

## This issue's topics



### Focus on melanoma

#### **Better survival amongst vaccinated malignant melanoma patients**

The prognosis of malignant melanoma patients vaccinated against tuberculosis and/or smallpox is better than unvaccinated patients. According to Grange, Kölmel, Krone reporting in this issue, these findings add to the growing evidence that immunological events early in life can have a lasting impact on the risk of developing a cancer and can affect the course of disease in those in whom it is not prevented. To explain their findings, the researchers propose a hypothesis where human endogenous retroviruses play a key role. These studies provide hope that the human body is not defenceless against cancer and that simple vaccination and effective immunotherapeutic strategies against established cancers may not be far away, they concluded.

#### **Use of sun-beds by adolescents**

Adolescent-targeted strategies to reduce sun-bed use should be tested for their effectiveness according to authors reporting in this issue. Lazovich and Forster review the use of sun-beds amongst adolescents and found that – despite the known health risks – the practice is popular in Europe and the United States. Prevalence was higher amongst females as well as amongst those with friends and family who had positive attitudes towards tanning. Strategies such as pricing, licensure, advertising restrictions and media campaigns should be tested, they said.

#### **'Microcompetition'-re-allocation of a rare resource**

Non-genetic alterations can be the cause of abnormal gene expression, according to a new theory called 'Microcompetition'. The theory proposes "Foreign DNA can compete with cellular DNA for cellular transcription factors resulting in abnormal gene expression and disease". It was proposed by Hanan Polansky and is discussed in this issue by Dr. Raxit J. Jariwalla. This explains the abnormal gene expression observed for many wild-type genes in cancer. It is the limited availability of transcription factors that is important. Foreign DNA, such as viral DNA, competes for these rare resources, causing their re-allocation, he said. "Observations from a large number of published studies support the predictions and validate the theory".

## Forthcoming papers

#### **Editorial Comments**

Phase II trials of drug combinations: fairytales or fact?

Verweij J

Local recurrence in the axilla after sentinel node biopsy

Mansel RE

#### **Position Papers**

Adjuvant endocrine therapy in postmenopausal women with early breast cancer: Where are we now?

Baum M

The role of aromatase inhibitors as adjuvant therapy for early breast cancer in postmenopausal women

Mouridsen HT, Robert NJ

#### **Reviews**

Evaluation and outcome of behavioural changes in the rehabilitation of cancer patients: a review

Kuhn KG, Boesen E, Ross L, Johansen C

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting: current and new standards in the antiemetic prophylaxis and treatment

Jordan K, Kasper C, Schmoll H-J

Intracellular signalling and cancer: complex pathways lead to multiple targets

Bell HS, Ryan KM

## Original papers

### Clinical

Doxorubicin and cisplatin chemotherapy in high-grade spindle cell sarcomas of bone other than osteosarcoma or malignant fibrous histiocytoma. A European Osteosarcoma Intergroup Study  
Nooij MA, Whelan J, Bramwell VHC, *et al.*  
Sentinel node biopsy in breast cancer. Early results in 953 patients with negative sentinel node biopsy and no axillary dissection  
Veronesi U, Galimberti V, Mariani L, *et al.*  
Role of routine preoperative lymphoscintigraphy prior to sentinel node biopsy for breast cancer  
Goyal A, Newcombe RG, Mansel RE  
Minimal risk of macrometastases in the non-sentinel axillary lymph nodes in breast cancer patients with micrometastatic sentinel lymph nodes and preoperatively ultrasonically uninvolved axillary lymph nodes  
Zgajnar J, Besic N, Podkrajsek M, *et al.*  
Combination regimen of epirubicin, vinorelbine and 5-fluorouracil continuous infusion as first-line chemotherapy in anthracycline-naive metastatic breast cancer patients  
Berruti A, Bitossi R, Bottini A, *et al.*  
Two years of adjuvant tamoxifen in premenopausal patients with breast cancer  
Ryden L, Jonsson P-E, Chebil G, *et al.*  
The role of early expression of inducible nitric oxide synthase in human breast cancer  
Loibl S, Buck A, Strank C, *et al.*  
Number of lymph nodes examined and prognosis of TNM stage II colorectal cancer  
Sarli L, Baer G, Iusco D *et al.*  
Analysis and interpretation of health-related quality-of-life data from clinical trials: basic approach of the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group  
Osoba D, Bezjak A, Brundage M, *et al.*  
Normal values of serum S100B predict prolonged survival in stage IV melanoma patients  
Smit LH, Korse CM, Bonfrer JM, *et al.*

### Paediatric

Stress response symptoms in adolescent and young adult children of parents diagnosed with cancer  
Huizinga GA, Visser A, van der Graaf WTA, *et al.*  
Use of paediatric versus adult oncology treatment centres by adolescents 15–19 years old: the Canadian Childhood Cancer Surveillance and Control Program  
Klein-Geltink J, Shaw AK, Morrison HI, *et al.*

### Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

Prevalence of human papillomavirus infection in women in Turin, Italy  
Ronco G, Ghisetti V, Segnan N, *et al.*  
Active and passive smoking and risk of renal cell carcinoma in Canada  
Jinfu Hu, Ugnat A-M, *et al.*

### Experimental

Association of CK19 mRNA detection of occult cancer cells in mediastinal lymph nodes in non-small cell lung carcinoma and high risk of early recurrence  
Le Pimpec-Barthes F, Danel C, Lacave R, *et al.*  
Preoperative detection of laryngeal cancer in mucosal swabs by slide-based cytometry  
Gerstner AOH, Thiele A, Tarnok A  
Prognostic value of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and p53 in patients with advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma treated with induction chemotherapy  
Hitt R, Ciruelos E, Amador ML, *et al.*  
Combination of mutated herpes simplex virus type 1(G207) virus with radiation for the treatment of squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck  
Kim S-H, Wong RJ, Kooby DA, *et al.*  
Molecular characterisation of two human cancer cell lines selected *in vitro* for chemotherapeutic drug resistance to ET-743  
Marchini S, Marrazzo E, Bonomi R, *et al.*  
Loss of gelsolin expression in human ovarian carcinomas  
Noske A, Denkert C, Schober H, *et al.*