

Dear Friends,

the last IELSG annual meeting was held in Lugano on April 20-21, 2012. 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 21, 2012.

Ongoing clinical studies

IELSG 37 - A randomized, open-label, multicenter, two-arm phase III comparative study assessing the role of involved mediastinal radiotherapy after Rituximab containing chemotherapy regimens to patients with newly diagnosed Primary Mediastinal Large B-Cell Lymphoma (PMLBCL).

The IELSG 37 is a phase III multicenter study that will assess the role of involved field radiation therapy in patients with primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma that achieve a negative PET-scan following standard chemoimmunotherapy treatment. The study aims to enroll approximately 700 patients and is expected that roughly half of them will be randomized between radiation therapy or observation at the end of chemoimmunotherapy. A big effort for major international collaboration is necessary in order to enroll the number of patients required to complete this study, and address this unresolved issue of the usefulness of radiation therapy in patients with PMLBCL that achieve a complete remission by PET scan after chemoimmunotherapy.

Several institutes and collaborative groups from Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, Canada, USA, Ukraine, Denmark, Poland, United Kingdom, Spain, Croatia, Korea and Israel have already given their commitment to adhere in this protocol.

The study has now been approved by the Ethics Committees in Switzerland (Ticino) as well as in Italy and in Sweden and the first patients are expected to be included very soon.

IELSG 32 - Randomized phase II trial on primary chemotherapy with high-dose methotrexate and high-dose cytarabine with or without thiotepa, and with or without rituximab, followed by brain irradiation vs. high-dose chemotherapy supported by autologous stem cells transplantation for immunocompetent patients with newly diagnosed primary CNS lymphoma

This study has a quite complex design with two randomizations planned. However, the accrual has been very good so far: 79 patients have been enrolled at this moment. The safety interim analysis was performed as planned by protocol, and no issues that would impact on the risk-benefit profile were found. It was decided therefore to continue the study as originally planned.

IELSG 30 - A phase II study of R-CHOP with intensive CNS prophylaxis and scrotal irradiation in patients with primary testicular diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

Despite an initial slow accrual, due to regulatory issues, 17 patients have now been enrolled in the study and the first efficacy results are awaited.

Retrospective surveys open for accrual

There are actually four trials actively enrolling patients:

IELSG 17 - A retrospective study on intravascular large B-cell lymphoma (68 patients)

IELSG 28 - A retrospective study on BALT lymphoma (222 patients)

IELSG 31 - A retrospective study on primary extranodal follicular lymphoma (266 patients)

IELSG 35 - A retrospective study on primary extranodal lymphoma of female genital tract (26 patients)

Study closures

The IESLG 34 study of Everolimus in primary marginal zone lymphomas has completed the accrual and some patients are still on treatment. Final analysis should be performed later this year.

The IESLG 33 trial (prospective survey of breast lymphoma patients treated with R-CHOP and radiotherapy) was closed by the Board of Directors because of the low accrual.

New study proposals

The following projects were presented.

- a) Primary parotid MALT lymphoma: clinical characteristics and treatment
- b) Assessment of the risk of histologic transformation in MALT lymphomas
- c) International prospective phase II trial addressing the efficacy of first-line chlamydo-phila psittaci-eradicating therapy with protracted administration of doxycycline followed by eradication monitoring and antibiotic re-treatment at infection re-occurrence in patients with newly diagnosed ocular adnexal marginal zone lymphoma (OAMZL)
- d) Impact of cytogenetic alterations of extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of MALT type on treatment response

The Board of Directors found that in principle all of them may have some interest. However, it is fundamental to have a clear research question and to assess feasibility of each project before starting.

- e) NF2010 – Indolent non-follicular lymphomas prognostic project: an international collaboration for the prospective collection of data of possible prognostic relevance in patients with indolent non-follicular B-cell lymphomas

The Board has decided to support the participation of each individual IELSG center into this international study, which will be coordinated by the Italian Lymphoma Foundation.

- f) A phase II study of Chlorambucil in combination with subcutaneous rituximab followed by maintenance therapy with subcutaneous rituximab in patients with extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of mucosa associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma)

This single arm phase II trial will precede and will precede the next randomized study in MALT lymphoma (the design of the latter has not yet been finalized) and should start the enrollment in Q3-Q4 2012. The Italian Lymphoma Foundation has confirmed their commitment to enter patients in the study. The new group LYSA, resulting from the fusion of the GELA and the GOELAMS French groups, will meet on May 2012 to discuss their participation.

IELSG publications 2012

***Chlamydomphila psittaci* eradication with doxycycline as first-line targeted therapy for ocular adnexae lymphoma: final results of an international phase II trial** *AJM Ferreri, S Govi, E Pasini, S Mappa, F Bertoni, F Zaja, C Montalbá, C Stelitano, ME Cabrera, AG Resti, LS Politi, C Doglioni, F Cavalli, E Zucca, M Ponzoni and R Dolcetti on behalf of the International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group (IELSG)*

Accepted for publication in the JCO.

Primary bone marrow lymphoma: an uncommon extranodal presentation of aggressive non-hodgkin lymphomas *Martinez A, Ponzoni M, Agostinelli C, Hebeda KM, Matutes E, Peccatori J, Campidelli C, Espinet B, Perea G, Acevedo A, Mehrjardi AZ, Martinez-Bernal M, Gelemur M, Zucca E, Pileri S, Campo E, Lopez-Guillermo A and Rozman M on behalf of the International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group*

The American Journal of Surgical Pathology 2012 Feb; 36(2): 296–304

Next IELSG meeting

The next meeting will be held in Athens, Greece on February 22-24, 2013 and should include an important educational component to improve participation of as many as possible junior fellows. SAVE THE DATE !!



Kind regards

F Cavalli, E Zucca, A Conconi, A Stathis, C Morinini, E Porro, R Gianascio