

This issue's topics



Angiogenesis - a target for intervention?

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Is angiogenesis in gastrointestinal tumours and their metastases a target for intervention? That is the question posed in a Review in this issue by Garcea and colleagues. The authors outline key inhibitory and stimulatory players involved in maintaining the fine balance that typifies angiogenic pathways and discuss potential sites of action for anti-angiogenic agents such as tyrosine kinase inhibitors and antibody therapies. Anti-angiogenic therapy has the potential to become an important adjunct to present treatment modalities for solid gastrointestinal tumours, but until the results of phase III trials become available, this potential has yet to be fully realised in the clinic, they said. Drs. Veronese and O'Dwyer agree with this assessment. In another Review published in this issue on the use of monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of colorectal cancer, they say "The future of this approach in solid tumours is promising".

Fluconazole better than itraconazole in treating oropharyngeal candidiasis

Oude Lashof and colleagues randomised 279 non-neutropenic cancer patients in an open, multicentre study between treatment with fluconazole (100 mg per day for 10 days) and itraconazole (200 mg per day for 15 days). The clinical cure rate was 74% for fluconazole and 62% for itraconazole ($P = 0.04$). The mycological cure rate was 80% versus 68% ($P = 0.03$). "Fluconazole has a significantly better clinical and mycological cure rate compared with itraconazole".

Increasing incidence rates for childhood cancers in Sweden

Incidence rates for childhood cancers increased by +1.01% per year (95% Confidence Interval 0.80, 1.22) over the period of 1960–1998, a study reports in this issue. These included leukaemias, lymphomas, Central Nervous System tumours, Sympathetic Nervous System tumours, hepatic tumours and germ cell and gonadal tumours. Dreifaldt and colleagues examined data from 1960 to 1998 extracted from the Swedish Cancer Registry for children aged 10–14 years ($n = 9298$). "Changes in diagnostic criteria and better diagnostic tools may have contributed to these results", they said.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial comment

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis: portrait of a disease as a rare tumour.
J Donadieu

Reviews

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis in adults: more questions than answers?
M Arico
Systemic therapy for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: a Review
AK Nowak, PKH Chow, M Findlay

Original papers

Clinical

Expression of HER2 and its association with AP-2 in breast cancer
J Pellikainen, A Naukkarinen, K Ropponen, *et al.*
Prognostic impact of early detection of contralateral metachronous breast cancer
S Ciatto, M Guido, M Zappa
Proliferation markers predictive of pathological response and of disease outcome in advanced breast carcinomas treated by anthracycline-based preoperative chemotherapy
A Vincent-Salomon, A Rousseau, M Jouve, *et al.*
Psychological factors and patient delays in patients with head and neck cancer
DM Tromp, XDR Brouha, JRJ De Leeuw, *et al.*

Locoregional effects of pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (Caelyx) in irradiated areas: a Phase II study in patients with recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck
S Faivre, H Aslabe, L Djafari, *et al.*

Paediatric

Outcome of second malignancies after retinoblastoma: a retrospective analysis of 25 patients treated at the Institut Curie
I Aerts, H Pacquement, F Doz, *et al.*

Epidemiology and cancer prevention

Hepatocellular carcinoma in The Netherlands. Incidence, treatment and survival patterns between 1989 and 1998

C Verhoef, O Visser, RA de Man, *et al.*

Monoclonal proteinaemia and solid tumours

CG Schaar, S Snijder, MJ Oostindier, *et al.*

Staging in patients with locoregionally recurrent breast cancer: current practice and prospects for Positron Emission Tomography

FJ van Oost, JJM van der Hoeven, OS Hoekstra, *et al.*

Experimental

In vivo and *in vitro* evaluation of Erianin: a novel anti-angiogenic agent

Y-G Gong, Y Fan, D-Z Wu, *et al.*

The ratio of thymidine phosphorylase to dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase levels in tumour tissues is predictive of the clinical response to 5'-deoxy-5-fluorouridine: a prospective study in patients with metastatic gastric cancer

T Nishina, I Hyodo, J Miyaike, *et al.*

Positive interactive radiosensitisation observed *in vitro* with the combination of two nucleoside analogues(*E*)-2-deoxy-2-(fluoromethylene) cytidine(FMdC) and iododeoxyuridine(IdUrd)

P Coucke, E Cottin, D Azria, *et al.*

Abnormal Fhit protein expression and high frequency of microsatellite instability in sporadic colorectal cancer

L Sarli, L Bottarelli, C Azzoni, *et al.*

Predicting non-small cell lung cancer expression of EGFR and MMP9 from immunohistochemical staining of diagnostic biopsy sample

L Ferrigan, W Wallace

Letter

Kaposi's sarcoma in Vaud and Neuchatel, Switzerland

F Levi, L Randimbison, V-C Te, *et al.*