extranodal lymphoma

346 SIGNIFICANCE OF CXCR3 EXPRESSION IN GASTRIC LOW-GRADE B-CELL LYMPHOMA OF MUCOSA-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOID TISSUE TYPE FOR PREDICTING RESPONSIVENESS TO HELICOBACTER PYLORI ERADICATION THERAPY

H. Yamamoto1, T. Nakamura1, K. Matsuo1, M. Tajika1, H. Kawai1, N. Ohrniya1, Y. Niwa1, H. Gojo1, S. Nakamura1.
1Department of Pathology and Clinical Laboratories, Nagoya University Hospital, Nagoya, Japan, 2Department of Endoscopy, Aichi Cancer Center Hospital, Nagoya, Japan, 3Division of Epidemiology and Prevention, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute, Nagoya, Japan, 4Department of Gastroenterology, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan

Background: Gastric MALT lymphoma is a distinct low-grade lymphoma that often regresses upon Helicobacter pylori eradication. The chemokine receptor CXCR3 is a candidate molecule for gastric MALT lymphoma. In this study, we aimed to elucidate the correlation between CXCR3 expression and the clinicopathologic features of gastric MALT lymphoma, and to determine whether CXCR3 expression was predictive of responsiveness to H. pylori eradication.

Material and methods: Sixty-seven patients with gastric MALT lymphoma in a single center study were treated with H. pylori eradication therapy. We evaluated the correlation of CXCR3 expression with response to H. pylori eradication therapy by logistic regression analysis of potential confounders.

Results: Immunohistochemical analysis revealed that 28 of 67 cases (42%) were positive for CXCR3 expression. CXCR3 expression was significantly more prevalent in those with H. pylori infection, advanced stage disease, and in those with API2-MALT1 fusion. In overall analysis, those with CXCR3 expression showed a significantly increased risk of non-respondiveness to H. pylori eradication therapy (OR = 8.6; 95% CI, 5.70 to 143.4) compared to those without CXCR3 expression. This higher risk was observed consistently regardless of sex, API2-MALT1 fusion, H. pylori infection, and clinical stage.

Conclusions: We showed that CXCR3 expression was an independent predictive factor for non-respondiveness to H. pylori eradication therapy in patients with gastric MALT lymphoma.

347 MICRORNA EXPRESSION IN NODAL AND EXTRANODAL DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA

C. Mandrup1, A. Petersen1, A.D. Hoejfeldt1, H.F. Thomsen1, J. Madsen1, T. Madsen1, P. Johansen2, A. Bukh1, K. Dybkær1, H.E. Johnsen1
1Department of Hematology, Aalborg Hospital, Aarhus University Hospital, Aalborg, Denmark, 2Pathological Institute, Aalborg Hospital, Aarhus University Hospital, Aalborg, Denmark

Introduction: The aim of this project was to analyse microRNA (miRNA) expression in nodal and extranodal diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL). Manifestation at diagnosis may be nodal and/or extranodal. At present, there are no known determinants for none of the manifestations, and no way to predict the potential progression from nodal to extranodal disease. miRNA are small regulatory RNA molecules, which function to repress/cleave sequence complementary mRNA targets. Abnormalities in miRNA genetics and expression are known to affect initiation and development of human diseases, and miRNAs are anticipated to play a direct role in oncogenesis and differentiation. Therefore, we hypothesise miRNA to be important for both characterization and progression of DLBCL.

Materials and Methods: A global miRNA screen (Exonux miCURRYTM LNA Array) of 50 snap-frozen DLBCL (40 nodal, 10 extranodal), identified differentially expressed miRNAs between the two manifestations. Subsets of miRNA profiles are pending to be validated by Taqman RT PCR assays in the original 50 snap frozen samples, 50 highly selected FFPE samples and 10 new snap-frozen samples.

Results: It was possible to distinguish between the nodal and extranodal manifestations with the global miRNA screen (e.g. mir143, mir432, mir127, and mir199). Differentially expressed miRNA target genes were predicted by target prediction software (Targetscan and Miranda). Statistically software (GOstat) to annotate target gene ontology revealed several prominent ontologies like proliferation (e.g. WNT5a, MAPK), and cell adhesion (several members of the PCDHA family) to be differentially affected in the two manifestations. Interestingly many miRNA had the wnt pathway as predicted target.

Conclusion: The two manifestations were distinct from each other with respect to miRNA expression; this difference may provide extra information about this heterogeneous disease, and lead to further studies of the differentiated miRNAs to examine the step wise progression from nodal to extranodal manifestation.

348 PRELIMINARY DATA OF A LARGE STUDY OF HIGH-RESOLUTION GENOME WIDE-DNA PROFILING IN MARGINAL ZONE LYMPHOMAS (MZL)

A. Rinaldi1, I. Kwee1, P. M. Rancott1, M. Fonronzi2, G. Bhagat3, U. Novak3, V.V. Murti1, S.V. Nandula,1 G. Gaitano1, R. Marusca1, M. Mollepi1, F. Facchetti1, S. Drirhofer1, L. Baldini1, V. Gattel1, V. Canzorlini1, A. Goglio1, J. Soulier1, C. Thieblemont12, F. Forconi13, G. Pruneri14, A. Carbone11, C. Doglioni15, M.G. Tibiletti15, E. Zucca1, M.A. Piris16, P.D. Gascoyne3, R. Dalla Favera3, F. Bertoni1
1OSS, Bellinzona, Switzerland, 2HSP, Milan, Italy, 3Columbia Univ., NY, United States, 4A. Avogado Univ. of Eastern Piedmont, Novara, Italy, 5Univ. of Modena and Reggio E., Modena, Modena, Italy, 6CNO, Madrid, Spain, 7Spedali Civili, Brescia, Italy, 8Universitat, Basel, Switzerland, 9Osp. Maggiore, Milan, Italy, 10CRG, Aviano, Italy, 11INT, Milan, Italy, 12Hop. Saint-Louis, Paris, France, 13Sera University, Siena, Italy, 14EIO, Milan, Italy, 15Varese Univ, Varese, Italy, 16BCCA, Vancouver, Canada

Introduction: MZL subtypes (extranodal, EMZL; nodal, NMZL; splenic, SMZL) are considered unique lymphoma subtypes. Despite the fact that general clinical presentations vary and specific translocations are present only in EMZL, a high-resolution genetic analysis of these disorders has not been done.

Material and Methods: DNA from frozen biopsies analyzed with Affymetrix Human Mapping 250K arrays. Gene expression profiling with U133 plus 2.0 was performed on a subset of the cases.

Results: 38 out of 138 already collected samples have been analyzed so far: 10 NMZL, 10 EMZ, 18 SMZL. All subtypes had recurrent gains of chromosome 3, 1q21.3-q35, 14q32.33 and losses of 7q11.23, 19p13.2-pter, 19p13.2. Recurrent gains were identified in chromosome 18 (NMZL and SMZL), 1q21.3-q23.1 (EMZL), 1p32, 1q21.3, 20q13.13 and 21q22.3 (SMZL). Recurrent losses were identified in 7q21.1-q32.3, 14q24.2-q32.13 (SMZL), 9q34.3, 11q31.3, 16p13.11 (NMZL and EMZL), 12q24.11, and 17p13.3 (NMZL). Recurrent regions of copy-neutral LOH, suggestive of uniparental disomy (UPD), were observed at 10p23.13 (SMZL), 2q31 (EMZL), and 6p21.32-p21.33 (NMZL). However, only 1/38 cases had UPD stretches longer than 5 Mb, and this was different from what we have observed in other B-cell tumors (>150 Mb), which show UPD in as many as 50% of the cases.

Conclusions: In the first series of MZL cases analyzed, in addition to known disease-specific alterations, novel lesions have been identified. Complete data on over 150 MZL samples will be presented.

349 PROGNOSTIC SIGNIFICANCE OF PRIMARY EXTRANODAL DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA (DLBCL) IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH R-CHOP

D. Hu1, B. Proctor1, J. Donaldson1, T. Shenkier1, P. Hoskins1, R. Klasa1, R. Schrage1, R. Gascoyne2, J.M.Connor3, L.L.Steer1
1Medical Oncology, Vancouver Cancer Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada, 2Pathology, Vancouver Cancer Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Background: Previous studies in the pre-rituximab era have identified important clinical differences between nodal and primary extranodal DLBCL. We have examined the prognostic significance of primary extranodal DLBCL in the post-rituximab era.

Methods: Using the Lymphoid Cancer Database of the British Columbia Cancer Agency, all patients 518 years of age diagnosed with DLBCL between January 1999 and May 2006 and treated with an R-CHOP regimen were included for analysis. Patients were excluded if they were HIV+ positive, presented with disease in the testicular or central nervous system, or had known coincident indolent lymphoma. Primary extranodal DLBCL was defined as disease confined to one or more localized extranodal sites, with no or minimal nearby nodal involvement.

Results: 513 patients were identified with the following characteristics: median age 62 y (range 19-94), male 59.1%, stage IV 53.8%, elevated LDH 49.3%, and performance status 52.8%. While 350 (68.2%) had at least some degree of extranodal involvement, only 133 (25.9%) had primary extranodal DLBCL. Among patients with primary extranodal disease, 70 (52.6%), 37 (27.8%) and 26 (19.6%) had 1, 2 and ≥3 extranodal sites, respectively. The most commonly involved extranodal sites included bone (33.1%), soft tissue (28.6%), stomach (15.0%), intestine (12.8%), and sinus (10.5%), Thirty-two percent, 20%, 9% and 48% of patients with primary extranodal DLBCL had stage I, II, III, and IV, respectively. This is in contrast to 11%, 34%, 26% and 29% for the nodal DLBCL group. Primary extranodal DLBCL was less commonly associated with an elevated LDH (35.7% vs. 33.1%, p=0.03). With a median follow-up of 2.8 years, no significant difference in overall survival was detected between primary extranodal and nodal DLBCL analyzed either as a group or by individual stages. Furthermore, no specific primary extranodal site confers a worse prognosis.

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**350 IPI AND FLIPI ARE NOT APPLICABLE IN PATIENTS WITH MALT LYMPHOMA**


1Hematology, Oncology & Transfusion Medicine, Charité Campus Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, Germany; 2Department of Pathology, Charité Campus Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, Germany; 3Institute of Biometrics and Clinical Epidemiology, Charité Campus Mitte, Berlin, Germany; 4Dept. of Neurology, University Hospital Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

**Background:** The evaluation of biological prognostic factors in PCNSL has yielded contradictory results thus far. In this study we evaluated the feasibility of PCR based gene expression profiling using FFPE samples from immunocompetent PCNSL patients. Expression of candidate genes with prognostic impact in nodal diffuse-large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) was correlated with survival in PCNSL.

**Methods and Material:** FFPE tumor samples from PCNSL patients obtained by open resection were collected, and samples with a tumor content of >70% were subjected to RNA analysis. RNA was extracted using commercially available kits and reverse transcription was done simultaneously. Comparisons were made between single and combination therapy samples run under identical conditions.

**Results:** Samples from 42 patients with PCNSL, all histologically DLBCL, and a median age of 63 (26-87) years were evaluated. All patients have been initially treated with high-dose (4g/m^2) methotrexate, followed by a consolidating and rescue whole brain irradiation in 10 patients each. RNA could be extracted from all samples. Electrophoretic quality control identified considerable RNA degradation. Except for IL4, the expression of all genes could be measured in 40 samples (95%). The median OAS of all patients was 29 (5.5-69) months. None of the genes examined had a statistically significant influence on survival, however, a trend towards longer survival was seen for the overexpression of FN1 (HR: 1.35, p=0.09), and PLAU (HR: 1.27, p=0.17), and the reduced expression of CCND2 (HR: 0.87, p=0.19). Patients <60 years had a median OAS of 32 months compared to 24 months for older patients (p=0.3).

**Conclusion:** FFPE material is suitable for RT-PCR based analysis of genes with possible prognostic impact in PCNSL. However, the results obtained yielded no statistically significant difference. This might be due to their inability to predict clinical outcome in PCNSL or to the relatively small cohort investigated.

**352 THE NF-κb PATHWAY AS A TARGET TO INCREASE APOPTOSIS IN PRIMARY MEDULLARY B-CELL LYMPHOMA (PMBL): STUDIES WITH SMALL MOLECULE I KK INHIBITOR ML120B, BORTEZOMIB (BTZ), CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE (CY) AND COMBINATION THERAPY**

I. Wexner1, C. van de Vel2, J. Ayello3, N. Day4, M.S. Caio2

1Pediatrics, Columbia University, New York, United States; 2Pediatrics, Pathology & Medicine, Columbia University, New York, United States

**PMBL is a rare subtype of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) with a significantly lower EFS than other identically treated DLBCLs (Lones/Caio, ICO, 2000).** Upregulation of anti-apoptotic NF-kB pathway genes is a recurrent event in PMBL and might represent the reason for its aggressive biological behavior. NF-kB pathway inhibitors may have the potential to increase cell death in PMBL, but currently no signal molecule NF-kB pathway inhibitor can be used as a monotherapy in PMBL. We studied the effect of 2 NF-kB pathway blocking agents, BTZ and ML120B (supplied by Millennium Pharm, MA), and CY on apoptosis in PMBL to identify strategies to increase cell death.

PMBL line Karpos-110b6 was incubated with ML120B (10 µg/ml), BTZ (5 µg/ml), CY (1.25 µg/ml), ML120B+BTZ or ML120B+CY for 24h. Percentage of cells induced to undergo apoptosis was measured using Annexin V-FITC. The combination of ML120B and BTZ led to a synergetic increase in apoptosis in PMBL when compared to ML120B single agent therapy (17-fold [1700%; increase, p<0.01] and BTZ single agent therapy (4-fold [400%; p<0.01]), respectively. In contrast, ML120B+BTZ did not cause an increase in apoptosis in SUDDL-6, with no significant change in apoptosis found after treatment with ML120B+BTZ vs. BTZ alone (1.74% vs. 1.74%).

**Significant increases in PMBL apoptosis occurred after incubation with each agent (ML120B: 4.9±1.13, p<0.005; BTZ: 5.2±4.13, p<0.02; CY: 4.8±1.05, p<0.06).** Significant increases occurred in SUDDL-6 after treatment with BTZ (46.42%±6.52, p<0.001), but not after treatment with CY or ML120B. ML120B+BTZ led to a synergetic increase in apoptosis in PMBL when compared to ML120B single agent therapy (17-fold [1700%; increase, p<0.01] and BTZ single agent therapy (4-fold [400%; p<0.01]), respectively. In contrast, ML120B+BTZ did not cause an increase in apoptosis in SUDDL-6, with no significant change in apoptosis found after treatment with ML120B+BTZ vs. BTZ alone (1.74% vs. 1.74%).

**Conclusion:** BTZ and CY both increase apoptosis in PMBL, possibly by blocking the NF-kB pathway at different points. This may explain why combination therapy with ML120B+BTZ is synergistic, while the effect of ML120B+CY is additive. Studies to assess expression of NF-kB genes in PMBL after single and combination therapy are underway.
354 ADDITION OF RITUXIMAB TO CHOP GREATLY IMPROVES THE OUTCOME OF PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY MEDSTADIAL LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA (PMLBCL)

T. P. Vassiliou1, G. Pangalis1, Z. Galani1, S. Sachanas1, A. Katsigiannis2, E. Vrakides1, G. Mozoukou1, N. Constantinou1, P. Repouss1, M. Dimopoulou1, S. Kokoris1, E. Michalis1, E. Dimitriadou1, S. Maouridou1, M. Siakantaris1, C. Koulidakis2, K. Kytzros1, P. Pissay4, S. Pousou2, M. Angelopoulou1
1Department of Internal Medicine, University of Athens, Athens, Greece, 2Department of Hematology, Hygeia Hospital, Athens, Greece, 3Hematology-Oncology, General Army Hospital, Athens, Greece, 4Hematology-Oncology, Thessageneon Hospital, Salonica, Greece

Background: Rituximab-CHOP (RCHOP) is superior to CHOP, being the new standard of care for patients with diffuse LBCL. In PMLBCL, which usually affects young patients, several investigators prefer the use of MACOP-B or even front-line high dose therapy with autologous stem cell support (HDT-ASCT). However, the role of RCHOP in PMLBCL is not well established yet.

Patients and Methods: 82 patients with PMLBCL were treated in 6 centers (1994-2007): 39 consecutive patients who received RCHOP/Radiotherapy (RT) were compared with 43 consecutive patients who received CHOP/RT and CHOP/RTA respectively. All failures occurred within 22 months from diagnosis. The 3-year failure free survival (FFS) was 50±4% vs 54±8% for patients who received RCHOP/RivCHOP/RTA (p=0.006). The 3-year event free survival (EFS) was 50% vs 51% (p=0.007). The 3-year overall survival was 92±5% vs 67±5% (p=0.009), while the 5-year lymphoma specific survival (LSS) was 94±4% vs 67±5% (p=0.003).

Conclusions: RCHOP/RT provided very good results in PMLBCL. Early progressions were minimized, long-term FFS exceeded 80%, and only 3 lymphoma-related deaths were recorded so far in 39 patients after a median follow-up of 33 months. Patients treated with RCHOP had significantly higher FFS, EFS, OS, and LSS, when compared to CHOP/RTA. Future efforts should be directed toward RCHOP. Avoiding more intensive strategies.

355 NO BENEFIT OF ADDING RITUXIMAB TO CHOP REGIMEN IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY EXTRANODAL TYPE OF DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA

G. Jang1, S. Kim1, D. Lee2, S. Kim1, H. Kim3, C. Suh1
1Internal medicine, Asian Medical Center/University of Ulsan college of medicine, Seoul, Korea, Republic of, 2Internal medicine, Hallym University Medical Center, Anyang, Korea, Republic of

Background: The addition of rituximab to CHOP chemotherapy (R-CHOP) has significantly improved clinical outcomes of patients (pts) with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL). However, new predictors of response to R-CHOP have not been established. We performed a retrospective analysis to evaluate the clinical impact of R-CHOP and to identify clinical predictors to get better benefit from R-CHOP compared with CHOP in pts with DLBCL.

Material and methods: Using the population-based cancer registry for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma of Asian Medical Center, we identified eligible 177 pts who were newly diagnosed with DLBCL from January 2001 to November 2005. We especially subgrouped all pts into either primary extranodal lymphoma (PenneL, n=72) or nodal lymphoma (NL, n=105) according to the main origin of disease. PENL was defined as lymphoma which had either no or minor nodal involvement along with a clinically dominant extranodal component after routine staging procedures. Response rate, event-free survival (EFS) and overall survival (OS) were compared between CHOP and R-CHOP group. To identify clinical predictors, subgroup analysis was performed with log-rank test and Cox regression model.

Results: Complete response rate and overall response rate were higher in R-CHOP than CHOP group although it didn’t show statistical significance between two groups (79% vs 69%, p=0.16 and 97% vs 90%, p=0.07). Two-year EFS and OS rates were higher in R-CHOP group (82% vs 74%, p=0.22 and 83% vs 77%, p=0.23). In subgroup analysis, pts with NL had a prominent survival benefit from R-CHOP over CHOP (p=0.02 in EFS and p=0.03 in OS) but pts with PENL did not (p=0.37 in EFS and p=0.61 in OS). Other factors such as age, ECOG performance status, stage, LDH and IPI showed no difference for survival outcome according to treatment regimen.

Conclusions: R-CHOP regimen showed improved outcome in pts with DLBCL compared with CHOP, but pts with PENL had no benefit from addition of rituximab to CHOP chemotherapy. These pts might need other treatment strategy.

356 ANTI-TUMOR ACTIVITY OF BLIND DOXYCYCLINE IN LOCALIZED OCULAR ADNEXAL MUCOSA-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOMA TISSUE (MALTA) LYMPHOMA

K. Kim1, T. Kim1, S. Lee2, D. Kim1, S. Kwarg2, C. Kim2, D. Heo1
1Internal medicine, Asan Medical Center/University of Ulsan college of medicine, Seoul, Korea, Republic of, 2Department of Ophthalmology, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea, Republic of

Background: Ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma (OAML) is linked to Chlamydia psittaci (Cp) infection, high rate of Cp-positive positivity was observed in Korean patients with ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma. Additionally, there are conflicting results regarding Cp-eradicating doxycycline. This study was undertaken to analyze the efficacy of blind doxycycline in localized ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma.

Methods: A single-center prospective trial was conducted to assess the prevalence of Cp infection in 20 OAML pts and 42 healthy blood donors referred to our institution in a 6-month period, and to define whether the Cp DNA and antigens previously detected in OAML pts correspond to a viable and infectious microorganism. The presence of Cp on conjunctival swabs and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) of pts and donors was assessed by TET-PCR and in vitro cultural methods. The presence of Cp was assessed also in lymphoma tissue.

Results: Donors were more commonly young males living in urban areas, whereas OAML pts frequently reported a history of chronic conjunctivitis and prolonged contact with household animals (85% vs 38% of donors; p=0.00081). Cp was detected in lymphoma tissue of 15 (75%) pts. Cp DNA was detected in conjunctival swabs and/or PBMC from 10 (50%) OAML patients and in PBMC from one (2%) donor (p=0.01). Viability and infectivity of Cp, demonstrated by growth in cell cultures, were confirmed in conjunctival swabs and/or PBMC from 5 (25%) OAML pts but not in donors (p=0.002).

Conclusions: This prospective trial demonstrates, for the first time, that Cp is viable and infectious in conjunctival swabs and/or PBMC of OAML pts. Cp infection is common in OAML pts and exceptional in blood donors. Epidemiological features in OAML pts are consistent with increased risk of Cp exposure.

357 CHLAMYDOPHILA PSITTACII (CP) IS VISIBLE AND INFECTIOUS IN THE CONJUNCTIVA AND PERIPHERAL BLOOD OF PATIENTS WITH OCULAR ADNEXAL MALIGNANT LYMPHOMA (OAML): RESULTS OF A PROSPECTIVE TRIAL

A. J. Ferreil1, R. Dolcioti2, G. P. Dogniri3, L. Malabarbta1, N. Virci4, E. Pasini1, M. Ponzoni5, M. Giangii5, L. Puccinni5, A. Giordano6, R. S. Rossini7, S. Maginio1
1Department of Oncology, San Raffaele H Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy, 2Centro di Riferimento Oncologico, Aviano, Italy, 3San Raffaele H Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy, 4National Reference Laboratory for Animal Chlamydiosises, IZS/SER, Pavia, Italy

Background: Some lymphomas are linked to specific bacterial infections. Confirmation of these associations by bacteria isolation from patients’ (pts) samples (second Koch’s postulate) has been achieved for H. pylori, but not for other lymphoma-related bacteria. OAML is linked to Chlamydia, but the viability and infectivity of this microorganism in OAML pts has not been investigated yet.

Methods: A single-center prospective trial was conducted to assess the prevalence of Cp infection in 20 OAML pts and 42 healthy blood donors referred to our institution in a 6-month period, and to define whether the Cp DNA and antigens previously detected in OAML pts correspond to a viable and infectious microorganism. The presence of Cp on conjunctival swabs and peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) of pts and donors was assessed by TET-PCR and in vitro cultural methods. The presence of Cp was assessed also in lymphoma tissue.

Results: Donors were more commonly young males living in urban areas, whereas OAML pts frequently reported a history of chronic conjunctivitis and prolonged contact with household animals (85% vs 38% of donors; p=0.00081). Cp was detected in lymphoma tissue of 15 (75%) pts. Cp DNA was detected in conjunctival swabs and/or PBMC from 10 (50%) OAML patients and in PBMC from one (2%) donor (p=0.01). Viability and infectivity of Cp, demonstrated by growth in cell cultures, were confirmed in conjunctival swabs and/or PBMC from 5 (25%) OAML pts but not in donors (p=0.002).

Conclusions: This prospective trial demonstrates, for the first time, that Cp is viable and infectious in conjunctival swabs and/or PBMC of OAML pts. Cp infection is common in OAML pts and exceptional in blood donors. Epidemiological features in OAML pts are consistent with increased risk of Cp exposure.
Introduction: Fluorescence 18 deoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is largely used in the staging of non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHL). But very few studies have focused on its role in the initial staging of patients (pts) presenting ocular adnexal lymphoma (OAL). The aim of this study was therefore to evaluate the role of FDG-PET in the diagnosis of ophthalmologic lymphomatous localizations.

Patients and Methods: A retrospective review of all imaging records, including computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and 18F-FDG-PET of all OAL pts treated at the Institut Curie between 2003 and 2007 was performed. The ability of PET studies to detect lymphomatous ophthalmologic involvement was then compared with other staging explorations.

Results: Thirty-one OAL pts were included in the study. Pathological review according to the WHO classification showed 22 low-grade lymphoma pts (71%) in whom 15 MALT lymphoma (48%) and 9 high-grade NHL in whom 6 diffuse B-cell lymphoma (19%). Ophthalmologic sites were intra-orbital in 20 pts (65%) in whom 3 with bilateral localizations and conjunctival in 14 pts (43%) in whom 3 with bilateral localization. All 18F-FDG PET and orbital MRI assessment at diagnosis in 21 cases and orbital CT in 28 pts. 18F-FDG PET positive lesions were correlated to pathological sites detected by MRI in 12/21 pts (57%) and 8 pts had negative FDG PET but positive MRI. 18F-FDG PET positivity was correlated to pathological sites detected by CT in 17/28 pts (61%). At last, concordance between PET/MRI and PET/CT was 71% (p=0.06) and 79% (p=0.02), respectively. The sensitivity of FDG PET, MRI, and CT were 77%, 87%, and 80%, respectively.

Conclusions: As anticipated, this study shows that 18F-FDG-PET has a lower sensitivity than MRI to detect ophthalmologic lymphomatous localizations.

359 PROGNOSTIC VALUE EXPRESSION OF CD38 IN PRIMARY GASTRIC MALT-LYMPHOMAS

N. Kondratieva1, I. Podubravsky1, E. Sholchova1, E. Osmanov1, O. Moiskalenko1, N. Tupisly1

1Chernthorphy Institute, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: B-cell lymphomas of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) represent a clinically, morphologically and biologically heterogeneous group. There is no information about prognostic value of expression of CD38 in MALT lymphomas. The aim of our study was to evaluate the level of expression CD38 and outcome of patients with primary gastric MALT lymphomas.

Materials: We have studied immunohistochemical features of 34 pts with primary gastric MALT lymphomas stage I (Lugano) treated between 1995-2005. There were 15 (44%) males and 19 (56%) females. Age of patients (pts) ranged 21-79 years (median 58). The median of follow-up was 36 months (range 3-96). Two groups were identified. First group (3 pts) - expression of CD38 on lymphoma cells, second group (31 pts) - expression of CD38 on polymastocytes. Last group may be subdivided in two groups: 12 (39%) pts with low level of CD38+ plasma cells (group A) and 19 (61%) pts with intensive CD38+ plasma cell reaction (group B). Helicobacter pylori infection status was assessed as positive in 31 cases. Antibacterial treatment was performed for 31 patients with expression of CD38 on polymastocytes. Three patients with expression of CD38 on lymphoma cells were treated by chemotherapy.

Results: Results were analysed in group A and B. Complete remission was observed in 93%. Eight (27%) pts had relapses: 6 relapses were mainly in group B, only 2 in group A. The 2-years disease free survival was 86% in pts with low level of CD38+ plasma cell; 53% in pts with intensive CD38+ plasma cell reaction (not significant).

Conclusions: The present results show that the cases of primary gastric MALT lymphomas stage I (Lugano) with different level of CD38+ plasma cell in lymphoma tissue have various clinical outcome, long-term survival and risk for relapses. These results could be taken into account for the individual treatment for patients with primary gastric MALT lymphomas with initial high CD38+ plasma cell proportion. Future studies of expression CD38 may be helpful for assessment of prognosis for patients with gastric MALT lymphomas.

360 INFLUENCE OF TP53 MUTATIONS ON GENOMIC INSTABILITY AND EXPRESSION PROFILES IN 22 DIFFUSE LARGE B CELLS TUMORS OF THE GASTROINTESTINAL (GI)-TRACT


1Chemotherapy of Haemoblastosis, Cancer Research Center after N.N. Blokhin, Moscow, Russian Federation
2Gastro-Intestinal and Hematological Oncology, Ludwig Cancer Institute, Heidelberg, Germany
3ICP, Institute of Pathology, Locarno, Switzerland
4Internal Medicine III, University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany
5Gastroenterology, Philippus University, Marburg, Marburg, Germany
6Gastroenterology, Philippus University, Marburg, Marburg, Germany
7Internal Medicine III, University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany

Introduction: TP53 is regarded as one of the main tumor suppressors. Deletion and/or mutations of TP53 are believed to cause genomic instability and neoplastic transformation and progression.

Material and methods: Twenty-two diffuse large B cell lymphomas of the GI-tract were analyzed for deletion and mutations of the TP53 by FISH and sequencing. The data were correlated with a database that integrated genomic aberrations detected by CGH/FISH and data from expression profiling of microdissected lymphoma cells of a cDNA chip containing 2300 genes. Feature class selection for isolation of four differentially expressed genes in both groups revealed four differentially expressed genes in both groups (false discovery rates 0.003 and 0.006, respectively). These were PTPRD, which is an analog of CD43; CCNG2, a cell cycle regulator; MAPK12, a tumor suppressor; NMEH1, a monocye chemotactic protein. Nuclear TP53 protein accumulation was generally low in the deleted cases while TP53 was heterogeneously detected in the mutated lymphomas ranging from 5% to 95% positive cells.

Conclusions: As a core group of four differentially expressed genes was defined that might be influenced by mutations/deletions of TP53. Furthermore, feature selection for class selection of complete remission revealed a group of differentially expressed genes of prognostic value.

361 CLINICOPATHOLOGICAL FEATURES AND OUTCOME OF STAGE I GASTRIC MALT LYMPHOMA TREATED WITH ANTI-HELCOBACTER THERAPY

G. Pinotti1, A. Stathi2, C. Capella1, I. Proserpio1, C. Chin1, F. Bertoni2, L. Mazzucchelli1, T. Cavali1, E. Zucca1

1Oncology and Pathology, Ospedale di Ciclo and University of Udine, Udine, Italy
2Oncology, Institute of Southern Switzerland, Bellinzona, Switzerland
3ICP, Institute of Pathology, Locarno, Switzerland

Background: The efficacy of Helicobacter pylori (HP) eradication in localized gastric MALT lymphoma is well established with remission rates between 60-100% of cases. However, only scanty information is available about long-term follow-up of antibiotic-treated cases.

Methods: 100 patients (pts) with stage I gastric MALT lymphoma were treated initially with HP eradication regimes confirming antibiotics in association with proton pump inhibitors. Follow-up endoscopies with multiple biopses were carried out at 6 months intervals.

Results: Median age at diagnosis was 64 years. All patients presented with gastrointestinal symptoms (mainly abdominal pain/dyspepsia) but no symptoms were observed. HP was detected by histology in 80%. Lymphoma was most often localized in the antrum (38%), was multifocal in 19%, associated with gastritis in 54% and with ulcers in 29% of cases. After antibiotics, HP was eradicated in all positive patients (19 of them after a second line of antibiotics). Symptoms disappeared and macroscopic findings improved in almost all patients. Lymphoma regression was achieved in 78 of 97 evaluable patients (80%, 95% CI: 71-88%) with histological complete remission (CR) in 66 (Wotherspoon’s score 0-2) and partial remission (score 3) in 12 pts. A multilocal presentation was significantly (p=0.04) associated with lower CR rate (47%) in comparison with single+ body (65%) and antrum (82%). The median follow-up time was 6.5 years; 34 of the 78 responders showed continuous histological remission, while 33 had histological score fluctuations (from 0-4) and 11 pts had a frank lymphoma relapse (2 with high grade transformation). The 5-year and 10-year overall survival rates were 91% (95% CI, 83-95) and 82% (95% CI, 69-90), respectively.

Conclusions: Hp eradication therapy resulted in CR in the majority of cases, with a significantly higher CR rate in tumors of the distal stomach. Long-term clinical disease control was achieved in most cases. Incidence of histologic transformation seems lower in gastric MALT lymphoma than in other low-grade lymphomas.

362 INTRAVASCULAR LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA (IVLCL): INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS ON DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC ISSUES

M. Ponzoni1, A.J. Ferreri1, E. Campo1, G.P. Dognini1, F. Facchetti2, T. Knothra1, T. Moeschler3, T. Yoshino4, T. Mikhael5, M. Seto6, K. Shinoda7, S.A. Pileri8, C. Dogioni9, E. Zucca9

1Pathology, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milano, Italy
2On Behalf of International Intravascular Lymphoma Study Group

Background: IVLCL is a rare form of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma with preferential intravascular growth of malignant lymphocytes, aggressive behavior, and usually fatal course. IVLCL often affects elderly patients with poor performance status. There is no well established therapeutic strategy for this extremely rare disease.

Methods: On behalf of the International Extralodal Lymphoma Study Group, clinicians and pathologists interested in IVLCL, coming from Western and Eastern countries, joined to reach a consensus on the most urgent unresolved issues in IVLCL: to this end, a representative group of IVLCL cases coming from Western countries...
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363 RITUXIMAB IMPROVES OUTCOME IN WESTERN PATIENTS WITH INTRAVASCULAR LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA (IVL)

G.P. Dognin1, M. Ponzi1, O. Barlet1, C. Montalbini1, A. Szomor2, L. Listef3, J. Seum1, J. Ambrosio1, J. Martel2, G. Rossi1, M. Federico1, A. Candini1, A. De Renzo1, A. Candoni2, A. De Renzo1, M. Piris1, E. Zucca1, C. Doglioni2, A.J. Ferreri1

Objective and Patients: To evaluate the usefulness of rituximab in IVL, we retrospectively analyzed 106 patients (59 men, 47 women) with IVL who received chemotherapy either with rituximab (R-chemo, n=49) or without rituximab (Chemo, n=57) between 1994 and 2007 in Japan. Median patient age was 67 years (range, 34 to 84 years). IPI was II-III in 97% of patients.

Results: Complete response rate was higher for R-chemo (82%) than for Chemo (51%, P=0.001). Median duration of follow-up for surviving patients was 18 months (range, 1 to 95 months). Progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) rates at 2 years after diagnosis were significantly higher for R-chemo (PFS: 56%; OS: 46%) than for Chemo (PFS: 27%; P<0.001; OS: 46%; P=0.01). Multivariate analysis revealed use of rituximab was favorably associated with PFS (HR, 0.45; 95% CI, 0.23 to 0.80; P=0.006) and OS (HR, 0.42, 95% CI 0.21 to 0.80; P=0.016). Adverse events related to rituximab infusion were observed in 14 of 49 patients (29%). Grade 3 hypoxia due to rituximab infusion was observed in one of 49 patients (2%). Treatment-related death was observed in 1 patient (6%) with R-chemo and 5 patients (9%) with Chemo. Twelve of 49 patients (24%) in the R-chemo group and 31 of 57 patients (54%) in the Chemo group had died as of final follow-up. In the R-chemo group, 4 patients died each of progressive disease (PD) and relapsed disease (RD), respectively. In the Chemo group, 15 patients and 11 patients died of PD and RD, respectively.

Conclusion: Our data suggest improved clinical outcomes for patients with IVL in the rituximab era without significant increase in toxicities. Future prospective studies of rituximab-containing chemotherapies are warranted.

365 PRIMARY TONSIL NON-HODGKIN’S LYMPHOMA, CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS, PROGNOSIS AND SURVIVAL ANALYSIS

Y. Shi1

Methods: From May 1990 to March 2007, 106 patients with previously untreated NHL of tonsil were retrospectively reviewed. The median age was 49 years. In 106 patients, 68.9% diagnosed diffuse large-B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), 11.3% of peripheral-T-cell lymphoma (PTCL) and 7.5% of indolent B-cell lymphoma. Ninety-eight (92.5%) patients presented with stage I and II disease. Majority of patients (69.8%) received combined chemotherapy and 17.9% treated by radiotherapy alone as initial treatment. The predominant chemotherapy regimens were CHOP and BACOP, and radiotherapy dose range between 40-50 Gy.

Results: After a median follow-up of 51 months, the estimate 5-year overall survival (OS) and disease free survival (DFS) were 82% and 68%, respectively. Significant prognostic factors included: advanced disease and locally extra-nodal involvement. Other prognostic factors, such as age older than 60 years, B symptoms, bulky disease, T cell lymphoma and treatment modalities as chemotherapy or radiotherapy alone did not show significant results on outcome.

Conclusions: Survival for the patients with primary tonsil NHL is optimal as most of the patients have stage I or II disease. Diffuse large-B-cell lymphoma is the most common pathologic subtype. Multivariate analysis by Cox regression showed that advanced stage, primary refractory disease and locally extra-nodal infiltration are independent prognostic factors.

Keywords: tonsil neoplasms; Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma; chemotherapy; radiotherapy

366 DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMAS OF THE WALDEYER’S RING: A CLINICO-PATHOLOGICAL STUDY OF 209 PATIENTS FROM THE GROUPE D’ETUDE DES LYMPHOMES DE L’ADULTE (GELA)

Laurence de Leval1,5, C. Bonnet2,5, C. Copie-Berigan1,5, L. Steidl3, M. Baia4, J. Bierre4, T. Morin5, B. Fabiani4, F. Finini4, G. Giselterbrecht5, H. Thivy1, A. Albert4, G. Filler1,5, Philippe Gauzit1,5

Intraglandular lymphomas are markedly heterogeneous, and their biological features may vary according to the primary site of disease. The WR is the second most common site of extranodal involvement by DLBCL.

We analyzed 209 adult patients with de novo DLBCL presenting in the WR, and retrospectively analyzed in the GELA trials (1993-2004) (M/F: 1.8; mean age 59 years; 81% stages I-II) and treated with anthracyclin-based polychemotherapy. Morphology and immunophenotype were analyzed and correlated to the clinical features. FISH assays with split-signal DNA probes were performed on a subset of cases. Survival and outcome were compared to a matched cohort primary nodal DLBCL patients.

By morphology, 55% of WR DLBCL were centroblastic, 39% centroblastic-polygonal, 3% immunoblastic, and 3% unclassifiable. Among large biopsy specimens (n=79), 53% had a prominent or minor nodular pattern and 47% were purely diffuse. The prevalence of antigen expression was: bcl2: 105/189 (60%); bcl6: 110/189 (59%)
Patients) did not significantly differ. For 109 paired patients with no adverse prognostic
OS and EFS rates (79.7% and 70.9% in WR patients, and 76.7% and 66.7% in nodal
cases, the CR rate was significantly better for WR patients (p=0.01) but the 5-y
OS and EFS rates (79.7% and 70.9% in WR patients, and 76.7% and 66.7% in nodal
patients) did not significantly differ. For 109 paired patients with no adverse prognostic
factor of the aa IPI, primary WR localization was associated with a higher 5-y EFS
(78.5% vs. 71.2%; p=0.029) and OS (84.7% vs. 79.8%; p=0.047).

In conclusion, WR DLBCLs frequently have a partially follicular pattern of growth, and a GC-like phenotype. In DLBCL patients with an aa IPI = 0, the WR localization appears to confer a better outcome than primary nodal involvement.

367 RITUXIMAB MONOTHERAPY IS THE TREATMENT OF CHOICE OF SPLENIC MARGINAL ZONE LYMPHOMA (SMZL)

C. Kalopasoglou1, G.A. Pangalis1, T.P. Vassilikopoulos2, M.N. Dimopoulou2, M. Kyrtsonis1, P. Korkolopoulou2, F. Kontopidou2, M. Siakantaris2, E. Dimiropoulos1, P. Panayiotidis1, H. Papadaki1, M. Angelopoulou1

1Depdt of Hematology, University of Crete, Crete; 2University Hospital of Heraklion, Heraklion, Heraklion, Greece; 3Depart of Hematology, University of Athens, Lakan University Hospital, Athens, Greece

Introduction: There is no standard therapy for SMZL. Splenectomy has been considered as the first line treatment although it may carry significant complications. We present our results on the efficacy of Rituximab as a first line treatment in SMZL patients (pts).

Patients and methods: We analysed 24 pts with SMZL diagnosed in our Dpt between 2003 and 2007. All pts received Rituximab at a dose of 375mg/m2/week for 6 consecutive weeks at a median time of 1.3 mo after diagnosis. Maintenance therapy (MTh) was given as one dose of 375mg/m2 Rituximab every 2 mos for one year. Pts’ median age was 57 years (range 48-78). At diagnosis all pts had splenomegaly and bone marrow infiltration. Response criteria were defined as follows: CR: complete clinical, morphologic and immunophenotypic remission, unconfirmed CR: clinical and laboratory CR without bone marrow evaluation, PR: 50% improvement of clinical and laboratory features.

Results: Overall response was 100%. All pts had complete resolution of splenomegaly at a median time of 5 weeks (median 2-15) after treatment initiation along with restoration to normal of their blood counts at a median time of 4 weeks (1-44). 17 pts (71%) achieved a CR, 4 an unconfirmed CR (17%), and 3 (12%) a PR. Among the CR’s 5 pts had also a molecular remission. 20 pts underwent MTh, while 4 did not. 12/20 pts have already completed MTh. 10/12 pts who completed MTh sustained their response and 2 pts achieved an improvement of response. 2 relapses were recorded at a median time of 21.5 mos. Median follow up time for the entire series is 29 mos (range 6-91). No deaths were recorded.

Conclusions: The present study demonstrates that Rituximab is a highly effective treatment for SMZL. It confers better response rates in relation to other treatment modalities used so far. MTh also appears to be important for consolidation or even further improvement of response.

368 ACTIVITY OF BORTEZOMIB IN MALT LYMPHOMAS: A IELSG PHASE II STUDY

A. Conconi1, A. Lopez-Guillerme2, G. Martelli1, L. Ripacci3, U. Vitolo3, P.L. Zinzani1, A. Ferrari1, S. Luminari3, M. Martelli2, F. Cavalli1, E. Zucca1

1Hematology, ASO Maggiore della Carita’, Universita’ Amedeo Avogadro, Novara, Italy; 2Hematology, Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain; 3Hematology, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy; 4Hematology, Careggi Hospital and University of Florence, Florence, Italy; 5Hematology, ASO San Giovanni Battista, Turin, Italy; 6Institute of Oncology and Hematology L. and A. Seraglini, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, 7Oncology and Hematology, San Raffaele Institute, Milan, Italy, 8Oncology and Hematology, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy; 9Hematology, University of Rome, Rome, Italy; 10Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland, IOSI, Bellinzona, Switzerland

The International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group (IELSG) is coordinating a phase II trial aimed to assess the antitumor activity and safety of bortezomib in patients (pts) with relapsed or refractory extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of MALT-type. Bortezomib 1.3 mg/m2 is administered on days 1, 4, 8 and 11 of a 21-day cycle, for up to 6 cycles. Response and progression are determined by International Workshop Criteria. As of January 2008, 25 pts have been enrolled in the study: among the 21 pts in whom the data are available, 12 (57%) patients were male, median age was 63 years (range, 38–81). At time of enrolment, the Ann Arbor stages distribution was the following: stage I=5 pts (24%), stage II=5 pts (24%), stage IV=11 (52%). In 11 pts primary gastric localization was present, in 5 cases primary skin, in 2 cases primary subcutaneous, moreover a primary lung, orbit, muscle localization was reported in 1 pt each. All patients had ECOG PS=0; in 3 cases (14%) elevated serum LDH was reported. More than 1 site of extranodal localization was present in 5 pts (24%). Median number of prior therapies was 2 (range, 1–3). Median follow-up was 17 months. Eleven pts were assessed for response at the end of treatment plan: 3 pts had a CR (27%); 4 a PR (37%) and 3 SD (27%) and 1 a PD (9%). Four additional pts, with ongoing therapies, have been evaluated after the first two courses of therapy: one pt achieved a CR, 1 pt a PR, 1 pt a SD and in 1 a PD was observed. Significant duration of response was observed among the 4 pts in CR, ranging from 18 to 22 months and in most cases still ongoing. The safety profile of bortezomib is similar to that observed in multiple myeloma and other subtypes of non-Hodgkin lymphomas. The most relevant grade 3 or higher adverse events were peripheral neuropathy and fatigue. Three deaths, non-related to treatment, were observed during the early follow up. These preliminary results suggest that bortezomib is active and safe in relapsed or refractory MALT lymphomas and encourage us to complete the studies accrual.

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