

This issue's topics



**The more nodes examined-
the clearer the picture.**

Number of nodes examined affects prognosis of stage II colorectal cancer patients

The prognosis for stage II colorectal cancer patients is dependent on the number of nodes examined, according to researchers reporting in this issue. "Patients with stage II tumours with only a few nodes examined should be offered post-operative chemotherapy on a routine basis", said lead investigator Dr. Leopoldo Sarli (Department of Surgical Sciences, Parma University, Italy). The group examined 625 stage II cases and found that 5-year survival rates were similar for those with nine or less nodes examined and stage III patients with only 1–3 positive nodes. Further studies are required in order to verify this hypothesis, they concluded.

Anti-emetic treatments and prophylaxis

Adding new anti-emetics to standard therapy significantly improves the patient's protection against emesis, in both the acute and delayed phases, by approximately 20%, according to authors reporting in this issue. Jordan and colleagues review data on chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and recent developments in therapy and prophylaxis. Although the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists are very effective in providing protection against emesis, approximately 40% of patients still have symptoms in the delayed phase. The newly developed anti-emetics, the neurokinin (NK1) receptor-antagonists, can help relieve these, they said. Revised guidelines have therefore been set that the authors also review in their paper.

Gene therapy and radiation to treat head and neck cancer?

An oncolytic herpes simplex virus (HSV) enhanced the effectiveness of radiation therapy in head and neck cancer tumour models, Kim and colleagues report in this issue. "These findings suggest a potential clinical application for this combined therapy as treatment for radiation-resistant head and neck cancers". The authors treated cell lines and head and neck tumour models with PBS, radiation alone, HSV virus alone and HSV and radiation combined. They found more than additive effects for the combination treatment. Combined therapy suppressed human and murine squamous cell carcinoma growth significantly compared with either controls or single modality treatments, they said.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comments

Fulvestrant – ready to start its journey in the breast cancer adjuvant endocrine world?

Piccart-Gebhart MJ, Loi SM

Should patients with lobular carcinoma *in situ* be irradiated? Not yet, but...

Recht A

Reviews

Endocrine treatment options for advanced breast cancer – the role of fulvestrant

Robertson JFR, Come SE, Jones SE *et al.*

The choice of systemic adjuvant therapy in receptor-positive early breast cancer

Dessapasqua S, Castiglione-Gertsch M

Original papers

Clinical

Breast-conserving surgery and radiotherapy: a possible treatment for lobular carcinoma *in situ*?

Cutuli B, de Lafontan, Quetin P, Mery E

Normal values of serum S100B predict prolonged survival in stage IV melanoma patients

Smit LH, Korse CM, Bonfrer JM *et al.*

A survey of breast cancer awareness and knowledge in a Western population: lots of light but little illumination

McMenamin M, Barry H, Lennon A-M *et al.*

A randomised Phase II trial of weekly high-dose 5-fluorouracil with and without folinic acid and cisplatin in patients with advanced biliary tract carcinoma: results of the 40955 EORTC trial
Ducreux M, Van Cutsem E, Van Laethem JL *et al.*

Paediatric

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.*
Management and outcome after local recurrence of osteosarcoma
Grimer RJ, Sommerville S, Warnock D *et al.*

Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

Determining overdiagnosis by screening with DRE/TRUS or PSA (Florence pilot studies, 1992–1993)
Ciatto S, Gervasi G, Bonardi R *et al.*
Colorectal cancer risk after colonoscopic polypectomy
Loeve F, van Vallegooijen M, Snel P, Habbema JDF
Increased incidence of stroke in women with breast cancer
Nilsson G, Holmberg L, Garmo H *et al.*
Converging patterns of colorectal cancer mortality in Europe
Fernandez E, La Vecchia C, Gonzalez JR *et al.*
Period analysis of cancer patient survival in datasets from which the month of diagnosis has been removed
Brenner H, Arndt V

Experimental

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.*
Loss of gelsolin expression in human ovarian carcinomas
Noske A, Denkert C, Schober H *et al.*
Changes in the Wnt signalling pathway in gastrointestinal cancer and their prognostic significance
Doucas H, Garcea G, Manson MM *et al.*
Glycerophosphoinositols inhibit extracellular matrix invasion of tumour cells
Buccione R, Baldassarre M, Trapani V *et al.*