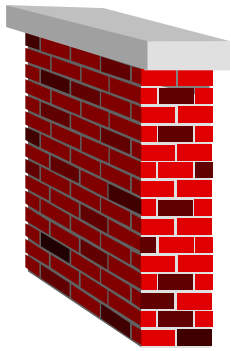


This issue's topics



**Lack of evidence is a barrier
to 'standard' systemic
therapy for advanced HCC**

Review of systemic therapy for advanced HCC

Nowak and colleagues provide an overview of the therapies that have been used in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). They divide their analysis into three main areas; chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and immunotherapy. There is a paucity of large, well-designed clinical trials in advanced HCC to guide therapeutic decisions, they conclude. Trials are often single-centred including too few and highly selected patients making analysis of the results difficult. "It is clear that there is no systemic therapy that can be considered standard for patients with HCC. Prevention of hepatitis B and C remains vital to decrease deaths from HCC".

Hepatocellular carcinoma incidence in the Netherlands

Age-standardised incidence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) does not rise in the Netherlands between 1989 and 2000. In contrast, mortality due to primary liver cancer increases over the same time period. These are the conclusions of Verhoef and colleagues who analysed in this issue trends in incidence, mortality, treatment and survival according to the patient's gender, age, period of diagnosis and stage of disease. Using data from the Netherlands, in addition to the aforementioned trends, the authors noted that 73% of HCC patients received no cancer-related therapy and treatment patterns did not change over the study period. This suggests that HCC patients should be discussed in specialist centres to minimise the number of patients not receiving curative therapy, they said.

Cathepsin B and L and colorectal cancer progression

Early colorectal cancer progression is associated with the expression of cathepsin B and L antigen and activity levels, according to authors reporting in this issue. Troy and colleagues analysed 99 samples from patients undergoing operations for colorectal cancer and analysed their results as tumour/normal ratios from matched patient samples. The activity ratios decreased gradually with advancing tumour stage. Furthermore, patient survival of those with potentially curable disease was inversely related to the activity ratios for both cathepsins and also to the cathepsin L antigen ratio. Our findings suggest that these cysteine proteases, that are thought to be important for the processes of invasion and metastasis, play an important role in colorectal cancer progression, they said.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comment

Imaging in recurrent cancer: earliness of diagnosis of recurrent cancer in early stage disease, how far do we go?
Gwyther S

Position Papers

Changing concepts in the pathological basis of soft tissue and bone sarcoma treatment
Hogendoorn PCW, Collin F, Daugaard S *et al.*

Reviews

Follicular-cell derived thyroid cancer in children
Leboulleux S, Baudin E, Hartl DW *et al.*

Tumour-associated macrophages as a prototypic type II polarised phagocyte population: role in tumour progression
Mantovani A, Allavena P, Sica A

Original Papers

Clinical

Double-reading of plain radiographs – no benefit to earliness of diagnosis of cancer recurrence: a randomised follow-up study
Jarenpaa R, Holli K, Hakama M
Late toxicity following conventional radiotherapy of prostate cancer: analysis of the EORTC trial 22863
Ataman F, Zurlo A, Artignan X *et al.*
Salvage chemotherapy with temozolomide in primary CNS lymphomas: preliminary results of a Phase II trial
Reni M, Mason W, Zaja F *et al.*
Fatigue and psychological distress – exploring the relationship in women treated for breast cancer
Bennett, B. Goldstein, D. Lloyd, A. *et al.*
Quality of life and stress response symptoms in long-term and recent spouses of testicular cancer survivors
Tuinman MA, Fleer J, Hoekstra HJ *et al.*
Improved quality of life after long-term treatment with the biphosphonate ibandronate in patients with metastatic bone disease due to breast cancer
Diel IJ, Body J-J, Lichinitser MR *et al.*
Antioxidant micronutrients supplementation in chemotherapy-induced toxicity in cancer patients treated with *cisplatin*-based chemotherapy: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled study
Weijl NI, Elsendoorn TJ, Lentjes EGWM *et al.*
Quality assurance of the EORTC 26981/22981; NCIC CE3 intergroup trial on radiotherapy with or without temozolomide for newly diagnosed glioblastoma multiforme: the individual case review
Ataman F, Poortmans P, Stupp R *et al.*
Predictors of non-sentinel lymph node metastasis in breast cancer patients
Goyal A, Douglas-Jones A, Newcombe RG, Mansel RE
A survey of surgical management of the axilla in breast cancer patients in the UK
Gaston MS, Dixon JM

Paediatric

Frequent adverse events after treatment for childhood-onset differentiated thyroid carcinoma
van Santen HM, Aronson DC, Vulsma T *et al.*

Experimental

Synergistic effect of cigarette smoke and saliva on lymphocytes – the mediatory role of volatile aldehydes and redox active iron and the possible implications for oral cancer
HersHKovick O, Oliva J, Nagler RM
Lycopene Impacts on the Proliferation of Human Breast Cells and *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* Gene Expression
N. Chalabi, L. Le Corre, J-C Maurizis *et al.*
Identification of epidermal growth factor receptor-derived peptides recognised by both cellular and humoral immunities in HLA-A24 non-small cell lung cancer patients
Midkine promoter-driven suicide gene expression and mediated adenovirus replication produced cytotoxic effects to immortalised and tumour cells
Yu L, Hamada K, Namba M *et al.*
Lycopene impacts on the proliferation of human breast cells and *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* gene expression
Chalabi N, Le Corre L, Maurizis J-C *et al.*

Letter

Could a man suffer from carcinoma of the cervix? The first case report of cervical carcinoma in a trans-sexual person
Driak D, Samudovsky M