

Table 1. Different frequencies of MYCN oncogene amplification among Italian, American and Japanese cases of advanced (stages 3 and 4) neuroblastoma

Country	MYCN copy number	
	< 3 n (%)	≥ 3 n (%)
Italy	81 (79.4)	21 (20.6)
USA	28 (46.7)	32 (53.2)*
Japan	13 (44.8)	16 (55.2)†
Total	122 (63.3)	69 (36.7)

\*  $P < 0.0001$ ; †  $P < 0.001$  ( $\chi^2$  analysis).

inverse correlation between the expression of MYCN gene and *mdr1* gene as also demonstrated by Nakagawara and colleagues. (5) Near-diploid DNA content has been frequently found in advanced stage while the DNA contents and MYCN amplification were demonstrated to be positively correlated. (6) MYCN amplification may be present in patients with stage 4S.

Studies on the loss of 1p heterozygosity on the Italian neuroblastoma population are in progress. Preliminary results (obtained in collaboration with the Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, Heidelberg) show that loss of 1p heterozygosity may occur both in non-disseminated and in disseminated neuroblastoma.

Recently, the IPCRG has obtained a financial support by Associazione Italiana Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC) and Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) to develop better its research programme.

The main goal of IPCRG is to supply new tools in order to understand better disease evolution and tumour progression. Moreover, it will be useful to study new molecular markers to define better prognosis and to increase the potentiality of therapeutic protocols.

Gian Paolo Tonini  
Department of Hematology and Oncology  
G. Gaslini Children's Hospital  
Genova  
Italy

Participants of the IPCRG: M. Badiali (University of Modena), A. Cavazzana, C. Dominici and G. Melino (University of Roma), G. Basso and A. Pession (University of Bologna), G. Bussolati and A. Pagani (University of Torino), A. Iolascon (University of Napoli), R. Luck (National Cancer Institute of Milano), V. Fontana and P. Strigini (National Cancer Institute of Genova), D. Di Martino and C. Valenti (G. Gaslini Children's Hospital, Genova).

### Coping with Cancer

CancerLink's booklet, *Coping with Cancer\**, discusses the problems health professionals may encounter in communicating with people affected by cancer. One-third of the enquiries to

CancerLink's information service are from health professionals. This booklet addresses the issues that cause most concern: how to assess the levels of support and information different individuals require, and how to identify and reduce their fears.

One section examines emotional responses to cancer diagnosis. Whilst personality, emotional state, and life experiences influence an individual's reaction, feelings of fear, anger, helplessness and isolation are often expressed. For the terminally ill, sadness and grief may be overwhelming; empathy and a willingness to listen are most required. Guilt may be experienced by patients, family and friends. Some individuals feel guilty at being a burden; relatives and friends may feel guilty because they cannot visit very often, or care for the person at home. *Coping with Cancer* suggests that the health professional acknowledges, and perhaps helps the person with cancer to understand, what family and friends are able or willing to give.

*Complementary Care and Cancer\** lists sources for information, and describes complementary therapies for individuals affected by cancer. Advice on finding a practitioner and answers to common questions about complementary care are given.

### Chest Disease

The Fleischner Society's 22nd annual symposium on chest disease will be held in Montreal on 7-9 May 1992. Further details can be obtained from the Fleischner Society, Meeting Management, 5665 Oberlin Drive #110, San Diego, California 92121, USA. Tel. 1 619 4536222, Fax 5353880.

### Medical Applications of Cyclotrons

The sixth symposium on the medical applications of cyclotrons will be held in Turku, Finland, on 1-4 June, 1992. For further information, contact Mrs. Ulla Ketola, Turku Medical Cyclotron-PET Center, Turku University Central Hospital, SF-20520 Turku, Finland. Tel. (21) 612 772, Fax (21) 318 191.

### Arizona Cancer Center

The Arizona Cancer Center is holding its fourth international conference on nutrition and chemoprevention controversies in the prevention of human cancer in Tucson on 3-6 June 1992. For more details contact Nancy Rzewuski, Conference Coordinator, Arizona Cancer Center, Tucson, Arizona 85724, USA. Tel. (602) 626 6044, Fax (602) 626 2284.

### New Urological Technologies

The second international symposium and workshop on new urological technologies will be held on 4-5 June 1992, in Leuven. Further information can be obtained from Professor Luc Baert, Department of Urology, University Hospital Saint-Peter, Brusselsetraat 69, 3000 Leuven, Belgium. Tel. (16) 21 75 32, Fax (16) 21 71 71.

### BOA Annual Meeting

The seventh annual scientific meeting of the British Oncological Association will be held jointly with the Nordic Cancer Societies in Canterbury, Kent on 5-7 July 1992. Further details can be obtained from Dr Stewart Coltart, Department of Clinical

\**Coping with Cancer*, and *Complementary Care and Cancer*, September 1991, CancerLink, 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN, (Tel. 071 833 2451). Individual copies free.