

This issue's topics



Imaging to detect recurrent cancer

Imaging to detect recurrent cancer – how far should we go?

That is the question posed by Dr. Gwyther in an Editorial published in this issue. His reply? “For the most part, the asymptomatic patient with early stage disease still deserves to be investigated to a lesser rather than greater degree, unless there are specific concerns or that patient is at a high risk of recurrence”. He also discusses a related article in this issue by Jarvenpaa and colleagues who prospectively studied whether the detection of recurrence or patient outcome is affected by who reads the plain radiographs – the oncologist or the radiologist. Patients were randomised to either a double-reading (oncologist and radiologist independently reading radiographs) or a single-reading arm (oncologist's reading only). 55 of 227 (24%) recurrences diagnosed were detected on plain radiographs. No survival differences were seen between the two arms. Jarvenpaa's study suggests that a radiological opinion on plain radiographs is not that important in patients attending the follow-up clinic for various cancers, Dr. Gwyther said.

Management of the axilla in breast cancer

Routine use of axillary clearance is increasingly difficult to justify and should be restricted to those patients with involved nodes, according to authors reporting in this issue. Drs. Gaston and Dixon sent a questionnaire to 439 specialist breast surgeons to survey their views with regard to the management of the axilla. 371 returned the questionnaire. “There is no consistent practice of managing the axilla in the United Kingdom and standardisation is required. Sentinel Lymph Node (SLN) biopsy is performed both within and outside of trials and a variety of techniques are used”, they said. “A consensus of when and how SLN biopsy can be introduced for clinical node-negative patients is urgently required.”

Spouses of testicular cancer survivors have a better physical quality of life

Spouses of testicular cancer survivors had a better physical quality of life (QoL) than a reference group of ‘average’ women, authors report in this issue. Tuinman and colleagues received 259 questionnaires assessing both QoL and stress responses from spouses of testicular cancer survivors in the Netherlands: 219 were from spouses who had been present at the diagnosis of cancer and throughout the treatment, whereas the other 40 responses were from women who became spouses after treatment for cancer. Interestingly, the spouses who had been present at the cancer diagnosis and treatment not only had better physical QoL scores than the reference population, but also showed significant differences in the QoL measures from the spouses who met their partners later. The latter group reported a poorer psychological QoL, both in comparison with the other spousal group and the reference population. Research into the processes of building a relationship after surviving cancer might provide more insight into these results, they said.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comments

Old and new markers for breast cancer prognosis. The need for an integrated research on quantitative issues

Biganzoli E, Boracchi P

Evaluation of epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor combined with chemotherapy: need for a more rational design

Jing-Ming Xu, Paradiso A, McLeod HL

Statement

The Hamburg Statement: the partnership driving the European agenda on breast cancer

Jassem J, Buchanan M, Janicke F, *et al.*

Reviews

Isolated hepatic perfusion for the treatment of colorectal metastases confined to the liver: recent trends and perspectives

Rothbarth J, Tollenaar RAEM, Schellens JHM, *et al.*

Re-evaluating the role of dacarbazine in metastatic melanoma: what have we learned in 50 years?

Eggermont AMM, Kirkwood JM

Original papers

Clinical

'Good old' clinical markers have similar power in breast cancer prognosis as microarray gene expression profilers

Eden P, Ritz C, Rose C, *et al.*

Impact of surgical staging in patients with macroscopic 'stage I' ovarian borderline tumours: analysis of a continuous series of 101 cases

Camatte S, Morice P, Thoury A, *et al.*

Patient information on diagnosis, prognosis and treatment: the perspective of clinical oncologists

Belvedere O, Minisini A, Ramello M, *et al.*

LH–RH agonists offer very good protection against adverse gynaecological effects induced by tamoxifen

Berliere M, Galant C, Marques G, *et al.*

Quality of life after palliative treatment for oesophageal carcinoma – a prospective comparison between stent placement and single dose brachytherapy

Homs MYV, Essink-Bot ML, Borsboom GJJM, *et al.*

Phase II studies of BBR3464, a novel tri-nuclear platinum complex, in patients with gastric or gastro-oesophageal adenocarcinoma

Jodrell DI, Evans TRJ, Steward W, *et al.*

A clinical Phase I/II trial of gemcitabine and treosulfan (GeT) in uveal melanoma and other solid tumours

Keilholz U, Schuster R, Schmittel A, *et al.*

Woman feels breast lump – surgeon cannot. Role of ultrasound in arbitration

Cid JA, Rampaul RS, Ellis IO, *et al.*

Psychological distress in women at increased risk for breast cancer: the role of risk perception

van Dooren S, Rijnsburger AJ, Seynaeve C, *et al.*

Paediatric

Late events after successful therapy for childhood rhabdomyosarcoma: a report from the Soft Tissue Sarcoma Committee of the Children's Oncology Group

Sung L, Anderson JR, Donaldson SS, *et al.*

Central nervous system imaging in childhood leukaemia

Porto L, Kieslich M, Schwabe D, *et al.*

European collaboration in trials of new agents for children with cancer

Ablett S, Doz F, Morland B, Vassal G

Commentary on 'European Collaboration in trials of new agents for children with cancer'

Smith MA, Anderson BD

Experimental

E-Cadherin (CDH1) and p53 rather than SMAD4 and caspase-10 germline mutations contribute to genetic predisposition in Portuguese gastric cancer patients

Oliverira C, Ferreira P, Nabais S, *et al.*

Expression of hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF)-1-alpha is associated with vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) expression and tumour angiogenesis in human oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma

Shigeru Kimura, Yasuhiko Kitadai, Shinji Tanaka, *et al.*