

Conference Papers

Second European Winter Oncology Conference (EWOC-2)

19–25 January, 1991
Méribel, France

The scientific programme of EWOC-2 comprises a series of topics of current general interest, not covered at the previous meeting in 1989.

The treatment of lymphoma, both Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, continues to arouse controversy, as the roles of combined modality treatment and of high dose chemotherapy are slowly becoming clearer. Meanwhile the explosion of knowledge of the molecular biology of these diseases is already having an impact on their management.

In urological cancer, a wide range of clinical questions remain to be answered, reflecting the diversity of diseases under this heading. These range from the optimal timing of endocrine therapy for prostate cancer to the true role of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for bladder cancer, and from the optimal management of carcinoma *in situ* of the bladder to the potential role of carboplatin in the management of testicular cancer.

In lung and head and neck cancer, advances in treatment appear to be slower, but chemotherapy clearly has a major role. In small cell lung cancer, intensive chemotherapy still requires careful evaluation, while combined modality treatment in non-small cell lung cancer is giving rise to results which are arousing significant interest. The combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy has been the subject of trials for some years in head and neck cancer, and valuable lessons have been learnt for use in the management of other tumours.

The amelioration of toxicity of chemotherapy is an area of great current interest, because of the availability of haemopoietic growth factors, of new antiemetics in the form of 5HT₃ antagonists, and of novel agents which may protect against neurotoxicity caused by agents such as cisplatin. Similarly, the management of AIDS and AIDS-related malignancies is of considerable topical interest, as new agents continue to be developed.

Finally, a range of new advances in cancer biology and pharmacology are being translated into new treatments, as the pace of transition from the laboratory to the clinic quickens. These cover the treatment of breast cancer, the development of new agents or new forms of drug delivery, and new ways of using radiation therapy.

All of these topics are covered by individuals who are experts in their field, and their aim has been to highlight those particular areas where developments have been most recent.

Stanley B. Kaye