

IELSG

INTERNATIONAL EXTRANODAL LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER 2

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The 2nd Annual Meeting of the IELSG took place in Ascona, Switzerland, on February 25-27, 1999. More than 70 representatives of 40 European and American oncology institutions attended the workshop. During the meeting the participants were informed about the ongoing IELSG studies, and proposals for new protocols were discussed. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity for the exchange of experiences and ideas on this topic. A summary of the IELSG studies and the addresses of the IELSG participants are provided below.

PATHOLOGY PANEL

The group of pathologists reviewed 80 slides of marginal zone lymphomas (MZL) and 10 cases of testicular lymphoma. In the course of the session devoted to pathology the following decisions were taken:

- to appoint Carlo Capella to the Executive Committee as representative of the pathology group.
- to continue to review all slides of the ongoing IELSG studies in Locarno during 2 or 3 annual meetings. These meetings will last 3-(4) days and include a weekend to facilitate participation and reduce airline travel expenses. The next meeting will take place in Locarno from May 31 to June 1, 1999.
- to create problem-oriented subgroups of pathologists.
- to design specific proposals for pathology IELSG studies.
- to study the clonal relationship of the different lesions in MZL with multiple extranodal localisation.
- to study the pattern of bone marrow involvement in MZL.

PLENARY SESSION

During the plenary session the participants agreed to:

- create an Executive Committee of the IELSG with these responsibilities: to finance the IELSG, to co-ordinate the activities of the IELSG, and to determine the future structure of the IELSG.
- appoint Franco Cavalli, Emilio Montserrat (or Elias Campo), one member of the GELA group (to be indicated) and Carlo Capella to represent the pathology group as

a component of this Executive Committee. It is possible that a fifth member from the U.S. centres will be appointed at the next meeting.

- designate the new IELSG protocols. The final version of the protocols will be presented during the next meeting. The protocols and their chairmen are the following:
 1. IELSG 5: retrospective evaluation of primary testicular lymphomas: *Mary Gospodarowicz, Tariq Mughal and Umberto Vitolo*
 2. IELSG 6: a randomised trial to determine the effect of consolidation with Rituximab (IDEC C2B8-Mabthera/Rituxan) in patients with CD20 + marginal zone lymphomas who have received induction therapy: *Catherine Thieblemont, Enrico Roggero*
 3. IELSG 7: retrospective evaluation of Central Nervous System lymphomas: *J.Y. Blay and Andrés Ferreri*
 4. IELSG 8: retrospective evaluation of intestinal lymphomas: *Sergio Cortelazzo and Carlo Tondini*
 5. IELSG 9: retrospective evaluation of primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphomas: *Pier Luigi Zinzani, Maurizio Martelli and Marilena Bertini*
- designate Andreas Sarris to develop a prospective study in testicular lymphomas (IELSG 10) to be presented during the Lugano meeting.
- designate Giovanni Martinelli and Carlo Tondini to present the updated results of the ongoing IELSG 4 trial (chemotherapy vs chemotherapy plus irradiation) and to discuss an alternative prospective protocol on large-cell gastric lymphomas should the accrual of the IELSG 4 study be lower than expected.
- distribute the addresses and prepare a mailing list of participants interested in exchanging ideas on particular topics.

ONGOING PROTOCOLS

- IELSG 1: retrospective evaluation of low-grade MALT lymphoma primarily arising at non-gastric sites. The accrual should be complete later 31 May 1999.
- IELSG 2: retrospective analysis of patients with primary localised (stage I-II) diffuse large B-cell lymphoma of the stomach. The accrual is closed. A manuscript is in preparation.
- IELSG 3: randomised trial of observation vs chlorambucil after anti-helicobacter therapy in low-grade gastric lymphoma. All cases undergo histological review, independently performed by two panels of expert pathologists. This review process is ongoing and the detailed analysis of the clinico-pathological features associated with the response to anti-helicobacter therapy will be presented the next Lymphoma Conference in Lugano. The recruitment to this trial is excellent (180 cases December 1998) and the accrual continue.
- IELSG 4: prospective randomised trial of chemotherapy vs chemotherapy plus irradiation in diffuse large-cell gastric lymphoma. The accrual of this study is lower than expected. A particular effort should be done to increase the recruitment.

The next IELSG meeting will take place in Lugano, prior to the Lymphoma Conference, on June 1, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and approve the next IELSG protocols. A programme for this meeting will be sent to the participants before May 1999.