0 0	0.064
Comorbidities, n (%)	35 (49.3)	26 (36.6)	0.175
BMI, n (%) < 18.5 kg/m^2 18.5–22.9 kg/m^2 23.0–24.9 kg/m^2 ≥ 25 kg/m^2	 42 (59.2) 24 (33.8) 2 (2.8) 3 (4.2)	 40 (56.4) 23 (32.4) 5 (7.0) 3 (4.2)	0.725
M stage, n (%) M0 M1	 28 (39.4) 43 (60.6)	 30 (42.3) 41 (57.7)	0.864
CrCl < 60 mL/min , n (%) ≥ 60 mL/min, n (%)	 50 (70.4) 21 (29.6)	 43 (60.6) 28 (39.4)	0.29

5-FU: 5-fluorouracil; ECOG: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; PS: performance status; BMI: body mass index; CrCl: creatinine clearance.