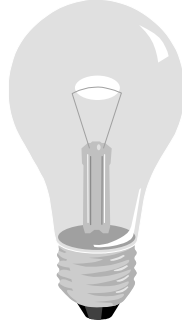


This issue's topics



Lots of light, little illumination

Lots of light, little illumination

This is the verdict from authors reporting in this issue on breast cancer awareness and knowledge in the Irish republic. They used a multi-part questionnaire to assess the awareness and knowledge about breast cancer in men and women ($n=2355$). Although most had a good overall knowledge about the symptoms and treatment, females overestimated their risk of developing the disease, underestimated the age at which the disease develops and underestimated 5-year survival. Men were more accurate in these assessments. "Ignorance regarding incidence, outcome and risk makes it unlikely that the general public or at risk females could currently make informed decisions on a range of breast cancer issues", they concluded.

Colorectal cancer mortality in Europe

Mortality from colorectal cancer is declining in most European countries, authors report in this issue. Fernandez and colleagues examined recent trends in mortality rates from colorectal cancer in 21 European countries. They observed favourable patterns for most European countries from the 1990s onwards. However, in some Eastern European countries the rates are still increasing. "If recent trends are maintained, colorectal cancer mortality is likely to decline further in Europe in the current decade", they concluded.

Increased risk of stroke in breast cancer patients?

Women diagnosed with breast cancer may have an increased risk of stroke, a study reports in this issue. Nilsson and colleagues calculated the Relative Risk of stroke in a large study group of women with breast cancer ($n=25171$) treated between 1970–2000. 1766 women in the group had strokes. The researchers found a significant 12% increase in the risk of stroke for the study group overall and upon further analysis this was confined to women 55 years and older and to the subtype cerebral infarction. Confounding factors such as obesity and/or hypertension may be responsible for this result, they said. But, "To our knowledge, this is the first study to describe an association between breast cancer and stroke...Whether this risk is associated with breast cancer disease *per se* or related to any treatment requires further study".

Forthcoming papers

Editorial comment

Debunking dogma and developing theses
Hellman S

Current perspectives

New science-based endpoints to accelerate oncology drug development
Kelloff GJ, Sigman CC
Shifting paradigms in prostate cancer; docetaxel plus low-dose prednisone-finally effective chemotherapy
de Wit R

Reviews

Does surgery unfavourably perturb the 'natural history' of early breast cancer by accelerating the appearance of distant metastases?
Baum M, Demicheli R, Hrushesky W, Retsky M
The potential of statins as part of anti-cancer treatment
Sleijfer S, van der Gaast A, Planting AST *et al.*
Hormonal therapy of endometrial cancer
Markman M

Original Papers

Clinical

Sentinel lymphonodectomy does not increase the risk of locoregional cutaneous metastases of malignant melanomas

Kretschmer L, Beckmann I, Thoms KM *et al.*

A phase I study of intraperitoneal topotecan in combination with intravenous carboplatin and paclitaxel in advanced ovarian cancer

Bos, AME, De Vos, FYFL, de Vries, EGE *et al.*

Early detection of breast and ovarian cancer in families with BRCA mutations

Vasen HFA, Tesfay E, Boonstra H *et al.*

Phase I investigation of recombinant anti-human vascular endothelial growth factor antibody in patients with advanced cancer

Jayson GC, Mulatero C, Ranson M *et al.*

A Phase I trial of prolonged administration of lovastatin in patients with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck or of the cervix

Knox JJ, Siu LL, Chen E *et al.*

Paediatric

Has chemotherapy reached its limits?

Vassal G

Commentary on 'Has chemotherapy reached its limits?'

Newell H, Lewis S

Ovulation induction, assisted conception and childhood cancer

Lightfoot T, Bunch K, Ansell P, Murphy M

Ovulation induction, assisted conception and childhood cancer. Is there a link?

Wallace WHB

Management and outcome after local recurrence of osteosarcoma

Grimer RJ, Sommerville S, Warnock D *et al.*

Epidemiology and cancer prevention

Relationships between perinatal and maternal characteristics and childhood hepatic tumours. A report from the UKCCS

Ansell P, Mitchell CD, Roman E *et al.*

Perinatal and reproductive factors: a report on haematological malignancies from the UKCCS

Roman E, Simpson J, Ansell P *et al.*

Hypermethylation of CpG islands in the promoter region of the *p15INK4B* gene in childhood acute leukaemia

Tsellou E, Troungos C, Moschovi M *et al.*

Experimental

Thiopurine methyltransferase in acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Biochemical and molecular biological aspects

De Abreu RA, Keizer-Garritsen JJ, Lambooy LHJ *et al.*

Antisense oligonucleotide-mediated inhibition of hTERT, but not hTERC, induces rapid cell growth decline and apoptosis in the absence of telomere shortening in human prostate cancer cells

Folini M, Brambilla C, Villa R *et al.*