

This issue's topics



The Pillar of Medical Wisdom

Cancer treatments from Hippocrates to the Middle Ages

The history of the treatment of cancer as described by leading physicians of Greek antiquity is discussed in a Review in this issue. Karpozilos and Pavlidis examine medical texts beginning with Hippocrates (ca. 460–370 BC) – “The Pillar of Medical Wisdom” – through to the seventh century AD. “The theoretical considerations remained basically unaltered and the same prescriptions- in essence- were transmitted from one medical collection to another, from Greek Antiquity and throughout the Middle Ages”, they concluded.

Novel proteomic techniques to identify Cytochrome P450 enzymes

Novel mass spectrometry-based proteomic techniques are used in this issue to identify Cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzymes in human colorectal metastases and normal liver tissue. Fourteen distinct CYP enzymes were identified; 13 in the liver and 12 in the tumour samples. Three of the metastatic samples had mostly the same expression pattern of CYPs as the surrounding liver. According to the authors, “The CYP expression profile in an individual tumour is likely to be an important determinant in predicting the outcome of cancer chemotherapy”.

CAM use in children with cancer

Conventional and alternative medical therapies (CAM) are used by 31–84% of children with cancer, Dr. Kara Kelly (Columbia University, USA) reports in this issue. Regulation of CAM therapies varies worldwide and they can also interact with conventional medicines. They are often used to treat the side-effects of therapy and only rarely as conventional therapy. Further research is needed before biologically-based CAM therapies can be recommended in conjunction with conventional therapies, she said.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comment

Early mortality rates: a tool for Phase III trials or for changing standard practice?
Verweij J, Smyth JF

Position Paper

A new international framework for palliative care
Ahmedzai SH, Costa A, Blengini C *et al.*

Guidelines

EORTC guidelines for the use of erythropoietic proteins in anaemic patients with cancer
Bokemeyer C, Aapro MS, Courdi A *et al.*

Review

The ubiquitin-mediated protein degradation pathway in cancer: therapeutic implications
Burger AM, Seth AK

Original Papers

Clinical

Sixty-day all-cause mortality rates, in patients treated for gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, in randomised trials, at the Royal Marsden Hospital
Katopodis O, Ross P, Norman AR *et al.*
Histological grade change in locally recurrent soft tissue sarcomas
Ferguson PC, Deshmukh N, Abudu A *et al.*
French version of FACT-G: validation and comparison with other cancer-specific instruments
Conroy T, Mercier M, Bonnetterre J *et al.*
Risk factors for catheter-related thrombosis in cancer patients
Tesselaar MET, Ouwekerk J, Nooy MA *et al.*
Clinical and psychometric validation of a questionnaire module, the EORTC QLQ-STO22, to assess the quality of life in patients with gastric cancer
Blazeby JM, Conroy T, Bottomley A *et al.*
Protein kinase C alpha expression in normal breast, ductal carcinoma *in situ* and invasive ductal carcinoma
Ainsworth PD, Winstanley JHR, Pearson JM *et al.*

Paediatric

Predicting Cisplatin Ototoxicity in Children: The Influence of Age and Cumulative dose
U Li, RB Womer, JH Silber
Phase II study of high-dose cyclophosphamide in relapsing and/or resistant hepatoblastoma in children: a study from the SIOPEL Group
Vacciavillano WD, Brugieres L, Childs M *et al.*
Symptom interval in young people with bone cancer
Goyal S, Roscoe J, Ryder WDJ *et al.*
Methotrexate inhibits the glyoxalase system *in vivo* in children with acute lymphoid leukaemia
Bartyik K, Turi S, Orosz F, Karg E

Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

The European Anaemia Survey (ECAS): The first large, multinational, prospective study defining the prevalence, incidence and treatment of anaemia in cancer patients
Ludwig H, van Belle S, Barrett-Lee P *et al.*
Standard cancer patient population for age standardising survival rates
Corazziari I, Quinn M, Capocaccia R
An alternative approach to age adjustment of cancer survival rates
Brenner H, Arndt V, Gefeller O, Hakulinen T

Experimental

Lectin histochemistry with an endogenous adhesion/growth-modulatory protein galectin-3 as an emerging technique in prognostic evaluation: case study for advanced head and neck carcinoma
J. Plzak, J. Betka, K. Smetana *et al.*
Stage-specific inhibition of mammary carcinogenesis by 1alpha-hydroxyvitamin D5
R. Mehta
Different signalling pathways regulate VEGF and IL-8 expression in breast cancer: implications for therapy
Chelouche-Lev D, Miller CP, Tellez C *et al.*