

IELSG

INTERNATIONAL EXTRANODAL LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP

TRIALS COORDINATION CENTRE: ISTITUTO ONCOLOGICO DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

OSPEDALE SAN GIOVANNI CH-6500 BELLINZONA - SWITZERLAND

E. ZUCCA, A. CONCONI, F. CAVALLI - DATA MANAGER: CRISTINA MORININI

PHONE ++41 91 820 91 11 - FAX ++41 91 820 91 82 - E-MAIL ielsg@ticino.com

NEWSLETTER 8

Bellinzona, May 2001

Dear Friends,

The just-ended 4th IELSG Workshop, held in Ascona, has been a great success, a "wonderful opportunity for communication of ideas and sharing of information among investigators" as it was defined by one of the attendees. The discussion has been indeed very fruitful and a lot of new ideas have been generated.

Several proposals for new studies have been presented and discussed.

In particular we want to remind those who were in Ascona and inform those who haven't been able to come, that a consensus has been reached about the activation of several new studies.

PRIMARY BONE LYMPHOMA

1. An amended version of the protocol of the prospective Australian study is in preparation and will be sent to those interested in it.
2. At the meeting we agreed to have a retrospective IELSG study. David Christie (Tugun, Queensland, Australia) is preparing a protocol and we hope to be able to activate this study in a few weeks.

PRIMARY BREAST LYMPHOMA

At the meeting we agreed to have also a retrospective survey of primary lymphomas of the breast. Dr. G Martinelli (Milan, Italy), and Dr. G. Ryan (Melbourne, Australia) will chair the study (possibly together with an American colleague). They will prepare the protocol in the coming weeks.

PRIMARY EFFUSION LYMPHOMA

Drs. A. Conconi and G. Gaidano (Novara, Italy) and Dr. A. Carbone (Aviano, Italy) are preparing the protocol and the forms for the data collection.

INTRAVASCULAR LYMPHOMA

Dr. M. Ponzoni (Milan, Italy) will directly get in touch with all the persons in the IELSG mailing list to arrange the data collection.

MOLECULAR STUDY OF CHROMOSOME- 11 ALTERATIONS IN EXTRANODAL DLCL

Dr. F. Bertoni has already started the collection of paraffin-embedded and frozen material from a few centres. All those who are interested in this study can write directly to:
<frbertoni@tin.it>

NASAL NK LYMPHOMA

Dr. Tsang (Toronto) is preparing a protocol for this study that should be done in co-operation with some Asian (Hong Kong) and Latin American institutes (Peru and Mexico).

Other issues have been discussed as well in Ascona.

IELSG 10: PROSPECTIVE TRIAL IN DLCL OF THE TESTIS

It has been proposed to add the administration of Mabthera (Rituximab) to the study treatment. Negotiations are in progress with Roche Pharma AG, that hopefully will provide the drug for the countries and institutions where its use in DLCL is not yet reimbursed.

IELSG 3 AND BEYOND

The LY03 study of gastric lymphoma has been closed and dr. Wotherspoon is preparing the final histological review. However, we will continue the molecular follow up of the enrolled patients. Moreover, we may be able to study the clinical relevance of some novel putative prognostic factors (e.g., the t(11;18) translocation and the bcl-10 expression) in this prospectively collected series of cases. We will soon ask the involved institutions about the availability of paraffin-embedded or frozen material from the diagnostic specimens.

WHICH WILL BE THE NEXT IELSG STUDY FOR GASTRIC MALT LYMPHOMA ?

Possible designs for a new study of gastric MALTomas have been discussed in Ascona. The preliminary analysis of responses of the IELSG-6 phase II study suggested a very favourable activity of Rituximab in extranodal marginal zone lymphomas, including gastric MALTomas non-responding to antibiotics (**IELSG posters at the ASCO 2001 meeting in S. Francisco and EHA 2001 meeting in Frankfurt**).

Negotiations are ongoing with Roche representatives about their support to a possible randomised international study of Rituximab vs chemotherapy in extranodal MALT lymphomas (all sites and all stages, anti-*Helicobacter* therapy to be given to patients with gastric location). A protocol synopsis is in preparation (E. Zucca, Bellinzona, Switzerland) and will soon circulate.

MEDIASTINAL LYMPHOMA

After the results of our retrospective survey suggesting a better outcome for patients treated with the more aggressive third generation regimens plus radiotherapy, many of us would be keen to see a randomised IELSG study. Dr. Peter Johnson (Southampton, UK) and Dr. Zinzani (Bologna) will set up a writing committee for such a protocol. All those who are willing to participate in this study should get in touch with the IELSG studies co-ordination office.

CUTANEOUS B- CELL LYMPHOMAS

The histological revision of about one hundred cases is ongoing. The next review session will be held in Locarno in September 2001. **Additional cases can still be included in this survey.** Please get directly in touch with S. Cortelazzo (Bergamo, Italy) at this electronic address: <oro@ospedaliriuniti.bergamo.it>

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Several manuscripts from the concluded studies (non-gastric MALTomas, intestinal lymphomas, mediastinal lymphomas, CNS lymphomas, and testicular DLCL...) are in preparation and should be submitted to major peer-reviewed journals in the next few months. All the contributors should soon receive the drafts for their comments (if they still haven't received them).

We wish to express our gratitude to all the IELSG investigators, especially those, whose dedication has allowed the fruitful completion of our previous studies, and those committed to the preparation of the next generation of IELSG studies.

POST SCRIPTUM

1. REMEMBER THE ONGOING PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL STUDIES

Please, do not forget that the following prospective clinical studies are open for patients' registration.

IELSG 4: PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED TRIAL OF CHEMOTHERAPY VS CHEMOTHERAPY PLUS IRRADIATION IN DIFFUSE LARGE- CELL GASTRIC LYMPHOMA (Chairman: G. Martinelli, Milano, Italy) Please contact: <datamom1b@ieo.it>

IELSG 10: A PHASE II STUDY OF CHOP, WITH INTRATHECAL METHOTREXATE FOLLOWED BY RADIOTHERAPY, IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY TESTICULAR NON- HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA (Chairman: A. Sarris, Houston, USA) Please contact: <ielsg@ticino.com> or <omesina@mail.manderson.org>

2. REMEMBER THIS DATE

The **next IELSG meeting** will be held in **Lugano**, Switzerland during the 8th International Conference on Malignant Lymphomas, on **Saturday, June 15, 2002 at the Palazzo dei Congressi** (approximately from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm)

Best wishes

Emanuele Zucca, Franco Cavalli, Cristina Morinini