

Editorial

This issue contains five papers that were presented at the meeting of the European Society of Urological Oncology and Endocrinology on 18–20 April 1991. The scope of the meeting was wide. Hence, a comprehensive representation of the papers presented at that meeting in five papers is impossible. The five manuscripts communicated through the society have a strong emphasis on immunotherapeutic research approaches to urological cancers.

Hendriksson et al. report that the Dunning R3327 H tumor is sensitive to interleukin-2 without affecting androgen metabolism, thus indicating that IL-2 suppresses tumor growth without impairment of endocrine parameters; this may be of potential interest for future therapy strategies of androgen independent prostate cancer.

The same line is taken by Zhao et al. They describe the differential effect of TNF alpha on androgen-dependent and -independent prostate cancer cells. Together these papers indicate that cytokine therapy may have some future for the treatment of androgen-independent prostate cancer.

Neither paper allows definite conclusions, but as they and other papers published earlier in 1991 show, there is increasing interest in cytokine treatment for this disease. Two other urological neoplasms, i.e. bladder and renal cancer, are known to be amenable to immunotherapy. BCG treatment can be considered an important treatment modality for superficial bladder cancer. The mechanisms, however, are unclear.

The paper by Schamhart et al. describes the effects of BCG treatment on inflammatory response and gives an indication of the essential components of the BCG-recruited mechanisms. The vast majority of research on immunotherapy in urological cancer is concentrated on renal cancer. In this tumor, infiltrating lymphocytes are now the focus of many researchers' interest. Obviously, growth factors influencing growth and differentiation of these lymphocytes are of importance.

In this respect the paper of Ditunno et al. is of considerable interest, since it describes how interleukin-7 affects growth of subpopulations of renal tumor infiltrating lymphocytes.

Finally, the paper by Ravery et al. describes the potential usefulness of acidic FGF in the diagnosis of transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder. Even though the numbers of patients studied are small there is a tendency for high-grade cancers to have increased expression of aFGF.

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