

Material and Methods: Retrospective review of 295 stage I-II DLBCL patients (pts) treated with curative intent between 2002 and 2008. All pts had CMT and received RT at our hospital. Primary CNS lymphomas were excluded. Median age was 61, with M:F ratio 1.14. Ann Arbor stages were IA – 48%, IIA – 41%, I-IIB – 11%. Extranodal involvement was present in 66% (IE: 34%, IIE: 32%), and bulky disease (≥ 10 cm) in 22%. Chemotherapy included: cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone (CHOP, in 32%) and R-CHOP (65%), median 6 cycles (22% had 3 cycles). Median involved-field RT dose was 35 Gy, with 97% receiving ≥ 30 Gy. The median follow up was 4.2 yrs (6.8 yrs for CHOP-treated, 3.8 yrs for R-CHOP). In pts with disease progression or relapse, the site(s) of failure were documented to determine if it occurred in the RT field (local), at field margin or out-of-field (adjacent nodal region, or distant).

Results: Response was evaluable in 292 pts, with CR/CRu in 282 (96.6%) and $\leq$ PR in 10 (3.4%). To date, 30 patients relapsed. Failure sites for relapsed pts were: 2 local, 1 marginal, 23 distant, and 4 were both local and distant. No failures were seen in an adjacent nodal region. The cumulative 5-yr local disease failure rate was 6%, and was higher in the CHOP vs. R-CHOP patients – 12% and 2% respectively ($p = 0.001$). Of the 2 isolated local failures, 1 had suboptimal therapy (3 CVP follow by RT 28 Gy). The 5-yr distant disease failure rate was 12% (for CHOP: 14%, vs. R-CHOP: 10%, $p = 0.28$). To date, 40 deaths occurred (17 due to disease, 23 other causes) with actuarial 5-yr clinical outcomes: overall survival – 87% (95% CL, 82–91%), cause-specific survival – 94% (95% CL, 90–96%).

Conclusions: Modern CMT for stage I-II DLBCL has excellent clinical outcomes including very high local control rates. Adjacent nodal region failure is not a clinical problem for involved-field RT covering initial disease only.

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POSTER

The Role of Palliative Radiotherapy in Patients With Myeloma Bone Disease in the Era of the Novel Agents

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Background: The introduction of the novel agents Bortezomib, Thalidomide and Lenalidomide changed the philosophy of the treatment in multiple myeloma (MM) and the fate of the patients.

Aim: To analyze the application of palliative radiotherapy in incidence, outcome and time to first skeletal related event after radiation in patients with myeloma bone disease (MBD) receiving conventional chemotherapy (CC) or Bortezomib+Dexamethasone (VD) regimen.

Patients and Methods: For the period 1995–2010, 341 patients with MM were studied, m/f ratio 1.2/1, mean age 60.6 (32–83). The staging systems of Durie et Salmon and ISS were used. MBD was graded according to the Merilini scale. VD was applied in 27 patients. Biphosphonates were administered by the general rules. No significant difference was found in the distribution in sex, age, clinical stage, grade of MBD, and major parameters of the disease between the two groups. Statistical analyses were performed by variative, correlative, alternative analyses, independent samples T-test, one-way ANOVA and Kaplan Meier test (SPSS v15).

Results: In the group on CC in 136 (43.3%) MBD grade II and in 25(8%) MBD grade III was found, 47(15.0%) had soft tissue formations. In the VD group 11(40.7%) had MBD grade II; 4(14.8%) had MBD grade III, plasmocytomas – 5(18.5%). 162 (51.6%) patients on CC and 16 (59.3%) on VD were irradiated. Pathological fractures were irradiated in 105 (77.8%) in the CC group and in 10 (90.9%) in VD, the severe skeletal destructions were irradiated in 24 (96.0%) vs 4 (100%), plasmocytomas in 37 (78.7%) vs 5 (100%) respectively. In 134 (82.7%) of CC patients pain alleviation was achieved, in 92 (87.6%) the fractures were stabilized, in 30 (81.1%) a reduction of the soft tissue formations occurred. In VD group pain was alleviated in 13 (81.3%), fracture stabilization occurred in 8 (80.0%), and plasmocytoma reduction in 5 (100.0%). Median time to reappearance of bone pain after radiotherapy in the CC group was 10 months (9–12) and to a new fracture 13 months (12–15). The median time to a skeletal related event for the VD group is not reached yet.

Conclusions: In the era of the new agents palliative radiotherapy is still an effective method in the treatment of MBD: it significantly alleviates pain, results in stabilization of the pathological fractures, reduces the size of the soft tissue formations and improves the quality of life of patients, not compromising further antitumour treatment.

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POSTER

Cardiac Effects After Low-dose Whole-heart Radiotherapy Following Doxorubicin-based Chemotherapy in Hodgkin's Lymphoma

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Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) may present with extensive pericardial disease or cardiophrenic lymphadenopathy. Partial or poor response to first-line chemotherapy (CT) becomes a case for a whole cardiac radiotherapy (RT) with increased risk of cumulative CT-RT cardiotoxicity.

Using echocardiography we assessed the left ventricular function before starting CT for Hodgkin's lymphoma and after the end of treatment in total 152 patients (pts). Since 2000, in a prospective MRRC study HL patients stages II to IV were treated with 4–6 courses of BEACOPP-21 or ABVD followed by 1–2 COPP in order to reduce doxorubicin toxicity before consolidation RT. All patients received ⁶⁰Cobalt mediastinal irradiation to 20–22 Gy. Fifty eight patients of Gr. 1 presented with pericardial effusion and therefore received low-dose (10–17 Gy, median 14 Gy) whole cardiac RT in the course of mediastinal (16 pts) or wide-field irradiation (42 pts) as one of the two daily fractions delivered in accelerated hyperfractionated regimen (AHFX). In patients of the two control groups cardiac apex was shielded. The patients with residual mass after CT (Gr.2, n=45) received mediastinal irradiation in AHFX regimen, those with complete response (Gr.3, n=49) received RT in conventional fractionation once a day. Groups did not differ by doxorubicin dose (100–300 mg/m², median 150) and age at examination (20–57 years, median 32 years). Before CT, mean left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) was 64%; a systolic dysfunction (LVEF <60% or >72%) was more pronounced in Gr.1 (49% pts VS 27% pts in Gr.2 and Gr.3, $p = 0.03$).

After the combined-treatment program and after a median follow-up of 60 months, mean values of LVEF were, respectively, 62% (range, 50% to 75%), 63% (range, 54% to 70%) and 62% (range, 54% to 76%). LVEF below 55% was recorded in 7%, 4% and 13% pts, respectively, but none of the patients exhibited clinical signs of heart failure. Rest EF was correlated negatively with cumulative doxorubicin dose (Gr.1, $r = -0.83$, $P = 0.02$; Gr.2, $r = -0.97$, $P = 0.03$) and age (Gr.3, $r = -0.50$, $P = 0.017$). In patients aged ≥ 40 years, EF was correlated with the time from RT (Gr.1, $r = 0.56$, $P = 0.193$; Gr.3, $r = 0.75$, $P = 0.011$). Response to exercise testing with an increment of EF >5% was observed in 50%, 60% and 62% pts, respectively.

Our study suggested that low-dose irradiation of whole heart for extensive pericardial disease did not impaired significantly cardiac function during first decade after doxorubicin-based chemotherapy as compared with partial irradiation of heart. Further observation is necessary.

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POSTER

Impact of DeVIC as Chemotherapeutic Agent for Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy for Nasal NK/T-cell Lymphoma

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Background: Extranodal natural killer (NK)/T-cell lymphoma (NKTCL), nasal type, is a rare aggressive lymphoma with poor prognosis. This is an Epstein-Barr virus-associated lymphoma and the lymphoma cells expressed P glycoprotein, resulting in tumour multidrug resistance (MDR). Reported 5-year overall survival for patients with localized nasal NKTCL treated with CHOP is lower than 50%. DeVIC (dexamethasone, etoposide, ifosfamide and carboplatin) chemotherapy was designed as a salvage chemotherapeutic regimen for aggressive lymphoma comprised of MDR-unrelated agents and etoposide, which is thought to be effective against nasal NKTCL. We are now on the way to do an experimental chemoradiotherapy (CRT) using DeVIC as concurrent chemotherapeutic agents for nasal NKTCL. The aim of this study is to look at the initial outcome of this treatment to evaluate its effectiveness and feasibility.

Material and Methods: Six patients (range, 29 to 82; median, 68 years) were treated with CRT using DeVIC chemotherapy between April 2004 and February 2010. Median follow-up was 56 months (range, 11–80). Clinical features of these 6 patients were as follows: male:female = 4:2, 1E:2E=5:1, B symptom present = 0, elevated serum lactate dehydrogenase = 3, PS0:PS1 = 3:3, and IPI score low:low-intermediate = 3:3. All patients were given 3 to 6 cycles of full dose DeVIC regimen. The drug doses and administration schedule were as follows: dexamethasone, 40 mg/d on days 1 to 3, etoposide, 100 mg/m² on days 1 to 3, ifosfamide, 1.5 mg/m² on days 1 to 3, and carboplatin, 300 mg/m² on day 1. Basically the chemotherapy was given concurrently with radiotherapy (RT), and was