



INTERNATIONAL EXTRANODAL LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP

STUDIES COORDINATION

Oncology Institute of
Southern Switzerland
Ospedale San Giovanni
CH-6500 Bellinzona
SWITZERLAND

phone
++41 91 811 90 40
++41 91 811 91 11
fax
++41 91 811 91 82
e-mail
ielsg@ticino.com
www.ielsg.org

NEWSLETTER 23

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ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING

*Dear friends,
there's a lot of updated information for you ...*

The next annual meeting of the IELSG is coming. This time it will be held in **Lugano on February 9-10, 2007**. This will be the **10th meeting** of the Group and for this anniversary we want to do something really special. The usual educational section of the IELSG meeting will be replaced by a special symposium with an outstanding program and speakers.

As you may remember last year the general assembly and the board of directors voted not to keep offering a free accomodation to the participants. However with the spare money we hope to offer a much better dinner.

10TH IELSG ANNUAL MEETING Hotel de la Paix, Lugano, Switzerland February 9-10, 2007

Save the date on your agenda

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

Friday February 9, 2007

13.30 – 17.30 IELSG Scientific Meeting

17.30 – 19.30 **Educational Program**

Antonio Lanzavecchia / Federica Sallusto (IRB, Bellinzona, Switzerland)
T-cell subsets: the physiological basis for a T-cell lymphoma classification

Jim Armitage (University of Nebraska, Omaha, USA)
Novel treatment modalities for non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Paolo Boffetta (IAARC Lyon, France)
Epidemiology of lymphomas. Causative agents: myths and reality

20.30 Official Dinner

Saturday February 10, 2007

07.00 – 12.00 Board of Directors Meeting; continuation of Scientific meeting;
IELSG General Assembly

IELSG 19: THE STUDY IS OPEN AGAIN

IELSG 19. MULTICENTER RANDOMIZED TRIAL OF CHLORAMBUCIL VERSUS CHLORAMBUCIL PLUS RITUXIMAB VERSUS RITUXIMAB IN MALT LYMPHOMA

The initial aim of the study was to assess the therapeutic activity and safety of the combination of Chlorambucil and Rituximab in MALT lymphomas and to determine whether the addition of Rituximab to Chlorambucil would improve the outcome of MALT lymphomas in comparison to Chlorambucil alone. Patients eligible for the study include: MALT lymphoma patients with localised disease at any site who do not respond to local therapy, H.pylori-negative gastric lymphomas or those who failed antibiotic therapy, and patients with disseminated or multifocal MALT lymphoma at any extranodal site.

Because of the excellent and fast recruitment, after the accrual of 250 patients **an amendment was prepared to add a third arm** (namely, Rituximab alone). Such an amendment **has already been approved by the Swiss and Italian authorities** (the study is currently again open in Switzerland and Italy) and its approval is pending in other EU countries.

Patient randomisation is active for all centres which have got the EC / IRB approval for the amended protocol.

OTHER OLD AND NEW IELSG STUDIES

IELSG 26. CLINICOPATHOLOGIC STUDY OF PRIMARY MEDIASTINAL B-CELL LYMPHOMA

This prospective multi-centre cohort study has been designed to investigate the diagnostic and prognostic utility of PET scan in primary mediastinal lymphoma. Aims of the study are the determination of response rate on PET scanning following initial chemo-immunotherapy and a systematic analysis of the phenotype and molecular characteristics of Primary Mediastinal Large B-cell Lymphoma.

Central review of all pathology will be carried out with storage of fresh frozen biopsy material wherever possible. PET scans will be performed at the start of chemotherapy and at its conclusion, with central review of the images for quality control. Patients will receive one of the standard chemo-immunotherapy protocols currently in use for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (i.e., R-CHOP-21, R-CHOP-14, R-MACOP-B, R-VACOP-B, R-ACVBP). Consolidation radiotherapy to the mediastinum will be carried out according to the local protocol of the treating centre.

Approval from regulatory agencies, in countries where this is required for a “non-experimental” study, is pending. Hopefully, the study will soon be open for patient accrual.

IELSG 27. A CLINICO-PATHOLOGICAL PHASE II STUDY WITH TRANSLATIONAL ELEMENTS TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBLE INFECTIVE CAUSES OF MALT LYMPHOMA OF THE OCULAR ADNEXA

Recent studies from northern Italy provided evidence for an association between *C. psittaci* infection and ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma but this finding was not confirmed by studies conducted in other geographic areas. The purpose of this novel IELSG study is to further investigate this relationship and explore the possible indications for treatment of ocular adnexal MALT lymphoma with antibiotics alone.

Approval from regulatory agencies is pending. Hopefully, the study will soon be open for patient accrual.

IELSG 28. A RETROSPECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CLINICO-PATHOLOGICAL STUDY OF PRIMARY EXTRANODAL MARGINAL ZONE LYMPHOMA OF THE LUNG (BALT-LYMPHOMA)

Following the discussion we had during the previous annual meeting in Rome a retrospective survey on BALT lymphoma is now ready to start.

The study aims to answer several questions that have not been adequately addressed by the published literature on this relatively uncommon lymphoma. A database with clinical characteristics, histological features, diagnostic and treatment modalities, response to treatment and survival information on BALT-lymphoma patients will be set up and paraffin-embedded material collected at the time of initial diagnosis will be used to perform tissue micro-arrays.

We will investigate the correlation between histological and biological features (immunophenotype and immunohistochemistry, molecular biology) and the clinical patterns (symptoms, stage, response to treatment, survival) of the disease as well as the genetic and molecular characteristics of BALT lymphomas.

Hopefully, the study will improve our knowledge on these lymphomas. Hypothesis on treatment strategies based on the results generated will be possibly later evaluated in prospective studies.

The final protocol will be available soon and all the necessary information will be posted on the IELSG website.

INTERNATIONAL T-CELL PROJECT

An international T-cell lymphoma working group was established at the last 9-ICML in Lugano. Several IELSG investigators are already involved with this task. An international registry of T-cell lymphoma is being set up.

All those interested in this T-cell project may download the study synopsis from www.tcellproject.org or require additional information from info@tcellproject.org

F. Cavalli, E. Zucca