session E: melanoma, sarcoma, rare cancer, brain tumours

E1* CLINICAL AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL RISK FACTORS TO PREDICT SENTINEL LYMPH NODE POSITIVITY, DISEASE FREE AND OVERALL SURVIVAL IN CLINICAL STAGE I-II AJCC SKIN MELANOMA: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

Mandala M1, Imberti GL2, Piazolla D3, Bellfiglio M4, Tondini C5, Barberis M6, Marchesi L7, Motta T8, Poletti P9, Bonomi L10, Novellino L11, Di Biagio K12, Ugo Guerrini13, Labianca P14

1Unit of Medical Oncology, Riuniti Hospital, Bergamo, Italy; 2Unit of Dermatology, Riuniti Hospital, Bergamo, Italy; 3Unit of Surgery, Riuniti Hospital, Bergamo, Italy; 4Department of Clinical Pharmacology and Epidemiology, Consorzio Mario Negri Sud, S. Maria Imbaro, Italy; 5Unit of Pathology, Riuniti Hospital, Bergamo, Italy; 6Unit of Nuclear Medicine

Background: The aim of the study was to investigate if the tumour infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) are able to predict the sentinel node positivity (SLN), the disease free (DFS) and overall survival (OS) in clinical stage I-II AJCC primary cutaneous melanoma (PCM) through a prospective mono-institutional data base.

Methods: The study included consecutive patients with PCM, all diagnosed, treated and followed up prospectively by a multidisciplinary team. Logistic regression was used to investigate the association between DFS, OS, SLN positivity and Breslow thickness, Clark level, tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL), ulceration, lesion site, gender, regression and age.

Results: From November 1998 to December October 2008, 1251 patients with PCM were referred to the Bergamo Riuniti Hospital. The median age was 51,74±6,9 years; 32,2% (N=393) with > 60 years, male 43%. Among those 394 patients with primary vertical growth phase (VGP) melanoma and no clinical evidence of metastatic disease who underwent SLN biopsy, in all, 74 of the 394 patients had 1 positive SLN (18,8%). In the multivariate analysis, no extremity primary (extremity vs axial = truncal and head/neck) OR 0.44, 95% CI 0.22-0.89, p<0.023), TIL (TIL vs no TIL 0.46, 95%CI 0.24-0.88, p<0.02), and thickness (>4 mm vs 1.1-2 mm OR 25, 95% CI 4.95-126.32) predicted SLN positivity. A multivariate stepwise analysis confirmed these results. The histologic status of the SLN was the most significant predictor of DFS and OS. Patients with a negative SLN had a 5-year DFS of 79.9%, compared with 35.2% in patients with a positive SLN (<p<0.001) and a 5-years OS of 88.7% versus 42.9% respectively (<p<0.001).

Conclusions: Our study demonstrate that the absence of TILs predicts SLN metastasis, at multivariate analysis only the SLN positivity predicts DFS and OS.

E2* EFFICACY AND TOXICITY OF SORAFENIB MONOTHERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA FAILING ANTHRACYCLINE-BASED CHEMOTHERAPY

Santoro A1, Spinobra E2, Secondino S3, Marcon I4, Zucali P15, Quagluiolo V16, Comandone A17, Basso U18, Soto Parra H4, Bertuzzi A1

1Dipartimento di Oncologia/Ematologia, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano (MI); 2Department of Oncology/Ematologia, Ospedale San Paolo, Genova, Genova, Italy; 3Istituto Oncologico Veneto IOV-IRCCS, Padova; 4Oncologia Medica, Ospedale Gradenigo, Torino; 5Istituto Oncologico Veneto IOV-IRCCS, Padova; 6Onecologia Medica, Ospedale Garbaldi, Catania

Background and Aims: Sorafenib, an orally administered inhibitor of RAF-family serine/threonine kinases and tyrosine kinase receptors, has demonstrated promising results in the treatment of refractory advanced solid tumors, including soft tissue sarcoma (STS), in terms of disease control and toxicity profile. We performed a multicenter phase II study aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of sorafenib in patients with advanced STS progressing after anthracycline-based chemotherapy.

Methods: Patients with recurrent STS failing at least one line of chemotherapy and no relevant comorbidities were eligible for the study and received sorafenib 400 mg bid until progression or major toxicity. Patients who received the study drug for at least 4 weeks were considered evaluable for statistical analysis. Primary endpoint of the study was the rate of progression free survival (PFS) at 6 months; the overall clinical benefit, i.e. the proportion of patients achieving response (partial, PR, complete, CR) or stable disease (SD) lasting at least 3 months (RECIST criteria) was also evaluated. Toxicity was graded according to the NCI Common Toxicity Criteria V3.0.

Results: Among 74 patients enrolled in the study, at march 2009 40 and 44 patients were evaluable for response and toxicity, respectively. Most frequent pathologic subtypes were leiomyosarcoma and liposarcoma. Among 40 patients, 35 (88%) had at least one partial response (PR) or stable disease (SD). Median PFS of 10/40 (22.7%) while overall clinical benefit was documented in 24/40 patients (60%, CR+PR+SD=47.5%). Most frequently reported adverse events were fatigue, anemia, weight loss, diarrhea, hand-foot syndrome (HFS) and alopecia. Grade 3-4 toxicities included HFS in 15.9%, diarrhea in 13.6%, anemia in 4.5% and mucositis in 4.5%.

Conclusion: Sorafenib is associated with antitumor activity and acceptable tolerability in patients with anthracycline-refractory STS. Data from the whole patient population will be presented at the meeting.

E3* RETROPERITONEAL SARCOMA: RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF A LARGE SINGLE INSTITUTION SERIES

Coladozato M1, Musili C2, Morengi E3, Bagnoli P4, Pedrazzoli P5, Secondino S2, Santoro A6, Quagluiolo V7

1Surgical Department; 2Statistical Department; 3Oncology Department - Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano (MI), Italy

Background: Progression of treatment for retroperitoneal sarcoma (RPS) is poor, especially if evaluated on the long run. The mainstay of treatment for RPS is surgery, but both quality and efficacy of the surgical resection decrease after multiple recurrences. We analysed a large single institution series of RPS with the aim to provide information on the natural history of the disease and to identify prognostic factors of outcome.

Methods: From 1998 to 2008, 149 patients with RPS were referred to our Institution and underwent surgery for primary (n=77) or recurrent (n=72) disease. Potential prognostic factors including histology, tumor grading, time to last recurrence and multifocality were retrospectively tested by univariable and multivariable analysis. Primary end-points were local disease free survival (LDFS) and disease-specific survival (DSS) from the first recurrence onward.

Results: Median age of the study population was 55 years (range 20-85); 81 were male. Median FU was 33 months (range 6-122). 5-year LDFS and DSS for the whole population were 75.6% and 86%, respectively. Nineteen patients (13%) developed distant metastases (63% pulmonary; 68% extrapulmonary). Twenty-six primary tumors (33.8%) required multivisceral associated resection (32% of leiomyosarcoma; 14% of liposarcoma; 14% of other histologies). Histology and tumor grading have been identified as independent prognostic factors for DDFS. Leiomyosarcoma required a higher rate of multivisceral resections than liposarcoma, probably due to their infiltrative growth pattern; liposarcoma had a worse local control (5-year LDFS 18% versus 56%); Long term survival was similar in the two groups (5-year DSS 87.6% versus 80.5%), likely related to due to the lower rate of distant metastases in the liposarcoma subgroup. Sex and grading predicted DDFS. LDSS and DSS became increasingly shorter along with the number of recurrences.

Conclusions: Our data suggest that in RPS liposarcoma a more aggressive surgical policy should be adopted. Recurrent and multifocal tumors should require a multimodality approach because of the reduced chance of radical surgery.

E4* INDUCTION CHEMOTHERAPY WITH CARBOPLATIN AND TAXOL FOLLOWED BY RADIOTHERAPY AND CONCURRENT WEEKLY CARBOPLATIN + TAXOL IN LOCALLY ADVANCED NASOPHARYNGEAL CARCINOMA

Mario Ardè def, Anna Maria Gabriele ib, Massimiliano Garzaroc, Luca Raimondoc, Fulvia Pedanid, Fabio Beatricee, Giancarlo Pecoraric and Carlo Giordanoc

1Department of Medical Oncology, San Giovanni Battista Hospital, Turin, Italy; 2Radiation Therapy Division, San Giovanni Antica Sede Hospital, Turin, Italy; 3Department of Medical Oncology, University of Turin, Italy; 4Neuroscience Department, University of Turin, Italy; 5ENT Department, San Giovanni Bosco Hospital, Turin, Italy

Background and purpose: in nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC), the role of chemotherapy (CHT), remains controversial for the initial management of the disease. Recent trials and meta-analysis highlight that now, concomitant chemo-radiationtherapy (CRT) appears to be the standard treatment for locally advanced (T2b and more) and/or node positive patients. No phase II trials have investigated a two- drug combination during conventional, non split, RT after a complete course of induction CT. Aim of this study is the evaluation of the clinical outcome of neoadjuvant CHT with carboplatin + taxol followed by RT with weekly carboplatin + taxol combination in locally advanced NPC observed in a non endemic population.

Methods and materials: patients with locoregionally advanced NPC were treated with three cycles of induction chemotherapy (CHT) with paclitaxel (175 mg/m2) plus carboplatin (AUC 6), followed by paclitaxel (60 mg/m2) plus carboplatin (AUC 1) and concomitant RT (70 Gy).

Results: In 30 patients treated with such protocol, after the completion of induction CHT and CRT we observed the objective response rates of 90% and 100%, respectively. Treatment tolerability and toxicity were easily controllable. With a median follow-up

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time of 34 months, 3- and 5-year disease-free survival was 80% and 73% and 3- and 5-year overall survival was 92% and 83%. Three- and 5-years locoregional control was 94% and 80%, and 5-year distant metastases free survival was 85%.

**Conclusions:** NACT with paclitaxel and carboplatin followed by paclitaxel plus carboplatin and concomitant CRT represents a feasible, efficient treatment for patients with advanced NPC. This regimen ensures an excellent locoregional disease control and overall survival with a low incidence of distant metastases.

### E5 MGMT METHYLATION STATUS BETWEEN FIRST SURGERY AND SECOND SURGERY FOR RECURRENT IN NEWLY DIAGNOSED GLIOBLASTOMA: CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

**Brandes AA,1 Franceschi E,1 Tosioli A,1 Fioravanti A,2 Agati R,1 Andrei A,2 Mazocchi V,1 Morandi L,1 Bartolini S,1 Ermani M,2**

1Medical Oncology Department, Bellaria-Maggiore Hospital, Azienda USL of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 2Neurosurgery Department, Bellaria-Maggiore Hospital, Azienda USL of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 3Radiology and Pathology Department, Bellaria Hospital, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 4Neurosciences Department, Statistic and Informatic Unit, Azienda Ospedale-Universita`, Padova, Italy

**Background:** MGMT promoter methylation status is a prognostic factor in newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients. However, it is not yet clear whether, and if so how, MGMT methylation status may change; nor is it known how this epigenetic feature is retained during the disease course.

**Methods:** A retrospective analysis was made using a database of 614 glioblastoma patients treated prospectively from 01/2005 to 08/2008. We evaluated only patients who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥ 18, PS 0-2, histological diagnosis of glioblastoma at both first and second surgery for recurrence; postoperative treatment consisting of a) radiotherapy (RT) followed by adjuvant temozolomide (TMZ) until 2005, and b) TMZ concurrent with and adjuvant to RT after 2005; a time interval ≥3 months between first and second surgery.

**Results:** MGMT status was evaluated at first and second surgery in 44 patients (M:F 32:12, median age: 49 years, range: 27-67 years). In 38 patients (86.4%) MGMT promoter status was assessable at both first and second surgery. MGMT methylation status, changed in 37% of second surgery samples and more frequently in methylated than in unmethylated pts (61.5% vs 24%, p=0.03). The median survival was significantly influenced only by MGMT methylation status determined at first surgery (p=0.04).

**Conclusion:** Significant changes in MGMT methylation status during the course of GBM occur more frequently in methylated than unmethylated cases. MGMT methylation status determined at first surgery appears to be of prognostic value, however it is not predictive of outcome following second surgery.

### E6 THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE ON THE FEASIBILITY AND SAFETY OF IPILIMUBUM THERAPY IN PRETREATED METASTATIC MELANOMA PATIENTS

**Maressa Altonorte1, Paola Querciolo1, Alessandro Testori2, Paolo Ascierio2, Riccardo Daniele1, Anna Maria Di Giacomo1, Vanna Chiaroni Slien3, Michele Del Vecchio1, Francesco Riccio2 and Michele Maio1**

1Division of Medical Oncology and Immunotherapy; University Hospital of Siena, Istituto Toscana Tumori, Siena; 2Dept. Medical Oncology A, National Institute for Cancer Research, Genoa; 3Oncology and Surgery Division, European Institute of Oncology, Milano; 4Unit of Medical Oncology, Istituto Nazionale Tumori “Fondazione Pascale”, Naples; 5Medical Oncology Unit, Istituto Oncologico Veneto-IRCCS, Padua; 6Medical Oncology Unit 2, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milan; 7Somatic Cell Therapy Unit, Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori, Meldola, Forlì

**Background:** Clinical trials and single institution experiences have shown effective anti-tumor responses in pre-treated metastatic melanoma (MM) patients (pts) receiving the anti-CTLA-4 monoclonal antibody ipilimumab. We report the Italian (7 Institutions) experience on feasibility and safety of ipilimumab treatment of MM patients within a compassionate use program.

**Methods:** Seventy-two pts (43 males, 29 females), median age 57 (23-80) years, ECOG performance status 0-2, with MM (51 cutaneous, 12 uveal, 2 mucosal, 7 unknown primary), progressing to 3 median (1-15) systemic therapies for metastatic disease initiated ipilimumab treatment between February and September 2008. In the induction phase (IF) pts received ipilimumab (10mg/Kg.i.v.) q4 weeks (wks) x 4 cycles; after a 12 wks rest, upon physician judgement, pts received maintenance dosing q12 wks. First tumor assessment (TA) per modified World Health Organization criteria was performed at the end of the IF. Adverse Events (AE) were collected according to Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse events version 3.0.

**Results:** All pts received at least one ipilimumab dose, 43/72 completed the IF; the remaining 29 pts were withdrawn for early disease progression. Twenty out of 43 pts entered the IF. TA performed at the end of the IF showed partial response (PR) in 4 or stable disease in 12 pts with a clinical benefit of 22%. Grade 3 AE were reported in 8(672) pts (2 diarrhea, 1 epigastric pain, 1 myocardial infarction, 1 tumor pain, 1 neurological event).

**Conclusions:** Ipilimumab treatment in heavily pretreated MM pts is feasible and safe, and results in early clinical benefit in a sizeable proportion of pts.

### E7 SALVAGE THERAPY WITH BEVACIZUMAB AND FOTEMUSTINE IN RECURRENT HIGH GRADE GLIOMAS

**Roberta Ruda1, Elisa Trevisan1, Elisabetta Picco1, Stefania Greco Crasto2, Maria Grazia Fabrini2, Valentina Scotti3, Manuela Caroli4, Ivan Loﬁ1, Daniele Quareni1, Riccardo Soffietti1**

1University and San Giovanni Battista Hospital, Neuro-Oncology, Turin, Italy; 2University and San Giovanni Battista Hospital, Radiotherapy, Turin, Italy; 3University and S. Chiara Hospital, Radiotherapy, Padua, Italy; 4University, Neurosurgery, Milan, Italy; 5University, Medical Oncology, Bari, Italy

**Background:** Bevacizumab (BV) given in combination with irinotecan has been reported to be active with acceptable toxicity in recurrent malignant gliomas. Few data are available on the combination of BV and nitrosoureas, that represents the standard cytostatic option at recurrence.

**Materials and Methods:** In this ongoing phase II study patients with MG recurrent after standard treatment (surgery, radiation therapy and concomitant/adjuvant temozolomide) are eligible. Bevacizumab was administered on days 1 and 15 at 10 mg/Kg and FOTEM 75 mg/m2 every 3 weeks until progression or unacceptable toxicity. MBI was performed at baseline, at the end of the induction treatment (fifth week) and every 3-4 cycles. The co-primary endpoints are objective response rate (ORR), based on Macdonald’s criteria (CR-PR) and progression-free survival at 6 months (PFS6), with secondary endpoints of safety, time to tumor progression (TTP) and overall survival.

**Results:** From April 2008 to April 2009 41 patients were enrolled. The overall response rate (CR-PR) was 46% (39% in GBM, 58% in gr.III gliomas). The PFS-6 was 44% (38% in GBM, 48% in gr.III gliomas). The median overall survival was 5.6 months. A significant clinical improvement was seen in 50% of patients, with steroid reduction in 60%. Adverse events were haematological toxicity: grade 1-2 leukopenia in 5 patients, grade 3-4 in 3, grade 1-2 thrombocytopenia in 9 patients, grade 3-4 in 3, intratumoral asymptomatic microhemorrhages, 1 hyperensive encephalopathy and 1 stroke.

**Conclusions:** The combination of BV and FTM is an attractive treatment for recurrent high grade gliomas with acceptable toxicity. The correlations of MGMT status, perfusion MRI and response/outcome are ongoing.

### E8 TITULO THE CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF RADIOLOGICALLY DETECTED PULMONARY NODULES (PN) IN PATIENTS WITH LOCALLY CONFINED SOFT TISSUE SARCOMAS (STS)


1Dept. Medical Oncology Ospedale Grassi Genova, Dept. Of Radiology ASO CTO- Maria Adelaide`, Gruppo Piemontesi Sarcomi – Italian Sarcoma Group

**Introduction:** Following the current protocol of staging of localized STS (see AOM and ESMO Guidelines), an increasing number of patients with histologically proven STS undergo routine study using lung CT scan. Visualization of indeterminate pulmonary nodules without other metastatic lesions, represents a clinical dilemma regarding the differential diagnosis and the management of the disease if confined or metastatic.

**Patients and Methods:** Medical records of STS patients who underwent thoracic CT scans between the years 2000 and 2008 were analyzed. Patients with obvious metastatic disease were not included in the analysis.

**Results:** Of 1212 new patients assessed from 2000 and 2008 we did 782 staging CT scans. 134 cases (17%) with indeterminate pulmonary nodules were identified. We stratified the cases by number and size of nodules. CT scan was repeated every 3-4 months for a median follow up of 24 months. At the end of follow up there was no change in the number or volume in 82% of the patients with a solitary nodule <1cm and in 75% multiple nodules <1cm of diameter. On the contrary 88% of cases with single nodule 1-2cm in diameter showed a significant change in the number or volume. Of the patients with solitary nodule <1cm the situation had progressed.

**Conclusion:** In localized STS pulmonary nodules of undetermined origin are unlikely a metastatic disease if the nodule is <1cm. Huger or multiple lesions are more suspect to represent a secondary deposit. Currently we are exploring the role of PET scan to characterize those lesions.
Background: MGMT methylation status has been found to be an important prognostic factor in glioblastoma patients (pts). However, further data on the prognostic value of MGMT methylation status is needed.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was made on a database of 139 AA pts followed prospectively from 01/1995 and 08/2008. We evaluated only pts who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥ 21 years; PS 0-2; histological diagnosis of AA; postoperative radiotherapy (RT) and chemotherapy (CT). MGMT status was determined with methylation specific PCR. The study aim was to evaluate the role of MGMT methylation status in AA. The log-rank test was employed to evaluate the significance of the prognostic variables.

Results: 80 pts (m/f: 46/34, median age: 41 years, range: 18 – 71 years) were enrolled. MGMT was assessable in 71 of 80 pts (88.8%), being methylated in 30 (42.9%) and unmethylated in 41 (57.7%) pts. Median PFS was 48.6 months (95%CI: 33.7 – 63.5), being methylated in 19 (63.3%) and unmethylated in 29 (93.5%) pts. Median OS was 96 months (95%CI: 29-163) and 38 months (95%CI: 18.9-57.2) in methylated and unmethylated pts respectively (p=0.09). At univariate analysis, complete resection (p=0.02), age (p=0.002) and KPS (p=0.003) were significantly correlated with PFS. At multivariate analysis only age remains correlated with PFS (p=0.01). Median survival (OS) was 93.7 months (95%CI: 63.5-123.6) in the unmethylated pts, being not reached and 77 months (95%CI: 20-134.2) in methylated pts, unmethylated vs methylated (p=0.03). MGMT methylation (p=0.03), age (p=0.0002) and KPS (p=0.03) were significantly correlated with OS at univariate analysis. At multivariate analysis, age (p=0.0002) and MGMT methylation (p=0.01) were correlated with a better OS.

Conclusions: MGMT methylation status is an independent prognostic factor together with age in AA. This datum should provide the background to improve the therapeutic index with temozolomide concurrent with and adjuvant to RT in AA.
E13 POTENTIAL ROLE OF PHOSPHO PROTEIN KINASE B/AKT IN THE PROGRESSION OF GLOBLASTOMA

Francesca Maines1, Flavia Miscio1, Veronica Parolin1, Rocco Pastano1, Nicola Mattarrese2, Claudio Ghirmon1, Antonio Iannuccio1, Gian Luigi Cetto1, Chiara Dell’Agnola1
1Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Section of Oncology, University of Verona, Italy; 2Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy; 3Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Section of Internal Medicine, University of Verona, Italy; 4Department of Pathology, Civile Maggiore Hospital, Verona, Italy

Globlastoma has a poor prognosis with a median overall survival of 12-14 months, despite the multimodal treatment. Therefore, new therapeutic approaches are under investigation, mainly tailored to peculiar targets of the disease. Protein kinase B (Akt) has been shown to have a pro-survival role also in cancer and it would potentially represent a marker of interest for globlastoma. We retrospectively evaluated the role of Akt at the diagnosis and at the relapse in a casistic of 42 globlastoma patients (median age 52), homogeneous for surgical-medical treatment received. Paraffin-embedded tissue samples from a normal autopic brain were used to obtain an immunohistochemical analysis for total and phosphoAkt expression both at the time of the diagnosis and of the relapse. Akt expression was also correlated to tissue morphology including necrosis and vascularization. In clear contrast with normal brain tissue samples found negative both for total and phosphoAkt, all globlastoma patients at the diagnosis were positive for total Akt with 41/42 of them positive for phosphoAkt. Focusing on this active form of Akt, we observed an increasing trend of its expression at the relapse, with 10 patients becoming strong positive. Interestingly none of the patients did decrease phosphoAkt expression at the time of relapse. High phosphoAkt expression at the diagnosis correlated with earlier relapse (median time to progression 11 months in strong positive vs 13.4 months in weak positive patients). This finding was evident also at different time points during the follow-up: at five months after surgery strong positive phosphoAkt patients at the diagnosis relapsed in a double percentage compared to the weak positive subjects. Tumor necrovascularization was found highly positive for phosphoAkt. Furthermore phosphoAkt was increased at the periphery of “pseudo-palipade” necrosis, but not in the diffuse form. Our data suggest a critical role of phosphoAkt in the pathogenesis and progression of globlastoma; however, prospective studies with a larger number of patients are needed to support our findings.

E14 IPILMIMAB IN THE DAILY PRACTICE: FEASIBILITY, SAFETY, EFFICACY AND LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP IN HEAVILY PRETREATED METASTATIC MELANOMA PATIENTS

Anna Maria Di Giacomo1, Riccardo Danielli1, Luana Calabrò2, Erica Bertocci1, Chiara Nannicini1, Greta Miracco1, Maurizio Biagioli1, Maria Antonietta Mazzi1, Maresa Altomonte1, Michele Majo1
1Medical Oncology and Immunotherapy; 2Pathology; 3Dermatology; 4Radiology, University Hospital of Siena, Istituto Toscano Tumori, Siena (Italy)

Background: Effective anti-tumor responses are being observed in metastatic melanoma (MM) patients (pts) treated with the anti-CTLA-4 antibody ipilimumab in clinical trials; however, no data support the feasibility and clinical effectiveness of ipilimumab in the practice of daily clinical activity. We report on a single Institution experience utilizing ipilimumab within a compassionate program for MM pts.

Methods: 27 stage III (2) or IV (25) pts (14 males, 13 females), median age 55 (23-77) years, ECOG performance status 0-1, 13/27 pts had history (1) or evidence (12) of brain metastases; 22/27 pts had evidence of liver metastasis. 11 pts had history of previous treatment with nivolumab, 11 pts had history of previous treatment with pembrolizumab. At baseline, week 12 and at the relapse, phosphoAkt was assessed in all pts. The tissue samples were collected from 42 pts.

Results: All pts received at least one ipilimumab dose, 20/27 completed the IF. The remaining 7 pts were withdrawn for AE severity (3 pts) or disease progression (4 pts). Eleven pts entered the MF. TA at wk 12 showed partial response (PR) in 1/21 pts (grade 1) and stable disease (SD) in 5/21 pts. TA at wk 24 showed PR and SD in 3/11 pts, respectively, with an ongoing clinical benefit (SD+PR+CR) of 30% (8/27 pts); these pts are still on treatment. The median overall survival is 29 months (20-55). Slow, steady decline in tumor volume and appearance of new lesions with lesser shrinking of total tumor burden has been observed. One patient experienced Grade 3 AE (myocardial infarction considered unrelated to treatment), 1 pt Grade 4 AE (pneumoncita) and 2 pts Grade 3 AE (diarrhea).

Conclusions: Iplimumab treatment is feasible, safe and clinically effective also in the common daily practice and in heavily pretreated, progressing, MM pts. A sizeable proportion of these pts experiences durable clinical benefit and long-term survival.

E15 IPILMIMAB IN PRETREATED METASTATIC UVEAL MELANOMA PATIENTS: SAFETY AND CLINICAL EFFICACY

Riccardo Danielli1, Paola Queirolo2, Alessandro Testori3, Ruth Pfurmerer4, Evangelia Faziri5, Vanna Chiarion Sieri2, Luana Calabrò2, Anna Maria Di Giacomo3, Ruggiero Ridolfi4, Michele Majo1
1Division of Medical Oncology and Immunotherapy; University Hospital of Siena, Istituto Toscano Tumori, Siena, Italy; 2Dept. Medical Oncology, A. National Institute for Cancer Research, Genoa, Italy; 3Melanoma and Sarcomas Division, European Institute of Oncology, Milano, Italy; 4Northern Institute for Cancer Research Newcastle university, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom; 5Hygiene Hospital, First Dept. of Medical Oncology, Athens, Greece; 6Medical Oncology Unit, Istituto Oncologico Veneto-IIRCIS, Padua, Italy; 7Somatic Cell Therapy Unit, Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cure dei Tumori, Meldola-Forlì, Italy

Background: The anti-CTLA-4 monoclonal antibody ipilimumab induces anti-tumor responses in cutaneous metastatic melanoma (MM) patients (pts). However, no data are available on the clinical effectiveness of ipilimumab treatment in uveal MM pts. We report the European (7 institutions) experience utilizing ipilimumab in uveal MM pts.

Methods: Seventeen stage IV pts (8 male, 6 female), median age 57 (30-76) years, ECOG performance status 0-1, with uveal MM progressing to 2 median (1-4) previous therapies for metastatic disease received ipilimumab within a compassionate use program. Thirteen pts had history (1) or evidence (12) of liver metastases, 2 of brain metastases and 3 of elevated (>1 upper limit of normal [ULN]) LDH values. In the induction phase (IF) pts received ipilimumab (10mg/Kg i.v.) q3 weeks (wks) x 4 cycles; following a 12 wks rest treatment was repeated q12 wks in the maintenance phase (MF). Tumor assessment (TA) was performed at baseline, at week (wk) 12 and wk 24, in every 12 wks. Adverse Events (AE) and immune related AE (irAE) were collected according to Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse events version 3.0.

Results: All pts received at least one ipilimumab dose, and 10/14 completed the IF. The remaining 4 pts were withdrawn for early disease progression, while 4 pts entered the MF and are still on treatment. TA at wk 12 showed partial response (PR) in 1/10 or stable disease (SD) in 3/10 pts; TA at wk 24 showed PR and SD in 1/3 and 4/3 pts, respectively, with a clinical benefit (SD+PR) of 29%. As previously reported for cutaneous MM, slow, steady decline in tumor volume and appearance of new lesions with subsequent shrinking has been observed. No grade 3/4 AE or irAE were reported. Median overall survival is 32 (2-52) wks.

Conclusions: Iplimumab administration in pretreated uveal MM pts is feasible and safe. A sizeable proportion of treated pts experienced clinical benefit, with extended survival. These data, thought preliminary and in a limited number of pts, suggest that uveal MM might represent a promising indication for ipilimumab treatment to be further investigated.

E16 GASTROINTESTINAL (GI) TRACT POORLY DIFFERENTIATED ENDOCRINE CARCINOMA (PDEC): MAMMALIAN TARGET OF RAPAMYCIN (mTOR) EXPRESSION ANALYSIS

Laura Cattara, Massimo Milone1, Antonino Cartarola1, Marco Patianna, Morbida Labracco, Francesca Dominioni, Lorenzo Di Guido, Roberto Buonconini, Barbara Formisano and Ennio Bajetta.
1Medical Oncology Unit 2; 2Department of Pathology, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milano

Background: GI tract PDEC are rare tumours accounting 0.1%-1% of all GI malignancies. mTOR signalling pathway has emerged as a promising target for well differentiated endocrine carcinoma therapy. Because of different behaviour, PDEC are usually excluded from clinical trials employing the mTOR inhibitor RAD001 and actually their activity in PDEC is tested only in cell lines.

Objective: We conducted a retrospective analyses of PDEC in a mono-institutional series revised according to WHO classification and validated with immunohistochemistry (IHC) for endothoracic markers. We also aimed to testing if mTOR is expressed in the human PDEC.

Methods: Between 1984 until 2007, 640 NETs were evaluated in our Institution, of whom 36 (5.6 %) were diagnosed as PDEC (excluding SCLC). The staining for mTOR was optimised employing slides of normal kidney as positive control. To ensure antigen specificity, consecutive sections were incubated in the absence of primary antibody. In such cases no immunostaining was detected. The immunoreactivity was evaluated employing a semiquantitative scale considering the extent (score: 0-4) and the intensity (score: 0-3) of staining. The product was used to obtain an immunostaining score (total score 0-12).

Results: There were 19M/17F, median age 59 years (range, 17-75). The primary site was pancreas 12 (54%), colon 6 (19%), lung 6 (19%), unknown 5 (14%), small bowel 4 (14%), others 3 (10%). At diagnosis 80 (83%) pts had Stage IV disease (17%) underwent surgery. The overall survival was 18 months (range, 4-61+). mTOR expression is maintained at similar levels in 80% of samples, with no relationship with tumour origin, function, proliferation rate valued through MIB-1.
Conclusions: In our series PDEC are more frequent and have a longer survival than in the literature. Our biological findings demonstrate expression of mTOR in human melanoma and support an extended analysis in order to understand the role of mTOR and its real activity of RAD001 in PDEC.

E17 ROLE OF MAIN CANDIDATE GENES (P16CDKN2A, BRC2A, MCIR, NRAS, BRAF) IN SUSCEPTIBILITY AND PATHOGENESIS OF MELANOMA

Giuseppe Palmeri1, Antonio Muggiano2, Antonio Cosso3, Mario Budroni3, Corrado Caracò5, Elena Paganis4, Ignazio Stanganelli3, Sergio Canzanella8, Maria Cristina Sini3, Maria Carla Rizi3, Anna Maria Papi2, Irene Bertini1, Massimo Cavina4, Elena Silvestri5, Giancarlo da Ros6, Carlo La Guardia7, Giuseppe Stefanelli7, Giuseppe Arcelli3, Stefano Rusca4, Mauro Iannopolò, Miriam Ricasoli, Iacopo Pettrini, Monica Lencioni, Cinzia Orlandini, Sergio Rizzi

Background: Several genetic alterations have been demonstrated to contribute to development and progression of melanoma (melanomagenesis). In this study, we further investigated the impact of key-regulator genes in melanoma pathogenesis and susceptibility.

Methods: A large series of sporadic and familial cases (N=846) originating from South Italy was screened for germline mutations in p16CDKN2A, BRC2A, and MCIR candidate genes by DHPLC analysis and automated DNA sequencing. Melanoma cell lines (N=18) as well as paired primary melanomas and lymph node metastases from the same patients (N=95) were analyzed for somatic mutations in NRAS, BRAF, and p16CDKN2A genes.

Results: Mutually-exclusive mutations of NRAS and BRAF genes were observed at quite same frequency (about two thirds) in cultured and in vivo melanomas (either primary or metastatic lesions). Conversely, p16CDKN2A alterations were observed at increased rates moving from primary to metastatic melanomas and melanoma cell lines. No p16CDKN2A mutation was found in melanoma cell lines from our series. Activation of the RAS-RAF-ERK pathway was demonstrated to be due to a combination of molecular alterations (mainly NRAS/BRAF mutations and p16CDKN2A silencing).

Conclusions: Our findings further clarified that multiple molecular events are necessary for melanoma progression and development and progression of melanoma (melanomagenesis).

E19 DIFFERENTIATED NEUROENDOCRINE TUMORS (NETS): ANALYSIS OF 86 CASES TREATED WITH LONG ACTING SOMATOSTATINE ANALOGUES (SSA)

Mauro Iannopolò, Miriam Ricasoli, Iacopo Pettrini, Monica Lencioni, Cinzia Orlandini, Sergio Rizzi

Background: Somatostatine analogues represent an important therapeutic choose for NETs. SSA have demonstrated activity in symptomatic control, but only few data in terms of time to progression (TTP) and overall survival (OS) have been reported. In pre-SSA era median OS was 26 and 67 months in foregut and midgut NETs respectively from start of treatment.

The aim of this analysis is to evaluate the outcome of patients treated with SSA.

Materials and Methods: From June 1997 to 2009, 86 pts with metastatic NETs were treated in SSA in our center. Patients characteristics were: median age 63 years (range 24-84); males 56, female 30; pancreatic 30, gastrointestinal 48, other sites 8; functioning 39, non-functioning 47; symptomatic 53, non-symptomatic 33; metastatic disease at diagnosis 73; 77 pts had surgery; 76 patients had a positive Octreoscan; 79 pts had SSA as first-line therapy, 7 pts had previous therapy: IFN 2, s.c. Somatostatin 2, TACE 1.

Results: Median TTP was 22 months (CI 95% 16.5-27.5). Statistically significant differences were observed between: symptomatic and not symptomatic disease (24 vs 17 months; p=0.05); pancreatic, gastrointestinal and other sites (22 vs 23 vs 12 months, p=0.049).

Conclusions: NETs have generally an indolent growth, but prognosis remains poor. This retrospective analysis suggests that SSA can improve the outcome of this disease. Further studies are required to identify biological markers for new combined therapies.

E20 DERMATOFIBROSARCOMA PROTUBERANS (DFSP) AND FIBROSARCOMATOUS (FS-DFSP) INSTITUTIONAL RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

Emanuela Palmieri1, Marco Garbarino2, Eric L. Staal3, Gabriela Sieberova2, Alessandra Longhi1, Marilena Cersan3, Massimo E Abate1, Piero Picci1, Marco Mercuri4, Marco Albergnini5, Stefano Ferrari6

Background: DFSP and its fibrosarcomatous variant (FS-DFSP) are rare soft-tissue tumors accounting for 1,4% of all sarcomas. A retrospective analysis of our experience is reported.

Material and Methods: Patients with a diagnosis of DFSP and FS-DFSP performed at our institute between 1982 and 2009 were identified. Two pathologists reviewed the slides and agreed on the diagnosis. Demographic data, tumor related characteristics and treatments were collected.

Results: The study included 51 patients (22 female, 29 male); median age 43 years (range 7-91). Seventeen (33%) had tumors in the lower limb, 15 (30%) in the upper limb, 19 in the trunk (37%). Eleven cases were pathology consultations and the survival analysis was made on 40 patients surgically treated at IOR. Previous surgical treatments (from 1 to 3, median 1) were documented in 36 (90%) patients. Thirty-seven (92%) patients had localized disease and 3 (8%) were metastatic. 39 patients underwent surgery whereas 1 patient refused an amputation. A fibrosarcomatous variant was detected in 13 (32.5%) patients. Adequate surgical margins were reported in 73% of patients. Radiotherapy (RT) was added in 11 patients (7 with FS-DFSP). Ifosfamide and/or doxorubicin-based chemotherapy was administered to 3 patients with FS-DFSP. Two patients were lost to follow-up. Incidence of local recurrence was 42% in FS-DFSP and 15% in DFSP. Three FS-DFSP patients developed distant metastases whereas none of DFSP did. With a median follow-up of 48 months (1-184), the 5-year overall survival (OS) was 93%. The 5-year event-free survival (EFS) was 69% in localized patients. Histology (DFSP 65% vs. FS-DFSP 38%, p = 0.014), surgical margins (adequate 74% vs. inadequate 56%, p = 0.033) and site (limb 49% vs. trunk 100%, p = 0.02) influenced the 5-year EFS, whereas sex, use of RT or number of previous operations did not.

Conclusions: Patients with DFSP have a high survival probability. Site, adequate surgical margins and presence of the fibrosarcomatous component influence the local and metastatic recurrence.
E21 PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF MGMT METHYLATION STATUS IN PATIENTS WITH 1P/19Q INTACT ANAPLASTIC GLIOMAS

Enrico Franceschi1, Alicia Tosioni1, Mato Erman1, Carmelo Stulanie,2 Patrizia Dall’Occa1, Arminissia Pression1, Enrico Di Otro1, Luca Morand1, Stefania Bartolins2, Abia A Brandes1

1Medical Oncology Department, Bellaria-Maggiore Hospital, Azienda USL of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 2Neurosciences Department, Statistical and Informatic Unit, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria, Padova, Italy; “Neurosurgery Department, Bellaria-Maggiore Hospital, Azienda USL of Bologna, Bologna, Italy; 3Pathology Department, Bellaria-Maggiore Hospital, Azienda USL of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Background: Chromosomes 1p/19q codeletion has been recognized as a prognostic and predictive factor in patients (pts) with anaplastic gliomas (AG). Non-codeleted (intact) anaplastic oligodendroglioma showed a survival comparable to that usually observed in pts with anaplastic astrocytomas; MGMT methylation status, moreover, has been found to be a prognostic factor in glioblastoma and anaplastic gliomas.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was made using a database of 233 AG pts followed prospectively between 01/1998 and 11/2008. We evaluated only pts who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥ 18 years, PS 0-2; histological diagnosis of AG with 1p/19q intact, as determined by FISH analysis; treatment with postoperative radiotherapy (RT) and chemotherapy (CT); MGMT status determined using methylation specific-PCR. The study aim was to evaluate the role of MGMT methylation status in 1p19q coleted AG pts. The log-rank test was used to evaluate the significance of the prognostic variables.

Results: 75 pts (m/f 39/36, median age: 40 years, range: 18-70 years) were enrolled. Histology was anaplastic oligodendroglioma in 19 pts, anaplastic oligoastrocytoma in 22 pts and anaplastic astrocytoma in 34 pts; all these pts were 1p19q intact and received surgery, RT and CT. MGMT status, assessable in 66 pts (88%), was methylated in 38 pts (57.6%) and unmethylated in 37 pts (49.3%). Median progression-free survival (PFS) was 27 months (95%CI: 13.1–40.9). In multivariate analysis, no enhancement at time of diagnosis (p=0.03) and gross total resection (p=0.04) were significantly correlated with better PFS. Median survival was 74 months (95%CI: 55.9–92.1). In multivariate analysis, only age (p=0.005) and KPS (p=0.045) correlated with a better survival.

Conclusions: MGMT methylation status does not seem to provide adjunctive prognostic information in pts with 1p19q intact AG.

E22 DECREASED LEVELS OF REGULATORY T (TREG) CELLS IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD OF MELANOMA PATIENTS AFTER TREATMENT WITH INTRAVENOUS HIGH DOSE INTERFERON (HDI)

Ascierto PA, Napoliolito M, Celetanto E, Simenone E, Daponte A, Gentilec G, Capone M, Painirg E, Castegol G, Mozilloc N

National Cancer Institute, Naples - Institute of Biomolecular Chemistry-CNRC, Sarisari

Background: Natural T regulatory (Treg) cells are deputed to controlling autoimmunity through “dominant tolerance” and represent approximately 5-10% of circulating CD4+ T cells in clinical responders. Therefore, we aimed to evaluate the decrease of such reduction in terms of response to treatment or as prognostic markers of disease status, the prognosis (recurred/not recurred pts, alive/deceased) and an other secondary objectives were: clinical response, overall survival, disease free survival and toxicity.

Methods: Aims: To verify if iv HDI treatment in melanoma patients could be able to induce Treg reduction after a HDI treatment may indeed contribute to the antitumor response.

Results: 75% (8 out of 10 patients) showed a decrease of Treg cells in peripheral blood. The average value at day 0 of circulating Treg cells (CD3+CD4+CD25+Foxp3+) was 2.7%. The average value at day 29 was 1.4%. The average reduction was 1,400 Treg cells per μl of blood. The average value at day 0 for circulating Treg cells (cTreg) was 2.7%. The average percentage at day 29 was 1.4%. The average reduction was 1,400 Treg cells per μl of blood.

Conclusions: A reduction of Treg cells was observed in melanoma patients treated with intravenous high-dose interferon (HDI). Further data are awaited in order to verify if the Treg reduction after a HDI treatment may indeed contribute to the antitumor response.

E23 GLIOMATOSIS CEREBRI: A SINGLE INSTITUTION REPORT


“Oncology; “Radiology; Pathology section – Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria - Polinico di Modena; “Neurosurgery; “Neurology; “Neurooncology – Azienda Sanitaria Locale di Modena, Nuovo Ospedale Civile S.Agostino Estense

Gliomatosis cerebri (GC) is defined as a diffuse neoplastic glial cell infiltration of the brain involving more than two cerebral lobes. Diagnosis and management of GC are difficult. Because of its diffuse nature, surgery is not suitable and large field radiotherapy carries the risk of severe toxicity.

Between May 2006 and February 2008, 6 patients (pts) (M=3–3, median age at diagnosis: 69 years; range: 44–74) were diagnosed with GC based on radiological characteristics and histological findings at University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. The aim of this retrospective analysis is to study clinical characteristics, the role of temozolomide and outcome of these pts. The analysis was performed using clinical charts, radiological investigations and pathological examinations.

Five pts underwent a stereotactic biopsy (positive for neoplastic cells in 2 on 5 cases), while only 1 pt was submitted to surgery (partial excision). Based on it, histological specimen was diagnostic in 3 on 6 pts and it was as follows: 1 low grade astrocytoma (G1-2), 1 high grade astrocytoma (G3) and 1 low grade oligoastrocytoma (G2). In 3 pts the diagnosis was only on neuroradiologic investigations. Four pts received an antieoplastic treatment for GC (66%). One pts (16%) was submitted to whole brain radiotherapy (54 Gy) and subsequent chemotherapy with temozolomide, while 3 pts (50%) received chemotherapy with temozolomide. The median number of cycles delivered was 5 (range: 2-7). Only one pt developed a grade 1 hematologic toxicity (the one who received also radiotherapy). Median time to tumor progression was 6 months (range: 2-20), with a median overall survival of 16 months.

Survival data are similar to the literature. In this setting temozolomide is well tolerated and these results indicate that radiotherapy to extensively brain regions can be deferred until progressive disease is observed.

E24 PHASE I STUDY OF NON-PEGYLATED LIPOSOMAL DOXORUBICIN IN COMBINATION WITH IFOSFAMIDE IN ADULT PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC SOFT TISSUE SARCOMAS

Elisa Stroppa1, Alessia Bertuzzi1, Gabrielle Di Comite1, Silvia Salaminia1, Alfredo Barbalto1, Armando Santoro1,2

1Dipartimento di Oncologia ed Ematologia, Istituto Clinico Humanitas, Rozzano (Mi), Italy; 2Cepphan SH, Roma

Aim: To evaluate the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and safety of the combination of non-pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (Myocet) and ifosfamide in patients with metastatic soft tissue sarcomas.

Methods: Cohorts of four patients with metastatic soft tissue sarcomas received up to five cycles of intravenous ifosfamide 3000 mg/m2 on days 1-3 in combination with escalating doses of intravenous Myocet on day 2 every 3 weeks until dose limiting toxicity (DLT) in at least one patient. Myocet was planned to be escalated through 10mg/m2 increments / cohort from 40 to 80 mg/m2. Toxicity was graded according to the National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria v3.0.

Results: Ten patients were enrolled in the study and 8 of them received the treatment. Median age was 45 years, 5 patients were female. Two patients had received 1 cycle of prior chemotherapy. DLT, consisting of grade 4 neutropenic fever, was reached in one patient at dose cohort 2 (50 mg/m2).

Conclusion: The MTD of Myocet, given in combination with ifosfamide 9000 mg/m2, is 40 mg/m2. A prospective study to define the activity of this combination is ongoing.

E25 NEW SCHEDULE OF FOTEMUSTINE IN TEMOZOLAMIDE-PRETREATED PATIENTS WITH RELAPISING GliOBLASTOMA

Raffaele Addicoé1, Serena De Santis M2, Liliana Montella1, Patrizia Iodice1, Ciro Partalo1, Vincenzo Faia1, Gregorio Cennamo1, Rosario Guarrazzi1, Salvatore Di Prete1,2

1I.U.O.Complessa Di Oncologia Fratruanaggiore (NAV); 2I.O. Complessa Neurochirurgia Nocera Inferiore (SA); 3Dipartimento di Neurochirurgia S.U.N. Napol

The present study aims to define the feasibility and the effectiveness of a new biweekly schedule of Fotemustine in patients with recurrent Glioblastoma, after at least a previous treatment. Primary endpoint was progression-free survival at 6 months, other secondary objectives were: clinical response, overall survival, disease free survival and toxicity. Forty-one patients (median age: 53 years; median Karnofsky performance status at progression: 80) underwent a second-line chemotherapy with...
Eleonora Costantino1, Alberto Fersini3, Mauro Cignarelli2, Matteo Landriscina1

 thyroxine receptors seem to be up-regulated in undifferentiated thyroid carcinomas and the re-establishment of Notch activity correlates with reduced cell proliferation, increased NIS expression and gain in cell differentiation, suggesting a tumor suppressor function for Notch pathway. These findings appear to be in conflict with the evidence that Jagged 1 expression and Notch activity is increased in stem cells obtained from human thyroid cancer cell lines, suggesting rather an oncogenic role.

Material and Methods: We evaluated, by quantitative RT-PCR, the gene expression profile of Notch receptors 1-4 and their ligands jagged 1 and 2 in a series of 10 human thyroid carcinomas in comparison to the respective non-infiltrated thyroid gland and in poorly-differentiated thyroid carcinoma FRO cells in comparison to well-differentiated papillary thyroid TPC-1 cells. Gene expression levels of specific genes were interpreted as up-regulated if found increased at least 2 times.

Results: Preliminary results from this limited series of thyroid carcinomas revealed the up-regulation of Notch 1 and 2 gene expression in, respectively, 7/10 and 5/10 thyroid tumors, and the up-regulation of jagged 1 and 2 gene expression in respectively, 3/10 and 9/10 thyroid tumors. No major change in the gene expression profile of Notch 3 and 4 were observed. Consistently, poorly-differentiated thyroid FRO cells exhibited increased expression of Notch 1 and 2 genes, as well as up-regulation of jagged 1 and 2 expression compared to well-differentiated papillary thyroid tumor TPC-1 cells.

Conclusions: These findings suggest that Jagged/Notch components may exert an oncogenic role in thyroid carcinogenesis, even though further studies are needed to better define their function in the loss of cell differentiation and in the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition of thyroid tumors.

E28 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) IN PATIENTS AFFECTED FROM SARCOMA AND NON SARCOMATOUS ONCOLOGICAL DISEASES


Introduction: The importance of QoL issues for cancer patients is well recognized either by clinicians or by patients and their families. Over the past several decades, numerous studies have addressed the investigation on physical, emotional, social well-being of cancer patients mainly during the period of active oncological care.

Aim of this study was the QoL in pts with soft tissue and bone sarcomas compared to the patients with different oncological diseases, in order to clarify the possible differences in psychological attitude and coping.

Methods and patient: QoL was assessed with Functional Assessment in Cancer Therapy-General and Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale questionnaires. FACT-G has 34 items investigating physical, functional, emotional and social/family well-being. HADS scale was created as screening instrument to evaluate anxiety and depression symptoms in hospital patients; it consists of 2 subscales and 14 items. From January 2007 to December 2008 the questionnaires were administered in the 2 different groups: 42 pts with sarcomas and 42 patients with common tumours (breast, colon). All pts were under active chemotherapy.

Comparison between the groups was performed by K Cohen system.

Results: The 2 groups were well balanced in age, sex, PS and stage of disease. Therapies were distinguished between adjuvant and palliative settings.

The 2 groups recorded similar results in agreement of the patient-doctor relationship (52% sarcomas vs 51% other tumours), in familiar, social (50% vs 52%) and functional satisfaction (57% vs 59%).

Conclusions: Our comparative study put in evidence that sarcomas patients present a different coping during the active treatment of the disease.

E29pineoblastoma in adults: a retrospective study

Mazzocchi V, Franceschi E, Tosoni A, Benevuto F, Poggi R, LaTorre L, Dall’Oca P, Tomasselli C, Manfelli A, Boriani AA

Background: Pineoblastoma (PB) is an extremely rare brain tumor in adults, and only occasional data are available about the treatment of these diseases.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of our brain tumors database was found to evaluate the management and outcomes of adult PB patients followed between January 1989 and December 2008. We evaluated only pts who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥18 years; PS 0-2; histological diagnosis of PB.

Results: nine patients were included into the analysis (m/f: 4/5; median age: 33, range: 18-44). Median follow up was 48 months (range: 20 – 147). Surgical resection was complete in 4 patients and partial in 5 patients. All but one patients showed positive movement and everyday activities can explain the worst results.
**E30 Dose Escalated Accelerated Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) Concurrent with Temozolamide in Patients with Glioblastoma (GBM): A Phase I Study**

Samantha Mignogna1, Franco Calista1, Rosa Tambaro1, Alessandro Cocciolo1, IN PATIENTS WITH GLIOBLASTOMA (GMB): A PHASE I STUDY

Conclusions: Adult PB is a rare and aggressive disease, that frequently recurs despite multimodal local and systemic treatments.

All the patients experienced disease progression after chemotherapy, and median time to progression was 30.5 months (range: 2-69). At the time of the analysis, 5 patients were alive. Median overall survival from time of surgical resection was 97 months (95% CI 14.3-179.7).

Conclusion: The 6-drug combination can be administered safely in adult populations. About 40% of patients have a poor chemoinduced tumor necrosis leading to poor probability of survival. New strategies are recommended to improve survival of poor responders to the 6-drug combination

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**E32 A Case Report of Follicular Thyroid Cancer Showing a Remarkable Effect of Sorafenib**

Caterina Viscomi, Mariangela Propato, Monica Ventura, Iole Cucinotto, Vito Barzetti, Angela Salvino, Maria Saveria Rotundo, Domenico Ciliberto, Pierfrancesco Tassone, Pierosandro Tagliareni

Medical Oncology Unit, University of Magna Græcia, Catanzaro, Italy

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Thyroid cancer is the most common malignancy of the endocrine system. Surgery is the standard option for radical treatment strategy. Recently, activation of the EGFR kinase pathway has been demonstrated to play a critical role in the pathogenesis of this disease. In the last years the EGFR pathway has been explored as therapeutic target for thyroid cancer. A number of compounds against this pathway have been studied and showed antitumor effects in preclinical studies. These agents are being tested in ongoing clinical trials.

Here we describe a 58-year-old woman with metastatic thyroid cancer who demonstrated a major response to Sorafenib. In June 2006 the patient underwent total thyroidecetomy. In February 2007 and then in January 2008, following the detection of radioiodine hyperaccretion at cervical multiple areas, she received radioiodine ablation. In April 2008, multiple pulmonary and bone metastases were detected by CTscan. She then underwent antiresorptive treatment with zoledronic acid and radiotherapy on the pelvis and cervical spine. In the absence of other available effective treatments for the metastatic disease, and in view of the striking biological rationale, the patient was then treated with Sorafenib 400 mg bd. At the start of the treatment the tumor size (TG) was 27944 ng/ml; after one month of treatment (TG) was 17056 ng/ml, and after two months 11866 ng/ml. Sorafenib demonstrated a remarkable effect on both the bone and lung lesions. Indeed CT showed significant reduction of lung disease (PR) with clinical benefit in terms of bone pain. This treatment lasts 5 months from the beginning, and is well tolerated.

The present report indicates that treatment with Sorafenib is an effective option for thyroid follicular carcinoma which needs to be evaluated in clinical trials.

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**E33 LONG-ACTING ACTIVITY OF TAXANE-BASED CHEMOTHERAPY IN HEAVILY PRE-TREATED SARCOMA PATIENTS**

Giuseppe Pasini1, Ondra Possenti2, Stefania Nicoletti1, Maruela Fantini1, Fabrizio Drudi1, Davide Tasnari1, Emiliano Tarraburini1, Lorenzo Giaroli1, Maximilian Pap1, Oliverio Giovanni1, Alberto Riva1

ospedale Infermi Rimini, I.O. Oncologia ed Oncostomatologia

The number of effective drugs for the treatment of adult metastatic soft tissue sarcomas is very low. First line treatment of most high grade soft tissue sarcomas is based on the use of anthracyclines with or without ifosfamide. At disease progression the options are few and the prognosis is poor.

We report two cases of long-term response to combination chemotherapy with paclitaxel and pegylated liposomal doxorubicin administered sequentially to doxetaxel and gemcitabine in patients with metastatic soft tissue sarcomas heavily pretreated.

The first patient was a 38 year old woman, who had already undergone surgery and four regimens of chemotherapy for metastatic leiomyosarcoma of the uterus ; the patient received gemcitabine days 1-8, 900 mg/m2 and doxetaxel day 8, 100 mg/m2 in combination with pegylated liposomal doxorubicin day 2, 20 mg/m2, q15 for fourteen cycles. The patient is at present well and is continuing this therapeutic regimen.

The second patient was a 50 year old man, with metastatic liposarcoma, who had undergone surgery and three previous chemotherapeutic regimens. We administered paclitaxel day 1, 60 mg/m2, in combination with pegylated liposomal doxorubicin day 2, 20 mg/m2, q15 until disease progression. After twelve cycles, we performed doxetaxel day 1, 70 mg/m2 in combination with gemcitabine days 1-8, 900 mg/m2 q21. After fifteen cycles the disease progressed. For both regimens no hematologic nor non-hematologic G3-4 toxicities were observed (prophylactic G-CSF was used in both patients). Patients received treatment for long time, with low-mild toxicity, improvement of symptoms and a good quality of life.

In conclusion taxanes sequentially administered in combination with gemcitabine or pegylated liposomal doxorubicin and in particular paclitaxel in combination with pegylated liposomal doxorubicin at low dosage can be active and well tolerated in the treatment of heavily pretreated metastatic sarcomas.
E34  PHASE II TRIAL OF INDUCTION STANDARD DOSE OF TEMOZOLAMIDE FOLLOWED BY TEMOZOLAMIDE AND CONCURRENT RADIOSURGICAL TREATMENT IS EFFECTIVE TREATMENT IN SINGLE BRAIN METASTASIS FROM SOLID TUMORS

Pace R1, Dei Matti N1, Santarelli M2, Rauco AM1, De Santis G1, Capparella V1, Domeni P3, Lugnì A1
1Medical Oncology, Ospedale Generale “San Camillo de Lellis”, Rieti, Italy; 2Division of Radiotherapy, Ospedale Generale “San Camillo de Lellis”, Rieti, Italy; 3Medical Oncology, Ospedale Palombara Sabina (Roma), Palombara Sabina, Italy

Background: Brain metastases occur in approximately 40% of all cancer patients with metastatic disease and are associated with a poor prognosis. Many patients can present a progression of disease in the brain with single lesions, which do not always determine the onset of neurological symptoms. Surgery or localized radiosurgery (SRS) is suggested as an accepted therapeutic option for those patients who have only a single brain lesion. Temozolamide is oral alkylating agent with a good safety profile which crosses the blood brain barrier, reaching an effective concentration in the CNS, and has shown activity against many solid tumors.

Patients and Methods: Objective of the study is to assess the efficacy and safety of induction therapy with orally temozolamide at a dose of 250 mg/m² gg.1-5, followed after 2 weeks of combined treatment of orally temozolamide 100 mg/m² continued with stereotactic radiotherapy (total dose 2500 cGy for 5 days), followed subsequent 4 cycles orally temozolamide 250 mg/m² gg. 1-5 every 4 weeks. From 06/2008 to 02/2009 6 cancer patients (pts) with metastatic single brain metastasis less than 3 cm in diameter received this treatment. Median age was 62 years, and PS was 0-1, 2 and 3 in 2, 3 and 1 patients. NSCLC/breast cancer respectively 3/3.

Results: All patients were evaluable for toxicity and for response. Toxicity was: grade 1 thrombocytopenia (50 %); grade 1 anemia (33 %), grade 1 asthenia (33 %). 3/6 patients experienced RC; 2/6 patients experienced SD.

Conclusions: The results of this study show that the combination is highly efficacious: improving survival and quality of life. These results confirm the effectiveness and the good profile of toxicity of the combination treatment.

E35  INTEGRATED REGIMEN THERAPEUTIC FOR MELANOMA ADVANCED

Dr G.Giarratano*, Dr Emilio Triglia*, Dr Giovanni Scuderi**, Dr Liborio di Cristina***
*U.O. Oncologia Medica Osp. S.Elia Caltanissetta; **U.O. Dermatologia Osp.S.Elia Caltanissetta; ***U.Oncologia alcarno (TP)

Advanced in public awareness, surgical techniques, and adjuvant therapy have improved outcomes for patients with melanoma; however, it remains a highly morbid disease.

In fact the systemic therapy of advanced melanoma is one the most frustrating task for the medical oncologist: the treatment yields few durable remission and minimal impact on survival(<6 months).

The response rate to 50-60% with integrated treatment, but with more toxicity than chemotherapy regime alone.

In our structure we have adopted an integrated regimen therapeutic(polybiologic-chemotherapy), repeated every 28 days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Dose/Route</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fotemustine</td>
<td>100 mg/m²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cisplatin</td>
<td>40 mg/m²</td>
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<td>Interferon-alfa</td>
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<td>Interferon-alfa</td>
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We treated 21 patients(pts):14 men/7 women, median age 64 (range 31-68):

- with metastases to sites visceral(10 pts);
- with metastases to site no visceral (6 pts);
- with metastases to site visceral and brain (4 pts).

After 4—6 cycle of therapy the results are: 9 R.O.; 5 SD. 3/6 patients with metastases visceral, 4 in patients with metastases no visceral, 2 in patients with brain metastases);

The most common side effects were vague symptoms, such malaise, fatigue, chills and fever, in any case limited to WHO grades 1 and 2.

The encouraging results incit we to continue the study.