E1* CLINICAL AND HISTOPATHOLOGICAL RISK FACTORS TO PREDICT SENTINEL LYMPH NODE POSITIVITY, DISEASE FREE AND OVERALL SURVIVAL IN CLINICAL STAGE I-II AJCC SKIN MELANOMA: A PROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Background: The aim of the study was to investigate if the tumour infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) are able to predict the sentinel node positivity (SLN), the disease free (DFS) and overall survival (OS) in clinical stage I-II AJCC primary cutaneous melanoma (PCM) through a prospective mono-institutional data base.

Methods: The study included consecutive patients with PCM, all diagnosed, treated and followed up prospectively by a multidisciplinary team. Logistic regression was used to investigate the association between DFS, OS, SLN positivity and Breslow thickness, Clark level, tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL), ulceration, lesion site, gender, regression and age.

Results: From November 1998 to December October 2008, 1251 patients with PCM were referred to the Bergamo Ruiuniti Hospital. The median age was 51.4±6.6 years; 32.2% (N=393) with > 60 years, male:45%. Among those 394 patients with primary vertical growth phase (VGP) melanoma and no clinical evidence of metastatic disease who underwent SLN biopsy, in all, 74 of the 394 patients had 1 positive SLN (18.8%). In the multivariate analysis, no extremity primary (extremity vs axial = OR 0.44, 95% CI 0.22-0.89, p<0.023), TIL (TIL vs no TIL 0.46, 95% CI 0.24-0.88, p=0.01), and thickness (>4 mm vs 1.1-2 mm OR 25, 95% CI 4.95-126.32) predicted SLN positivity. A multivariate stepwise analysis confirmed these results. The histologic status of the SLN was the most significant predictor of DFS and OS. Patients with a negative SLN had a 5-year DFS of 75.9%, compared with 35.2% in patients with a positive SLN (p<0.0001) and a 5-years OS of 88.7% versus 32.2% (N=393) with > 60 years, male:45%.

Conclusions: Our study demonstrate that the absence of TILs predicts SLN metastasis, at multivariate analysis only the SLN positivity predicts DFS and OS.

E2* EFFICACY AND TOXICITY OF SORAFENIB MONOTHERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA FAILING ANTHRACYCLINE-BASED CHEMOTHERAPY

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Background and Aims: Sorafenib, an orally administered inhibitor of RAF-family serine/threonine kinases and tyrosine kinase receptors, has demonstrated promising results in the treatment of refractory advanced solid tumors, including soft tissue sarcoma (STS), in terms of disease control and toxicity profile. We performed a multicenter phase II study aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of sorafenib in patients with advanced STS progressing after anthracycline-based chemotherapy.

Methods: Patients with recurrent STS failing at least one line of chemotherapy and no relevant comorbidities were eligible for the study and received sorafenib 400 mg bid until progression or major toxicity. Patients who received the study drug for at least 4 weeks were considered evaluable for statistical analysis. Primary endpoint of the study was the rate of progression free survival (PFS) at 6 months; the overall clinical benefit, i.e. the proportion of patients achieving response (partial, PR, complete, CR) or stable disease (SD) lasting at least 3 months (RECIST criteria) was also evaluated. Toxicity was graded according to the NCI Common Toxicity Criteria V3.0.

Results: Among 74 patients enrolled in the study, at march 30, 2009 40 and 44 patients were evaluable for response and toxicity, respectively. Most frequent pathologic subtypes were leiomyosarcoma and liposarcoma. About half of patients received sorafenib as third or subsequent line of treatment. Six-month PFS was observed in 10/ 40 (22.7%) while overall clinical benefit was documented in 24/40 patients (60%, CR=10%, PR=12.5, SD=47.5). Most frequently reported adverse events were fatigue, anemia, weight loss, diarrhea, hand-foot syndrome (HFS) and alopecia. Grade 3-4 toxicities included HFS in 15.9%, diarrhea in 13.6%, anemia in 4.5% and mucositis in 4.5%.

Conclusions: Sorafenib is associated with antitumor activity and acceptable tolerability in patients with anthracycline-refractory STS. Data from the whole patient population will be presented at the meeting.

E3* RETROPERITONEAL SARCOMA: RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF A LARGE SINGLE INSTITUTION SERIES

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Background: Prognosis of retroperitoneal sarcoma (RPS) is poor, especially when evaluated on the long run. The mainstay of treatment for RPS is surgery, but both quality and efficacy of the surgical resection decrease after multiple recurrences. We analysed a large single institution series of RPS with the aim to provide information on the natural history of the disease and to identify prognostic factors of outcome.

Methods: From 1998 to 2008, 149 patients with RPS were referred to our Institution and underwent surgery for primary (n=77) or recurrent (n=72) disease. Potential prognostic factors including histology, tumor grading, time to last recurrence and multifocality were retrospectively tested by univariant and multivariant analysis. Primary end-points were local disease free survival (LDFS) and disease-specific survival (DSS) from the first recurrence onward.

Results: Median age of the study population was 55 years (range 20-83); 81 were male. Median FU was 33 months (range 6-122). 5-year LDFS and DSS for the whole population were 27.6% and 86%, respectively. Nineteen patients (13%) developed distant metastases (63% pulmonary, 68% extrapulmonary). Twenty-six primary tumors (33.8%) required multivisceral associated resection (32% of leiomyosarcoma; 14% of liposarcoma; 14% of other histologies). Histology and tumor grading have been identified as independent prognostic factors for LDFS. Leiomyosarcoma required a higher rate of multivisceral resections than liposarcoma, probably due to their infiltrative growth pattern; liposarcoma had a worse local control (5-year DSS 18% versus 79%). Long term survival was similar in the two groups (5-year DSS 87.6% versus 80.5%), likely related to due to the lower rate of distant metastases in the liposarcoma subgroup. Sex and grading predicted DSS. LDFS and DSS became increasingly shorter along with the number of recurrences.

Conclusions: Our data suggest that in RPS liposarcoma a more aggressive surgical policy should be adopted. Recurrent and multifocal tumors should require a multimodality approach because of the reduced chance of radical surgery.

E4* INDUCTION CHEMOTHERAPY WITH CARBOPLATIN AND TAXOL FOLLOWED BY RADIOTHERAPY AND CONCURRENT WEEKLY CARBOPLATIN + TAXOL IN LOCALLY ADVANCED NASOPHARYNGEAL CARCINOMA

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Background and purpose: in nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC), the role of chemotherapy (CT), remains controversial for the initial management of the disease. Recent trials and meta-analysis highlight that now, concomitant chemoradiationtherapy (CRT) appears to be the standard treatment for locally advanced (T2b and more) and/or node positive patients. No phase II trials have investigated a two-drug combination during conventional, non split, RT after a complete course of induction CT. Aim of this study is the evaluation of the clinical outcome of neoadjuvant CHT with carboplatin + taxol followed by RT with weekly carboplatin + taxol combination in locally advanced NPC observed in a non endemic population.

Materials and methods: patients with locoregionally advanced NPC were treated with three cycles of induction chemotherapy (CHT) with paclitaxel (175 mg/m2) plus carboplatin (AUC 6), followed by paclitaxel (60 mg/m2) plus carboplatin (AUC-1) and concomitant RT (70 Gy).

Results: In 30 patients treated with such protocol, after the completion of induction CHT and CRT we observed the objective response rates of 90% and 100%, respectively.

Treatment tolerability and toxicity were easily controllable. With a median follow-up...
time of 34 months, 3- and 5-year disease-free survival was 86% and 79% and 3- and 5-
year overall survival was 92% and 83%. Three- and 5-years locoregional control was 94% and 89%, and 5-year distant metastases free survival was 85%.

**Conclusions:** NACT with paclitaxel and carboplatin followed by paclitaxel plus

**Conclusion:** Significant changes in MGMT methylation status determined at first surgery appears to be of prognostic value, however it is not predictive of outcome following second surgery.

**Materials and Methods:** In this ongoing Phase II study patients with MG recurrent after standard treatment (surgery, radiation therapy and concomitant/adjuvant temozolomide) were eligible. Bevacizumab was administered on days 1 and 15 at 10 mg/Kg and Fotemustine (FTM) was administered weekly for 2 consecutive weeks (days 1 and 8) at 75 mg/m2 (induction phase), followed by a 3 weeks rest period. A maintenance therapy was started in non progressive patients, consisting of BV mg/kg and FTM mg/m2 every 3 weeks until progression or unacceptable toxicity. MRT was performed at baseline, at the end of the induction treatment (fifth week) and every 3-4 cycles. The co-primary endpoints are objective response rate (ORR), based on Macdonald’s criteria (CR+PR) and progression-free survival at 6 months (PFS6), with secondary endpoints of safety, time to tumor progression (TTP) and overall survival.

**Results:** From April 2008 to April 2009 41 patients were enrolled. The overall response rate (CR+PR) was 46% (39% in GBM, 58% in GBM III). The PFS-6 was 44% (38% in GBM, 48% in GBM III). The median TTP was 4 months (range: 1.2-10.3+ months) in GBM; 5 months in GBM III. The median overall survival was 5.6 months. A significant clinical improvement was seen in 50% of patients, with steroid reduction in 60%. Adverse events were haematological toxicity: grade 1-2 leukopenia in 5 patients, grade 3-4 in 3; grade 1-2 thrombocytopenia in 9 patients, grade 3-4 in 3, 1 nutramural asymptomatic microhemorrhages, 1 hypersensitive encephalopathy and 1 iatrogenic.

**Conclusions:** The combination of BV and FTM is an attractive treatment for recurrent high grade gliomas with acceptable toxicity. The correlations of MGMT status, perfusion MRI and response/outcome are ongoing.

**E6** THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE ON THE FEASIBILITY AND SAFETY OF IPILUMIMAB THERAPY IN PRETREATED METASTATIC MELANOMA PATIENTS

**Methods:** Clinical trials and single institution experiences have shown effective antitumor responses in pre-treated metastatic melanoma (MM) patients (pts) receiving the anti-CTLA-4 monoclonal antibody ipilimumab. We report the Italian (7 Institutions) experience on feasibility and safety of ipilimumab treatment of MM patients within a compassionate use program.

**Results:** Seventy-two pts (43 males, 29 females), median age 57 (23-80 years), ECOG performance status 0-2, with MM (51 cutaneous, 12 uveal, 2 mucosal, 7 unknown primary), progressing to 3 median (1-5) systemic therapies for metastatic disease initiated ipilimumab treatment between February and September 2008. In the induction phase (IF) pts received ipilimumab (10mg/Kg i.v.) q 4 weeks (wks) x 4 cycles; after a 12 wks rest, upon physician judgement, pts received maintenance dosing q 12 wks. First tumor assessment (TA) per modified World Health Organization criteria was performed at the end of the IF. Adverse Events (AE) were collected according to Common Toxicity Criteria for Adverse Events version 3.0.

**Results:** All pts received at least one ipilimumab dose, 43/72 completed the IF; the remaining 29 pts were withdrawn for early disease progression. Twenty out of 43 pts entered the MF. TA performed at the end of the IF showed partial response (PR) in 4 or stable disease in 12 pts with a clinical benefit of 22%. Grade 3 AE were reported in 8/
Background: MGMT methylation status has been found to be an important prognostic factor in glioblastoma patients (pts). However, further data on the epigenetic feature are needed before its role in rare diseases such as anaplastic astrocytomas (AA) can be established.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was made on a database of 139 AA pts followed prospectively from 01/1995 and 08/2008. We evaluated only pts who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥ 21 years; PS 0-2; histological diagnosis of AA; postoperative radiotherapy (RT) and chemotherapy (CT). MGMT status was determined with methylation specific PCR. The study aim was to evaluate the role of MGMT methylation status in AA. The log-rank test was employed to evaluate the significance of the prognostic variables.

Results: 80 pts (m/f: 46/34, median age: 41 years, range: 18 – 71 years) were enrolled. MGMT was assessable in 71 of 80 pts (88.8%), being methylated in 30 (42.9%) and unmethylated in 41 (57.7%) pts. Median PFS was 48 months (95%CI: 33.7 – 63.5), being 96 months (95%CI: 29-163) and 38 months (95%CI: 18.9-57.2) in MGMT methylated and unmethylated pts, respectively (p=0.09). At univariate analysis, complete resection (p=0.02), age (p=0.002), and KPS (p=0.003) were significantly correlated with PFS. At multivariate analysis only age remains correlated with PFS (p=0.01). Median survival (OS) was 93.7 months (95%CI: 63.5-123.6), being not reached and 77 months (95%CI: 20-134.2), in MGMT methylated and unmethylated pts, respectively (p=0.03). MGMT methylation (p=0.03), age (p=0.0003) and KPS (p=0.03) were significantly correlated with OS. At multivariate analysis, age (p=0.0002) and MGMT methylation (p=0.01) were correlated with a better OS.

Conclusions: MGMT methylation status is an independent prognostic factor together with age in AA. This datum should provide the background to improve the therapeutic index with temozolomide concurrent with and adjuvant to RT in AA.

E10 INTENSIVE INDUCTION CHEMOTHERAPY IN POOR-PROGNOSIS ADULT PNPET PATIENTS: A SINGLE INSTITUTION EXPERIENCE

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Objective and Methods: To evaluate the impact of intensive versus conventional chemotherapy (CT), as induction treatment before high-dose chemotherapy (HDCT) for treatment of poor-prognosis (local advanced, metastatic or relapsed) adult patients with PNPET. Conventional-dose induction CT (CDICT) consisted of 3-5 cycles of ifosfamide/vincristine/epirubicin (IVE) followed by high-dose cyclophosphamide (CY) or etoposide also given for peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) mobilization. Intensive-dose induction CT (IDICT) consisted of 2-5 cycles of IVE alternating 1-3 cycles of carboplatin/CY/etoposide (mAPEIC) supported by PBSC collected following the first cycle of IVE. Only pts in response or stable disease after induction CT proceeded to HDCT. Various conditioning regimens for HDCT were utilized. In case of local advanced disease, surgery and radiotherapy were performed when feasible in course of treatment.

Results: From 1997 to 2006, 31 consecutive pts (16 CDICT, 15 IDICT) with median age of 26 yrs, were treated at Our Institution. Disease was advanced in 44%, metastatic in 44%, relapsed in 12%. Five pts had radical surgery at diagnosis and were not evaluable for response. Overall response rate (ORR) after CDICT and IDICT were 67% (CR 8%, PR 59%) (CR 6%, PR 44%, SD 6%) and 57% (CR 28% PR 29%), respectively. HDCT was performed in 23 pts (72%). At the end of the whole treatment ORR was 58% (CR 50%, PR 8%) and 56% (CR 43%, PR 7%) in CDICT vs IDICT groups, respectively. With a median follow-up of 14 months (range 2-130), median time to progression (TTP) and median OS were 10 vs 11 months and 15 vs 12 months for CDICT vs IDICT groups, respectively. One transplant-related death occurred.

Conclusions: In our series of adult patients with pPNET the use of intensive CT in the induction phase of treatment did not provide additional benefit over conventional therapy.

E11 THE CALCIUM-BINDING PROTEIN S100A13 CORRELATES WITH AN ANGIOGENIC PHENOTYPE IN MALIGNANT MELANOMA

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Background: In malignant melanomas angiogenesis and metastatization are sustained by the synthesis and release of pro-angiogenic molecules, such as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and fibroblast growth factors (FGF), and promotion of increased vascular permeability and endothelial cell proliferation. S100A13 is a small calcium (Ca2+)–binding protein belonging to the S100 family. This protein is crucial for the release of angiogenic and pro-inflammatory substances, such as FGF1 and IL1α, suggesting a possible role in neoplastic progression and metastatization. Several members of the S100 family, including S100A4, S100A6, S100A7 and S100A10, are overexpressed in cancer cells, compared to normal cells, and foster more aggressive phenotypes. S100A13 and VEGF-A are up-regulated in human astrocytic gliomas and correlate with microvessel density and tumour grading. Moreover, S100A13 is associated with a more aggressive, invasive phenotype in lung cancer-derived cell lines.

Materials and Methods: To determine the involvement of S100A13 in human melanoma, we studied a series of 66 cutaneous melanocytic lesions: common melanocytic nevi (n=14), atypical or dysplastic nevi (n=14), BCP (n=10) and VGP (n=19) melanomas, and metastases (n=9). Main clinical and pathological features, including outcome, Clark’s level, histotype, growth phase and mitotic activity were recorded. Blood microvessel density was determined with CD105/endoglin staining; inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), S100A13, FGF1 and VEGF mRNA and proteins were detected by real time PCR and immunostaining, respectively.

Results: The expression of S100A13 was significantly up-regulated in dysplastic nevi and melanomas, correlated to benign nevi (p=0.01). Expression of S100A13 correlated positively with the level of VEGF staining (p=0.01), but not with FGF1 which was widely expressed in all lesions. S100A13 and VEGF were both associated with CD105/endoglin expression (p=0.007 and p=0.001 respectively). No correlation was found between S100A13 and iNOS. While VEGF correlated with risk of relapse (p=0.006), S100A13 protein expression was not associated with status at follow up.

Conclusion: S100A13 may cooperate with VEGF in supporting an angiogenic phenotype in human melanoma.

E12 EFFICACY OF TRABECTEDIN (ET-743) IN PRETREATED PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED/METASTATIC SOFT TISSUE SARCOMA

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Background: Trabectedin is a tris, tetrahydroisoquinoline alkaloid isolated from the marine ascidian Eudistoma eudelesea. It is the first of a new class of antitumor agents with a mechanism of action that involves the transcription-dependent nucleotide excision repair system. It has recently received approval, as a second-line therapy, for soft tissue sarcoma (STS). We report the experience of seven Italian centers of medical oncology.

Methods: Thirty patients (pts) with advanced/metastatic STS are included in the analysis. All pts included had failed or progressed on 21 lines of chemotherapy (4 pts have made 1 previous line, 3 two previous lines, 4 three previous lines and 2 four previous lines). Trabectedin was administered at 1.3 mg/m2 as a 24-hour IV infusion every 3 weeks with 20 mg of dexamethasone premedication at T-12 and T-0. Disease assessment was performed on every 2-3 courses utilizing RECIST criteria.

Results: Median age was 56 (range 36-72), M/F 7 (53.8%)/6 (46.2%). ECOG PS 0/1 was 5 (38.5%)/8 (61.5%). Median cycles was 3 (range 2-6). Twelve pts are evaluable for response and toxicity, one pts is too early. Partial response was obtained in 5 pts (38.5 %) (1 pts liposarcoma, 3 pts myxoid liposarcoma and 1 pts synovial sarcoma); stable disease in 2 (15.4%) (1 pts liposarcoma and 1 pts leiomyosarcoma) and progression disease in 5 pts (38.5%) (2 pts liposarcoma, 1 pts liposarcoma, 1 pts myxoid liposarcoma and 1 pts carcinosarcoma).

Hematologic toxicity grade 3 was observed in 2 pts (1 pts neutropenia, 1 pts anemia) and grade 2 in 2 pts (anemia). A laboratory transaminase elevation was seen in 13 pts: patient 1 grade 2 and grade 6. All hematotoxic-Diabetic pts. These pts have developed anemia grade 2.

Conclusions: Trabectedin is an active drug in advanced pre-treated STS patients. It has an acceptable and manageable toxicity profile.
E13 POTENTIAL ROLE OF PHOSPHO PROTEIN KINASE B/AKT IN THE PROGRESSION OF Glioblastoma

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Glioblastoma has a poor prognosis with a median overall survival of 12-14 months, despite the multimodal treatment. Therefore, new therapeutic approaches are the role under investigation, mainly taylored to peculiar targets of the disease. Protein-kinase B (Akt) has been shown to have a pro-survival role also in cancer and it would possibly represent a marker of interest for glioblastoma. We retrospectively evaluated the role of Akt at the diagnosis and at the relapse in a casistic of 42 glioblastoma patients (median age 52), homogenous for surgical-medical treatment received. Paraflin-embedded tissue samples of normal autopic brain were studied by immunohistochemical analysis for total and phosphoAkt expression both at the time of the diagnosis and of the relapse. Akt expression was also correlated to tissue samples morphology including necrosis and vacuolization. In clear contrast with normal brain tissue samples found negative both for total and phosphoAkt, all glioblastoma patients at the diagnosis were positive for total Akt with 41/42 of them positive for phosphoAkt. Focusing on this active form of Akt, we observed an increasing trend of its expression at the relapse, with 10 patients becoming strong positive. Interestingly none of the patients did decrease phosphoAkt expression at the time of relapse. High phosphoAkt expression at the diagnosis correlated with earlier relapse (median time to progression 11 months in strong positive vs 13.4 months in weak positive patients). This finding was evident also at different time points during the follow-up: at five months after surgery strong positive phosphoAkt patients at the diagnosis relapsed in a double percentage compared with the weak positive subjects. Tumor neovascularization was found highly positive for phosphoAkt. Furthermore, phosphoAkt was increased at the periphery of “pseudopalisade” necrosis, but not in the diffuse form. Our data suggest a critical role of phosphoAkt in the pathogenesis and progression of glioblastoma; however, prospective studies with a larger number of patients are needed to support our findings.

E14 IPILIMUMAB IN THE DAILY PRACTICE: FEASIBILITY, SAFETY, EFFICACY AND LONG-TERM FOLLOW-UP IN HEAVILY PRETREATED METASTATIC MELANOMA PATIENTS

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Background: Effective anti-tumor responses are being observed in metastatic melanoma (MM) patients (pts) treated with the anti-CTLA-4 antibody ipilimumab in clinical trials; however, no data support the feasibility and clinical effectiveness of ipilimumab use in the daily practice of MM. We report on a single Institution experience utilizing ipilimumab within a compassionate program for MM pts.

Methods: 27 stage III (2) or IV (25) pts (14 males, 13 females), median age 55 (23-77) years, ECOG performance status 0-1, with MM (23 cutaneous, 3 uveal, 1 mucosal) and 2 pts Grade 3 irAE (diarrhea). In the induction phase (IF) pts received ipilimumab (10mg/kg iv) q3 weeks (wks) x 4 cycles after a 12 wks rest, treatment was repeated q12 wks in the maintenance phase (MF). Tumor assessment (TA) at modified World Health Organization criteria was performed at baseline, week (wk) 12, wk 24, then every 24 wks. Adverse Events (AE) and immune related AE (irAE) were collected according to Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse events version 3.0.

Results: All pts received at least one ipilimumab dose, and 10/14 completed the IF. The remaining 4 pts were withdrawn for early disease progression, while 4 pts entered the MF and are still on treatment. TA at wk 12 showed partial response (PR) in 1/15 or stable disease (SD) in 3/10 pts; TA at wk 24 showed PR and SD in 1/4 and 3/4 pts, respectively, with a clinical benefit (SD+PR) of 22%. As previously reported for cutaneous MM, slow, steady decline in tumor volume and appearance of new lesions with subsequent shrinking has been observed. No grade 3/4 AE and irAE were reported. Median overall survival is 32 (2-82) wks.

Conclusions: Ipilimumab administration in pretreated uveal MM pts is feasible and safe. A sizeable proportion of treated pts experienced clinical benefit, with extended survival. These data, thought preliminary and in a limited number of pts, suggest that uveal MM might represent a promising indication for ipilimumab treatment to be further investigated.

E15 IPILIMUMAB IN PRETREATED METASTATIC UVEAL MELANOMA PATIENTS: SAFETY AND CLINICAL EFFICACY

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Background: The anti-CTLA-4 monoclonal antibody ipilimumab induces anti-tumor responses in cutaneous metastatic melanoma (MM) patients (pts). However, no data are available on the clinical effectiveness of ipilimumab treatment in uveal MM pts. We report the European (7 institutions) experience utilizing ipilimumab in uveal MM pts.

Methods: Fourteen stage IV pts (8 male, 6 female), median age 57 (30-76) years, ECOG performance status 0-1, with uveal MM progressing to 2 median (1-4) previous therapies for metastatic disease received ipilimumab within a compassionate use program. Thirteen pts had history (1) or evidence (12) of liver metastases, 2 of brain metastases and 3 of elevated (>1 upper limit of normal [ULN]) LDH values. In the induction phase (IF) pts received ipilimumab (10mg/kg iv) q3 wks (wks) x 4 cycles after a 12 wks rest, treatment was repeated q12 wks in the maintenance phase (MF). Tumor assessment (TA) per modified World Health Organization criteria was evaluated at baseline, at week (wk) 12 and wk 24, then every 24 wks. Adverse Events (AE) and immune related AE (irAE) were collected according to Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse events version 3.0.

Results: All pts received at least one ipilimumab dose, and 10/14 completed the IF. The remaining 4 pts were withdrawn for early disease progression, while 4 pts entered the MF and are still on treatment. TA at wk 12 showed partial response (PR) in 1/15 or stable disease (SD) in 3/10 pts; TA at wk 24 showed PR and SD in 1/4 and 3/4 pts, respectively, with a clinical benefit (SD+PR) of 22%. As previously reported for cutaneous MM, slow, steady decline in tumor volume and appearance of new lesions with subsequent shrinking has been observed. No grade 3/4 AE and irAE were reported. Median overall survival is 32 (2-82) wks.

Conclusions: Ipilimumab administration in pretreated uveal MM pts is feasible and safe. A sizeable proportion of treated pts experienced clinical benefit, with extended survival. These data, thought preliminary and in a limited number of pts, suggest that uveal MM might represent a promising indication for ipilimumab treatment to be further investigated.
E17 ROLE OF MAIN CANCER DIAGNOSTIC GENES (p16\textsuperscript{CDKN2A}, BRC2, MC1R, NRAS, BRAF) IN SUSCEPTIBILITY AND PATHOGENESIS OF MELANOMA

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Background: Several genetic alterations have been demonstrated to contribute to development and progression of melanoma (melanomagenesis). In this study, we further investigated the impact of key-regulator genes in melanoma pathogenesis and susceptibility.

Methods: A large series of sporadic and familial cases (N=846) originating from South Italy was screened for germline mutations in p16\textsuperscript{CDKN2A}, BRC2, and MC1R candidate genes by DHPLC analysis and automated DNA sequencing. Melanoma cell lines (N=18) as well as paired primary melanomas and lymph node metastases from the same patients (N=50) were analyzed for somatic mutations in NRAS, BRAF, and p16\textsuperscript{CDKN2A} genes.

Results: Mutually-exclusive mutations of NRAS and BRAF genes were observed at quite similar frequency (about two thirds) in cultured and in vivo melanomas (either primary or metastatic lesions). Conversely, p16\textsuperscript{CDKN2A} mutations were observed at increased rates moving from primary to metastatic melanomas and melanoma cell lines. No Pten mutation was found in melanoma cell lines from our series. Activation of the RAS-RAF-ERK pathway was demonstrated to be due to a combination of molecular alterations (mainly, NRAS/BRAF mutations and p16\textsuperscript{CDKN2A} silencing).

Regarding genetic predisposition to melanoma, p16\textsuperscript{CDKN2A} was found exclusively mutated in 16/545 (2.9%) non-Sardinian patients, whereas BRC2 germline mutations were observed in 4/91 (4.4%) patients from North Sardinia only. Two MC1R germline mutations, Arg515Gly and Asp294His, were significantly associated with melanoma in Sardinia.

Conclusions: Our findings further clarified that multiple molecular events are accumulating during melanomagenesis as well as that genetic factors predisposing to melanoma are heterogeneous and strictly depending on patients’ origin. On this latter regard, prevalence of mutations in melanoma susceptibility genes needs to be evaluated within each specific geographical area.

E18 CLINICAL AND IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF MULTIPLE PRIMARY MELANOMAS TO IDENTIFY FAMILIAL MELANOMA SYNDROME

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Background: The development of Multiple Primary Melanomas (MPM) represents an intriguing phenomenon from both the clinical and the biomolecular point of view. MPM can arise in a patient either synchronously or metachronously and constitutes one of the criteria for identifying families with hereditary melanoma. p16 immunohistochemical analysis has been used to detect CDKN2A alterations although its role as a preliminary screening test is debated. In this study, we evaluated the clinical, immunohistochemical and biomolecular features in a series of MPM patients.

Methods: Detailed personal and family history were obtained for each patient. Expression of p16, p53, b-catenin, Eradchlin, MLH1 and MSH2 genes was evaluated by immunohistochemistry (IHC). Constitutional mutations in the p16 gene were searched for by gene sequencing.

Results: 27 unrelated patients were identified who had been diagnosed with at least two primary melanomas. The median age at diagnosis was 54.08 years (range 21–94 years) and there were 16 males and 11 females. More than 30% of MPM patients had a positive family history of melanoma. In this familial group, the median age of malignant melanoma (MM) diagnosis was 50.02 years. Hereditary melanoma in patients with germline mutation L63P in the p16 gene shows disappearance of p16 staining from the nucleus, and weak immunoreactivity in the cytoplasm.

E19 DIFFERENTIATED NEUROENDOCRINE TUMORS (NETS): ANALYSIS OF 86 CASES TREATED WITH LONG ACTING SOMATOSTATINE ANALOGUES (SSA)

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Background: Somatostatine analogues represent an important therapeutic choice for NETs. SSA have demonstrated activity in symptomatic control, but only few data in terms of time to progression (TTP) and overall survival (OS) have been reported. In pre-SSA era median OS was 26 and 67 months in foregut and midgut NETS respectively from start of treatment.

The aim of this analysis is to evaluate the outcome of patients treated with SSA.

Materials and Methods: From June 1997 to January 2009, 86 pts with metastatic NETs were treated with SSA in our center. Patients characteristics: median age 63 years (range 24-84); males 54; females 30; pancreatic 30; gastrointestinal 48; other sites 9; functioning 37; non-functioning 49; symptomatic 51; metastatic disease at diagnosis 73; 77 pts had surgery; 76 patients had a positive Octreoscan; 79 pts had SSA as first-line therapy; 7 pts had previous therapy: IFN 2, s.c. Somatostatin 2, TACE 1, Radiotoxic therapy 1, Chemotherapy 1. All pts received SSA: Lanreotide 37, Octreotide 49.

Results: Median TTP was 22 months (CI 95% 16,2-27,5). Statistically significant differences were obtained between: symptomatic and not symptomatic disease (24 vs 17 months; p=0,05); pancreatic, gastrointestinal and other sites (22 vs 23 vs 12 months, p=0,049).

Median OS was 113 months (CI 95% 63-163); no statistically significant differences were observed among subgroups.

Conclusions: NETs have generally an indolent growth, but prognosis remains poor. This retrospective analysis suggests that SSA can improve the outcome of this disease. Further studies are required to identify biological markers for new combined therapies.

E20 DERMATOFIBROSARCOMA PROTUBERANS (DFSP) AND FIBROSAOMATOUS (''HIGH-GRADE'') DFSP: A MONO-INSTITUTIONAL RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

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Background: DFSP and its fibrosarcomatous variant (FS-DFSP) are rare soft-tissue tumors accounting for 1,4% of all sarcomas. A retrospective analysis of our experience is reported.

Material and Methods: Patients with a diagnosis of DFSP and DF-DSFP performed at our institute between 1982 and 2009 were identified. Two pathologists reviewed the slides and agreed on the diagnosis. Demographic data, tumor related characteristics and treatments were collected.

Results: The study included 51 patients (22 female, 29 male); median age 43 years (range 7-91). Seventeen (33%) had tumors in the lower limb, 15 (30%) in the upper limb, 19 in the trunk (37%). Eleven cases were pathology consultations and the survival analysis was made on 40 patients surgically treated at IOR. Previous surgical treatments (from 1 to 3 median 1) were documented in 36 (90%) patients. Thirty-seven (92%) patients had localized disease and 3 (8%) were had metastases. 39 patients underwent surgery whereas 1 patient refused an amputation. A fibrosarcomatous variant was detected in 13 (32.5%) patients. Adequate surgical margins were reported in 73% of patients. Radiotherapy (RT) was added in 11 patients (7 with FS-DFSP). Ibosamide and/or doxorubicin-based chemotherapy was administered to 3 patients with FS-DFSP. Two patients were lost to follow-up. Incidence of local recurrence was 42% in FS-DFSP and 15% in DFSP. Three FS-DFSP patients developed distant metastases whereas none of DFSP did. With a median follow-up of 48 months (1-184), the 5-year overall survival (OS) was 90%. The 5-year event-free survival (EFS) was 69% in localized patients. Histology (DFSP 65% vs. FS-DFSP 38%, p = 0.014), surgical margins (adequate 74% vs. inadequate 56%, p = 0.032) and site (limb 49% vs. trunk 100%, p = 0.02) influenced the 5-year EFS, whereas sex, use of RT or number of previous operations did not.

Conclusions: Patients with DFSP have a high survival probability. Site, adequate surgical margins and presence of the fibrosarcomatous component influence the local and metastatic recurrence.
E21 PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF MGMT METHYLATION STATUS IN PATIENTS WITH 1p/19q INTACT ANAPLATIC GLIOMAS

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Background: Chromosomes 1p/19q codelletion has been recognized as a prognostic and predictive factor in patients (pts) with anaplastic gliomas (AG). Non-codelleted (intact) anaplastic oligodendroglioma showed a survival comparable to that usually observed in pts with anaplastic astrocytomas; MGMT methylation status, moreover, has been found to be a prognostic factor in glioblastoma and anaplastic glioma.

Methods: A retrospective analysis was made using a database of 235 AG pts followed prospectively between 01/1998 and 11/2008. We evaluated only pts who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥ 18 years; PS 0-2; histological diagnosis of AG with 1p/19q intact, as determined by FISH analysis; treatment with postoperative radiotherapy (RT) and chemotherapy (CT); MGMT status determined using methylation specific PCR. The study aim was to evaluate the role of MGMT methylation status in 1p/19q codelleted AG pts. The log-rank test was used to evaluate the significance of the prognostic values.

Results: 75 pts (m/f=39/36; median age: 40 years; range: 18-70 years) were enrolled. Histology was anaplastic oligodendroglioma in 19 pts, anaplastic oligoastrocytoma in 22 pts and anaplastic astrocytoma in 34 pts; all these pts were 1p/19q intact and received surgery, RT and CT. MGMT status, assessable in 66 pts (88%), was methylated in 38 pts (57.6%) and unmethylated in 37 pts (49.3%). Median progression-free survival (PFS) was 27 months (95%CI: 1.3 – 40.9). In multivariate analysis, no enhancement at time of diagnosis (p=0.03) and gross total resection (p=0.04) were significantly correlated with better PFS. Median survival was 74 months (95%CI: 53.9-92.1). In multivariate analysis, only age (p=0.005) and KPS (p=0.045) correlated with a better survival.

Conclusions: MGMT methylation status does not seem to provide adjunctive prognostic information in pts with 1p/19q intact AG.

E23 GLIOMATOSIS CEREBRI: A SINGLE INSTITUTION REPORT

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Glomiasis cerebri (GC) is defined as a diffuse neoplastic glial cell infiltration of the brain involving more than two cerebral lobes. Diagnosis and management of GC are difficult. Because of its diffuse nature, surgery is not suitable and large field radiotherapy carries the risk of severe toxicity.

Between May 2006 and February 2008, 6 patients (pts) (M-F=3-3; median age at diagnosis: 69 years; range: 44-74) were diagnosed with GC based on radiological characteristics and histological findings at University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. The aim of this retrospective analysis is to study clinical characteristics, the role of temozolomide and outcome of these pts. The analysis was performed using clinical charts, radiological investigations and pathological examinations.

Five pts underwent a stereotactic biopsy (positive for neoplastic cells in 2 out 5 cases), while only 1 pt was submitted to surgery (partial excision). Based on it, histological specimen was diagnostic in 3 out 6 pts and it was as follows: 1 low grade astrocytoma (G1-2), 1 high grade astrocytoma (G3) and 1 low grade oligoastrocytoma (G2). In 3 pts the diagnosis was only on neuroradiologic investigations. Four pts received an antineoplastic treatment for GC (66%). One pts (16%) was submitted to whole brain radiotherapy (34 Gy) and subsequent chemotherapy with temozolomide, while 3 pts (50%) received chemotherapy with temozolomide. The median number of cycles delivered was 5 (range: 2-7). Only one pt developed a grade 1 hematologic toxicity (the one who received also radiotherapy). Median time to tumor progression was 6 months (range: 2-20), with a median survival of 16 months.

Survival data are similar to the literature. In this setting temozolomide is well tolerated and these results indicate that radiotherapy to extensive brain regions can be deferred until progressive disease is observed.

E24 PHASE I STUDY OF NON-PEGYLATED LIPOosomal DOxorubicin IN COMBINATION WITH IFosfAMIDE IN ADULT PATients WITH METASTATIC SOFT TISSUE SARCOMAS

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Aim: To evaluate the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and safety of the combination of non-pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (Myocet) and ifosfamide in patients with metastatic soft tissue sarcomas.

Methods: Cohorts of four patients with metastatic soft tissue sarcomas received up to five cycles of intravenous ifosfamide 3000 mg/m² on days 1-3 in combination with escalating doses of intravenous Myocet on day 1 every 3 weeks until dose limiting toxicity (DLT) in at least one patient. Myocet was planned to be escalated through 10mg/m² increments / cohort from 40 to 80 mg/m². Toxicity (DLT) in at least one patient. Myocet was planned to be escalated through 10mg/m² increments / cohort from 40 to 80 mg/m². Toxicity was graded according to National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria v3.0.

Results: Ten patients were enrolled in the study and 8 of them received the treatment. Median age was 45 years, 5 patients were female. Two patients had received 1 cycle of prior chemotherapy. DLT, consisting of grade IV neutropenic fever, was reached in one patient at dose cohort 2 (50 mg/m²).

Conclusion: The MTD of Myocet, given in combination with ifosfamide 9000 mg/m², is 40 mg/m². A prospective study to define the activity of this combination is ongoing.

E25 NEW SCHEDULE OF FOTEmustine IN TEMOZOlamide-Pretreated PATients WITH RELapsing GLIoblastoma

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The present study aims to define the feasibility and the effectiveness of a new biweekly schedule of Fotemustine in patients with recurrent Glioblastoma, after at least a previous treatment. Primary endpoint was progression-free survival at 6 months, other secondary objectives were: clinical response, overall survival, disease free survival and toxicity. Forty-one patients (median age: 53 years; median Karnovsky performance status at progression: 80) underwent a second-line chemotherapy with
Fotemustine. Selected patients were previously treated with a standard Radiotherapy course with concomitant Chemotherapy. After MR1- proven tumor relapse or progression, all patients underwent chemotherapy with Fotemustine, given intravenously 80mg/m² every two weeks, for 5 consecutive administrations (induction phase) and then every 3 weeks at 100 mg/m² as maintenance. Toxicity grading was based on the National Cancer Institute’s Common Criteria (version 2.0). A total of 338 infusions were administered; the median number of cycles administered was 8. All patients completed the induction phase and 29 patients received at least one infusion of maintenance. Response to treatment was assessed on MacDonald criteria. One complete response (2.4%), nine partial responses (22%) and 17 cases with stable disease (41%) were observed. Median time to progression was 6.3 months. Progression free survival at 6 months was 53.6%. Median survival from the beginning of Fotemustine chemotherapy was 10.2 months. The schedule was generally well tolerated, and the main toxicities seen were hematologic (grade 3 thrombocytopenia in 2 cases). To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report specifically dealing with the use of biweekly induction schedule of Fotemustine. The study demonstrates that Fotemustine has therapeutic efficacy as single-drug second-line chemotherapy with a favorable safety profile.

E26 NEMO (NF-KB ESSENTIAL MODULATOR) BINDING DOMAIN (NDB) PEPTIDE COULD INDUCE APOPTOSIS IN SEVERAL MELANOMA CELL LINES

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Background: Recent evidences indicate that activation of nuclear factor-kappa B (NF-kB) could play a role in melanoma progression. NF-kB is able to regulate the expression and the function of a wide spectrum of genes involved in cell cycle control, apoptosis, cell growth, tissue invasion and inflammation. For this reason NF-kB is persistently activated in many types of human tumors, promotes developing tumor cell from death and thereby contributes to tumorigenesis and cancer therapy resistance (Lee CH et al. 2007). NF-kB is anchored and blocked outside the nucleus, under physiological conditions, by a family of cytoplasmic inhibitors, IKK. NF-kB is activated by IKK kinase complex (IKK), consisting of two catalytic subunits, IKK alpha and IKK beta, and a regulatory component, IKK gamma, also named NF-kB Essential Modulator (NEMO) (Karin M 2006). Recent advances revealed that a very small region in the COOH terminus of IKKalpha, (L738-L743), and IKKbeta (L737-L742), was essential for stable interaction with NEMO, and for the assembly of the IKK–NEMO complex. The identification of the NEMO- binding domain (NDB) peptide that can block the activation of the IKK kinase (IKK) complex, have provided the possibility to selectively modulate the activation of NF-kB by targeting the NBD–NEMO interaction. NBD peptides inhibited the interaction of IKK with NEMO in vitro and prevented formation of the endogenous IKK complex. Recently, we demonstrated that the administration of NBD peptide in A375 cells line produces inhibition of constitutive NF-kB DNA binding activity and inhibition of IKK activity. We also showed that NBD peptide inhibits A375 cell growth, inducing apoptosis by activation of caspase-3, as confirmed the cleavage of poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP-1), the best marker of this process (Iannizio A. et al 2008).

Aim of our research is to investigate the effect of the NBD- peptide on NF-kB activity and survival of different melanoma cell lines (397, SK-Mel 28, B16-F10, M14), which present different mutations in several genes. This confirms a possible role of NF-kB in melanoma progression and, furthermore, blocking NF-kB activity it’s possible to induce apoptosis in melanoma cell lines. The administration of NBD peptide could modulate NF-kB activity which could be critical for melanoma cell survival in melanoma cell lines and could offer new possible therapeutic strategies for melanoma.

E28 COMPARATIVE STUDY OF QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) IN PATIENTS AFFECTED FROM SARCOMA AND NON SARCOMATOUS ONCOLOGICAL DISEASES


Introduction: The importance of QOL issues for cancer patients is well recognized either by clinicians or by patients and their families. Over the past several decades, numerous studies have addressed the investigation on physical, emotional, social well-being of cancer patients mainly during the period of active oncological care.

Aim of this study was the QoL in pts with soft tissue and bone sarcomas compared to the patients with different oncological diseases, in order to clarify the possible differences in psychological attitude and coping.

Patients and method: QoL was assessed with Functional Assessment in Cancer Therapy-General and Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale questionnaires. FACT-G has 34 items investigating physical, functional, emotional and social/family well-being. HADS scale was created as screening instrument to evaluate anxiety and depression symptoms in hospital patients; it consists of 2 subscales and 14 items. From January 2007 to December 2008 the questionnaires were administered in the 2 different groups: 42 pts with sarcomas and 42 patients with common tumours (breast, colon). All pts were under active chemotherapy.

Comparison between the groups was performed by K Cohen system.

Results: The 2 groups were well balanced in age, sex, PS and stage of disease. Therapies were distinguished between adjuvant and palliative settings.

The 2 groups recorded similar result in agreement of the patient-doctor relationship (52% sarcomas vs 51% other tumours), in familiar, social (50% vs 52%) and functional satisfaction (57% vs 59%).

Conclusion: Our comparative study put in evidence that sarcomas patients present a different coping during the active treatment of the disease.

The rarity of the disease, the lack of diffuse expertise among the clinicians, the need to move from far away to be treated in a Specialized Center added to the difficulties in movement and everyday activities can explain the worst results.

E29 PINEOBLASTOMA IN ADULTS: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Background: Pineoblastoma (PB) is an extremely rare brain tumour in adults, and only occasional data are available about the treatment of these diseases.

Methods: A retrospective analysis of our brain tumors database was found to evaluate the management and outcomes of adults PB patients followed between January 1989 and December 2008. We evaluated only pts who met the following inclusion criteria: age ≥18 years; PS 0-2; histological diagnosis of PB.

Results: Nine patients were included into the analysis (m/f: 4/5; median age: 33 range: 18-44). Median follow up was 48 months (range: 20 – 147). Surgical resection was complete in 4 patients and partial in 5 patients. All but one patients showed positive cerebrospinal fluid. All the patients received whole brain and craniospinal irradiation. In patients with residual disease after surgery, radiotherapy showed 1 complete
E30 DOSE ESCALATED ACCELERATED INTENSITY MODULATED RADIATION THERAPY (IMRT) CONCURRENT WITH TEMOZOLAMIDE IN PATIENTS WITH GLOBIOMASTIA (GBM): A PHASE I STUDY

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Introduction: The primary objective of this study was to define the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of escalating total doses of radiotherapy delivered concurrently with a daily fixed dose of temozolomide, within the same overall treatment time, after resection of GBM.

Methods and Materials: Patients with resected primary supratentorial GBM were enrolled. Chemotherapy with temozolomide was administered during (75 mg/day) and for one year after IMRT (150-250 mg/day, for five consecutive days, every four weeks). IMRT targeted the residual tumor (if any) and the tumoral bed plus a 1 cm margin (Clinical Target Volume, CTV-1), the peri-tumoral edema plus a 2 cm margin (CTV-2). The planning target volumes (PTV-1 and PTV-2) were obtained by adding a homogeneous 5 mm margin to CTVs. IMRT was delivered in 25 fractions, within an overall treatment time of 5 weeks. A total dose of 45 Gy was given to PTV-2. Radiation dose escalation was planned for PTV-1 only. The starting radiation dose was 60.0 Gy within five weeks (2.4 Gy/fraction). Escalation was achieved up to a total dose of 65.0 Gy (2.6 Gy/fraction), by increasing the fraction size by 0.1 Gy, while keeping constant the duration of IMRT to 5 weeks. Acute toxicity was graded according to RTOG/EORTC criteria.

Results: Nineteen patients were enrolled (60.0 Gy: 7 patients; 62.5 Gy: 6 patients, 65.0 Gy: 6 patients). After a median follow-up period of 23 months (range: 8-40 months) no dose-limiting toxicities (acute Grade 3-4 reversible central nervous system toxicities) were observed at any dose level. Central nervous system and cutaneous toxicities (grade 1-2) were recorded in 11 and 8 patients, respectively.

Conclusions: The results of our study indicate that a total radiation dose up to 65.0 Gy (2.6 Gy/fraction) concurrently with temozolomide (75 mg/m2) can be safely administered after the total tumor bed or residual tumor after resection of GBM, using IMRT. Phase two studies could be proposed in order to investigate the feasibility of this adjuvant treatment regimen.

E31 VINCristine, DOxorubicin, CYCLOphosphamide, ACTINomycin D, IFOSFamide and ETOPoside IN Adult and PEDIatric PATIents WITH NON METASTATIC EwING SARCOMA. FINAL RESULTS OF A MONOINSTITUTIONAL STUDY

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Background: To investigate a six-drug combination in adult and pediatric patients with non metastatic Ewing sarcoma (ES).

Methods: Alternating cycles of vincristine 1.5mg/m2 (TOP 2mg), doxorubicin 80mg/m2 and cyclofosfamide 1200mg/m2 (week 0,6,12,21,31), ifosfamide 9g/m2, vincristine 1.5mg/m2 (TOP 2mg) and actinomycin D 1.5mg/m2 (TOP 2mg) (week 3,16,25,34), ifosfamide 9g/m2 and etoposide 450mg/m2 (week 9,19,28,37) were administered. Primary chemotherapy-induced necrosis was graded: G3 (complete necrosis), G2 (microscopic of tumor cells) and G1 (macroscopic of tumor cells).

Results: From 1996 to 1999, 50 patients with ES were enrolled; median age 23.5 years (4-36 years). In adult and pediatric (<18 years) patients the incidence of G4 leukopenia was 62% and 74% with febrile neutropenia in 13% and 21% respectively. G4 thrombocytopenia occurred in 3% of cycles in adults and in 7% in pediatric patients. Platelets and red blood cells transfusions were required in 1% and 17% of cycles in adults and in 6% and 24% of cycles in pediatric patients. Chemoinduced necrosis (in 28 patients) was G3 in 36%, G2 in 21% and G1 in 43%. With a median follow-up of 11 months (36-129) 5-year OS and EFS were 72% and 66%. The 5-year EFS was 58% for adult patients and 79% for pediatric patients (p = 0.004). According to the historic response, the 5-year EFS was 90% and 83% in G3 and G2, and 42% in G1 (p = 0.02).

Conclusions: The 6-drug combination can be administered safely in adult populations. About 40% of patients have a poor chemoinduced tumor necrosis leading to poor probability of survival. New strategies are recommended to improve survival of poor responders to the 6-drug combination.
E34  PHASE II TRIAL OF INDUCTION STANDARD DOSE OF TEMOZOLAMIDE FOLLOWED BY TEMOZOLAMIDE AND CONCURRENT RADIOSURGICAL TREATMENT IS EFFECTIVE TREATMENT IN SINGLE BRAIN METASTASIS FROM SOLID TUMORS

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Background: Brain metastases occur in approximately 40% of all cancer patients with metastatic disease and are associated with a poor prognosis. Many patients can present a progression of disease in the brain with single lesions, which do not always determine the onset of neurological symptoms. Surgery or localized radiosurgery (SRS) is suggested as an accepted therapeutic option for those patients who have only a single brain lesion. Temozolamide is oral alkylating agent with a good safety profile which crosses the blood brain barrier, reaching an effective concentration in the CNS, and has shown activity against many solid tumors.

Patients and Methods: Objective of the study is to assess the efficacy and safety of induction therapy with orally temozolamide at a dose of 250 mg/m² qg.1-5, followed after 2 weeks of combined treatment of orally temozolamide 100 mg/m² continued with stereotactic radiotherapy (total dose 2500 cGy for 5 days), followed subsequent 4 cycles orally temozolamide 250 mg/m² qg. 1-5 every 4 weeks. From 06/2008 to 02/2009 6 cancer patients (pts) with metastatic single brain metastasis less than 3 cm in diameter received this treatment. Median age was 62 years, and PS was 0-1, 2 and 3 in 2, 3 and 1 patients. NSCLC/breast cancer respectively 3/3.

Results: All patients were evaluable for toxicity and for response. Toxicity was: grade 1 thrombocytopenia (50 %); grade 1 anemia (33 %), grade 1 asthenia ( 33 %). 3/6 patients experienced RC; 2/6 patients experienced SD.

Conclusions: The results of this study show that the combination is highly efficacious improving survival and quality of life. These results confirm the effectiveness and the good profile of toxicity of the combination treatment.

E35  INTEGRATED REGIMEN THERAPEUTIC FOR MELANOMA ADVANCED

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Advanced in public awareness, surgical techniques, and adjuvant therapy have improved outcomes for patients with melanoma; however, it remains a highly morbid disease.

In fact the systemic therapy of advanced melanoma is one the most frustrating task for the medical oncologist: the treatment yields few durable remission and minimal impact on survival(<6 months).

The response rate to 50-60% with integrated treatment, but with more toxicity than chemotherapy regime alone.

In our structure we have adopted an integrated regimen therapeutic(polybiologic-chemotherapy), repeated every 28 days:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dose/Route</th>
<th>Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fotemustine</td>
<td>100 mg/m²</td>
<td>e.v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisplatin</td>
<td>40 mg/m²</td>
<td>e.v.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interleukin-2</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>s.c.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interferon-alfa</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>i.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interferon-alfa</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>i.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We treated 21 patients(pts): 14 men/7 women, median age 64 (range 31-68):

- with metastases to sites visceral(10 pts);
- with metastases to site no visceral (6 pts);
- with unresectable brain metastases(3 pts);
- with metastases visceral and brain ( 4 pts).

After 4 —6 cycle of therapy the results are: 9 R.O. whose 3 in patients with metastases visceral, 4 in patients with metastases no visceral, 2 in patients with brain metastases); 5 S.D.

The most common side effects were vague symptoms, such malaise, fatigue, chills and fever, in any case limited to WHO grades 1 and 2.

None of the patients required an interruption in treatment or was hospitalised during the treatment period.

The duration of response has been >8 months, with range 5-15+

The encouraging results incit we to continue the study.