



## INTERNATIONAL EXTRANODAL LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP

### STUDIES COORDINATION

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## NEWSLETTER 34

May 2010

Dear Friends,

the last IELSG annual meeting has been held in Lugano on April 16-17, 2010. First of all we want to thank all those who attended the meeting and contributed to its fruitful discussions. Here we summarize the principal issues that have been addressed during the meeting and discussed during the Board of Directors meeting followed by the IELSG general assembly on April 17, 2010.

### 1. ONGOING CLINICAL STUDIES

The IELSG 19 "Multicenter randomized trial of Chlorambucil versus Chlorambucil plus Rituximab versus Rituximab alone in extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma)" has enrolled 442 of the 450 planned patients and its accrual will be likely completed in a few weeks.

During the meeting the design of the next randomized study for extranodal marginal zone lymphomas was discussed and in principle it has been decided that the next trial will be a 2x2 randomized study of Ofatumumab-Bendamustine versus Rituximab-Chlorambucil. For safety reasons this will be preceded by a pilot trial of Ofatumumab-Bendamustine that will be conducted by the SENDO Lymphoma Group in few centres in Switzerland and Northern Italy.

IELSG 26 "A clinico-pathologic study of Primary Mediastinal B-cell lymphoma". The study was aimed at evaluating the PET utility in a prospective cohort of uniformly treated patients. The study has completed its planned accrual on April 28 (120 patients) and the annual meeting approved the idea of a next randomized trial of Rituximab-chemotherapy alone vs. Rituximab-chemotherapy + involved field irradiation in primary mediastinal B cell lymphomas. This study should have a non-inferiority design and this will of course require an extremely large sample size. For this reasons negotiations and discussion have been started with several potential partners of the IELSG (Nordic Lymphoma Group, UK Cancer Research, Italian Lymphoma Intergroup, Czech and Polish National Lymphoma Groups, Spanish GELTAMO, Mayo Clinic, ...) who have already expressed their interest. A minimum accrual of 150 patients per year will be nevertheless essential to have a successful study.

The IELSG 27 "A Clinico-pathological phase II study with translational elements to investigate the possible infective causes of non-hodgkin lymphoma of the ocular adnexae with particular reference to Chlamydia species and the effects of MALT lymphoma treatment with tetracycline" has also been closed. In the next days Dr. Andrés Ferreri will prepare a proposal for a study on the geographical variation of Chlamydia-associated ocular adnexae lymphoma incidence, which will be sent to all the IELSG members in a coming newsletter.

The meeting also discussed the activation of the PRISMA study. This is a study designed by a group of European investigators from different national groups (GELA/GELTAMO/GISL) aimed at investigating the activity of Bendamustine in primary splenic lymphoma. The IELSG was asked to be the sponsor of this study. However there are still some discussions concerning the use and allocation of resources and the practical conduct of the trial. A final agreement, however, should be reached soon.

## 2. ONGOING RETROSPECTIVES STUDIES

During the meeting it has been started the histological review of the IELSG 31 study "A retrospective international study of primary extranodal follicular lymphoma". Thus far the clinical records concerning 229 patients have been submitted. However, based on the ongoing histological review, approximately 25-30% of cases may be rejected (either because not primary extranodal or because reclassified to other histological subtypes).

## 3. A WORKSHOP ON LYMPHOMA STAGING at the NEXT 11-ICML in Lugano, June 15-18 2011

The next Lugano Conference on Malignant Lymphoma (11-ICML) will be held next year and will be preceded by a closed workshop devoted to the possible update of the lymphoma staging system in the PET era. This workshop will be chaired by Andrew Lister, Richard Fisher and Emanuele Zucca. The IELSG has appointed a panel of experts (M. Gospodarowicz, C. Thieblemont, A. Lopez-Guillermo, M. Trnény) who will be coordinated by Emanuele Zucca and will ask the help of external advisors to prepare the IELSG proposal for the specific staging of primary extranodal lymphomas.

The next IELSG meeting will be held in Paris in March 2011.