

This issue's topics



Physical activity not reduced in testicular cancer survivors

Levels of physical activity are not reduced in long-term testicular cancer survivors

Long-term cancer survivors showed significantly higher levels of physical activity than men in the general population. In this issue, Thorsen and colleagues compared 1276 testicular cancer survivors—treated with surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy (with or without surgery)—and 20 391 males from the general population of a Norwegian county. Their levels were assessed 12 years after treatment by the use of a questionnaire investigating 2 sub-levels of physical activity. 43% versus 37% were “highly active” in the cancer survivors and general population, respectively (adjusted odds ratio 1.32 (95% Confidence Intervals 1.10–1.58)). This suggests that levels of physical activity are not reduced in testicular cancer survivors and may even be increased. Their paper is discussed in an accompanying Editorial by Drs. Sleijfer and de Wit who state the results are “encouraging”. However, the commentary points out that most patients in the study were not physically active on a regular basis and such patients should be encouraged to follow the example of Lance Armstrong, the famous cyclist and a testicular cancer survivor.

Oestrogen receptor beta in colorectal cancer carcinogenesis

In this issue, Panagiotis and colleagues found immunohistochemical levels of oestrogen receptor beta declined in colon tissues when compared with their normal counterparts. Levels also declined with dedifferentiation. This decline occurred in samples from both genders and regardless of the tumour localisation. The authors speculate that oestrogen receptor beta may have a protective role against colon carcinogenesis possibly by the suppression of AP-1-mediated gene transcription.

Use of trastuzumab and anti-oestrogens in endometrial cancers?

Trecek and colleagues show in this issue that trastuzumab (HerceptinTM) inhibits cell proliferation and HER2 signalling through modulating (and reducing) ERK1/2 phosphorylation in HER2-positive endometrial cells. The authors also demonstrated that these effects of trastuzumab are interfered with by oestradiol—again through changes in ERK1/2 phosphorylation. The interference by oestradiol was independent of the oestrogen receptor (ER) status of the cells. An anti-oestrogen, ICI 182,780, was able to restore the effects of trastuzumab (in the presence of oestradiol) in ER-positive cells. This led the authors to suggest that “combinations of trastuzumab and anti-oestrogens may be effective in the treatment of endometrial cancers with a positive ER and HER2 receptor status”.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comments

The ethical management of genetic testing

N. Haites

Geographical differences in cancer incidence

L. Jarup, N. Best

Current Perspective

Genetic epidemiology of melanoma

V. Bataille

Reviews

Pathological work-up of sentinel lymph nodes in breast cancer. Review of current data to be considered for the formulation of guidelines

G. Cserni, I. Amendoeira, N. Apostolikas *et al.*

Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) as a target in cancer therapy: understanding the role of receptor expression and other molecular determinants that could influence response to anti-EGFR drugs

F. Ciardiello, G. Tortora

Tumour suppressors—a fly's perspective

J. Sutcliffe, M. Korenjak, A. Brehm

New non-angiogenesis dependent pathways for tumour growth

D. Ribatti, A. Vacca, F. Dammacco

Original papers

Clinical

Immunohistochemical study of cell cycle regulatory proteins in intraductal breast carcinomas—a preliminary study

J. Chasle, T. Delozier, Y. Denoux *et al.*

Prognostic value of quality of life scores for time to progression (TTP) and overall survival time (OS) in advanced breast cancer

M.-I. Luoma, L. Hakamies-Blomqvist, J. Sjöström *et al.*

A phase II/III study comparing intravenous ZD9331 with gemcitabine in patients with pancreatic cancer

D. Smith, N. Gallagher

Clinical and psychometric validation of an EORTC questionnaire module, the EORTC QLQ-OES18, to assess quality of life in patients with oesophageal cancer

J.M. Blazeby, T. Conroy, E. Hammerlid *et al.*

Functional relevance of antiemetic control: experience using the FLIE questionnaire in a randomised study of the NK-1 antagonist aprepitant

A.R. Martin, A.D. Carides, J.D. Pearson *et al.*

An international field study of the reliability and validity of a disease-specific questionnaire module (the QLQ-OV28) in assessing the quality of life of patients with ovarian cancer

E. Greimel, A. Bottomley, A. Cull *et al.*

Prognostic factors and prognostic index score for metastatic nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Y.K. Ong, D.M. Heng, B. Chung *et al.*

Personality and quality of life in HNSCC patients following treatment

H.J. Aarstad, A.K.H. Aarstad, E.J. Birkhaug *et al.*

Paediatric

Psychosocial functioning in siblings of paediatric cancer patients one to six months after diagnosis

B.A. Houtzager, M.A. Grootenhuys, J.E.H.M. Hoekstra-Weebers, H.N. Caron, B.F. Last

Individual dosing of carboplatin based on drug monitoring in children receiving high-dose chemotherapy

H. Rubie, F. Doz, G. Vassal *et al.*

Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

Geographical differences in cancer incidence in the Belgian province of Limburg

F. Buntinx, H. Geys, D. Lousbergh *et al.*

Rising trends in the incidence of and mortality from cutaneous melanoma in the Netherlands since 1950: Northwest to southwest gradient?

E. de Vries, L.J. Schouten, A.M.M. Eggermont, J.W. Coebergh

Experimental

pp60c-src activation in lung adenocarcinoma

T. Masaki, K. Igarashi, M. Tokuda *et al.*

The role of mismatch repair in small cell lung cancer cells

L.-T. Hansen, T. Thykjaer, T.F. Orntoft *et al.*

TNF increases Camptothecin-induced apoptosis by inhibition of NF-kappaB

P. Valente, D. Arzani, E. Carbone, P. Russo

Aberrant methylation of multiple genes in neuroblastic tumours: relationship with MYCN amplification and allelic status at 1p

P. Gozalez-Gomez, M.J. Bello, J. Lomas *et al.*