

IELSG

INTERNATIONAL EXTRANODAL LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP

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NEWSLETTER 5

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The 3rd Annual Meeting of the IELSG took place in Ascona, Switzerland, on February 24-27, 2000. More than 90 representatives of 50 European and American oncology institutions attended the workshop. During the meeting the participants were informed about the ongoing IELSG studies, and proposals for new protocols were discussed.

The creation of a Scientific Committee has been decided. Franco Cavalli, Bertrand Coiffier, Mary Gospodarowicz, Stefano Pileri and Julie Vose will be the members of this Committee. The aim of this initiative is to coordinate the activity of the group between the annual meetings and to explore new possibilities for funding the IELSG programs. The Committee will meet twice a year during the annual ASCO and ASH conferences.

PATHOLOGY PANEL

The pathologists, in Locarno on February 24-25, reviewed 67 cases of primary intestinal lymphoma, 45 cases of primary testicular lymphoma and 15 cases of extranodal non-gastric marginal zone lymphoma (MZL).

The pathological review of the IELSG 8 study (primary intestinal lymphomas) will be completed during a meeting that will take place in Locarno next June.

The histological review of IELSG 1 cases has been completed.

Bruce Patterson will replace Martin Harris, who will retire at the end of the year, as pathology chairman of the IELSG 5 study (primary testicular lymphomas). The histological review will be independently performed by two panels of expert pathologists: the cases of testicular lymphoma registered in American centers (Toronto, Vancouver, Houston) will take place in Toronto, whereas Locarno will be the site for review of European and Australian cases.

Stefano Pileri will join Fabio Menestrina as the pathology chair of the IELSG 9 study (primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphomas).

Bettina Borisch will be the pathological chairperson of the retrospective study of extranodal NK/T-cell lymphomas, nasal-type. The review sessions will take place in Geneva.

PLENARY SESSION

During the plenary session the participants agreed to designate the new IELSG protocols whose chairmen are the following:

- IELSG 10: prospective study of primary testicular lymphomas: *A. Sarris*
- IELSG 12: retrospective evaluation of extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma, nasal-type: *E. Cervera*
- IELSG 11: retrospective evaluation of cutaneous B-cell lymphomas: *S. Cortelazzo*
- IELSG 13: international prospective survey of the HCV infection prevalence among non-Hodgkin's lymphomas patients - Preliminary feasibility study: *E. Zucca, A. Conconi*

ONGOING PROTOCOLS

- IELSG 1: retrospective evaluation of low-grade MALT lymphoma primarily arising at non-gastric sites. The accrual is closed and the pathological review has been completed. A manuscript is in preparation.
- IELSG 3: randomised trial of observation vs chlorambucil after anti-helicobacter therapy in low-grade gastric lymphoma. All cases undergo histological review, independently performed by two panels of expert pathologists. This review process is ongoing and the detailed analysis of the clinico-pathological features associated with the response to anti-helicobacter therapy will be presented at the next ASCO Conference in New Orleans (see enclosed abstract). The recruitment to this trial is excellent (217 cases, February 2000) and the accrual continue.
- IELSG 4: prospective randomised trial of chemotherapy vs chemotherapy plus irradiation in diffuse large-cell gastric lymphoma. The accrual of this study is still lower than expected. A particular effort should be done to increase the recruitment.
- IELSG 5: retrospective evaluation of primary testicular lymphomas. The results of a preliminary analysis on 235 cases has been presented. The accrual will close within May 2000. The definitive analysis will be submitted to the annual ASH and to the European Urology Society meetings, then a manuscript will be prepared.
- IELSG 6: a phase II study to determine the clinical activity and safety of Rituximab (IDEC-C2B8) in marginal zone B-cell lymphomas: the accrual is open in Switzerland and France (4 patients already enrolled).
- IELSG 7: retrospective evaluation of central nervous system lymphomas. A preliminary analysis on 349 cases has been presented. The accrual is ongoing.
- IELSG 8: retrospective evaluation of primary intestinal lymphomas. The accrual is closed and the pathological review will be completed in May 2000.
- IELSG 9: retrospective evaluation of primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphomas. The statistical analysis on 426 cases has been performed. The accrual is closed.
- IELSG 11: retrospective evaluation of cutaneous B-cell lymphomas. A preliminary analysis on 36 cases has been presented.

Proposals

- Retrospective analysis evaluating maltoma genetic reaggangements on gastrectomy specimen. *P. Siakantaris, A. Sarris, G. Pangalis*
- Prospective non-randomised study of chemotherapy and radiotherapy for primary bone lymphomas. *D.Christie for the Trans-Tasman radiation oncology group incorporated.*

The next IELSG meeting will take place in Ticino on February 2001. A program for this meeting will be sent to the participants before January 2001.

NEWS and ADS

- **Powerpoint files with most of the Ascona meeting presentations will be available soon to the IELSG members**
- **The IELSG website is in preparation**
- **Finally, we inform you that Enrico Roggero, member of the coordination staff, leaves the IELSG at the end of March. We wish him good luck for his present and future work programs.**