PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM A PHASE II STUDY OF LENALIDOMIDE MONOTHERAPY IN RELAPSED/REFRACTORY AGGRESSIVE NON-HODGKINS LYMPHOMA

H. Wiernik,1,2,3 S. Lossos,4 G. Justice,5 J.M. Tuscano,1 J.B. Zeldis,1 K. Takeshita,6 D. Petrenirog,7 T. Habermann8
1New York Medical College, BRONX, NY, United States of America; 2University of Miami, MIAMI, FL, United States of America; 3Pacific Coast Hematology/Oncology, FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA, United States of America; 4University of California, SACRAMENTO, CA, United States of America; 5Celfegon Corporation, SUMMIT NJ, United States of America; 6Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, ROCHESTER, MN, United States of America

Background. Lenalidomide (Revlimid®) is an immunomodulatory drug of the IMiD class, recently approved in the US for myelodysplastic syndromes associated with a deletion 5q(31) cytogenetic abnormality that also has activity in multiple myeloma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. Thalidomide, a less potent IMiD, has activity in non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma as both monotherapy and in combination with rituximab. Aim. To assess the safety and efficacy of lenalidomide monotherapy in subjects with relapsed/refractory aggressive non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (NHL). Methods. Subjects with relapsed/refractory aggressive NHL following > 1 prior treatment regimen with measurable disease are eligible. Subjects receive 25 mg lenalidomide orally once daily on Days 1–21 every 28 days and continue therapy for 52 weeks as tolerated or until disease progression. Response and progression are evaluated using the IWLCR methodology. Results. 19 subjects of a planned 40 were enrolled of which eight subjects are currently evaluable for tumor response and safety. The median age of the 8 evaluable subjects is 66 (45–80) and 5 are female. Histology is diffuse large cell lymphoma (n=7) and follicular center lymphoma grade 3 (n=1). Median time from diagnosis to lenalidomide monotherapy is 2.3 (1–6) years and median number of prior treatment regimens per subject is 3 (1–6). Median duration of follow-up is 3.5 (1–5) months. Three of the eight subjects exhibited a PR with decreases in their tumor burden of 93%, 79% and 52%. Two subjects had stable disease and three, disease progression. Grade 3 or 4 hematological adverse events (neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, anemia) occurred in five subjects including one febrile neutropenia and one of the five also exhibited Grade 3 subacute autoimmune hemolysis and Grade 4 general malaise. Conclusion. Preliminary data for lenalidomide monotherapy in relapsed/refractory aggressive NHL are encouraging.

RITUXIMAB SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES THE OUTCOME OF YOUNG POOR RISK PATIENTS WITH DIFFUSE LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA - ON BEHALF OF CZECH LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP

M. Trneny,1 D. Belada,1 J. Vasova,1 R. Pytlík,1 T. Kozák,1 A. Sykorova,2 K. Kubackova,3 J. Pirnos,4 I. Bolomska,5 M. Hamouzova6
1Charles Univ General Hospital, PRAHA, Czech Republic; 2Univ Hospital, HRADEC KRALOVE, Czech Republic; 3Charles Univ Gen Hospital, PRAHA, Czech Republic; 4Hospital, CESKE BUDEJOVICE, Czech Republic; 5Masaryk Mem. Hosp, USTI N. LABEM, Czech Republic; 6Charles Univ Hosp Gen Hospital, PRAHA, Czech Republic

Background. There is a robust evidence of significant patients outcome improvement by adding rituximab (R) to chemotherapy (CHT) in patients (pts) with DLBCL who are older (Coiffier et al, ASCO 2004 and treated with anthracyclin containing chemotherapy and to treatment at diagnosis) and younger patients (pts) with DLBCL who are designated to HDT with ASCT in comparison of pts who are treated with CHT without R followed by HDT with ASCT.

Aims.

1. The aim of this study was to compare the chemotherapy only treated group (CHT) vs rituximab and CHT (R-CHT) treated group.

2. Moreover the R-CHT significantly improves the outcome of patients who are designated to HDT with ASCT in comparison of pts who are treated with CHT without R followed by HDT with ASCT. Supported by grant IGA MZ CR: NR 8231-3

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FDG-PET/CT SCAN AT DIAGNOSIS OF NON HODGKIN Lymphomas?

R. Sancetta,1 M. Gregiani,2 F. Dei Rossi,3 E. Cracco,3 P. Pregno,3 U. Vitolo,1 L. Rigacci,3 E. Merli,3 T. Chiesi2
1Ospedale Civile Umberto I, VENEZIA-MESTRE, Italy; 2Ospedale Civile Umberto I, VENEZIA-MESTRE, Italy; 3Ospedale S. Giovanni Battista, MOLINETTE, TORINO, Italy; 4DAC - Università di Firenze, FIRENZE, Italy; 5Arcispedale S. Maria Nuova, REGGIO EMILIA, Italy

Background. Correct staging is an important step for the appropriate treatment in lymphoma patients. Most cancers, including lymphomas, metastasize to extranodal sites, so FDG-PET/CT is considered as a gold standard tool in the evaluation of patients with lymphoma. Many authors in these last years have shown the importance of FDG-PET/CT in staging of lymphomas and the differences according to histologic subtypes. Aim. The IIL (Italian Lymphoma Intergroup) evaluated: 1) the role of FDG-PET/CT versus CT scanning in the staging of Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, 2) the significance of FDG-PET/CT according to histologic subtypes, 3) the ability of FDG-PET/CT in showing extranodal localizations. Methods. We have retrospectively analysed at diagnosis 105 patients (pts) (58 male, 52 female) with both FDG-PET/CT and conventional CT scanning. The pts were divided into 2 subgroups: 1) diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL) diagnosed 49 pts (47%), follicular lymphoma (FL) 37 pts (35%), marginal zone lymphoma (MZL) 7 pts (6%), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) 4 pts (4%), Burkitt and Burkitt-like lymphoma (BL) 3 pts (3%), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma 2 pts (2%), other lymphomas (small lymphocytic, peripheral T-cell, extranodal) 3 pts (3%). The PET/CT scans were performed using GE Discovery LS PET/CT scanners. The histologic subtypes were: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL) 49 pts (47%), follicular lymphoma (FL) 37 pts (35%), marginal zone lymphoma (MZL) 7 pts (6%), mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) 4 pts (4%), Burkitt and Burkitt-like lymphoma (BL) 3 pts (3%), primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma 2 pts (2%), other lymphomas (small lymphocytic, peripheral T-cell, extranodal) 3 pts (3%). The PET/CT scans (GE, Discovery LS) were performed 60 min. after the i.v. injection of 18F-FDG (5.5 MBIq/kg) with a whole-body acquisition with a field of view extending from the head to the upper part of the thighs. All patients fasted for at least 8 hours prior to FDG injection and had a glucose level < 120 mg/dl. Results. We have evaluated nodal (18) and extranodal (12) stations. Considering all cases, the agreement between FDG-PET/CT and CT scanning was 89% in nodal stations and 95% in extranodal ones, while discordance was 9% (7% toward PET/CT and 2% toward CT), and 5% (4% toward PET/CT and 1% toward CT) respectively. The percentage was similar in all the different histologic subtypes. The extranodal localizations in which there were more discordances between PET and CT were spleen (7 pts), bone marrow (4 pts), FDG-PET/CT upstaged 27/105 pts (26%) and for 17% of pts the upstaging modified therapy (0 → III-IV in 4 pts (4%), I → III-IV in 3 pts (3%), II → III-IV in 10 pts (10%). The FDG-PET/CT downstaged only 9/105 pts (9%): II → I in 1 pt (1%), III-IV → II in 5 pts (5%), I → 0 pts (3%). Conclusions. FDG-PET/CT and CT scanning are concordant, for nodal and extranodal localizations, in staging of Non-Hodgkin lymphomas. FDG-PET/CT shows more nodal localizations (7%) and extranodal localizations (4%) than CT scanning. There isn’t substantial difference in concordance between FDG-PET/CT and CT scanning according to the various histologic subtypes. It is important to have an FDG-PET/CT baseline for early and late evaluation during and after therapy. FDG-PET/CT is essential for staging lymphomas also as exclusive method.