



Fibrosis in Pancreatic Metastases

Whatcott *et al.* _____ Page 3561

Whatcott and colleagues examined extracellular matrix deposition in clinical samples of both primary pancreatic tumors and metastases from various sites. Looking at collagen I levels, they observed that primary tumors and metastatic lesions show comparable levels of desmoplasia. They also report a negative correlation between patient survival and extracellular matrix (Collagen I or Hyaluronan) deposition. As stromal targeting is emerging as an alternative approach to enhance chemotherapeutic interventions, their analysis provides further support for use of the approach, even in patients with late stage, metastatic disease.

Follicular Lymphoma-Associated Macrophages

Kridel *et al.* _____ Page 3428

In follicular lymphoma, the tumor microenvironment has been shown to influence patient outcomes. To clarify the association of tumor-associated macrophages (TAMs) with prognosis, Kridel and colleagues performed immunohistochemistry for CD163 in two large patient cohorts. In cases from British Columbia who had been treated with rituximab, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone (R-CVP), CD163+, macrophages were associated with poor prognosis, but an opposite outcome correlation was observed in those patients from the PRIMA trial who received an anthracycline in addition to R-CVP (R-CHOP). These data show that the prognostic impact of TAMs is highly dependent on patient characteristics and/or treatment received.

Glycodelin in NSCLC

Schneider *et al.* _____ Page 3529

Glycodelin, an immunomodulatory protein, is highly expressed during the menstruation cycle and pregnancy. In the current study, Schneider and colleagues demonstrated a high expression of glycodelin in NSCLC. A knockdown of glycodelin mRNA resulted in a deregulation of immune system modulatory proteins, such as PDL1/PDL2 and MICA/MICB, and a reduced migration of NSCLC cell lines. Glycodelin was secreted from NSCLC tumors and could be measured in patients' serum. Furthermore, the serum levels correlated with the tumor response to therapy and therefore demonstrated that glycodelin can be used as a helpful follow-up biomarker.

Pretreatment EGFR T790M Mutation in NSCLC Patients

Watanabe *et al.* _____ Page 3552

The prevalence of a pretreatment EGFR T790M mutation in patients with EGFR-mutant non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) remains unclear. To assess this question, and its clinical significance, Watanabe and colleagues used an ultra-sensitive droplet digital PCR technique. Surgically resected tumor tissues from 373 early-stage NSCLC patients with EGFR-activating mutations were examined, and the overall incidence of the pretreatment EGFR T790M mutation was 79.9% (298/373). The mutant allele frequency ranged from 0.009% to 26.9%. These data suggest that an ultra-sensitive method can provide high resolution mutational profiling, and open up the possibility of developing new treatment strategies with EGFR-TKIs, including third-generation TKIs for patients with EGFR-mutant NSCLC.