

Dear Friends,

the last IELSG Annual Meeting was held in Athens on February 22, 2013. First of all we want to thank Prof. Gerassimos Pangalis for the help in the organization of our meeting and the excellent organization of the educational day on marginal zone lymphomas that followed the IELSG meeting. Of course we want to thank also all the colleagues who attended the meeting and contributed to its fruitful discussions. Here we summarize the principal issues that have been addressed and discussed during the Board of Directors meeting followed by the IELSG general assembly.

Ongoing clinical studies

IELSG 39 - International prospective phase 2 trial addressing the efficacy of first-line *Chlamydophila 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)

Enrollment has begun in Italy (2 patients)

IELSG 38 - 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)

The study is approved by Swissmedic in Switzerland and open to accrual. Submission to the competent authorities in France and Italy should undergo very soon.

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 first 15 patients have already been enrolled in Italy, Ukraine and Sweden, but the study can be successful only if a very large international participation is obtained. It will be important to make any effort to speed up the regulatory procedures that may allow opening the study in other countries. An amendment of the protocol (v. 1.1) has been sent to all sites. Some minor changes have been implemented in order to clarify the modalities for the quality control of radiotherapy and to better explain the relative procedures.

IELSG 36 - BRISMA - Bendamustine and Rituximab for the treatment of Splenic Marginal Zone Lymphoma. A phase II prospective study

Six patients have been enrolled in the study in France while the study should open for accrual in Italy soon as well.

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

The study accrual has been very good and the initial planned sample size has already been achieved (139 patients enrolled on March 29, 2013). Recruitment is now ongoing based on an amendment in order to achieve a higher power after the second randomization (200 patients 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

25 patients have now been enrolled in the study.

Retrospective surveys open for accrual

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

IELSG 31 - A retrospective study on primary extranodal follicular lymphoma (276 patients)

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

New study proposals

The following projects have been accepted.

- a) A prospective trial for the treatment of secondary CNS lymphomas based on an induction treatment with high dose methotrexate and high dose cytarabine followed by consolidation with the R-ICE regimen and autologous transplantation.
- b) A proposal of a phase II trial with ubituximab (novel anti-CD20 antibody) in marginal zone lymphoma. The study can be sponsored by the IELSG and Columbia University will be one of the centers together with the IOSI in Bellinzona. Other European centers will be appointed. A meeting is scheduled during the next Lugano Conference (ICML) to set up the study details.

IELSG publications 2013

Addition of Rituximab to Chlorambucil produces superior event-free survival in the treatment of patients with extranodal marginal-zone B-cell lymphoma: 5-year analysis of the IELSG-19 randomized study

E Zucca, A Conconi, D Laszlo, A López-Guillermo, R Bouabdallah, B Coiffier, C Sebban, F Jardin, U Vitolo, F Morschhauser, SA Pileri, C Copie-Bergman, E Campo, A Jack, I Floriani, P Johnson, M Martelli, F Cavalli, G Martinelli and C Thieblemont

Journal of Clinical Oncology 2013 Feb 10; 31(5): 565-72

Long-term outcome for gastric marginal zone lymphoma treated with radiotherapy: a retrospective, multi-centre, International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group study

A. Wirth, M. Gospodarowicz, B.M.P. Aleman, M. Bressel, A. Ng, M. Chao, R.T. Hoppe, C. Thieblemont, R. Tsang, L. Moser, L. Specht, T. Szpytma, A. Lennard, J.F. Seymour and E. Zucca

Annals of Oncology 2013 Jan 4 [Epub ahead of print]

Role of radiotherapy in patients with early-stage diffuse large B-cell lymphoma of Waldeyer's ring in remission after anthracycline-containing chemotherapy

M Mian, AJM Ferreri, A Rossi, A

Conconi, R Tsang, MK Gospodarowicz, E Oldani, M Federico, S Luminari, EM Pogliani, F Rossini, ME Cabrera, M Martelli, G Gutierrez-Garcia, M Busetto, F Cavalli, E Zucca, A Rambaldi and S Cortelazzo; for the International Extranodal Lymphoma Study Group (IELSG)
Leukemia and Lymphoma 2013 Jan; 54(1): 62–68

GELA histological scoring system for post-treatment biopsies of patients with gastric malt lymphoma is feasible and reliable in routine practice *Copie-Bergman C, Wotherspoon AC, Capella C, Motta T, Pedrinis E, Pileri SA, Bertoni F, Conconi A, Zucca E, Ponzoni M, Ferreri AJ*
British Journal of Haematology 2013 Jan; 160(1): 47-52

Next IELSG annual meeting

The next meeting will be held in Bellinzona, Switzerland, on **March 21-22, 2014**.
SAVE THE DATE !!



Kind regards

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