

## This issue's topics



**Period analyses provide a more 'up to date' picture**

### Period estimates are more 'up to date'

This is the conclusion of Brenner and colleagues in this issue. Using data from the robust Finnish Cancer Registry, they compared survival rates analysed by period analysis with those analysed by the more traditional cohort analysis. Their results suggested that period estimates quite closely predicted the long-term survival rates that were observed later for that particular time period. Period estimates provide more 'up to date' estimates of long-term cancer patient survival than traditional methods of survival analysis, they said. "These results imply that period analysis should be very useful for both the clinical setting and public health applications". Nevertheless, the authors propose that cohort-based analyses should remain the 'method of choice' in certain situations and period analyses are a powerful tool that should therefore supplement, but not replace, such methods.

### Results of SIOPEL 2

CDDP monotherapy and surgery appears effective in standard-risk hepatoblastoma (HB) patients, Perilongo and colleagues report in this issue. These patients had HB confined to the liver and involving no more than three hepatic sectors. A 90% response rate was observed and 3 year overall and progression-free survival rates were 91% and 89%, respectively. By contrast, patients with HB in 4 sectors and/or lung metastases or intra-abdominal extra-hepatic spread (known as high-risk HB) had a response rate of 78% and 3 year overall and progression-free survival rates of 53% and 48%, respectively, despite more intensive treatment. "We believe that SIOPEL 2 contributes to research on childhood HB by demonstrating the potential for cure in a substantial cohort of HB patients presenting with favourable clinical findings", they said.

### Aprepitant is effective anti-emetic therapy in patients given cisplatin

Aprepitant added to dexamethasone and a 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist is more effective at reducing nausea and vomiting than the dual therapy alone, de Wit and colleagues report in this issue. In a pooled analysis of data from 2 multicentre, randomised, placebo-controlled phase III trials, the authors used a traditional probabilities approach to show that aprepitant—an oral NK<sub>1</sub> antagonist—was more effective not only in the initial cycle, but that this effect was maintained during subsequent cycles. "These data show that the addition of aprepitant to standard anti-emetic therapy represents an important advance in supportive care for patients receiving multiple cycles of highly emetogenic chemotherapy", they said.

## Forthcoming papers

### Editorial Comment

Is local control necessarily an indicator of quality?  
D.A.L. Morgan, J.M. Kurtz

### Review

Long-term efficacy of the CHVP/BV regimen used for aggressive non-Hodgkin's lymphoma across three randomised EORTC-trials  
Moser EC, Noordijk EM, van Glabbeke M *et al.*

## Original Papers

### Clinical

Monitoring different stages of breast cancer with tumour markers CA 15-3, CEA, and TPA

G. Soletormos, D. Nielsen, V. Schioler *et al.*

Using loco-regional recurrence as an indicator of the quality of breast cancer treatment

M.F. Ernst, A.C. Voogd, J.W. Coebergh

Aberrant Expression of Interleukin-7 (IL-7) and its signalling complex in human breast cancer

M.A.A. Al-Rawi, Khaled Rmali, G. Watkins *et al.*

Prognostic value of facilitative glucose transporter Glut-1 in oral squamous cell carcinomas treated by surgical resection: results of EORTC Translational Research Fund Studies

R.J. Oliver, R.T.M. Woodward, P. Sloan *et al.*

Phase I trial of out UFT/leucovorin and irinotecan in patients with advanced cancer

M.L. Veronese, J.P. Stevenson, W. Sun *et al.*

Doxorubicin-streptozotocin combination for advanced well-differentiated pancreatic endocrine carcinoma: a judicious option?

Th. Delaunoy, M. Ducreux, V. Boige *et al.*

Patient Preference for either the EORTC QLQ-C30 or the Facit QOL Measures: A study performed in patients suffering from carcinoma of an unknown primary site (CUP)

C. Rodary, V. Pezet-Langevin, S. Garcia-Acosta *et al.*

Knowledge of and attitudes towards complementary and alternative therapies: a national multicentre study of oncology professionals in Norway  
T. Risberg, A. Kolstad, Y. Bremnes *et al.*  
Multicentre, phase II study evaluating capecitabine monotherapy in patients with anthracycline- and taxane-pretreated metastatic breast cancer  
P. Fumoleau, R. Largillier, C. Clippe *et al.*  
Current soft tissue sarcoma classifications  
S. Daugaard  
Surgical treatment of pancreatic adenocarcinoma: actual survival and prognostic factors in 343 patients  
K.F.D. Kuhlmann, S.M.M. de Castro, J.G. Wesseling *et al.*  
Glufosamide administered by 1-hour infusion as a second-line treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer. A Phase II trial of the EORTC-New Drug Development Group  
G. Giaccone, E.F. Smit, M. de Jonge *et al.*

#### **Paediatric**

Severity of enterocolitis predicated by IL-8 in paediatric oncology patients  
M.D. van de Wetering, H.N. Caron, M. Biezeveld *et al.*  
Reduction from seven to five cycles of intensive induction chemotherapy in children with high-risk neuroblastoma  
B.H. Kushner, K. Kramer, M.P. LaQuaglia *et al.*

#### **Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention**

Medically recorded allergies and the risk of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia  
L. Spector, F. Groves, F. DeStefano *et al.*  
Little or no space-time clustering found amongst cases of childhood lymphoma in north-west England  
R.J.Q. McNally, F.E. Alexander, O.B. Eden, J.M. Birch  
Contraceptive methods and induced abortions and the risk of colon cancer in Shanghai, China  
K.A. Rosenblatt, D.L. Gao, R.M. Ray *et al.*

#### **Experimental**

Inhibition of P-glycoprotein function by XR9576 in a solid tumour model can restore anticancer drug efficacy  
J. Walker, C. Martin, R. Callaghan  
Inhibition of multidrug resistance by vaccination with synthetic P-glycoprotein-derived peptides  
C. Paulak-Robin, P.-F. Tosi, L. Perrin *et al.*  
PGP9.5 mRNA is an optimisitic target for molecular-based diagnosis of medullary thyroid carcinoma  
J. Walker, C. Martin, R. Callaghan

#### **Letters**

Comment on: The process of metastasisation for breast cancer  
R. Demicheli, M.W. Retsky  
Letter to the Editor- reply  
J. Engel, H. Sauer, Holzel, G. Furstenberger, H.-J. Senn  
Where to next with extracranial rhabdoid tumours in children?  
B.M.D. Brennan, A.B.M. Foot, C. Stiller *et al.*