

This issue's topics



**ESO build a framework
for palliative care**



ESO's framework for palliative care

The European School of Oncology outline in this issue their definitions of basic and specialised palliative care. They propose a list of priorities that should be included for all cancer patients. These include the integration of palliative care services with primary care and oncology teams, the establishment of educational programmes for undergraduates, oncologists, primary care team members and specialists in palliative care and the removal of unnecessary restrictions on all drugs of proven benefit. "It is imperative that in order to offer truly patient-directed care, there has to be much more engagement by professionals and those involved in running palliative care services, with patients, their carers and their representatives", they concluded.

The European Cancer Anaemia Survey

"Anaemia prevalence and incidence in cancer patients are high. Anaemia significantly correlates with a poor performance status and many anaemic patients are not treated" according to Dr. Heinz Ludwig and colleagues reporting in this issue. Data were derived from the European Cancer Anaemia Survey (ECAS), an epidemiological, observational study from 748 cancer centres in 24 countries. As anaemia can be associated with a shorter survival and decreased quality of life, the optimal management of anaemia appears to be a critical component of cancer treatment, they said. In a related paper published in this issue, the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer have provided guidelines for the use of erythropoietic proteins in anaemic patients with cancer.

Risk factors for catheter-related complications

Cancer patients with arm ports are more likely to have catheter complications than patients with chest ports, according to authors reporting in this issue. Tesselaar and colleagues investigated complication rates in 243 patients with various malignancies. Although patients without anticoagulant therapy showed similar rates for arm and chest ports, those given anticoagulants had an increased risk if they had arm ports (odds ratio: 34.8; 95% confidence interval 7.3–165). Left-sided placements, catheters in the *superior vena cava* and elevated homocysteine levels were other factors associated with an increased risk of venous thrombosis. Prophylaxis with anticoagulants is recommended for chest, but not for arm ports. Determination of plasma homocysteine levels may identify patients at an increased risk for thrombosis", they concluded.

Forthcoming papers

Editorial Comments

Chemotherapy for advanced lung cancer

Blackhall F, Thatcher N

Intensity modulated radiation therapy

Murthy V, Horwich A

Best practice in assessing ototoxicity in children with cancer

Skinner R

Current Perspectives

Cutaneous malignant melanoma in Europe

de Vries E, Coebergh JW

Perspectives in melanoma protection: The case of sunbeds

Autier P

Reviews

Thalidomide in solid tumours: the resurrection of an old drug

Sleijfer S, Kruit WHJ, Stoter G

Multistep laryngeal carcinogenesis as a subset for field cancerisation phenomenon

Almadori G, Bussu F, Cadoni G *et al.*

Original Papers

Clinical

Independent prognostic factors for distant metastases and survival in patients with primary uveal melanoma
Schmittel, A, Bechrakis, N, E, Martus, P *et al.*
Surgery and outcomes of DCIS of the breast: a population-based study in Australia
Krickler A, Armstrong B
Same gain, less pain: potential patient preferences for adjuvant treatment in premenopausal women with early breast cancer
Fallowfield L, McGurk R, Dixon M
High conformality radiotherapy in Europe: Thirty-one EORTC centres seen through the lens of the quality assurance programme of the EORTC Prostate Trial 22991
Ataman F, Poortmans P, Davis JB *et al.*
Analysis of angiogenetic factors in relation to p53 status in a population-derived human breast cancer material
Karlsson E, Linderholm B, Klaar S *et al.*
Oral vinorelbine as monotherapy in advanced NSCLC elderly patients: a multicentre Phase II trial with pharmacokinetic data
Gridelli C, Manegold C, Mali P *et al.*

Paediatric

Predicting cisplatin ototoxicity in children: The influence of age and cumulative dose
U Li, RB Womer, JH Silber
Port-A-Cath infections in children with cancer
Hengartner H, Berger C, Nadal D *et al.*
Inherited cancer in children: protocol/ethical problems and challenges
Tischkowitz M, Rosser E
Commentary on: Inherited cancer in children: practical/ethical problems and challenges
Ross JA

Epidemiology and Cancer Prevention

A gene-environment interaction between occupation and *BRCA1/BRCA2* mutations in male breast cancer?
Palli, D, Masala, G, Mariani-Costantini, R *et al.*
Familial association of colorectal adenocarcinoma with cancers at other sites
Hemminki K, Chen B
The impact of education and occupation on employment among cancer survivors
Taskila-Abbrandt T, Martikainen R, Virtanen SV *et al.*
Hybrid analysis for up-to-date long-term survival rates in cancer registries with delayed recording of incident cases
Brenner H, Rachet B
Differences of cutaneous melanoma epidemiology in a relatively dark-skinned Caucasian population with chronic sun exposure
Lasithiotakis K, Kurger-Krasagakis S, Ioannidou D *et al.*

Experimental

Different signalling pathways regulate VEGF and IL-8 expression in breast cancer: implications for therapy
Chelouche-Lev D, Miller CP, Tellez C *et al.*
Somatic D-loop mitochondrial DNA mutations are frequent in uterine serous carcinoma
Pejovic T, Ladner D, Intengan M *et al.*