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NEWSLETTER 27

December 2007

Dear all

News from the ASH meeting

The IELSG was present at the ASH meeting held in Atlanta on December 6-11, 2007, with the following poster presentations:

- *A Conconi, A Lopez-Guillermo, G Martinelli, L Rigacci, U Vitolo, PL Zinzani, S Luminari, F Cavalli, E Zucca*; "IELSG phase II studies of Bortezomib in MALT lymphomas"
- *S Cortelazzo, G Gaidano, M Mian, A Conconi, A Rossi, ME Cabrera, M Federico, M Bellei, S Magrini, M Martelli, H Gomez, A Lopez-Guillermo, EM Pogliani, F Rossini, M Busetto, C Visco, R Tsang, E Zucca, A Rambaldi, F Cavalli*; "Primary thyroid lymphoma: a retrospective IELSG and IIL analysis of clinical characteristics, prognostic factors, treatment outcome and somatic hypermutation for localized diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)"

The full text of both abstracts has been posted on the IELSG website.

During the ASH conference the **IELSG Board of Directors meeting** was held, too. The Board discussed the present status of the ongoing studies and strategies to improve the accrual of the IELSG 19 trial were examined. The need of publishing as soon as possible the results of all the studies already closed was also pointed out. Prompt publication of our studies will be indeed mandatory for the grant applications that will allow our cooperation to continue.

M. Martelli and PL. Zinzani are the new representatives of the IIL in the IELSG Board of Directors and will replace M. Brugiatelli and U. Vitolo.

PCNSL studies

The IELSG 20 randomized phase II trial on the treatment of PCNSL has completed the planned accrual of 78 patients in the expected time. We will keep it open until Dec. 31, 2007 to allow enrolment of the additional patients who may have already started but not completed the information process and the pre-registration assessment. No further patients will be registered after this deadline.

We wish to thank all the investigators who enrolled patients in the trial; their commitment made this study a very successful one considering that it is the first randomised trial on PCNSL with a completed accrual around the world.

Analysis of the study results will be completed as soon as possible. We plan to submit an abstract with the response analysis to the 10th Lugano ICML and perhaps another one to the ASH 2008 with the early EFS and PFS analysis. In the meantime a manuscript will be prepared.

A parallel pathologic study on the study bioptic material is ongoing at the HSR in Milan, the study chair will directly contact the individual investigators to discuss the possibility of a collaboration in this setting, too.

A proposal for the next IELSG study in PCNSL will be presented and discussed at the next IELSG annual meeting in Lugano on April 2008.

A workshop on Primary CNS Lymphoma was organised by the IPCG and was held during the ASH meeting. It is likely that both retrospective and prospective studies to define a specific prognostic index for primary CNS lymphoma will be undertaken by the IPCG. Participation of the IELSG investigators in both studies will be absolutely welcome.

The “new” IELSG 25A study

From December 2007 IELSG 25B study has been closed and after that the **IELSG 25A study will enroll also patients with more than 1 previous treatment**. This because it appears now evident that the more stringent criteria set for the IELSG 25A study would have been applied also to the IELSG 25B patients. The **fusion of the two studies** will hopefully result in a more rapid conclusion of our phase II investigation on VELCADE in extranodal MZLs.

Publications

Finally our paper on the diffuse large B cell lymphomas of the breast has been published online:

Ryan G, Martinelli G, Kuper-Hommel M, Tsang R, Pruneri G, Yuen K, Roos D, Lennard A, Devizzi L, Crabb S, Hossfeld D, Pratt G, Dell'olio M, Choo SP, Bociek RG, Radford J, Lade S, Gianni AM, Zucca E, Cavalli F, Seymour JF; “Primary diffuse large B-cell lymphoma of the breast: prognostic factors and outcomes of a study by the IELSG”, *Annals of Oncology* 2007; Oct 11 (Epub ahead of print)

Again you can see the abstract and the link to the full paper in the IELSG website.

The **NEXT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IELSG** will be held in **Lugano** at the Hotel de la Paix. Details will be provided in the next newsletter.

**With our best greetings for the Season Holidays,
Wishing you all a very happy new year,**

F. Cavalli, E. Zucca, A. Conconi, C. Morinini, M. Bertini, E. Porro