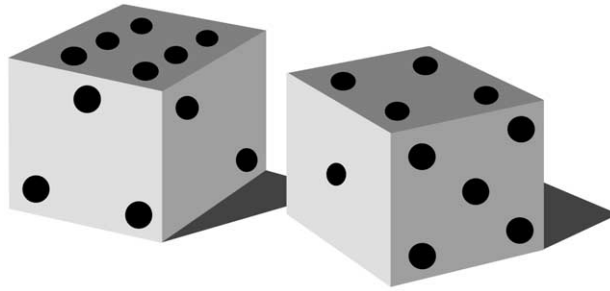


This issue's topics



Predicting toxicity or response-no longer a roll of the dice?

Can DPD be used to predict toxicity or response?

Dr van Kuilenburg asks this question in a Review published in this issue. He proposes that although the role of tumoral levels of dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) in predicting response is still unclear, there is ample evidence that a deficiency in DPD is associated with severe toxicity to 5-fluorouracil (5FU)-based chemotherapy. Data from the literature suggests that patients with a partial DPD deficiency have an increased risk of developing Grade IV neutropenia when compared with patients with a normal DPD activity, he said. Of the 39 mutations or polymorphisms identified in the *DPD* gene, the IVS14+1G>A mutation appears to be the most common and has been detected in approximately a quarter of all patients experiencing severe 5FU toxicity.

HER-2 receptor unlikely to be a target in osteosarcoma

The HER-2 receptor is an unlikely target in human osteosarcoma (OS) authors conclude in this issue. Anninga and colleagues examined HER-2 protein and mRNA expression in 15 biopsy and 18 resection samples from human OS. HER-2 mRNA expression was similar in all the samples to that of the negative control and only one sample had a moderately positive immunostain. "The monoclonal antibody trastuzumab (Herceptin®), directed against the HER-2-receptor, is not likely to be an effective therapeutic agent in OS, they said. An accompanying Editorial by Dr. Ian Judson discusses this and other studies and comments "It is notable that there have still been no reports of positive clinical trials of trastuzumab in this disease".

Current best practice in the management of children with oral complications—an Update

Belfield and Dwyer provide an Update in this issue on the oral complications that can occur in children with cancer and the preventive interventions that are available. They conclude that there are few new treatments for children and that most newer interventions have not been widely used or studied in the paediatric population. Prevention remains the best treatment, they said. Dental evaluation at diagnosis and meticulous oral hygiene during oncotherapy will minimise complications and improve the quality of life of survivors. This area is further discussed in an accompanying Commentary by Drs. Lucas and Roberts.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comments

Is breast-conserving therapy in the genetically predisposed breast cancer patient a reasonable and appropriate option?

B.G. Haffty, D. Lannin

Best practice in oral care for children and young people being treated for cancer: can we achieve a consensus?

F. Gibson

Current Perspective

Breast cancer advocacy across Europe through the work and development of EUROPA DONNA, the European Breast Cancer Coalition

M. Buchanan, A. Fernandez-Marcos, J. Horvatin, *et al.*

Reviews

Childhood adrenocortical tumours

R.C. Ribeiro

A systematic review of the relationship between interleukin-2 schedule and outcome in patients with metastatic renal cell cancer

G. Baaten, A.C. Voogd, J. Wagstaff

Original papers

Clinical

EUROPA DONNA: strength in heterogeneity

P. Mosconi, M. Buchanan, S. Kyriakides, *et al.*

Ipsilateral breast tumour recurrence in hereditary breast cancer following breast-conserving therapy

C. Seynaeve, L.C. Verhoog, L.M.C. van de Bosch, *et al.*

A cost-utility analysis comparing intensive chemotherapy alone to intensive chemotherapy followed by myelo-ablative chemotherapy with autologous stem cell rescue in newly diagnosed patients with stage II/III multiple myeloma: a prospective randomised Phase III trial

M. van Agthoven, C.M. Segeren, I. Buijt, *et al.*

Factors affecting pharmacokinetic variability following doxorubicin and docetaxel-based therapy

M.A. Rudek, A. Sparreboom, E.S. Garrett-Mayer, *et al.*

S100A9 expression in invasive ductal carcinoma of the breast: S100A9 expression in adenocarcinoma is closely associated with poor tumour differentiation

Kazumori Arai, Takumi Teratani, Ryoko Kuruto-Niwa *et al.*

Efficacy of droperidol in the prevention of cisplatin-induced delayed emesis: a double-blind, randomised parallel study

Yuki Minegishi, Hironobu Ohmatsu, Tetsu Miyamoto *et al.*

MAX2: a convenient index to estimate the average per patient risk of chemotherapy toxicity

M. Extermann, M. Bonetti, G.W. Sledge, *et al.*

Factors influencing haematological recovery following high-dose chemotherapy and peripheral stem cell transplantation for haematological malignancies: 1-year analysis

P. Nieboer, E.G.E. de Vries, E. Vellenga, *et al.*

Paediatric

Prevention of oral mucositis in paediatric patients treated with chemotherapy: a randomised crossover trial comparing two protocols of oral care

K.K.F. Cheng, A.M. Chang, M.P. Yuen

Current practice with regard to oral care for children being treated for cancer

A.M. Glenny, F. Gibson, E. Auld, *et al.*

Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

Detection of cervical pre-cancer and cancer in a hospital population: benefits of HPV testing

V. Dalstein, D. Riethmuller, J.L. Sautiere, *et al.*

Can the survival difference between breast cancer patients in Denmark and Sweden 1989 and 1994 be explained by patho-anatomical variables? A population-based study

L.H. Christensen, G. Engholm, J. Ceberg, *et al.*

Five-year change in statistical designs of phase II trials published in leading cancer journals

S. Thezenas, J. Duffour, S. Culine, A. Kramar

A case-control study of breast cancer risk, serum folate levels and C677T genotype of the methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase gene

J. Beilby, D. Ingram, R. Hahnel, E. Rossi

Experimental

An autocrine loop for vascular endothelial growth factor is established in prostate cancer cells generated after prolonged treatment with interleukin 6

H. Steiner, A.P. Berger, Godoy-Tunidor, *et al.*

Molecular analysis of the putative tumour suppressor gene *EXTL1* in neuroblastoma patients and cell lines

D. Mathysen, N. Van Roy, W. Van Hul, *et al.*

Dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI at 1.5 T with Gd-DTPA to assess angiostatic effects of anginex in mice

Q. De Lussanet, R. Beets-Tan, W. Backes

Improved penetration of docetaxel into the brain by co-administration of inhibitors of p-glycoprotein

E.M. Kemper, M. Verheij, J. Boogerd, *et al.*

Combination of a CpG-oligodeoxynucleotide and a topoisomerase I inhibitor in the therapy of human tumour xenografts

A. Balsari, M. Tortoreto, D. Besusso, *et al.*