

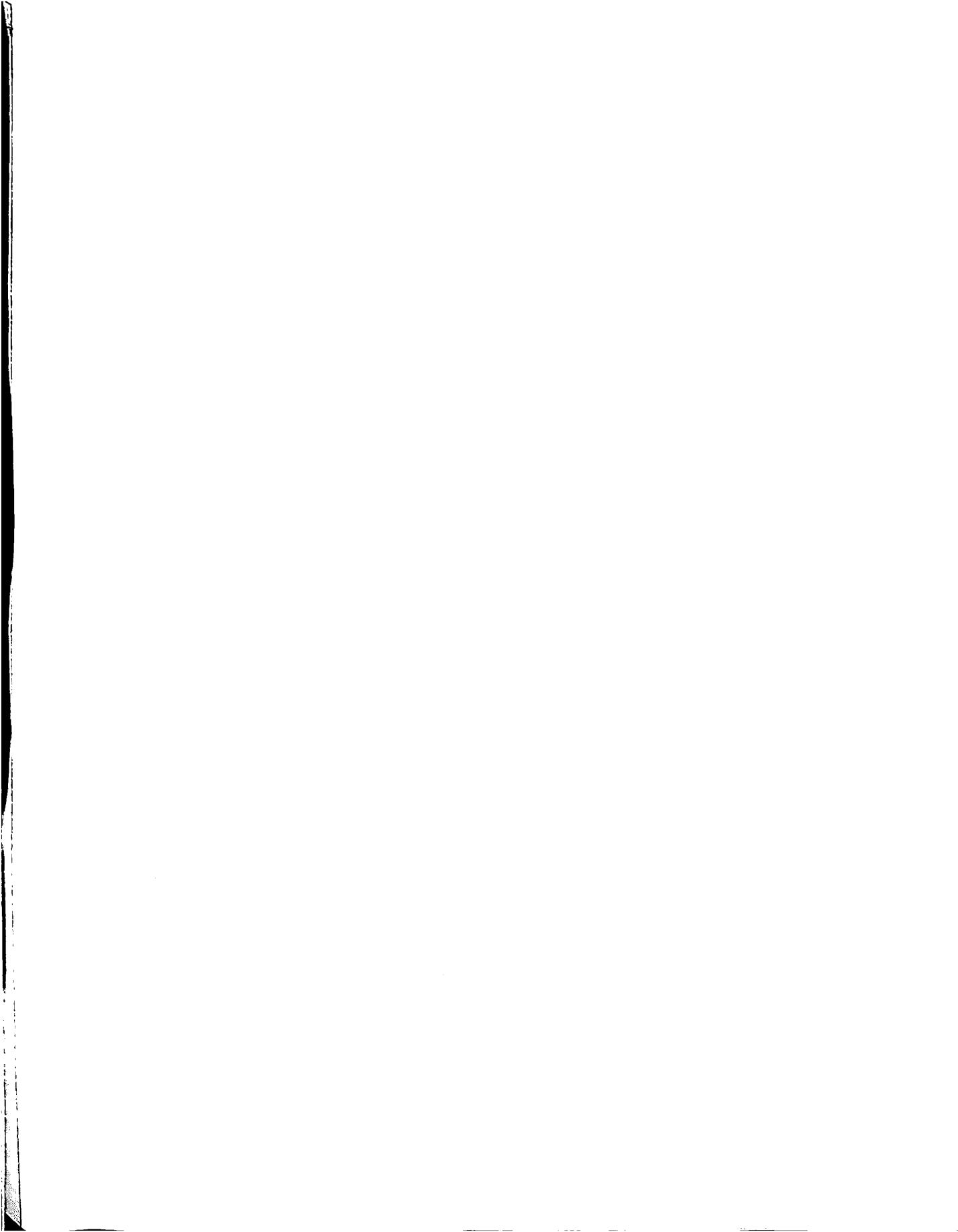
BULLETIN

de la

Société des Sciences Médicales
du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

Nº 1

1989 – mars/avril



Die Halstablette

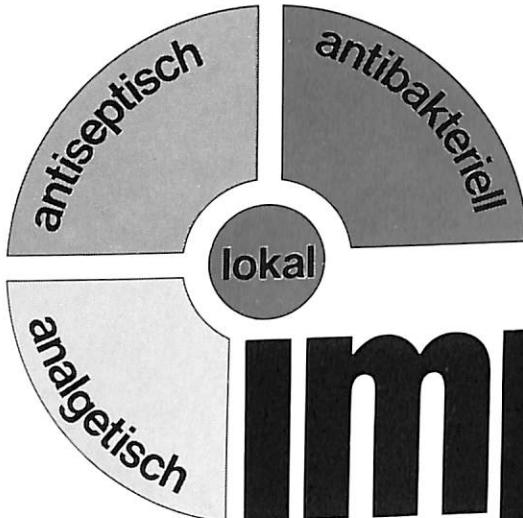
mit der

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1. Das in Imposit enthaltene Gramicidin ist hochwirksam gegen grampositive Erreger wie Staphylokokken, Streptokokken, Pneumokokken, Diphtheriebakterien u.a. Die starke bakterizide Wirkung von Cetylpyridiniumchlorid setzt rasch ein, auch tief in Krypten und Schleimhautfalten.

2. 2,4-Dichlorbenzylalkohol mit seiner ausgeprägten antiseptischen Effektivität gegen grampositive und gram-negative Erreger und Pilze zeichnet sich darüber hinaus durch sehr geringe Toxizität sowie das Fehlen von Resistenzbildung aus.

3. Das Lokalanästhetikum p-Aminobenzoësäureäthylester führt zu rascher Schmerzlinderung und ist besonders geeignet zur oberflächlichen Anwendung auf Schleimhäuten.



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Le Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Médicales du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg publie des articles en français, en allemand et en anglais. Les auteurs sont priés de remettre leurs manuscrits, dactylographiés en double ou triple interligne et en deux exemplaires, au rédacteur en chef.

Les références, classées par ordre alphabétique, doivent comporter dans l'ordre:

- a) Le nom des auteurs et les initiales de leurs prénoms, b) le titre du travail, c) le nom du journal, d) le tome, e) la première page de l'article, f) l'année de parution. Pour les citations d'ouvrages, une référence comportera dans l'ordre, outre les noms des auteurs et le titre du livre: a) la ville, b) l'année de parution, c) le nom de la maison d'édition.

Il est recommandé aux auteurs que les articles soient succincts et, si possible, suivis d'un résumé en anglais. Tous les articles seront lus par le rédacteur et un consultant-spécialiste.

Les articles n'engagent que leurs signataires, et sauf avis spécial les opinions exprimées ne reflètent pas nécessairement la position de la Société des Sciences Médicales.

The Bulletin is published two or three times per year and accepts articles in French, German and English. The authors are invited to submit the original copy and a duplicate, typed and doublespaced, to the editor. The references, in alphabetical order, should conform to the style of the Index Medicus: Surname and initials of authors, title of article, name of journal, volume number, first page and year.

All the articles, which should be succinct, are reviewed by the editor and a member of the editorial board.

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Editorial

En cette 125^e année de publication du Bulletin de la Société des Sciences Médicales, une tentative est faite, à titre d'innovation et afin d'élargir l'audience, d'une publication conjointe avec «Medical Oncology» de Pergamon Press, Oxford, une des plus grandes maisons d'édition en sciences naturelles.

A l'occasion d'un séminaire qui s'est tenu à Luxembourg en Novembre 1987, des articles nous ont été soumis sur la maladie résiduelle en cancérologie, un des concepts les plus importants actuellement dans ce domaine.

Sur ce, après accord du Conseil d'Administration de la Société des Sciences Médicales et de notre imprimeur, la proposition d'un numéro commun avec Pergamon Press a été retenue et divers autres auteurs ont été contacté afin de pouvoir composer un numéro cohérent sur un seul sujet, à paraître en 1989, «Année de l'Europe contre le cancer».

Le partenaire étant anglosaxon, il a été indispensable de choisir, ce qui est un phénomène en généralisation, l'anglais, langue véhiculaire la plus répandue et commune en sciences naturelles. Il a été dans les traditions du Bulletin d'être trilingue et j'espère que nos lecteurs ne nous tiendront pas rigueur d'un numéro entièrement en anglais.

En espérant que cette expérience soit pleine de succès, je vous en souhaite une lecture instructive et agréable.

*M. Dicato
Editeur*

Venostasin retard

Traitement de l'insuffisance veineuse

Composition

1 capsule retard contient:
300 mg d'extrait titré, se composant de
240-290 mg d'extrait sec de marron
d'Inde et de 60-10 mg de dextrine corres-
pondant à 50 mg de triterpenglucosides
calculé en aescine.

Indications

Troubles fonctionnels dans les affections
des veines de la jambe (symptômes de
l'insuffisance veineuse chronique) – par
ex. varices, phlébite, thrombophlébite,
s'accompagnant de douleurs dans les
jambes, sensation de lourdeur, prurit,
crampes nocturnes du mollet, oedèmes,
tension et fatigue au niveau des jambes.

Effets indésirables

De légers troubles gastriques peuvent se
manifester occasionnellement. Dans ce
cas, il est recommandé de prendre le
médicament au moment des repas.

Posologie et mode d'emploi

Une capsule retard matin et soir avant les
repas (à avaler avec un peu de liquide
sans croquer).

Présentation

Boîtes de 50 capsules retard



The Monitoring of Minimal Residual Disease in Patients with Malignant Tumors

Peter Reizenstein

INTRODUCTION

The fact that tumor cells frequently remain after treatment is best illustrated by frequent relapses of tumors after treatment with surgery, radiation or cytostatics. One illustration is the recent finding by Rutqvist of an increased incidence of mammary carcinoma as late as 40 years after the treatment of the initial tumor. The present purpose is to discuss some of the possibilities for diagnosis of the presence of minimal volumes of remaining tumor. Oncofoetal tumor markers will, however, be discussed only partially, since there is a separate chapter in this volume dealing with these markers in lung cancer.

It is important to diagnose minimal residual tumors, both to avoid unnecessary treatment and to avoid omission of that which is necessary. (See the section on non-specific methods, below.) Unnecessary adjuvant chemotherapy, for instance, has probably been given both to premenopausal breast cancer patients with negative nodes and to postmenopausal patients (32). Similarly, unnecessary bone marrow transplants may be given to the 15% of young patients with acute myeloid leukemia in complete remission who would be long term survivors even without the marrow transplant. Since the operation mortality is 30–40%, and the average frequency of allogeneic transplants in the Western world is about 3 per million inhabitants per year, around 100 young patients are killed per year in Europe and the U.S.A. by an operation which could have been avoided if minimal residual leukemia could be clinically demonstrated.

Similarly, it is also important to diagnose minimal residual disease to avoid errors of omission. For example, microscopic residual tumors were found at 'second-look' laparotomies in 50 of 246 patients with ovarian cancer. Progressive disease was found in 12 of these patients after 2 years, despite treatment (25), but in 38 there was no progress.

Post-operative residual colon carcinoma would also be important to diagnose, since adjuvant chemo-radiotherapy

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could be shown to delay metastasis (37). In 4/13 Burkitts lymphomas with extramedullary involvement, B-cell colonies could be shown to grow in marrow cultures, but not in 54 patients without such involvement (26).

TUMOR-SPECIFIC ANTIGENS

Numerous attempts to identify tumor-specific antigens on human tumor cells have been made. The first, and thus best studied antigen in man, is the so-called common acute lymphatic leukemia antigen (CALLA), originally described by Greaves. It is now well established that this antigen is specific neither for acute lymphatic leukemia, nor for acute leukemia, nor for malignant cells (1,2). It has been found on cells from patients with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and chronic lymphatic leukemia (CLL), as well as in tonsillary tissue from patients without any malignant disease (Table 1). In acute lymphatic leukemia in complete remission, CALLA-expressing cells may be seen to appear in the bone marrow and to disappear spontaneously without any signs of relapse (Fig. 1). On the other hand, B-cell cultures from acute lymphatic leukemia blood show more (2-72%) CALLA-positive cells than those from normal blood (3).

It has also been shown that CALLA positive cells from acute lymphatic leukemia patients differ from CALLA positive cells from patients without leukemia in terms of their differentiation capabilities (see chapter by Breard et al., this volume) and it is thus not known whether the cells seen in complete remission in acute leukemia displaying the CALLA antigen are derived from normal or leukemic cells. The possible

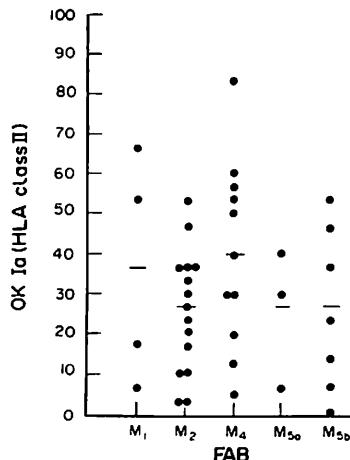


Fig 1. Heterogeneity of HLA-2 expression on cells from patients with acute myeloid leukemia.

normal origin of CALLA-expressing cells explains why patients with over 2% CALLA positive cells during remission have no shorter remission duration than patients with fewer CALLA positive cells.

Leukemic cells of non-lymphatic origin can also display a relatively limited number of CALLA-molecules on their surface (9). It is thus improbable that the CALLA antigen can be used to identify remaining malignant cells. It has not been demonstrated that other tumor-specific or associated antigens can find imperceptible tumors. Oncofetal antigens, as mentioned above, may constitute an exception regarding recurrences of tumors.

TABLE 1. Per cent cells binding two monoclonal antibodies from the J5 and Vil A1 hybridomas against partially different epitopes on non-malignant lymphatic cells, and cells from patients with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) chronic (CLL) and acute (ALL) lymphatic leukemia

	%J5 pos. cells	% Vil A 1 pos. cells	
Non-malignant tonsils (n = 16)	18.63	9.3	P = 0.0001
NHL and CLL (n = 13)	18.69	6.7	P = 0.05 (P = 0.006)
ALL (n = 19)	13.9	11.4	P > 0.5

TISSUE-ASSOCIATED AND DIFFERENTIATION ANTIGENS

Even if leukemia-specific antigens in man have not been found, it is possible that differentiation or tissue-specific antigens could be of help. However, the antigen expression on tumor cells is very heterogeneous. For instance, HLA-2, which on myeloid cells is a differentiation antigen, can be expressed by anything between all or none of the leukemic cells (Fig. 1, refs. 5,6,7). It is therefore probable that this method offers relatively little hope in the detection of minimal residual tumors when cell-bound antigens are analyzed.

There are, however, some differentiation or carcinoembryonic antigens which are liberated into the serum. The advent of monoclonal antibody RIA tests has made the assays relatively sensitive. Of CA 19-9, a carbohydrate antigen, about 1.4 units (1.1 mg) per ml can be assayed with a coefficient of variation of 10% (8,9,10,11). The sensitivity in gastrointestinal and pancreatic carcinomas varies between 8% and 46% in localized colorectal adenocarcinoma to 46%

TABLE 2. Aneuploidy in patients with acute myeloid leukemia at diagnosis. Flow fluometry, acridine orange, 11 patients with AML

	Mean*	c.v.
Mouse thymocytes	25.9	7.8
Normal human WBC	62.8	7.2
Ac. myel. leukemia cells	74.9	14.1

Correlation coefficient between aneuploidy excess and in vitro growth (CFUC): +0.948, P < 0.05.

*Arbitrary fluorescence units.

TABLE 3. Aneuploidy in the bone marrow of patients with acute leukemia (16a) at diagnosis and in remission

	Myeloid At diagnosis	In remission	Lymphatic In remission
27% of patients		0	< 10% of patients

TABLE 4. Tumor markers (for abbreviations see text), numbers positive in remission, patients with various tumors

	Cut-off value	No.
TPA	130 U/ml	8/38
		10/111
CA19-9	37 U/ml	0/22
CA125	65 U/ml	5/22
CEA	2.5 ng/ml	7/22
CRP	20 U/ml	6/38

in advanced colorectal or gastric cancer and up to 79–91% in pancreatic cancer (13). It has not been shown that any serum CA 19-9 increase can be found in asymptomatic, small tumors (11,13,14).

Only 0.4% of healthy blood donors have values over 37 units/ml, which has led to claims of specificity of 99.1–99.9% (12). However, in benign liver disease or among smokers, there are between 14 and 58% 'false' positives.

The concentration of the carcinoembryonic antigen, CEA, is higher than the 95% confidence limit in only 23–68% of pancreatic carcinoma patients, (11,13), in 38% of patients with ovarian (15,16) and 39% of gastrointestinal cancer, but also in 17% of patients with benign gastrointestinal disease (13).

Alpha-fetoprotein, a marker for liver carcinoma (16 of 18 cases), is normal in pancreatic cancer and in most patients with biliary tract cancer (13).

A monoclonal antibody (OC125) against a high molecular weight glycoprotein antigen (CA125), is over 35 U/ml in only 1% of healthy and 6% of patients with non-malignant disease, in 29% of patients with gastrointestinal and

breast cancer but in 82% of patients with ovarian carcinoma (48). It is produced and released by ovarian carcinoma cells. Increased values are generally absent in mucinous tumors of the ovary.

Tissue polypeptide antigen (TPA), possibly a cytokeratin-like peptide, is described as less specific in ovarian carcinoma than CA125 (45). CA125 is low (under 25 U/ml) in all remission patients, however, (46) whereas TPA is at least sometimes (10/111 patients) positive (over 130 U/l., refs. 45,47), despite the fact that TPA has been claimed to be present in cells mainly during the S and mitosis phases.*

Most papers dealing with embryonic antigens strive to demonstrate disease progression. Here, the purpose is to discuss minimal residual tumors, i.e. those remaining after, e.g. an operation of ovarian carcinoma. Table 4 suggests that, in this particular respect TPA, CA125 and CEA are more sensitive than CA19-9. However, definitions of remission vary and no proper follow-up has been made of the patients who did have and those who did not have elevated values in one of these results.

TUMOR MARKERS OTHER THAN ANTIGENS: TERMINAL TRANSFERASE, ONCOGEN EXPRESSION, ANEUPLOIDY, MALIGNANT CLONOGENIC CELLS

Tumor markers other than antigens could also be useful in the diagnosis of minimal residual disease. Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase (TdT) has been studied in acute lymphatic leukemia by Buchanan (17). He found less than 2% TdT positive cells in normal bone marrow and between 2 and 4% in the marrow from leukemia patients in complete remission. In the peripheral blood, he found 0.04% in healthy subjects. All three patients with over 0.11% TdT-bearing cells in the blood relapsed, but none of the eight patients with less than 0.11%. Hetherington (18) could predict 4/6 marrow relapses by demonstrating TdT-positive cells (0.12–0.22% in blood).

* By Dr Fischer, Sales and Marketing Manager, AB Sangtec Medical (1985).

Van Dongen (19) tried to improve the sensitivity of the TdT method to diagnose minimal residual disease by combining it with a monoclonal antibody called WT1. Phenotypes containing terminal transferase alone were found in 0.5–10% of complete remission marrows from patients with acute lymphatic leukemia, but in only 0.01–0.12% of cells in combination with WT1 antigens (9). This method thus holds some promise for future diagnoses of minimal residual disease in acute lymphatic leukemia.

Another interesting approach has also been tried by van Dongen, who looked for activated oncogens in the bone marrow from patients with acute myeloid (AML) and lymphatic (ALL) leukemia in complete remission. He found c-fes transcribed RNA in 7% of AML-cells but in no ALL-cells (19). Similarly, EBV-DNA has been demonstrated with cloned probes (20).

The aneuploidy of malignant, particularly highly malignant cells has also been studied. In acute manifest myeloid leukemia bone marrow, a higher coefficient of variation of the cellular DNA content has been found (Table 2), but in complete remission, Barlogie (21) did not find any bone marrow cell aneuploidy. It is, however, possible for flow cytometry to detect as little as 0.02% of aneuploid cells in blood and 0.005% in effusions (22).

Sometimes malignant clonogenic cells can be cultured or found. There are over 20 T-cell cultures per 100 000 blood mononuclear cells in patients with T-cell lymphomas that will relapse, but fewer in those not relapsing and none in B-cell lymphomas (4). A lack of Y-chromosomes is found in some myeloid leukemia cells, but in complete remission there may still be 6–39% Y-negative metaphases.

SENSITIVITY OF THE SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

At the time of diagnosis, the estimated leukemic cell number is 1000 billion, at the time of complete remission, it is assumed to be 1–10 billion.

Even if we assume that we have a perfect marker, absent on all non-neoplastic cells and present on all neoplastic ones, the sensitivity of a marrow sample in detection of residual tumor

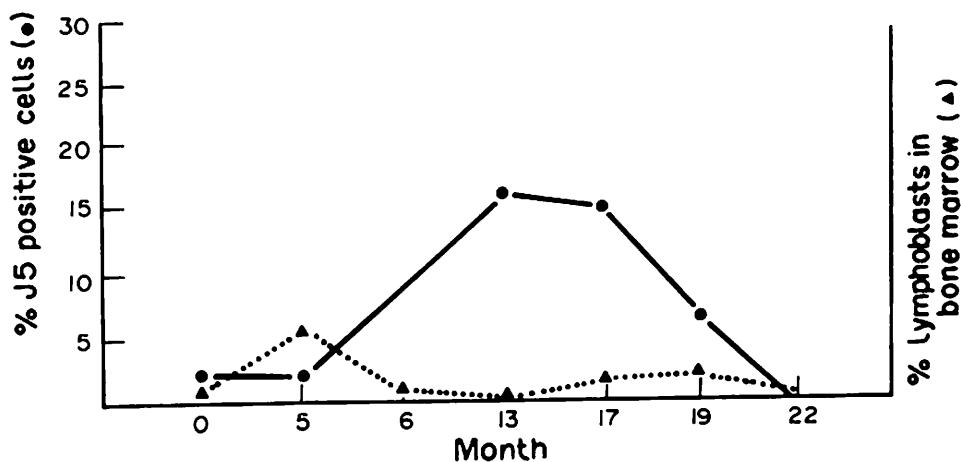


Fig. 2. Percentage of CALLA-positive (O) cells and of lymphoblasts (X) in the bone marrow of a girl in complete remission 5 years after the treatment of acute lymphatic leukemia. Despite abstention from treatment, there was spontaneous regression and no relapse.

would be very limited. There is a relatively limited number (according to van Bekkum 50 million) of bone marrow cells in an ordinary bone marrow biopsy or aspiration. Since one leukemic cell in a sample of 50 million corresponds to 20 000 leukemic cells in the entire 1000 billion marrow cells, this is the sensitivity limit or the number of malignant cells which, even with a perfect marker, would escape detection (24).

The detection limit using the fluorescence-activated cell sorter (FACS) has been reported to be about 2%, and that using a fluorescence microscope to be 0.01% (19). Modern cell sorters seem to have lower threshold and a better sensitivity, however.

NON-SPECIFIC METHODS

Methods based on markers bound to tumor cells, or on ploidy, or on oncogen transcription or amplification can be used only when the site of possible metastases is known, so that tissue samples from this site can be obtained and studied. This, unfortunately, is rarely the case in solid tumors, and therefore the present discussion of the non-specific response, which can be seen even if the tumor site is unknown, may be important.

THE NON-SPECIFIC BIOLOGICAL RESPONSE TO TUMORS

Signs and symptoms of the biological response can perhaps become useful if alternative causes for increases in acute phase reactants, or disturbances of nutritional or conventional immunity are excluded (23).

ACUTE PHASE REACTANTS

The erythrocyte sedimentation rate has been shown by Haybittle to be a statistically significant prognostic predictor in Hodgkin's disease in stages Ia to IIa, in contrast to the much more traumatic restaging laparotomy (27). The ESR is not a good prognostic indicator, on the other hand, in non-Hodgkin lymphoma (30).

The erythrocyte sedimentation rate 1 month after achieving complete remission in acute myeloid leukemia is also a significant predictor. Eleven of 17 patients with less than 40 mm per hour had a remission lasting over 8 months, in contrast to none of the 54 patients with a higher sedimentation rate (41).

Similarly, patients with cervical carcinoma which were found 5 years later to have relapsed had, 1 year after radiotherapy, a mean erythrocyte sedimentation rate of 31 mm

cause a relapse is that between 1 cell and 1 million cells (between 1 pg and 1 mg of tumor tissue) would suffice. These figures are too low, since pretransplant cytoreduction probably does not eliminate all tumor cells, but is assisted by the graft versus leukemia effect, and since the doubling time may become longer as the tumor mass increases. Nevertheless, possibilities for detection of such amounts by direct and specific methods, for instance with the help of tumor specific monoclonal antibodies or with DNA probes, are here suggested to be less promising than those using indirect and nonspecific methods reflecting the biological response to tumors.

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Serum Lipid-bound Sialic Acid as a Tumoral Marker in Minimal Residual Tumors

**M. Musset, G. Mathé
and P. Reizenstein**

Abstract

The lipid-associated sialic acid (LASA) level in serum was increased in 663 out of 794 patients (83.5%) of which 55.1% were CEA negative. There were 16.5% LASA (possibly false) negative, CEA positive patients. There were 24.1% false positives in 116 patients without malignant tumors. In manifest prostatic carcinoma 94.2% of the LASA values but only 36.5% of the prostatic acid phosphatase values were increased. Similarly, in breast and pulmonary carcinoma, LASA was more sensitive than CEA. In 499 patients with minimal residual disease, 203 (41.5%) were LASA-negative, of which 180 were CEA-negative.

Out of 180 LASA positive patients, 70 have relapsed, as have 70 out of 219 patients with increases in both LASA and CEA.

The sensitivity of LASA (87%) in lymphoma was higher than that of the erythrocyte sedimentation rate (53.3%), of C-reactive protein (51.2%), serum copper (64.7%) and of six other markers.

INTRODUCTION

The use of biological markers in lung cancer and gynecological tumors has been described in this volume by Karrer. The carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) is relatively insensitive, positive only in 49–78% of patients with gastro-intestinal cancer. Although it is not specific for malignant tumors, it is frequently used for post-operative monitoring.

Lipid-associated sialic acid (LASA), first described by Kato-podis and Stock, is found in high concentration in malignant cells and their membranes. Recent methods used in determining serum concentrations of LASA have shown increased levels. Since claims have been made for in some tumors of a sensitivity approaching 99% and as specificity approaching 94%, the present study was performed in an attempt to study the sensitivity and the specificity of this test.

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This study compares the serum LASA values to the CEA for carcinomas of the breast, lung, head and neck, as well as for soft tissue sarcomas and melanoma. The results in prostatic carcinoma were compared to CEA and to the serum level of the prostatic acid phosphatases (PAP). In malignant lymphomas, the serum LASA levels were compared to β -2 microglobulin, the erythrocyte sedimentation rate, ferritin, serum copper, fibrinogen, LDH, coeruloplasmin, alkaline phosphatase and C-reactive protein (1,2).

The biochemical alterations of plasma membrane gangliosides (sialo-glyco-sphingo-lipids) in tumors have been well documented. Striking modifications of the molecular composition of these acidic glycolipids occur during transformation of mammalian cells in culture by oncogenic DNA viruses (3), by chemical carcinogens or by radiation (4). It has also been shown that gangliosides are involved in cellular interactions (5) and in tumorigenesis (6-8). Along with other glycolipids and glycoproteins, they have been implicated as specific membrane receptors (9). It has also been suggested that cell surface sialic acid may be correlated with tumor metastasis (10).

Special attention has been focussed on the changes of ganglioside composition and the level of their common building block, N-acetyl neuraminic acid (sialic acid) in transformed cells. Thus, gangliosides, shed along with other membrane components, emerge as potential tumor markers. The levels of ganglioside-bound sialic acid have been studied extensively in tumor-bearing animals (11-15) as well as in humans (16,17).

Gangliosides and cancer

High density lipoproteins (HDL) are increased in tumor patients and normalised after surgical treatment. Relatively intensive attempts at characterisation have resulted in the identification, first of a proteo-lipid, later called a neo-proteo-lipid, and finally of sialo-gangliosides also found in cell membranes. For this reason, attempts to estimate sialic acid in the serum of patients with malignant disease were performed. They were successful, and a

correlation was finally established between the serum concentration of LASA and the tumor mass.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The malignant cell membranes contain mono- and disialogangliosides, which may sometimes include abnormal gangliosides or non-ganglioside glycolipids.

The LASA determination

Initial determination methods, including extraction, dialysis, thin layer chromatography and regular chromatography, were too laborious for clinical use. These early methods were simplified by measuring the total gangliosides. In this way the volume of the serum sample could be reduced and a rapid test was developed. A number of studies have confirmed the value of this rapid test as a biological marker of malignancy.

LASA was determined in EDTA vacutainer tubes after centrifugation, dilution at 0°C, methanol and chloroform extraction, centrifugation, phosphotungstic acid precipitation, centrifugation, colouring with resorcinol and spectrophotometry at 580nm (18).

The LASA was expressed in mg/dl and values of more than 17.1 ml/dl were considered above the upper limit of the normal range.

PATIENTS

The study included 1547 patients, of which 1283 had solid tumors, 148 malignant lymphomas and 116 control patients without malignant tumors.

The histologic type, anatomical origin, subgroups of the tumors and the clinical condition of the patients has been described elsewhere (1,2).

RESULTS

Of the 1283 patients having solid tumors, 794 were studied in the clinically perceptible phase of their disease and 489 were studied in the stage of minimal residual disease.

Of the 794 clinically perceptible solid tumors, 663 (or 83.5%) were LASA positive, of which no less than 438 (or 55.1%) were CEA negative. On the other hand, of 131 (or 16.5%) LASA negative patients 62 (or 87.3%) were CEA positive. Although the CEA in these latter cases could have been caused by inflammatory or other factors apart from the tumor itself, it seems prudent to regard the 62 cases as false-negative.

It has to be emphasized that while the sensitivity of the LASA test in the entire case-mix of clinically perceptible solid tumors was 83.5%, it achieved 94.2% in prostatic carcinoma and 89% in patients bearing squamous cell carcinomas of different origin such as lung, cervix, vagina, skin, oesophagus or larynx.

In prostatic carcinoma the serum levels of LASA, CEA and PAP (prostatic acid phosphatase) were studied. Fifty-two studies were performed using 23 patients; 25% of the CEA tests, 36.5% of PAP and 94.2% of LASA were positive. The LASA serum level seems to be a good tool for monitoring the treatment of these patients.

In 306 patients with breast carcinoma, 84.8% of the LASA tests were positive as compared to 44.7% for CEA. When both tests were considered simultaneously, 88.8% of the patients had one of the two positive. Of the primary tumors, prior to operation 65.3% were LASA positive, as compared to 16.4% CEA positive.

In patients with pulmonary metastases, in contrast, 85.7% were LASA positive and only 14.3% CEA positive, and in patients with cutaneous or lymph node metastases, 87% were LASA positive as compared to only 12.5% CEA positive. This suggests that LASA is a more sensitive tumor marker than CEA.

Minimal residual tumors

Of 489 minimal residual imperceptible tumors, 286 (or 58.5%) were LASA negative, of which 270 were at the same time CEA negative and 16 CEA positive.

Altogether 203 (or 41.5%) of these tumors were LASA positive, of which 180 were CEA negative and 23 CEA positive.

Among the 23 cases having both the CEA and LASA positive, 14 have already relapsed or metastasized and among the 16 LASA negative but CEA positive cases, 5 have also relapsed or metastasized.

Among the 180 LASA positive but CEA negative cases, 51 (or 28.3%) have relapsed or metastasized. Most of these patients have breast cancer.

This suggests that among the 219 patients having only one of the two markers at a pathological level (203 LASA + CEA and 16 CEA + LASA) 70 presented early relapses or metastases.

Malignant lymphoma

The study included 148 patients with malignant lymphoma. For both Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphomas, the serum LASA was found at pathologic levels in 87% of cases in the perceptible phase of the disease.

The value of LASA as a biological tumor marker was compared to that of 10 others: β -2 microglobulin, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, fibrinogen, ferritin, haptoglobin, C-reactive protein, serum copper, alkaline phosphatases, coeruloplasmin and LDH.

For LASA, 87% of samples were positive, as compared to 53.3% of sedimentation rates, 51.2% of C-reactive proteins and 64.7% of the serum coppers. These four were the most sensitive of the ten mentioned above.

Patients without malignant tumors

The study includes 116 patients without malignant disease (control patients). In this group, 88 patients out of 116 (75.9%) had a serum level less than 17.1 μ g/ml, which is the upper normal limit value. In the 116 patients, we found 28 (24.1%) false positives.

Among 85 patients with apparently benign fibrocystic disease of the breast, 21.2% (18/45 cases) were LASA positive. In two of these patients breast cancer was discovered about 1 year later.

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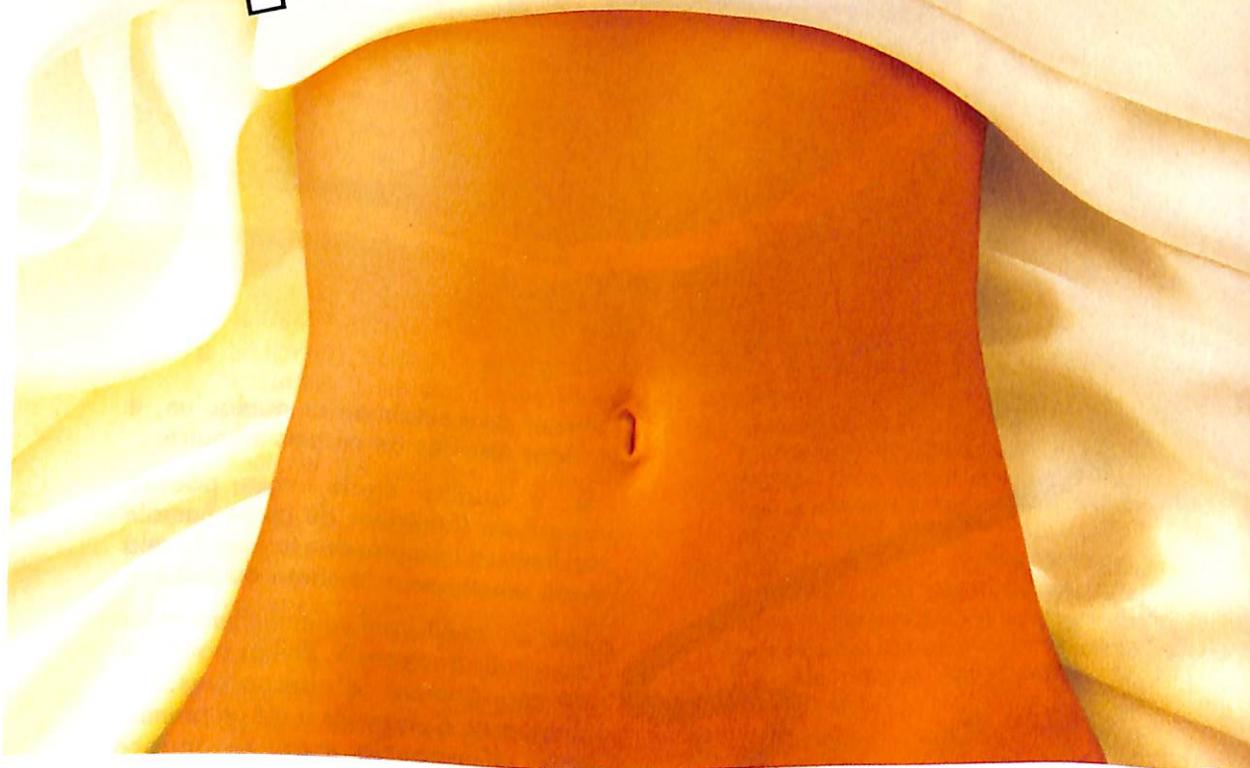


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Diagnostic and Prognostic Importance of Tumor Markers in Lung Cancer

E. Ulisperger and
K. Karrer

INTRODUCTION

There is an accumulating body of evidence that patients with cancer have an increased incidence of elevated levels of factors in their blood which are associated with tumor disease. We have long sought to define those specific substances which can be used to diagnose or assist in the diagnosis of malignant tumors.

'Tumor markers' refers to substances found in blood or in other bodily fluids (urine, ascites, pleura, cerebrospinal fluid, etc.), as well as on the surface of malignant cells. They can be classified as Table 1 and characterized as in Table 2 (1).

These markers are produced or induced by tumor cells and they are associated with malignant tumors more than any other laboratory measurements.

Many investigations into this subject have made available a great number of tumor-derived products in lung cancer patients, but the ideal tumor marker, defined by the characteristics given in Table 2, has not yet been found.

At present, only surgery is of major prognostic importance in the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer and—according to the Viennese Medical School—also for small cell lung cancer at the early stages (2). Accordingly, the main role of markers in these patients would be to distinguish between operable and inoperable patients and to detect and predict residual disease postoperatively, as well as relapsing tumor or metastases.

Conversely, patients with advanced small cell lung cancer are more often treated primarily with chemotherapy. In these patients it would be of considerable interest to have markers indicating the tumor load and response to treatment.

THE ONCOFOETAL ANTIGEN CEA

Gold and Freedmans' description of the carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) in 1965, thought to be specific only for colonic cancer, was the beginning of modern tumor marker research (3). The glycoprotein CEA shows a molecular weight of 180 000

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TABLE 1. Classification of human tumor markers in lung cancer

Hormones
Adrenocorticotropin (ACTH)
Antidiuretic hormone (ADH)
Calcitonin
β -endorphine
Gastrin
Glucagon
Growth hormone
Insulin
Lactate dehydrogenase
Lipotrophic hormone (LPH)
Melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH)
Oxytocin
Parathormone
Prostaglandin
Secreitin
Oncofoetal antigens
Carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA)
Tissue polypeptide antigen (TPA)
Enzymes
Fucosyl transferase
Lactic dehydrogenase
Neuron specific enolase (NSE)
Sialyl transferase
Proteins
α_1 -acid glycoprotein
Bombesin
β_2 -microglobulin
Ferritin
Pregnancy-associated macroglobulin (PAM)
Immunoglobulines
IgG
IgA
IgM
Others
Zinc

and contains a carbohydrate consisting of *N*-acetyl glucosamin, mannose, galactose, fucose and siliac acid (4).

Following its description by Lo Gerfo, who first detected CEA in the sera of lung cancer patients, CEA is now clinically applied, but its use is equivocal and it has been found that this marker is associated with many different neoplasms as well as non-neoplastic disease

(5,6). For example, patients with chronic bronchitis, cor pulmonale, pulmonary tuberculosis and heavy smokers show elevated levels, while, on the other hand, a trial detected normal CEA values (2.5 ng/ml) in about 40% of patients with a lung tumor (7,8).

CEA measurement correlates with the degree of progress and the prognosis, as highly elevated CEA values are associated with

TABLE 2. Characteristics of an ideal tumor marker

-
1. Produced only by the tumor cell.
 2. Detectable in bodily fluids (blood, urine).
 3. No level in benign diseases or healthy persons.
 4. Detectable levels in early diseases for screening.
 5. Correlation between marker level and tumor bulk.
 6. A present malignant disease, clinically not evident, is indicated by the marker.
 7. Correlation between marker level and effect of antineo-plastic treatment.
 8. Identification of tumor cell type.
-

'bad' prognosis and can be of clinical importance as an additional clinical estimation to determine survival, particularly for patients with extrathoracic disease. It was found by investigators that patients with preoperative CEA levels of 6 ng/ml or less survived longer—more than 3 years—than patients with levels in excess of 6 ng/ml. Also the double CEA determination measuring bronchial and serum CEA levels, offers a discriminative value between the primary or metastatic nature of malignant disease. Laurence even showed that CEA levels related to the stage of the tumor (9-12).

A number of authors have tried to make CEA investigations more attractive by combined determinations. Dent found in his analysis of the correlation of CEA and C1q-binding activity (C1q-BA), that patients with an elevation of CEA and C1q-BA during the immediate postoperative period show significantly shorter survival times. It appears that the CEA estimation has the best predictive value, but the addition of C1q-BA measurements may provide additional prognostic information, particularly in patients who do not have elevated CEA levels (13).

In trying to find a correlation between the histological tumor type and CEA measurements, several investigators have found significantly elevated CEA levels in adenocarcinoma and small cell carcinoma of the lung (14-17).

Severely elevated pretreatment levels indicate an advanced disease, often referring to liver metastases. CEA values, greater than 5 ng/ml, show falling levels at response to chemotherapy, and a rise when resistance to

chemotherapy develops. This good correlation of marker value and treatment is not perceptible in patients with pretreatment levels below 5 ng/ml. But the prognosis for these patients is much better. In some cases CEA measurement is able to predict a relapse (3, 18, 19).

THE ENZYME NSE

Neuron-specific enolase (NSE) is the neuronal form of interzytoplasmatic glycolytic enzyme enolase which was first found in extracts of brain tissue and later in neuroendocrine cells and neuroendocrine tumors including SCCL. In contrast, NSE has not been demonstrated in non-endocrine tumors (20).

It is thought that small cell carcinoma of the lung is of neuroendocrinic origin. NSE is elevated on average in only 14% of patients with non-SCCL (5,6). Conversely, NSE has been found to be elevated in 65% of SCCL patients (Table 3) (21-28).

Serum NSE levels change in parallel with the clinical course during therapy. Using serial NSE determination, Johnson found in 80% (40 out of 50 patients) that NSE levels fell on the patients' response to treatment, and increased in five out of seven with the progression of the disease, and increased in 30 out of 35 (85%) of patients who relapsed. It is suggested that the serum NSE may be a useful marker for monitoring the clinical course in lung tumor patients, especially in SCCL.

Johnson found in 30 out of 35 (85%) patients who relapsed an elevated marker level (>20 ng/ml) and in 15 out of 23 patients a persistent

TABLE 3. Percentage of neuron-specific enolase elevation in SCCL

Limited	%	Extensive	%	Level	Reference
15/38	39	49/65	87	> 12 ng/ml	21
23/39	59	45/54	83	> 20 ng/ml	22
34/48	72	54/55	98	> 25 ng/ml	23
6/13	46	24/27	89	> 7.5 ng/ml	24,25
6/16	38	22/27	79	> 16 ng/ml	26
25/38	68	34/39	87	> 13 ng/ml	27

use occurred as many as 12 weeks before the clinically detectable reaction (22).

There is good reason to start retreatment if rising values of serial NSE measurements indicate a relapse (22,29).

NSE seems to be related both to the presence of parenchymal metastases and meningeal metastases. Plasma NSE has in one series been found to be related to CNS metastases in patients also suffering from other types of lung cancer (30). This could point to the possible use of NSE in the management of intracranial metastases in patients with histological types other than SCCL. In non-SCCL the tumor does not produce NSE, and an elevated plasma NSE concentration must be due to NSE coming from brain tissue. In SCCL patients it could, however, come from tumor tissue elsewhere in the body.

HORMONES

Calcitonin

Calcitonin as a marker for bronchogenic carcinoma was described by Groppe. In 45% of patients with SCCL and 17% of squamous cell carcinoma significantly elevated calcitonin levels ($> 180 \text{ pg/ml}$) were found. They could not detect any correlation between the calcitonin level and the degree of spread of the disease, but, during cytostatic treatment, a correlation between hormonal levels and the clinical course of the disease was observed. Response to therapy led to an equivalent fall in serum calcitonin for 1–2 months (31).

The frequency of elevated serum calcitonin before treatment has been determined in several studies (32–39).

The concentration of serum calcitonin was found to be elevated in around 60% of 475 patients. The incidence varies from 25% to

TABLE 4. Incidence of elevated serum calcitonin in untreated patients with SCCL

%	No. of patients	Reference
70	70	32
51	54	33
64	74	34
56	135	35
75	28	36
25	40	37
76	24	38
26	50	39

76%, which may be explained by random error, patient selection and the assays used (Table 4). Elevated concentrations of calcitonin are rare in other types of lung cancer (35,36).

ACTH

Compared to calcitonin, adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) concentrations were elevated on average in only 27% of 252 patients with SCCL. The majority of cases, shown in Table 5, had only slightly elevated values, but in the other histological types of lung carcinoma no elevated concentrations were found (34,40–44).

In a further investigation, 18 hormonal peptides and amino-metabolites were measured in SCCL. In 65% of all patients, elevated serum calcitonin and in 29% elevated plasma ACTH were found. Serial measurements of ACTH and calcitonin showed that these hormones might additionally be useful in monitoring therapy in bronchogenic carcinoma patients. No relation between hormone levels

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TABLE 5. Incidence of elevated plasma concentrations of ACTH in untreated patients with SCCL

%	No. of patients	Reference
29	75	34
18	50	39
30	50	41
24	63	42
25	32	43

and the clinical stage of the disease could be proved (34,41).

It has been proposed that SCCL patients with ectopic hormone production were more inclined to develop metastases (45). This hypothesis was examined in 104 patients, measuring plasma ACTH, and in 86 patients measuring (inappropriate) ADH secretion for SIADH diagnosis. After 5 years observation no significant difference in the propensity to develop CNS metastases has been detected between patients with and without increased plasma levels of the hormones (15).

A number of other peptides have been investigated. None of these appear to contribute significantly to the clinical value of hormones in patients with SCCL (34,46-48).

ADH

About 20 years ago an association between endocrine syndrome and SCCL was documented. This tumor is able to produce ACTH as well as anti-diuretic hormone (ADH). Ectopic ADH secretion may be clinically manifested as inappropriate ADH secretion (SIADH). It can be demonstrated in about 8% of patients with SCCL (49,50).

The relation between ACTH syndrome and SIADH to SCCL is worth discussing, but the frequency is low in a series of patients (Table 7) (45,51-56).

The interpretation of the results for individual patients is difficult, and it should be mentioned that SIADH may occur in several non-malignant disorders, some of which may be secondary to the malignant disease.

Therefore, ACTH and ADH seem not to be useful parameters in monitoring therapy or predicting relapse.

THE PROTEIN β -2-MICROGLOBULIN

Höglgren measured β -2-microglobulin (β 2-m) in 467 patients with mainly suspected pulmonary malignancy and found that patients who had low circulating levels of β 2-m at remission (less than 1.5 mg/l) had a 'better prognosis' than those with serum levels greater than 3.0 mg/l. (57).

TABLE 6. Peptide hormones in untreated patients with SCCL

	%	No. of patients	Reference
Parathormone	33	57	34
Parathormone	27	43	46
	5	65	34
Insulin	20	69	34
Gastrin	11	46	34
Glucagon	0	46	34
Secretin	9	46	34
Growth hormone	19	43	46
α -MSH	45	58	46
β -Endorphin	30	61	47
Oxytocin	65	103	47
ADH-neurophysin	54	24	48
LPH			

TABLE 7. Incidence of endocrine syndromes in SCCL in %

ACTH syndrome	SIADH	No. of patients	Reference
5	10	84	45
3	5	39	51
2	11	106	52
-	7	250	53
1	1	75	54
5	2	42	55
-	11	350	56

Very promising results were published concerning $\beta 2$ -m measurement using the 'modifying activity' of $\beta 2$ -m. Elevated values of $\beta 2$ -m (greater than 0.30 arbitrary units) have been demonstrated in 49 of 54 patients with SCCL. Relapse was accompanied by rising values in 11 of 15 patients monitored during chemotherapy. In 9 of these patients abnormally high values of $\beta 2$ -m were demonstrated more than 1 month before clinical or radiological evidence of progression. The estimation of $\beta 2$ -m modifying reactivity provides relevant clinical information, but it is too laborious for routine clinical application (58).

In contrast, other findings show that high levels of $\beta 2$ -m in lung cancer patients were rare and still within the range of non-malignant diseases (17).

PROSTAGLANDINS AND OTHER FACTORS

Fiedler proved that prostaglandin E₂ (PGE₂) and 13,14-dihydro-15-keto-prostaglandin F₂ (DHK-PGF₂) are significantly elevated in lung tumor patients before surgery. The concentration decreased postoperatively. It can be demonstrated that PGF₂ and DHK-PGF₂ are almost completely normalised within 1 hour after the last ligation of tumor vessels. In this interesting new field, clinical consequences can be established after lengthy follow-up (59).

Many investigations are trying to find new markers for lung cancer—the following survey is given (Table 8). Tumor markers which have been found in the literature and which show some elevated serum concentrations in lung

TABLE 8. Tumor markers indicating some usefulness in lung cancer patients

Marker	Histology	Reference
LDH	SCCL	60
Fucosyl transferase	SCCL, squamous	61
Sialyltransferase	SCCL, squamous	61
α -1 acid glycoprotein	SCCL	6,62
α -2 pregn.ass. glycoprot.	Bronchus	63,64
Ferritin	Bronchus	6,17,65
TPA	Bronchus	66
Zinc	Squamous	67
HLA B8 antigen	Bronchus	68
HTAA	Squamous	69
Bombesin	SCCL	70,71

cancer patients, and those giving any indication of possible effective use in the future are included. The clinical usefulness of these observations either prognostically or diagnostically can be judged only after further investigations and studies.

IMMUNOGLOBULINS

It has to be stated that the measurement of serum immunoglobulins (IgG, IgM, IgA) is not helpful in the follow-up of lung cancer patients (72).

MARKER PANELS

As no single marker is significantly elevated in the majority of patients with SCCL, the use of marker panels has been examined by several investigators. In this way the incidence of elevated markers is about 20% higher than with a single marker (15,37,41,54,73).

Havemann measured calcitonin, ACTH and CEA monthly before and during treatment in 250 patients with SCCL. In 80% of the patients a correlation between calcitonin plus CEA and X-rays was found. The examinations were disappointing with regard to detection of early relapses (74).

CONCLUSION

It is suggested that the use of serial measurements of NSE, CEA and calcitonin are useful in clinical follow-up in SCCL. In most patients elevated pretreatment levels decrease with tumor regression and increase at relapse.

In adenocarcinomas CEA seems to be of some interest for diagnosis and prognosis.

A correlation between fucosyl- and sialyltransferase and squamous cell carcinoma was seen, but further investigations are necessary to confirm these results.

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Formes, voies d'administration et conditionnements: Comprimés pour administration orale: Comprimés à 20 mg: emballage alvéolé de 28 ou 56 comprimés. Comprimés à 40 mg: emballage alvéolé de 28 ou 56 comprimés sécables. Ampoules pour injection intraveineuse ou intramusculaire: Boîte de 5 ampoules de 2 ml. Boîte de 5 ampoules de 10 ml.

Indications: 1. Administration chronique: Sufrexal est indiqué dans le traitement chronique, chez l'adulte, de l'hypertension essentielle et rhénale légère, modérée ou grave, en monothérapie ou en association avec des diurétiques ou des β -bloquants. 2. Administration aiguë: Sufrexal est indiqué dans le traitement aigu de l'hypertension, telle que l'hypertension per- et postopératoire, la préclampsie, etc. Sufrexal convient au traitement de l'hypertension chez tous les patients, y compris les patients âgés, les patients avec insuffisance cardiaque, diabète sucré, asthme ou troubles circulatoires périphériques.

Posologie et mode d'emploi: 1. Traitement oral: La dose initiale est de 20 mg deux fois par jour (aussi bien en monothérapie qu'en association avec d'autres antihypertenseurs). Sufrexal exerce son activité progressivement, de sorte que la baisse maximale de tension artérielle est atteinte après 2 à 3 mois. Certaines personnes ont besoin d'une dose double. On ne peut doubler la dose qu'après 2 semaines au plus tôt si la dose initiale n'a pas eu d'effet. • Si, après 2 à 3 mois de monothérapie par Sufrexal, la tension artérielle n'est pas complètement maîtrisée, une association avec d'autres antihypertenseurs, tels que diurétiques ou β -bloquants, peut renforcer l'effet antihypertensif de Sufrexal. • Sufrexal peut être pris pendant les repas ou en dehors de ceux-ci. Des doses de plus de 40 mg par prise sont à déconseiller. Elles n'augmentent pas l'effet antihypertensif de Sufrexal et sont moins bien tolérées. • Les patients âgés et les patients avec insuffisance rénale peuvent être traités par les doses normales de Sufrexal. Chez les patients ayant une insuffisance hépatocellulaire grave, une dose supérieure à 2 x 20 mg par jour est à déconseiller. • Sufrexal n'est pas éliminé par l'hémodialyse. • Le traitement par Sufrexal ne doit pas être interrompu en cas d'intervention chirurgicale. 2. Traitement parentéral: La dose thérapeutique normale doit être déterminée individuellement et peut varier, chez les adultes, de 5 à 30 mg par administration. a) voie intraveineuse: - soit en injection unique: on peut injecter jusqu'à 5 mg (1 ml) en une fois (en 10 sec). Si nécessaire, l'administration peut être répétée, avec chaque fois un intervalle de quelques minutes, jusqu'à un maximum de 30 mg. - soit en perfusion rapide: 3 mg par minute jusqu'à ce que la tension artérielle soit maîtrisée, avec un maximum de 30 mg. - la dose maximale par 24 heures est de 150 mg (perfusion + injection en bolus). • L'effet thérapeutique est généralement obtenu une à deux minutes après administration de la dose intraveineuse adaptée. • L'effet d'une administration intraveuse unique est le plus souvent de courte durée (30 à 60 minutes) et peut être entretenu par une perfusion de 2 à 6 mg par heure (35 à 100 μ g par minute). On ne peut procéder à une perfusion qu'après une injection préalable (bolus). b) voie intramusculaire: 10 mg (2 ml), à répéter si nécessaire après 15 à 30 minutes, avec un maximum de 30 mg.

Contre-indications: Il n'y a pas de contre-indications connues.

Effets Indésirables: Au début du traitement, une sensation de vide dans la tête peut survenir chez certains patients — le plus souvent jeunes. Cet effet secondaire est peu prononcé, il apparaît 1 à 2 heures après l'administration et disparaît le plus souvent spontanément après quelques jours quand on poursuit le traitement. Occasionnellement, de la céphalée, des vertiges, de la fatigue, de la sécheresse de la bouche et de l'intolérance gastrique ont été mentionnés. Ces effets secondaires ont cependant également été observés chez des patients sous placebo dans des études avec contrôle placebo. Chez quelques patients, une formation d'œdème pendant le traitement par Sufrexal a été signalée. Sufrexal est bien toléré, surtout par les patients âgés. Les paramètres biochimiques et hématologiques ne sont pas influencés négativement lors d'un traitement prolongé par Sufrexal. Bien qu'on n'ait pas rapporté de réactions hépatiques au cours d'un traitement par Sufrexal, de pareilles réactions sont possibles avec tout médicament qui est métabolisé dans le foie. L'hypotension, y compris l'hypotension orthostatique, est très rare. Chez quelques patients pré-disposés (notamment sous diurétiques éliminant le potassium, sous antiarythmiques allongeant l'espace QT, ou présentant un bloc auriculo-ventriculaire du 2^e ou 3^e degré), des arythmies ventriculaires réversibles (de type "torsade de pointes") ont été constatées lors d'un traitement oral chronique par Sufrexal.

Interactions: Interactions désirées: Les études des associations de Sufrexal à des diurétiques et à des β -bloquants mettent en évidence une activité antihypertensive additionnelle. Interactions indésirables: Lorsque des antacides sont utilisés simultanément, l'absorption de Sufrexal peut être diminuée. C'est pourquoi il est recommandé de prendre les antacides éventuels 1 à 2 heures après Sufrexal (voir aussi rubrique "Précautions particulières"). Jusqu'à présent, on n'a pas constaté d'interactions avec les anticoagulants, les hypoglycémiants ou les dérivés de la digoxine. Bien que cela n'ait pas été démontré, l'administration simultanée de médicaments anti-inflammatoires non stéroïdiens pourrait théoriquement diminuer l'effet antihypertensif de Sufrexal. Pour éviter l'administration de Sufrexal en cas d'hypokaliémie, il faut si Sufrexal est associé à un diurétique, toujours inclure un diurétique d'épargne potassique dans le schéma thérapeutique, que ce soit ou non avec un autre diurétique. Sufrexal ne peut alors être associé à un diurétique éliminant le potassium que si un diurétique d'épargne potassique est inclus en même temps dans le schéma thérapeutique. En cas d'utilisation chronique de corticoïdes et de laxatifs, il est conseillé de contrôler régulièrement le taux de potassium dans le sang.

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Tumor Markers for the Diagnosis, Prognosis, Treatment and Follow-up of Gynaecological Tumors

E. Ulzperger and
K. Karrer

Abstract

It would be of benefit for the clinical relevance of tumor marker determination to be demonstrated, as a lot of markers are now in clinical use.

Increased levels of carcinoembryonic antigen correlate with the stage of breast carcinoma. CA 15-3 should also be measured during follow-up of patients with this disease. The latest findings suggest a higher sensitivity and specificity of CA 15-3 than of CEA. The prognostic value and the usefulness of CEA measurement in screening seem to be poor.

The measurement of CA 125 seems to be a reliable method for monitoring the presence and clinical behavior of ovarian cancer. It is suggested that invasive diagnostic procedures are not required in patients with normal marker levels.

The management of chorion carcinoma can be determined as an ideal model in the range of marker application. Only in this disease does the marker HCG reach almost 100% sensitivity and specificity. The definition of response to chemotherapy and the appearance of relapse can be based on HCG measurement.

INTRODUCTION

Significant advances in the treatment of gynaecological tumors have been paralleled by the identification of various tumor markers. Many markers have been used indiscriminately. In general the clinical relevance of marker determination in specific carcinomas has to be proven. A survey of markers used for management of gynaecological neoplasms, including breast cancer, is given here.

During the last decades various researchers have tried to find, besides the clinical investigations such as scanning, computer tomography, X-ray and sonography, a reliable serum parameter which would be useful for the diagnosis, prognosis, follow up, therapy, detection (screening) and management of tumors. Such a marker should be produced only by the tumor cell and be

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detectable in body fluids. No measurable level should occur in benign diseases or healthy persons. A correlation between the level and the tumor bulk, as well as the effect of antineoplastic treatment, should also exist. No reliable marker has so far been detected.

None of the available markers can be defined as ideal, with the exception of β -HCG in trophoblastic malignancy, which has a sensitivity and specificity of almost 100% (Table 1).

If the therapy for a given malignancy is inadequate, it is of little clinical use and of no advantage for the patient to demonstrate an occult disease, a relapse or a disease progression by marker estimation.

TABLE 1.

Definitions
Sensitivity: percentage of patients with a malignant disease showing elevated marker levels—true positive values.
Specificity: percentage of patients without a malignant disease who have normal marker levels—true negative values.

The most commonly used tumor markers in gynaecological oncology which will be discussed are; for breast cancer: CEA (carcinoembryonic antigen), CA 15-3 (cancer antigen) and TPA (tissue polypeptide antigen); for ovarian carcinomas: CA 125 and CEA; and for carcinoma of the uterus: β -HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin).

BREAST CANCER

It is well known that the improved postoperative therapeutic management of breast cancer, including hormone-, chemo- and radiotherapy, has led to a better prognosis. These treatments are more effective when diagnosis is made as early as possible in case of relapse (1).

The 'sensitivity' of the most frequently used and most often discussed markers in the management of mammary carcinoma is given in Table 2 (2,3).

TABLE 2. Sensitivity of markers used in the clinical follow-up of breast cancer patients in all stages

	Günczler (2)	Hoffmann (3)
CEA	66%	50%
CA 15-3	76%	70%
TPA	—	80%

CEA

Carcinoembryonic antigen is a nonspecific marker which has been commonly used to monitor various malignant disorders. In current clinical practice, the CEA levels are used primarily to monitor the effect of treatment. CEA is the most frequently used and best documented marker for female breast cancer studies (4).

As there is only a certain percentage of malignant cells in any tumor which are able to express the marker, the pathological values are concordant with a greater tumor mass.

Patients may show a discordant behavior in marker levels and clinical findings during follow-up; raised or elevated marker levels might indicate an effective treatment and remission (5,6).

In breast cancer the incidence and level of CEA correlates with the stage of disease (Table 3) (2,4,7,8).

Several findings show that CEA levels are elevated more often and reach the highest levels in cases of liver and bone metastases, whereas they remain normal in most cases of local recurrence (2,9-11). In disease-free breast cancer patients, CEA determinations are useful only in lymph node positive patients. CEA is unable to predict a recurrence in lymph node negative patients (7,12).

The findings of Veronesi (12) indicate that gradually increasing elevations predict a relapse. Only highly elevated (greater than 20 ng/ml) and gradually increasing values could predict recurrence, with a median of 8 months (12,13).

Postoperative elevations and also, in some studies, preoperative elevations of CEA, corre-

TABLE 3. Comparison of sensitivity of CEA in localized and advanced breast cancer (%)

Localized	Advanced	Cut-off ng/ml	References
30	73	2.7 5 (smokers)	7
27-55	80	2.5	8
16.9	70.9	9	4
32	72	5	2

late with disease recurrence. In Mayer's investigations of postoperative breast cancer patients in stage I, II and III only 5% of patients with normal postoperative values compared to 16% with elevated postoperative CEA levels developed a relapse (7).

Using a cut-off level of 4 ng/ml for postoperatively elevated CEA levels concerning the risk of developing metastases in patients with stage I breast cancer, no prognostic use was found (4,12). However, patients with stage II and III disease, with elevated postoperative values, are associated with an increased risk of development of recurrent disease (7).

Response to therapy and disease progression concorded in 63% of cases with decreasing and increasing CEA values, respectively (5). However, there is no doubt

that in a number of patients CEA elevation precedes the clinical signs of recurrent disease (8,6,11,14,15).

CEA is a marker which permits detection before other diagnostic means in more than 50% of relapses. But therapeutic consequences, without other clinical parameters, should only be drawn if there is a significant and persistent rise in the marker level.

CA 15-3

The glycoprotein cancer antigen 15-3 gained some importance, as its sensitivity as well as specificity in breast cancer are higher than those of CEA (3,16). As previously mentioned, CEA gains a sensitivity of about 65% and a specificity of 87%. Compared to these investigations, CA 15-3 shows a sensitivity of about 76% and a specificity of 93% (2). Tumor progression is indicated in 70% and remission in 60% of patients (3).

The advantage of CA 15-3 above CEA was also demonstrated through the investigations of Günzler and Hayes (Fig. 1). This shows the sensitivity of both markers depending on tumor stage, subdivided in localized disease and haematogenic metastasis (2,16).

During follow-up, an increasing CA 15-3 level indicates the end of the remission. In primarily

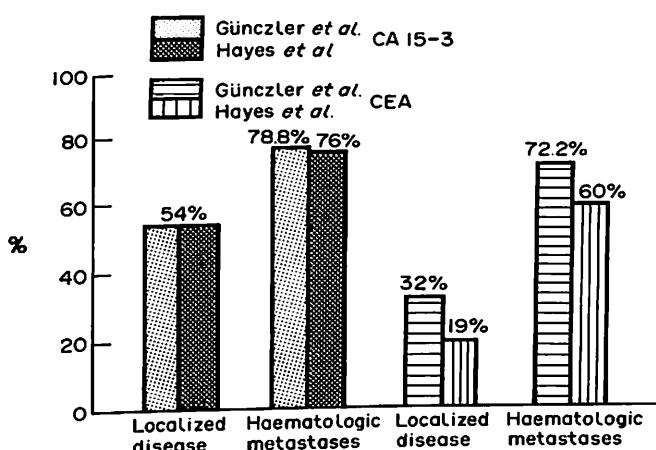


Fig. 1. Sensitivity depending on tumor stage.
Cut-offs: CA 15-3, 30 U/ml; CEA 5 ng/ml.

operated patients, CA 15-3 elevations indicate metastatic disease (3). The combined measurement of CEA and CA 15-3 enlarges the sensitivity to 71%, or even to 98% (2,3,16,17).

TPA

TPA can be classified as an oncofoetal antigen. In 89% of metastatic breast cancer patients, the TPA measurements showed concordance with clinical results, compared to only 71% in CEA (18). Combining CEA with TPA the sensitivity was enlarged in patients with metastatic breast cancer; in patients without progression from 39% to 49% and in patients with progressive disease from 70 to 79% (6).

Hünermann observed a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 99% in treated patients with metastatic breast cancer by combined measurement of CEA and TPA. The sensitivity for CEA was only 52% and for TPA only 70%. In patients without metastatic disease the sensitivity of combined measurement increased to 62% (19).

The importance of the presence of oestrogen and/or progesterone hormone receptors is obvious, as there is a significant relapse-free interval in the presence of the progesterone receptor. This receptor seems to play a more important role than the oestrogen receptor (20).

There are discussions about the usefulness of several markers like HCG, interferon, serum acute phase proteins, α_2 -pregnancy-associated glycoprotein, tumor-associated antigen, lipid-bound sialic acid or, for example, hydroxyprolin excretion in breast cancer, but none of these potential markers is well established as yet (21-25).

In conclusion, it has to be stated that CEA values correlate with the stage of disease. They are of limited use for prognosis. Serial determinations are indicated for patient follow-up.

CA 15-3 has a higher sensitivity than CEA and should be measured as well as TPA in the follow-up of breast cancer patients. This

increase of sensitivity indicates the combined use of CEA, CA 15-3 and TPA.

OVARIAN CARCINOMA

Ovarian cancer accounts for more annual deaths than cancer of the uterine cervix and corpus together. In early stages it is mostly asymptomatic and undetectable. Indeed, 70% of the patients have metastases outside the pelvis at diagnosis. The natural history also precludes accurate monitoring of disease status. Thus, second look laparotomy is advocated, although this is an invasive procedure with an inherent morbidity. The procedure is not associated with any survival advantage and the inability to exclude residual or distant micrometastases is illustrated by the relapse rate among patients with a complete surgical response (26).

Postoperative chemotherapeutic treatment of ovarian carcinoma is the therapy of choice to reach a complete reduction of the tumor and of residual or distant micrometastases. Therefore, cytostatics are administered for curative reasons. In ovarian cancer response rates in the range of 60-95% can be reached by combination polychemotherapies, while only a small number of patients with advanced disease can be cured (27,28).

The existence of an effective therapy emphasizes the need for sensitive tumor markers as, at second look laparotomy, 30-70% of all patients in complete, clinically diagnosed remission after chemotherapy show persistent disease (28).

The detection of recurrent disease with the indication of further treatment (second look surgery, continuation or change of chemotherapy) has been, besides the standard clinical procedures, facilitated by tumor marker determination in the past.

CA 125

During recent years a large number of antigens have been detected in ovarian cancer. Bast developed a monoclonal immunoglobulin (OC 125) by somatic hybridization of spleen cells from mice immunized with an epithelial

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ovarian carcinoma cell line. The murine monoclonal antibody OC 125 reacts with the antigen CA 125 which is expressed by more than 80% of non-mucinous epithelial ovarian cancers (29). Also, a radioimmunoassay has been developed to detect CA 125 in serum as a marker for ovarian carcinoma (30).

The sensitivity, the percentage of correlation of positive CA 125 values and clinically evident disease, investigated in nine recent studies in more than 700 patients is given in Table 4 (26,28,31-36).

The cut-off level of CA 125 serum measurement was determined by most investigators with 35 U/ml, but using serial determinations it is possible to detect a tumor progression in the range of even 15-35 U/ml (28).

(over 35 U/ml) are measurable, even up to 96% (35). A difference in the sensitivity of epithelial tumors can be shown comparing patients of all stages with Fish's and Cruickshank's preoperative investigations (26,36,40,41).

The number of patients in the histological groups other than those with serous carcinomas is too small to draw meaningful conclusions from these determinations of CA 125.

With regard to the degree of differentiation, patients with grade 2 and 3 tumors showed higher levels than borderline and grade 1 tumors (36). The positive CA 125 levels correlate with the tumor burden as only 63% of patients with a tumor burden in excess of 2 cm

TABLE 4. Sensitivity of the marker CA 125 in ovarian carcinoma

			Cut-off	No. of patients
Bast	1983	82%	35 U ml ⁻¹	101
Ricolleau	1984	92%	35 U ml ⁻¹	38
Canney	1984	83%	35 U ml ⁻¹	58
Krebs	1986	96%	25 U ml ⁻¹	45
Lahousen	1986	94%	35 U ml ⁻¹	80
Kivinen	1986	91%	35 U ml ⁻¹	112
Cruickshank	1987	73%	35 U ml ⁻¹	52
Vergote	1987	86%	35 U ml ⁻¹	227

The specificity of CA 125 for ovarian carcinoma has to be judged poor, as the marker is also associated with other malignancies. Therefore this marker is not useful for differential diagnosis of carcinomas of unknown origin (36).

In a number of benign lesions, such as pelvic inflammatory disease, endometriosis and especially in liver cirrhosis, as well as in pregnancy, elevated CA 125 levels are shown (31,32,37).

With regard to histology, CA 125 is frequently associated with epithelial ovarian cancer (31,38). The marker is elevated in up to 92% of patients with epithelial tumors. In the most frequent group of ovarian tumors, the serous adenocarcinomas, enlarged levels

show elevated marker levels, compared to 76% with a bulk between 2 and 10 cm. The levels of nearly 100% of all patients are elevated if the bulk exceeds 10 cm (Table 6).

Low levels of CA 125 are associated with early clinical stages (small tumor burden), predicting a response to chemotherapy and usually showing low recurrence rates. High pre-operative marker values indicate advanced disease with poor response to chemotherapy (33).

Serial measurements of CA 125 during chemotherapy correlate with the clinical course of disease (Table 7). It can be shown by this table that an increasing CA 125 level is always associated with disease progression.

TABLE 5. Epithelial ovarian carcinomas and elevated CA 125 levels

Histology	Vergote (36)	Dhokia (41)	Fish (40)	Cruickshank (26)
	Overall Number of patients	Number of patients/number with elevated CA 125	Pre-operative	
Serous	68/61	37/31	43/25	13/9
Mucinous	4/3	5/4	7/2	9/5
Endometrioid	8/6	12/7	9/3	2/2
Clear cell	6/3	5/5	2/2	4/2
Mixed	10/9	—	3/1	—
Undifferentiated	4/3	26/24	22/16	13/12
Unclassifiable	12/11	—	—	—
Total	112/96 (86%)	85/71 (84%)	86/49 (57%)	41/30 (73%)

TABLE 6. Percentage of positive CA 125 levels in correlation to tumor burden in ovarian carcinoma

Tumor bulk	No. of patients
< 2 cm	63% 16
2-20 cm	76% 17
> 10 cm	100% 24

Canny (1984); cut-off: 35 U/ml

Unchanged marker levels do not indicate a response to treatment in any case, while decreasing levels are associated with response to treatment (31,33,34,36). In approximately 92% of patients with ovarian cancer CA 125 estimations are able to monitor response to therapy or progression (32-34,36).

The predictive value of CA 125 was evaluated by Khoo, with second look surgery. In his study, he found the presence of tumors in 92% of carcinoma patients with raising or persistently high levels, while declining or negative values predict the absence of tumor in only 50% of patients. This might indicate that CA 125 lacks sensitivity in detecting small tumor masses (39). However, a normal CA 125 level does not exclude the presence of disease (36). An acute elevation of CA 125 in the first week following chemotherapy predicts a good response to treatment (30,40).

A new method using a panel of the monoclonal antibodies HMFG1 and HMFG2 in combination with CA 125, seems to lead to an increase in sensitivity of 95% without loss of specificity (41). The assay of CA 125 seems to be a reliable non-invasive method for monitoring ovarian cancer patients.

CEA

The value of plasma CEA determination in ovarian carcinoma is limited, as the sensitivity is low and the rate of false negative values is high. Serial determinations might be helpful, predicting relapse only in patients with mucinous tumors (42,43).

OTHER MARKERS

In several studies, cancer antigens, CA 19-9 and CA 50, dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate, galactosyltransferase, tissue polypeptide antigen and ferritin have been investigated. There are some indications to use these markers for ovarian cancer, but further studies are necessary to define their benefit (28,32,44-47).

Spona found in a study for adjuvant chemotherapy in ovarian cancer, measuring the oestrogen and progesterone receptors, that receptor assays may provide a prognostic index. The survival rate of patients with ovarian carcinoma is greater in patients with both receptors positive than in those who lack receptors. The prognostic importance seems

TABLE 7. Correlation of disease status and CA 125 levels in ovarian carcinoma in response to chemotherapy (no. of patients)

CA 125 levels	Response	Clinical status		
		Static	Progression	
Decreasing	20	1	0	Bast (31)
	12	3	0	Canney (33)
	21	0	0	Krebs (34)
	44	3	2	Vergote (36)
No change	0	5	2	Bast (31)
	0	1	1	Canney (33)
	0	2	2	Krebs (34)
	0	13	3	Vergote (36)
Increasing	0	0	17	Bast (31)
	0	0	16	Canney (33)
	0	0	18	Krebs (34)
	0	0	36	Vergote (36)

to be equal for ovarian and breast cancer patients concerning survival and risk of recurrence (48).

CERVICAL AND ENDOMETRIAL CANCER

In the management of the most common malignant diseases of the uterus, no tumor marker is established monitoring these diseases. Only little value indicates β -2 micro-globulin measurement in these tumors (49).

GESTATIONAL TROPHOBlastic DISEASE (GTN)

GTN is a rare tumor of the placenta with an incidence from 1 in 600 to 1 in 1200 pregnancies. The characteristics of GTN, on the one hand its occurrence in young women and the propensity for early metastasis, on the other hand its rapid response to chemotherapy combined with an excellent monitoring, makes it interesting for marker investigations (50).

Laurin's results of chemotherapeutic treatment and adjuvant surgery of choriocarcinoma and invasive mole in 359 patients are given in Table 8. For nonmetastatic disease cure rates of 100% and for disseminated tumors cure rates of 83% are shown in Table 8 (51).

TABLE 8. Treatment results of choriocarcinoma and invasive mole

Diagnosis	No. of patients	Cure rates (%)
Choriocarcinoma	159	129 (81)
Metastatic	105	75 (71)
Nonmetastatic	54	54 (100)
Invasive mole	200	200 (100)
Metastatic	69	69
Nonmetastatic	131	131
Total	359	329 (92)
Metastatic	174	144 (83)
Nonmetastatic	185	185 (100)

Source: Laurin (1982), modified.

HCG is elevated in all trophoblastic tumors, and reaches almost 100% sensitivity and specificity (52,53).

The glycoprotein HCG consists of the α - and β -chain. The α -chain is also found in hypophyseal glycoproteins like the human luteinizing hormone. The β -chain is measurable by a radioimmunoassay specific for HCG. Healthy and non-pregnant women have a serum β -HCG value below 1 ng/ml (equivalent to 5 mIU/ml) (54).

The β -HCG levels are used to define response to chemotherapy and a stop of chemotherapy is indicated when a zero HCG titer remains during measurements for 3 weeks (55). Treatment has to be continued for several cycles after the first normal marker value, as an enlarged tumor burden of more than 10^4 trophoblastic cells is able to produce measurable β -HCG levels. The aim of the chemotherapy is the complete destruction of all malignant cells (56). Relapses are first detected by a rise in the HCG titer (51).

Poor prognosis has to be expected in patients with a serum β -HCG value greater than 42 000 mIU/ml or an urinary value in excess of 100 000 IU/l. (50).

The excellent monitoring and effective chemotherapeutic treatments available for this disease correlates with overall cure rates of about 90%. This indicates the surgical removal of resistant tumor masses only for cases with resistance to cytostatic treatment or complications like extensive haemorrhage (57).

It is therefore possible to avoid surgery, if the marker values go down in parallel with the effective chemotherapy. This is important for young women who still want to have children after treatment.

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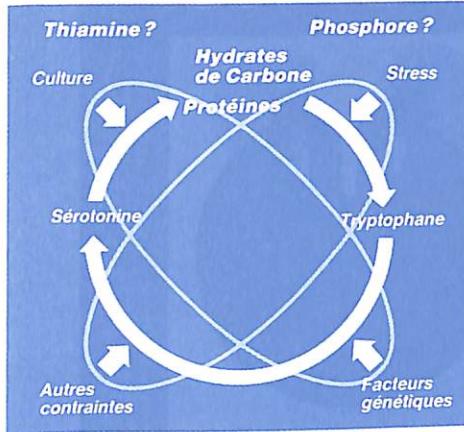
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Le choix des aliments, une réalité biologique aujourd'hui mieux connue.

La pulsion, l'attraction impérieuse vers la nourriture, et plus particulièrement les aliments glucidiques (aliments sucrés, féculents...), est restée jusqu'à ces dernières années un phénomène mystérieux.

Nous savons aujourd'hui que la prise de glucides induit au niveau du système nerveux central une activation sérotoninergique très spécifique, dont dépend, entre autres, le choix des aliments lors du repas suivant.



La découverte de cette voie neurophysiologique spécifique a permis de comprendre comment l'organisme assure, par compensation successive, d'un repas à l'autre, l'ajustement de ses besoins glucido-protidiques, et donc l'équilibre nutritionnel nécessaire au maintien du meilleur état de santé possible.

La rupture de cet équilibre peut conduire à une véritable anarchie avec prises alimentaires compulsives, non régulées, en dehors des repas. C'est dire tout l'intérêt d'avoir testé l'effet d'un agent sérotoninergique tel Isoméride sur les pulsions alimentaires induites par le stress ou les pulsions alimentaires glucido-dépendantes.

PROPRIÉTÉS

Pharmacodynamique

L'ISOMERIDE agit sur la régulation centrale de la prise de nourriture.

L'ISOMERIDE a un mécanisme d'action sérotoninergique qui sous-tend son activité pharmacodynamique. L'ISOMERIDE inhibe la recapture, et augmente la libération de sérotonine.

Chez l'animal, il a été démontré que l'ISOMERIDE possède une action sélective sur les comportements alimentaires susceptibles d'induire une obésité:

- en inhibant éléctivement la consommation de glucides tout en respectant la consommation de protéines,
- en inhibant l'hyperphagie induite par l'insuline,
- en inhibant l'hyperrégulation de situation anxiogène.

Chez l'homme, dans l'obésité avec trouble du comportement alimentaire (compulsion pour les hydrates de carbone) l'ISOMERIDE inhibe de façon sélective la consommation de glucides et diminue ainsi la consommation calorique globale, tout en respectant la prise de protéines.

L'ISOMERIDE se différencie radicalement des anorexigènes amphétaminiques

- absence d'effet psychostimulant
- absence d'effet hypertenseur
- absence de potentiel d'addiction.

Pharmacocinétique

Après administration orale, l'absorption de l'ISOMERIDE est pratiquement complète. Le pic de concentration plasmatique est atteint 4 heures après la prise de 30 milligrammes.

En administration répétée, à dose thérapeutique, une gélule le matin et une gélule le soir, l'état d'équilibre est atteint vers le quatrième jour et reste stable à la concentration moyenne de 40 ng/ml.

La liaison aux protéines plasmatiques est faible (36 pour cent).

Le produit est fortement métabolisé avec formation entre autres de d-norfenfluramine qui participe à l'activité globale du produit. Aucun dérivé de l'amphétamine n'a été mis en évidence. La clearance plasmatique est de 45 litres par heure. L'élimination est presque exclusivement urinaire, plus de 90 pour cent de la dose étant recueillis en 3 à 4 jours par cette voie. Le temps de demi-vie d'élimination est d'environ 18 heures pour la d-fenfluramine et 40 heures pour la d-norfenfluramine.

INDICATIONS

En association avec le régime, traitement de l'obésité simple, de l'obésité compliquée de l'adulte, de l'obésité réfractaire et de l'obésité avec trouble du comportement alimentaire (com-

pulsion pour les hydrates de carbone) lorsque les mesures diététiques ne sont pas suffisantes.

POSÉOLOGIE ET MODE D'EMPLOI

2 gélules par jour, à savoir une gélule le matin et une gélule le soir, de préférence au cours des repas.

En principe, la durée de traitement est limitée à 3 mois.

CONTRE-INDICATIONS

- Glaucome, antécédents d'anorexie mentale, antécédents dépressifs, antécédents psychiatriques, propension aux abus médicamenteux, alcoolisme avéré.
- Du fait du mécanisme d'action sérotoninergique de l'ISOMERIDE, l'association aux I.M.A.O. est contre-indiquée (un intervalle d'au moins 15 jours doit être respecté).

EFFECTS INDÉSIRABLES

- Les plus fréquemment rapportés sont: sécheresse de la bouche, nausées, constipation, diarrhée. Ces effets cèdent à la poursuite du traitement.
- Ont été plus rarement observés: somnolence, étourdissement, pollakiurie, céphalée, asthénie, trouble de l'humeur, dépression réactionnelle, insomnie, nervosité.

PRÉCAUTIONS PARTICULIÈRES

- Les causes organiques d'obésité doivent être éliminées avant la prescription de ce produit.
- Ce produit doit être utilisé avec précaution chez les sujets présentant des troubles du rythme.
- En l'absence de données spécifiques chez les insuffisants hépatiques et/ou insuffisants rénaux, l'administration de ce produit devra être évitée chez de tels patients.

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L'ISOMERIDE n'est pas tératogène et n'altère pas la reproduction chez l'animal.

Cependant, l'usage de l'ISOMERIDE au cours des 3 premiers mois de la grossesse doit être évité.

Pendant la période de lactation, il est déconseillé d'utiliser l'ISOMERIDE même si aucun effet n'a été observé chez l'animal.

INTERACTIONS

- Ne pas associer à un autre anorexigène à action centrale ni à un I.M.A.O. (cf. contre-indications)
- Ce produit peut potentialiser:

- les médicaments dépresseurs du système nerveux central (sédatifs)
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- les effets hypotenseurs des antidépresseurs tricycliques
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- une réanimation avec surveillance cardiaque dans les cas les plus sévères.

CONSERVATION

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Handelsform

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Anstaltspackung



Littérature et échantillons: Comptoir Pharmaceutique Luxembourgeois S.A., Luxembourg

Residual Tumor Cells



Abnormal in vitro Differentiation of Clonogenic B-cells in Common Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in Complete Remission. A Marker for Minimal Residual Disease?

J. Bréard, G. Mathé and
R. Consolini

Abstract

An in vitro B-cell colony assay system was used to evaluate B-cell differentiation from peripheral blood precursors in common acute lymphoblastic leukemia (cALL) patients in remission as compared to normal controls. Significant differences in the morphologic and phenotypic features of pooled colony cells were found between the two groups. The morphology and surface markers of control-cultured cells were those of young plasmacytes. In contrast, patients' cells had predominantly a lymphoblastoid appearance and a mean of 18% (2-72%) of the cells expressed the cALL (CALLA) antigen. This marker, known to be present on normal pre-B-cells and malignant cALL cells, was not found on control colony cells. Cytogenetic studies performed in four cases showed that a fraction of the patients' colony cells had karyotypic abnormalities similar to that of the original lymphoblasts. These data suggest that the cells with immature features persisting in the colonies of cALL patients are the progeny of residual circulating cells linked to the malignant clone which cannot be detected in the fresh sample and are clonally expanded during the culture.

INTRODUCTION

The CALLA antigen, originally described by Greaves (1) on the surface of cALL lymphoblasts is not leukemia specific since it can be found on a variable fraction of normal bone marrow cells (2,3) and on some non-lymphoid cells (4,5). Within the hematopoietic lineage, CALLA is considered to be a normal differentiation antigen, and its expression by early B-cells, both normal and malignant, correlates with the recent evidence that most cALL blasts belong to the B-lineage (6-10).

The present study was initiated by our finding that a small percentage of cells expressing the CALLA antigen could be detected in the peripheral blood of some cALL patients in remission receiving maintenance chemotherapy (11). As

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CALLA+ cells are usually not detectable in the blood of healthy subjects, we wondered whether we were detecting residual leukemic cells or normal immature cells released inappropriately in the patients' blood. As the very low number of such cells precluded the determination of their nature, we used a recently described technique that permits the generation of B-cell colonies from both normal and malignant progenitors (12). Our aim was thus to induce *in vitro* the clonal expansion and differentiation of B-lineage cells in these patients and to study the features of the colony cells at the end of the culture. The results of this study have been recently published in detail (11) and will be summarised here.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

A total of 20 cALL and five T-ALL patients in remission submitted to a similar maintenance chemotherapy protocol, two acute myloid leukemia patients and seven normal donors were studied. Complete remission was checked in all cases by standard clinical and hematologic criteria. The B-cell colony assay was directly adapted from that described by Izquierre et al. (12) and applied to the E rosette negative fraction of peripheral blood mononuclear cells. At the end of the culture, the morphology and the surface markers of the colony cells were examined, the latter being performed by indirect immunofluorescence using monoclonal antibodies directed against the CALLA antigen (J5), the B-cell antigen B1 and the Ia antigen. Chromosome analysis was performed for the colony cells of four patients for whom chromosomal abnormalities had been detected in the original lymphoblasts, using the GTG banding technique (13).

BONE MARROW AND PERIPHERAL BLOOD CALLA+ CELLS

The percentage of CALLA+ cells in fresh bone marrow and peripheral blood samples was studied for the 20 cALL patients. In the bone marrow, this percentage ranged from 0 to 12% and was above 5% in four patients. Bone marrow cellularity was normal in these cases, with no evidence of lymphocytosis. The proportion of CALLA+ cells in the peripheral blood

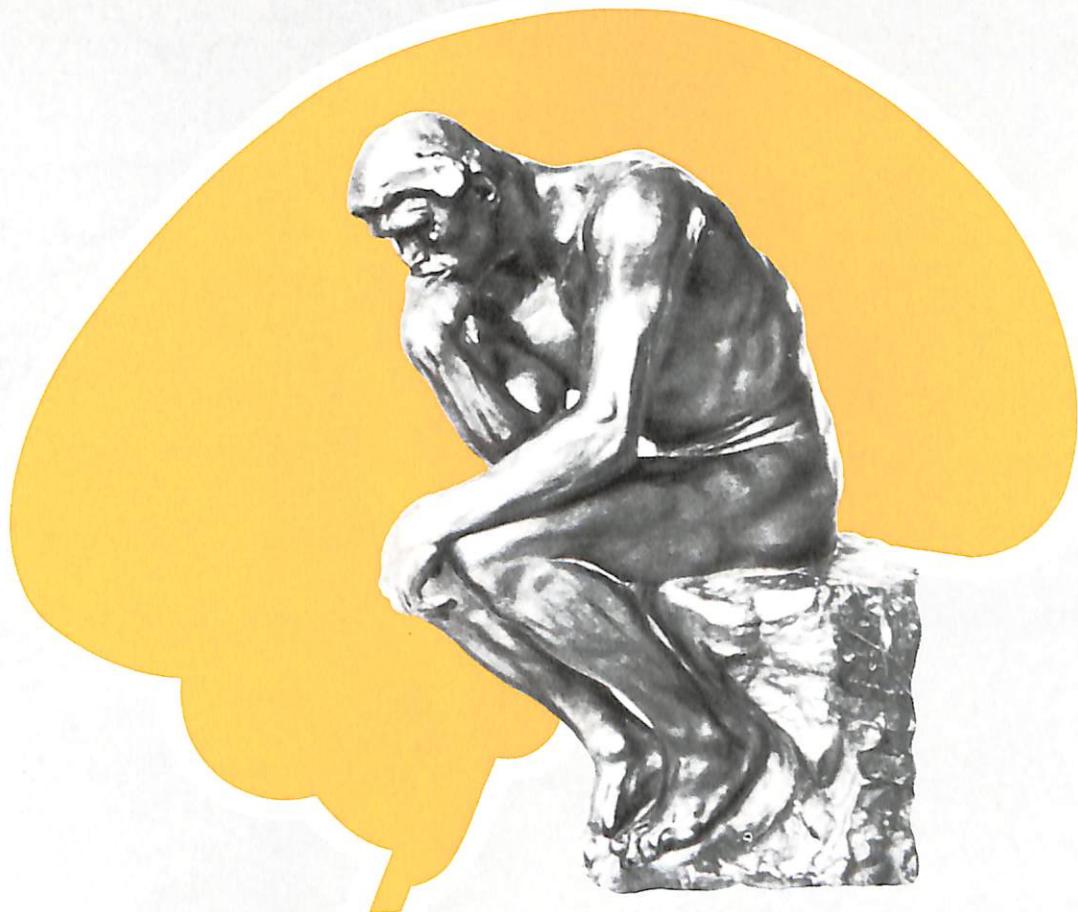
of these 20 patients was 0–3% and reached 15% in only one case. Peripheral blood cells from the five T-ALL, the two AML and the seven healthy volunteers were CALLA negative, except for one T-ALL patient who had 2% circulating CALLA+ cells.

CALLA+ CELLS IN cALL PATIENTS' B-CELL COLONIES

Peripheral blood mononuclear cells were depleted of T-lymphocytes by E rosette formation and the non-T-cell fraction was cultured in methyl cellulose, under conditions which induce the growth of B-cells colonies. At the end of the 6 days culture, the colonies were counted, the cells were pooled, and the morphology and surface markers of pooled cells was studied. The results are summarised in Table 1. As can be seen, control-cultured cells had no receptor for SRBC, most were Ig+ and 25% bore the Ia antigen. Moreover, in both subjects which were also tested with the monoclonal antibody anti-B1, 40% and 58%, respectively, of the colony cells were found to express this B-cell-specific antigen (not shown). The morphological features of the colony cells, studied after Wright-Giemsa staining, were those of plasmacytoid cells. These results demonstrate that the culture system used here induces the specific growth of B-lineage cells.

The assay was technically satisfactory for 15 of the 20 cALL patients, and the presence of surface Ig and B1 antigen (two cases studied, not shown) confirmed the B-cell nature of most of the patients colony cells. A major difference with normal subjects, however, was that a mean of 18% (range 2%–72%) expressed the CALLA antigen. Moreover, a fraction of the patients' cultured cells had a plasmacytoid appearance. Both criteria therefore seemed to indicate that the colony cells were less differentiated in the patients cultures than in the controls. The mature phenotype of the T-ALL and AML cases colony cells made it unlikely that the chemotherapeutic regimen was affecting the differentiation of B-cells in cALL patients. It appeared therefore that, for these patients, some of the circulating B-cells were unable to mature *in vitro* beyond the differentiation stage corresponding to that of the original tumor.

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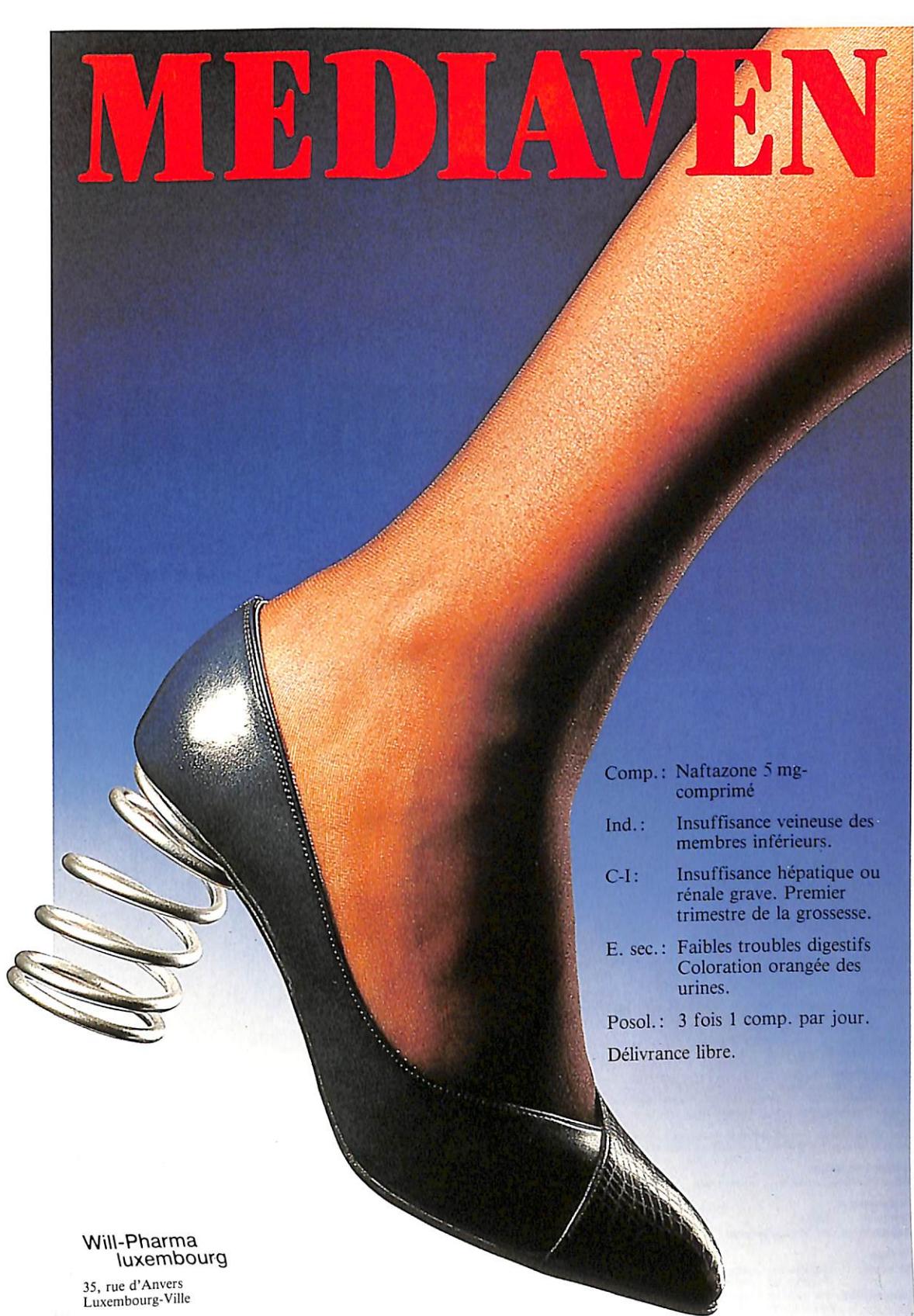
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Contre-indications:

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TABLE 1. Phenotypic characterisation of pooled colony cells in controls and in cALL and T-ALL patients

Cell fraction	Controls		cALL patients		T-ALL patients
	E- (n=7)	E-J5- (n=7)	E- (n=15)	E-J5- (n=11)	E- (n=5)
Colonies / 10 ⁵ cells	354 ± 260	268 ± 145	628 ± 526	858 ± 891	357 ± 115
% Positive cells for:					
E rosettes	4 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 4	8 ± 3	4 ± 1
Surface Ig	67 ± 6	65 ± 9	57 ± 6	57 ± 3	65 ± 3
Ia antigen	25 ± 8	22 ± 6	43 ± 11	34 ± 13	28 ± 9
J5 antigen	0.2 ± 0.4	0.3 ± 0.5	18 ± 19	17 ± 18	0.5 ± 0.3

After obtention of these results, we wondered whether the cALL+ colony cells were the progeny of the few circulating CALLA+ cells occasionally found in the fresh blood samples. The E rosette negative cells were therefore incubated with the J5 antibody in the presence of rabbit complement prior to the culture. As can be seen in Table 1, prior lysis of J5+ cells did not alter significantly either the plating efficiency or the phenotype of the cultured cells suggesting that CALLA+ cells can be generated in vitro from CALLA- progenitors.

As was the case for circulating CALLA+ cells, we wondered whether we were detecting a lack of differentiation of normal B-cells or the presence of malignant cells in the patients colonies. We tried to answer this question by performing two types of experiments: the study of the self-renewal capacity, and of the karyotype of the colony cells.

PROPERTIES OF B-COLONY CELLS OF CALL PATIENTS

The clonogenic capacity of B-colony cells from cALL patients and controls was investigated by pooling and replating the primary colonies. A significant secondary plating efficiency was observed in four of four patients studied and the proportion of J5+ cells was comparable to that found in the primary cultures (not shown). In contrast, secondary plating efficiency in controls was very low (not shown). Thus, some of the patients' colony cells are

capable of self-renewal, a property usually associated with stem cells and malignant cells.

The karyotype of the cultured cells was studied in four patients for whom chromosomal abnormalities had been found in the original lymphoblasts. In all four cases, a fraction of the cultured cells presented chromosomal aberrations identical to that found in the initial corresponding lymphoblasts. It thus appeared that, despite complete hematologic remission, these patients had in their peripheral blood residual cells belonging to the malignant clone. The expansion of these circulating precursors during culture allowed the detection of their abnormal progeny by classic cytogenetic methods. Since chromosome examination and study of surface markers could not be performed on the same cells, we do not know the phenotypic features of the colony cells with chromosomal aberrations. It should, however, be noted that in all cases the percentage of J5+ cells and the number of abnormal metaphases in the colonies were comparable. However, further work is needed to establish whether the abnormal clonal cells express the J5 determinant.

CLINICAL OBSERVATIONS

The clinical course of the patients will also be important in understanding the significance of these findings, by indicating whether a correlation between percentage of CALLA+ cells and an eventual relapse can be established. During this study, three patients relapsed 1, 5 and 2 months after being studied. The pro-

portion of J5+ cells in the colonies was 50%, 72% and 13%, respectively. The first and the third patient had virtually no CALLA+ cells in their blood or bone marrow at the time of study. Moreover, no patient in the group of less than 5% CALLA+ colony cells has relapsed thus far.

CONCLUSION

We have shown that some circulating B-clonogenic cells of C-ALL patients in remission do not differentiate *in vitro* under experimental conditions that allow the maturation of normal B-cells. The self-renewal capacity of some of these cells, the presence of an identical karyotypic abnormality in some cultured cells and in the original lymphoblasts, and the subsequent relapse of three patients who had a relatively high proportion of J5+ colony cells seems to indicate that this culture system permits the clonal expansion of residual circulating cells linked to the malignant clone. This observation might be of biologic as well as clinical importance, since these residual cells cannot be detected by classic hematologic, cytologic or even immunologic methods.

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Identification of Mammary Metastatic Cells in the Bone Marrow as a Marker of a Minimal Residual Disease and of their Proliferative Index as a Factor of Prognosis—an Immunocytologic Study with Monoclonal Antibodies

**M. Ginsbourg,
M. Musset, J. L. Misset,
O. Genty and G. Mathé**

Abstract

A study of 200 patients with breast cancer at different stages was carried out. Proliferating mammary cells in bone marrow were detected using a double-staining method with monoclonal antibodies. Mammary cells were visualized with antibodies raised against human breast tissue or carcinoma. DNA-synthetising cells (S-phase) were detected on the same slide, using the monoclonal antibody ant bromodeoxyuridine (BrdU), after cell incubation with BrdU.

Mammary cells could be detected in the bone marrow of 60% of the studied cases. In 50% of the samples with such 'micrometastasis', a high labelling index of the carcinoma cells was found. The correlation between the presence of micrometastasis and the general prognosis at the stage of residual disease is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Bone marrow is a site for metastasis of many epithelial carcinomas. Morphologic studies of Romanowsky-stained bone marrow smears allow identification of metastatic cells in advanced disease. More often, however, bone marrow infiltration with a few cells is undetected with routine studies (1).

Recent techniques in tumor immunology and hybridoma technology have provided a new tool in the study of carcinomas. Monoclonal antibodies permit the specific demonstration of cell and tissue antigens. Micrometastases containing only a few tumor cells are detected in one-third of bone marrow smears obtained from early disease (2).

The present study describes the findings of a double-labelling procedure of isolated bone marrow cells for the simultaneous detection of breast carcinoma-associated antigen and DNA synthesis after culture with a precursor visualised by a monoclonal antibody (3). Detection of DNA-synthetising tumor cells in patients with no detectable metastasis will be correlated with prognosis in a follow up study.

**Service des Maladies
Sanguines et Tumorales & ICIG
(Université Paris-Sud, CNRS UA
04-1163), Hôpital Paul-
Brousse, 94800 Villejuif,
France**

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Bone marrow samples

Bone marrow samples were obtained from patients with breast cancer at presentation (20 cases), after surgery (160 cases), and from patients with breast cancer metastasis (20 cases).

Control samples were obtained from patients with leukemia in remission (ten cases), with plasmacytoma (two cases), and with ovarian or colon carcinoma (four cases).

Reagents

RPMI 1640 culture medium was obtained from Gibco (U.S.A.) and foetal calf serum from Biopro (France). Bromodeoxyuridine was purchased from Sigma (U.S.A.). Anti-BrdU monoclonal antibody was obtained from Becton-Dickinson (U.S.A.) and anti-breast tissue monoclonal antibody was obtained from Australian Monoclonal Development (Australia) and from Biogenex (U.S.A.). Monoclonal antibody raised against milk fat globule membrane was kindly supplied by Dr Munro-Neville (Ludwig Institute, England) (Table 1).

Cell isolation

Heparinised bone marrow aspirates were processed for cell separation by Ficoll-Hypaque® gradient separation. After washing, mononuclear cells together with the supernatant were collected and eluted to 1×10^6 cells per ml.

Cell culture for kinetic study

BrdU, an analogue of thymidine, is incorporated only in DNA of cells undergoing DNA

synthesis. $1-5 \times 10^6$ cells resuspended in one milliliter RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum and antibodies, were incubated with BrdU, $10 \mu M$ for 30 minutes, in a CO_2 incubator at 37°C . The incubation was stopped in an ice bath.

Cytocentrifuged slides of the labelled cells were stored at room temperature for a few days, or at -20°C if staining was to be delayed.

Immunofluorescence staining

Staining was performed with two monoclonal antibodies labelled with different fluorochromes to localise both antigens simultaneously in one cell.

Indirect immunofluorescence staining was first performed for detection of breast tissue-associated antigen with 1/10 diluted monoclonal antibody, at room temperature, for 30 minutes, in a humidified chamber. After washing, sheep antimouse Ig-TRITC conjugate was used as a second step antibody. Incubation was performed at room temperature for 20 minutes. After washing, direct immunofluorescence was performed using anti-BrdU fluoresceine-conjugate monoclonal antibody for DNA-synthesising cell detection.

After washing and mounting, fluorescence was observed by fluorescence microscopy with adapted filters.

Cells reacting with the antibody against breast tissue present a red fluorescence located on the cell surface or in the total or partial cytoplasmic area. DNA-synthesising cells present green spots located in the nuclear

TABLE 1. Monoclonal antibodies used for immunofluorescence staining of isolated bone marrow cells

Antibody	Reference	Antigen	Tissue or cell distribution
Licrlon M8	Foster et al. (6)	Human milk fat globule membrane	Subsets of luminal epithelial cells
Hu Tu M1	Thompson et al. (10)	Epithelial membrane antigen	Specific for breast tissue: breast carcinoma and normal breast
MA05—5C	Histogram®	Tumor associated cell surface antigen	Breast carcinoma. This antibody reacts with many epithelial tumors but is unreactive with normal cells
AntibrdU	Gratzner (3)	Bromodeoxyuridine	DNA-synthesising cells

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Wenn die chronischen Beschwerden dominieren.

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Zusammensetzung: 1 Kapsel Rantudil enthält 30 mg Acemetacin, 1 Kapsel Rantudil forte enthält 60 mg Acemetacin, 1 Kapsel Rantudil retard enthält 90 mg Acemetacin. Indikationen: Chronischer Gelenk rheumatismus, Psoriasis-Arthritis, aktiver Arthrose/Spondylarthrose, M. Bechterew, Gichtanfall, Entzündungen der Gelenke, Muskeln, Sehnen und Schleimbeutel, chronische Lumbago-Ischialgie, posttraumatische/postoperative Entzündungen und Schwellungen, Thrombo phlebitis und Vasculitis. Kontraindikationen: Überempfindlichkeit gegen Acemetacin, Acetylsalicylsäure, Indometacin und andere nichtsteroidale Entzündungshemmer sowie Neigung zu Überempfindlichkeit infolge Asthma, Heuschnupfen, Nasenschleimhautschwellungen oder chronischen Atemwegsinfektionen. Vorausgegangenes oder bestehendes Magen- oder Zwölffingerdarmgeschwür (ausgenommen unter strenger ärztlicher Kontrolle), Sorgfältige Überwachung bei schwerer Leber-, Nieren- oder Herzinsuffizienz bzw. stark erhöhtem Blutdruck. Schwangerschaft, Stillzeit und Kinder unter 14 Jahren. Nebenwirkungen: Magen-Darm-Störungen sind möglich, gelegentlich Kopfschmerzen oder Schwindelgefühl, selten Augenflimmern, vorübergehende Beeinträchtigung des Sehvermögens, Ohrenklingen, Müdigkeit, allergische Reaktionen, sehr (z. T. mit Blutungen) sowie Leberfunktionsstörungen (u. U. mit Gebrauch das Reaktionsvermögen so weit verändern, daß die Fähigkeit maschinen beeinträchtigt wird, verstärkt im Zusammenwirken mit Rantudil forte Kapseln; 50 Rantudil forte Kapseln; 20 Rantudil retard Kapseln; 50 Rantudil retard Kapseln). Tropon Arzneimittel Köln.



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area. The anti-breast antibody staining pattern was identical for the three antibodies used (anti-breast Australia and Biogenex, anti-milk fat globule).

Non-specific staining of granulocytic cells was eliminated by preincubation at 37°C and by use of Fab-Ig fragment as second antibody. Non-specific staining of eosinophilic granulocytes was prevented by pretreatment with diaminobenzidine and H₂O₂ (4).

RESULTS

Details of the immunofluorescence labelling data are shown in Table 2. Of 16 samples obtained from patients without known breast carcinoma, immunofluorescence staining only was seen in one case with plasmacytoma. Further examination of this case and additional Romanowsky staining could demonstrate typical plasma cell morphology.

Of 20 samples obtained from patients with early stages of breast carcinoma, breast tissue-associated antigen was detected in 12 samples and DNA-synthesising tumor cells were seen in 50% of these positive cells.

Of 20 samples with known, radiologically verified metastases, the same percentage of mammary cells and of DNA-synthesising tumor cells was found.

Of 160 samples after surgery, 90 samples presented cells reacting with anti-breast tissue monoclonal antibodies. The same cells showed DNA incorporation with anti-BrdU

monoclonal antibody in 45 of the 90 bone marrow samples.

Distribution of immunofluorescence positive cells

In 95% of the bone marrow samples with neoplastic cells, less than 0.5% of positive cells could be demonstrated. Solitary cells as well as clusters were labelled with the monoclonal antibodies. In the remaining 5% of positive samples, a higher proportion of labelled cells was seen. The majority of the labelled cells were dispersed throughout the cytocentrifuged slide.

DISCUSSION

Since 1981, it has been shown that there is usually no difference in monoclonal antibody reactivity between primary breast carcinoma and metastases (5,6,7,8). These antibodies are not specific for cancer but can react with a small percentage of benign lesions (8) or normal epithelial cells (9).

In the present study, however, breast tissue was demonstrated in the bone marrow. Hematopoietic cells were unreactive with anti-breast tissue antibodies, although non-specific staining could be seen in plasma cells. However, the morphology of plasma cells in phase contrast and the diffuse and weak fluorescence of these cells allowed relatively easy identification.

A few cells reactive with anti-breast tissue monoclonal antibodies have thus been found in

TABLE 2. Immunocytologic labelling reactions of bone marrow isolated cells. Percentage of patients with breast tissue-associated antigen (BTAA) and with DNA-synthesising tumor cells (DSTC)

Clinical data	No. of BTAA positive samples	No. of DSTC positive samples
Controls (n = 16)	+ (plasmacytoma)	NT*
Breast carcinoma		
Breast cancer early stage (n = 20)	12/20	6/12
Patients after surgery (n = 160)	90/160	45/90
Known metastases (n = 20)	13/20	6/13

* NT: not tested.

60% of all samples studied. A simultaneous study of DNA synthesis revealed the presence of 'proliferative' tumor cells in 50% of these cases.

The implications of these findings are not known. In a very small percentage of patients, macrometastases were detected in the weeks following. In most of the studied cases, the follow-up period does not exceed 6 months after our test and no conclusion can be drawn concerning the prognosis of patients with and without micrometastasis and the significance of proliferative mammary cells in the bone marrow in these patients with 'minimal residual disease'. Repeated immunofluorescence studies and statistical data are necessary to correlate immunologic and clinical data.

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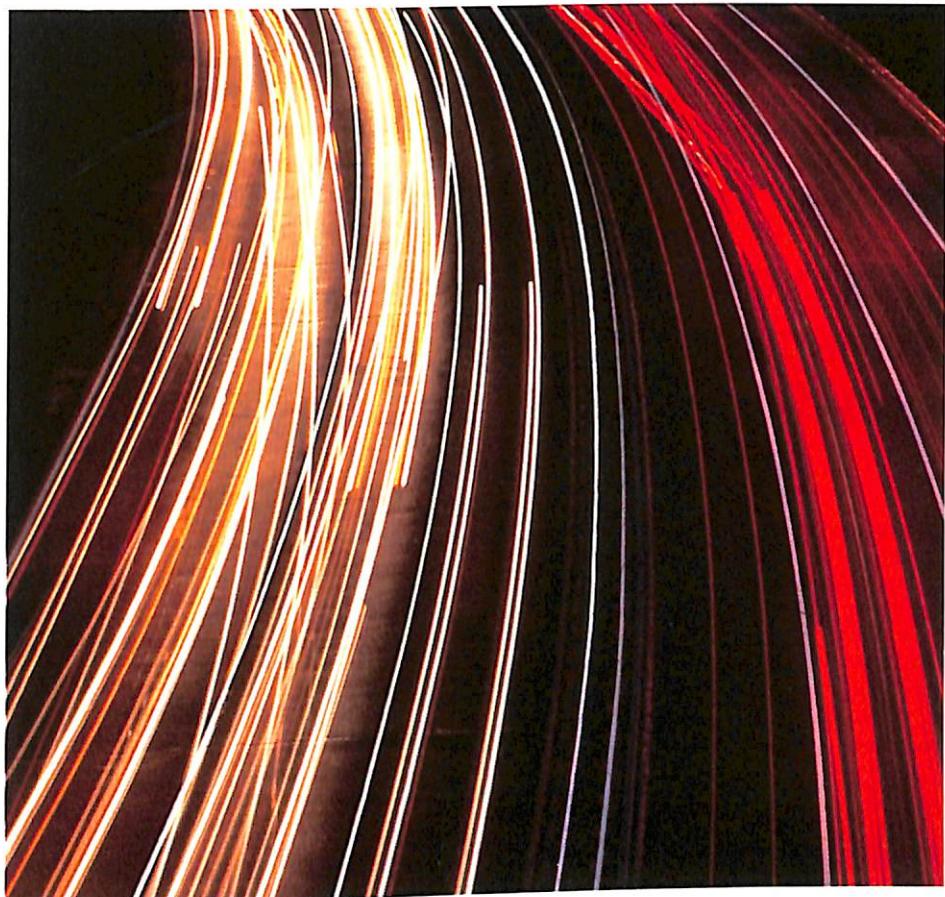
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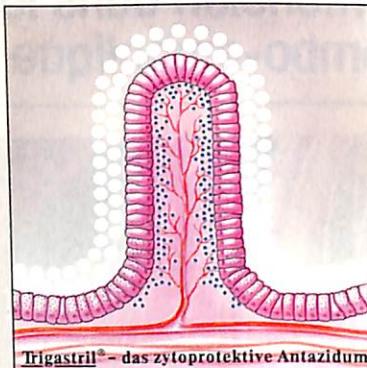
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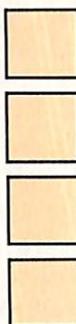


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Adjuvant Chemotherapy and the Kinetic Refractoriness of Minimal Residual Tumors

P. Relzenstein and G. Mathé

Abstract

If Skipper's exponential growth and 'log-kill' hypothesis is replaced by one assuming an S-shaped growth curve and a growth inhibition proportional to the product of the growth fraction and the tumor volume, little growth inhibition can be achieved in minimal tumors. This 'kinetic refractoriness' may explain why minimal residual tumors cannot be eradicated by adjuvant chemotherapy.

INTRODUCTION

At the present time, adjuvant or maintenance chemotherapy appears to be unable to prevent relapses in the majority of patients with tumors. In postmenopausal and even premenopausal breast cancer, surgically removed colorectal carcinoma, small cell lung cancer, low grade malignancy and possibly also high grade malignancy Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, malignant melanoma, myeloma and acute non-lymphatic leukemia, the effect of adjuvant or non-intensive maintenance chemotherapy is at least controversial (1,2).

REMISSION INDUCTION

It is true that chemotherapy has little effect in many common solid tumors (3), but there are approximately 11 relatively rare tumors where a majority of the patients can be shown to be long term survivors or to be cured. In both adult patients and children this is true for germ cell tumors and in children for acute lymphatic leukemia. Good effects can also be obtained in some lymphomas. Most of these patients receive at least some consolidation, intensification or maintenance treatment, but whether the cure is due to this treatment or to the original induction therapy is not known.

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GROWTH RATE AND CELL KILL FUNCTION

For exponentially growing experimental tumors, such as the L1210 leukemia, Harold Skipper's 'log-kill' hypothesis is valid (4). For every dose level of a cytostatic drug, a constant percentage of tumor cells is killed.

For human tumors, on the other hand, it has been suggested that the exponential growth theory is not applicable, since, together with the 'log-kill' theory, this would imply that both the growth rate and the treatment response would be greater for large than for small tumors (5). This is contrary to clinical experience.

Norton (5) has therefore suggested an S-shaped so-called 'Gompertzian' growth curve with a late lag-phase, which of course agrees with the empirical finding of contact-inhibition, decreased vascularisation and other reasons for decreased growth rates for large tumors.

If Skipper's 'log-kill' hypothesis is applied to the Gompertzian growth curve, however, this would imply that the largest tumors with a Gompertzian growth curve would be more chemotherapy sensitive than similar smaller tumors, and suboptimally treated tumors should grow only until the plateau is reached where the chemotherapy dose balances the tumor volume (5). This also is not borne out by clinical experience. Norton therefore suggests replacing the 'log-kill' hypothesis with one where the growth inhibition is proportional to the growth rate or to the growth fraction multiplied by the tumor volume in the untreated tumor. Support for this suggestion has been found in some *in vitro* studies of cytostatic concentration and the cell kill (6), in a number of rat and mouse tumors and in the clinical situation, where a suboptimally treated tumor is, after all, slowly reaching its maximal size.

WHY IS IT DIFFICULT TO ERADICATE MINIMAL RESIDUAL TUMORS?

Usually small tumors initially have a rapid growth rate and thus they may have a reasonably large product of growth rate and tumor volume and therefore acceptable chemotherapy sensitivity.

However, there is a kinetic 'refractoriness' in small tumors even without any enzyme induction, cell membrane changes or tumor pro-

gression. This is true both if the tumor follows an exponential and if it follows a Gompertzian or any other S-shaped growth curve, since the growth inhibition in all these cases is small if the tumor is small.

This kinetic refractoriness is quite distinct from refractoriness developing during continuing chemotherapy. Ninety per cent of myeloma patients who relapse despite continuing chemotherapy do not respond to reapplication of the original treatment. In these patients, the minimal residual tumor has acquired biochemical refractoriness, which probably potentiates the effect of kinetic refractoriness.

Residual small tumors, on the other hand, may have a relatively low chemotherapy response to a given dose level, since the product of growth fraction and tumor volume is small, particularly if the growth fraction is reduced because of tumor progression.

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Can Neo-adjuvant Chemotherapy Prevent Residual Tumors?

C. Bourut, E. Chenu and G.
Mathé

Abstract

MA 16/C is a spontaneous mouse mammary adenocarcinoma. It is hormone-dependent and was injected s.c. into C3H/He female mice on day 0. Tumors were excised on day 15. Neo-adjuvant treatments were applied from day 1 to day 21 for hormonotherapy and immunotherapy and on days 1, 5 and 9 for chemotherapy. Adjuvant treatments were applied from day 21 to day 42 for hormonotherapy and immunotherapy, and on days 21, 25 and 29 for chemotherapy. Mixed (neo-adjuvant and adjuvant) treatments combined the two patterns. Chemotherapy consisted of an oxalato-platinum complex of trans-L-dach (L-OHP) at a dose of 5 mg/kg i.p. Hormonotherapy consisted of the LH-RH agonist (D-Trp⁶) LH-RH, at a dose of 100 µg/kg i.p. Zinc gluconate (6mg/kg per os) and bestatin (6mg/kg per os) were administered as immunoregulators. Under present experimental conditions, surgery alone did not increase the life span. Both neo-adjuvant and adjuvant chemotherapy and neo-adjuvant hormonotherapy, however, when added to surgery, increased survival significantly ($p < 0.02 - p < 0.03$).

INTRODUCTION

In experimental chloromas (1) and Lewis lung tumors (2) preoperative or 'neo-adjuvant' chemotherapy led to more cures than postoperative treatment. Distant metastases of human breast cancer in stages 1 and 2 have been prevented by cyclophosphamide from the day of surgery (3,4). In one study, neo-adjuvant chemotherapy plus radiotherapy even replaced surgery with 7.3% relapses after 17 months (5). In inflammatory breast cancer, the effects of chemotherapy are, of course, well known (5,6).

The present purpose was, in an experimental system, to see whether neo-adjuvant and/or adjuvant chemotherapy, hormonotherapy or immunotherapy can prevent residual tumors after surgical excision.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ten groups of 16 C3H/He female mice with subcutaneous implants of carcinoma on day 0 were excised on day 15. In addition, two groups, CT, were given neo-adjuvant chemotherapy days 1, 5 and 9 (NACT) or adjuvant CT days 21, 25 and 29 (ACT) with an oxaleto-platinum complex of trans-l-dach (1-OHP, 5mg/kg body weight intraperitoneally, i.p.). Another two groups, IT, were given neo-adjuvant, T-cell immunoregulation treatment (NAIT) with zinc gluconate (6mg/kg orally, daily) and bestatin (6mg/kg, every second day, orally) on days 1-21 or adjuvant IT (AIT) on days 21-42. The last two groups, HT, were

given neo-adjuvant hormonotherapy (NAHT) with the LH-RH agonist D-Trp6-LH-RH (100 μ g/kg i.p.) on days 1-21, or adjuvant HT (AHT) on days 21-42. The end-point was mouse survival.

RESULTS

Surgery alone

None of the mice survived 60 days. Nor did any of the untreated control mice survive. Survival was not significantly longer than for untreated mice.

Adjuvant CT

Mice given neo-adjuvant CT without surgery did not survive significantly longer than those

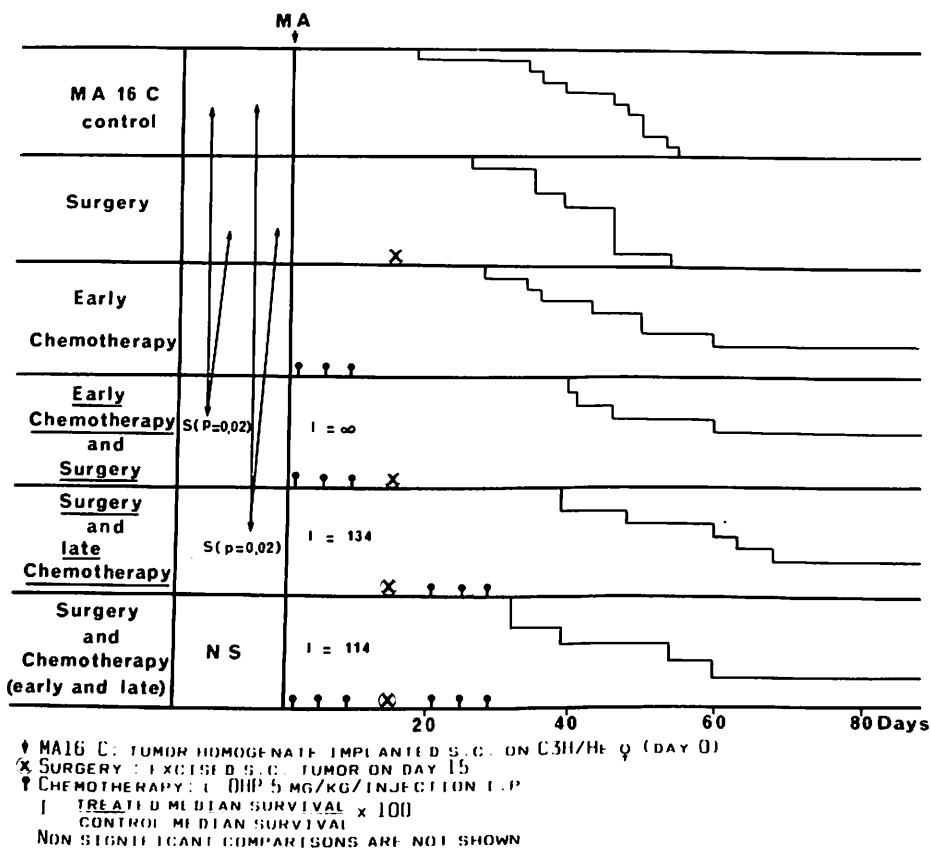
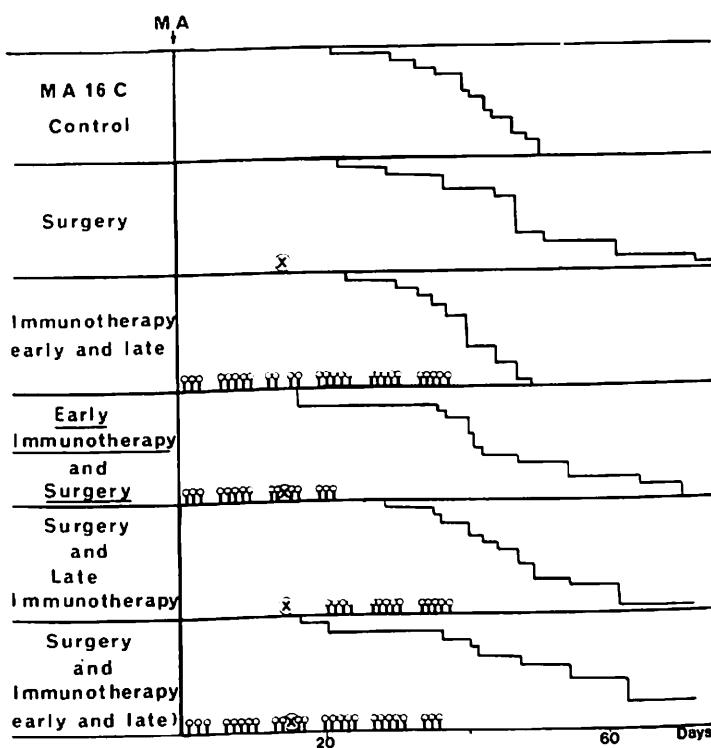


Fig. 1. Effect of surgery with or without chemotherapy on mammary carcinoma.

TABLE 1. Percent cured animals after CT, HT, IT and surgery alone

	Treatment alone	Surgery with treatment		
		Early	Late	Early + late
I-OHP	30	50	33	28
D-Trp6-LH-RH	0	33	40	37
Zn gluconate + bestatin	0	0	6	21
Surgery	0			

Surgery with or without chemotherapy, hormonotherapy or immunotherapy on mammary carcinoma (MA 16-C). Results are expressed as percentage of lifespan.



MA: MA16-C TUMOR HOMOGENATE IMPLANTED S.C. ON C3H/HE O (DAY 0)
 X: EXCISED S.C. TUMOR ON DAY 15
 ZN GLUCONATE 6 MG/KG EVERY DAY + BESTATIN 6 MG/KG EVERY TWO DAY

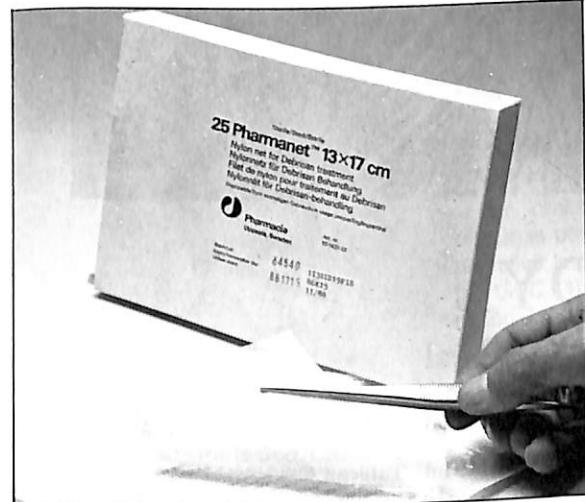
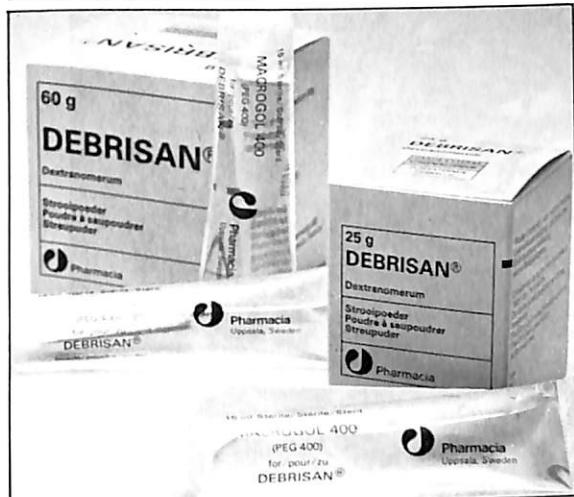
Fig. 2. Effect of surgery with or without immunotherapy on mammary carcinoma.

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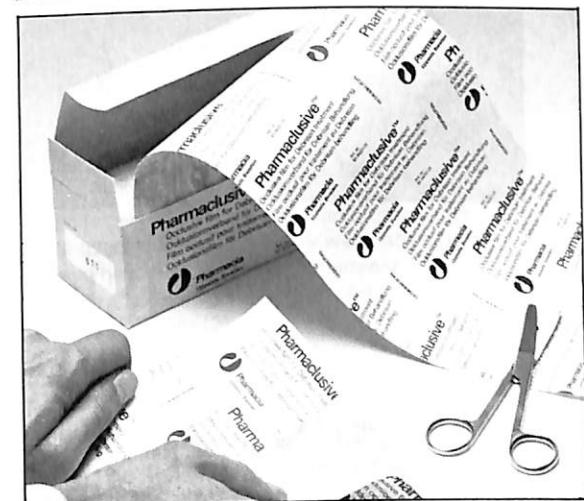


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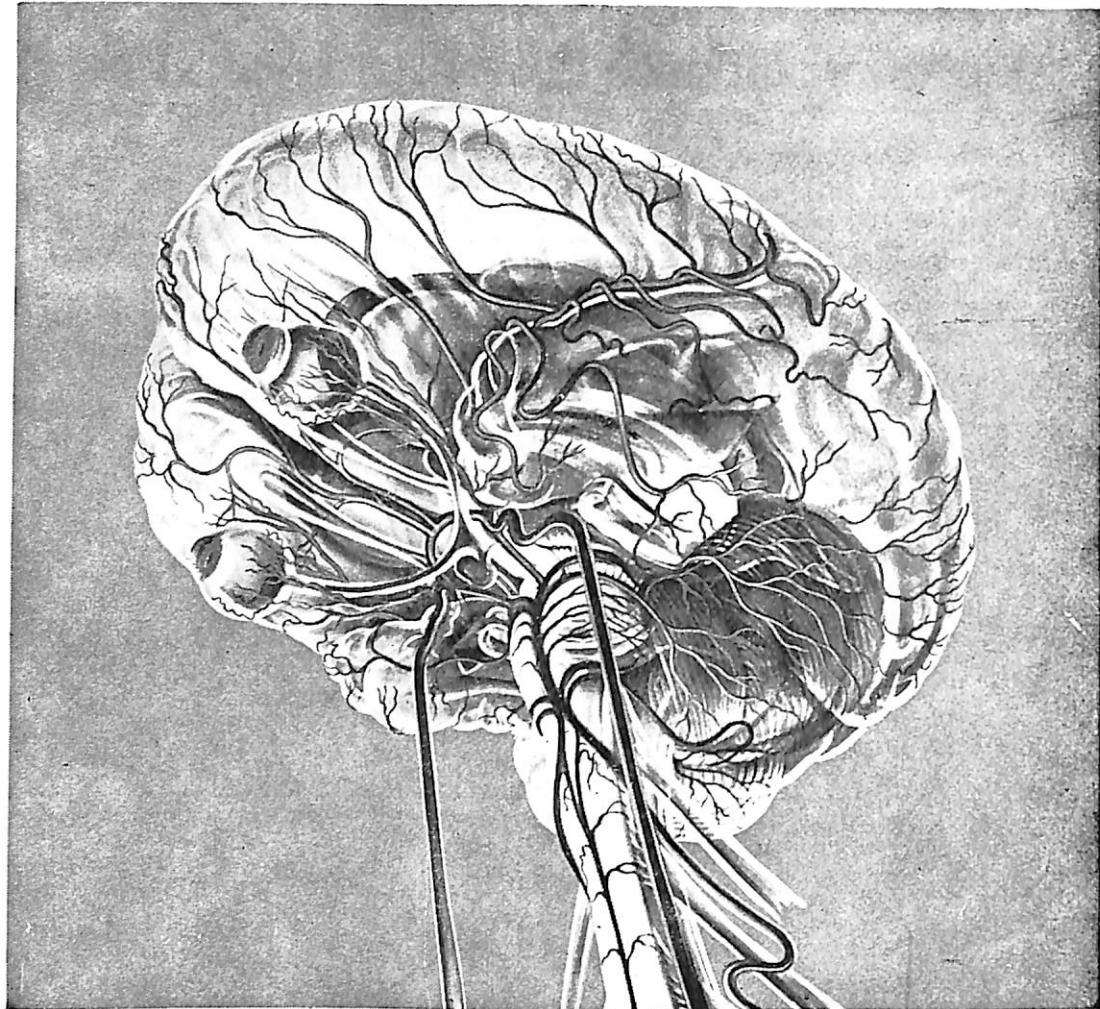
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Monitoring and Treatment of Minimal Residual Cancer of the Prostate

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G. Prevot**

Abstract

In manifest prostatic carcinoma, partial and complete remissions are obtained in 14–44% of patients as judged by different sets of criteria, but in up to 61% as judged by a decrease in prostatic acid phosphatase. Moreover, this decrease is poorly correlated to that of prostatic size. Prostatic acid phosphatase is therefore considered to be a relatively non-specific tumor marker.

A complete remission, i.e. a stage of minimal residual disease, is obtained in about 25% of the patients. Continued endocrine treatment involves the risk of a flare-up of the disease, which is probably small. Additionally, in minimal residual disease, prolonged maintenance treatment requires minimization of side effects. D-Trp-6-LH-RH appears to lead to less gynecomastia and thromboembolism than some other forms of adjuvant therapy.

RESPONSE TO TREATMENT OF CLINICALLY MANIFEST TUMORS

For clinically manifest prostatic adenocarcinoma, the response parameters used in the early 1940s were not quite objective. Improvements have therefore been recommended by the UICC (1) and further improvements by the WHO and the national prostatic cancer program (2). According to these different criteria, partial and complete remissions are seen after different forms of endocrine manipulation in 14% (3) to 50% (15) of patients (2–10).

A reduction of prostatic acid phosphatase levels is one of the most sensitive generally recognized parameters and has shown more frequent responses than any other criterion (4). The normal value of prostatic acid phosphatase is defined as being under 3.2 ng/ml in the present study. In addition to the 50% of patients whose acid phosphatase is normalized, there are 11% in which it was reduced by more than half. However, it is possible

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that lipid-associated sialic acid (LASA) is even more sensitive (Section 1, this volume).

The LH-RH analog, D-Trp-6-LH-RH (Fig. 1) has been shown to cause desensitization of the pituitary 'down-regulation' of receptors and suppression of Leydig cell function in animals and in man (11, 12). Administration of D-Trp-6-LH-RH suppressed plasma LH and testosterone levels substantially (Figs 2 and 3). This drug can induce a regression of more than 50% in tumor volume in at least 37% of patients after 3 months of therapy (13-15). The reduction of

tumor volume was evaluated by rectal examination of the prostate and transabdominal ultrasonography (the results of these are in good agreement, Fig. 4) (16, 17), and by computerized tomography. Only a small reduction (12.5%) in the size of bone lesions, determined by isotope scanning, was noted.

In addition, an early improvement was seen in symptoms of urinary outflow obstruction (prostatism, Fig. 5). After 90 days, 52 patients showed complete relief of prostatism and 21 had only mild signs and symptoms. Similarly, a

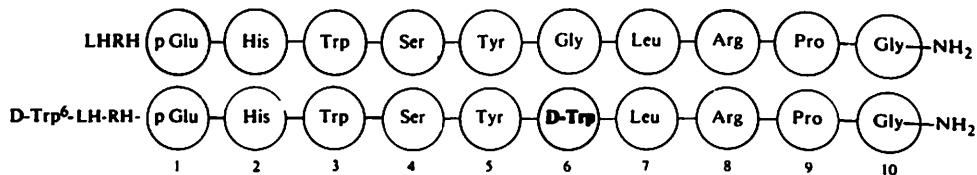


Fig. 1. Structure of D-Trp-6-LH-RH.

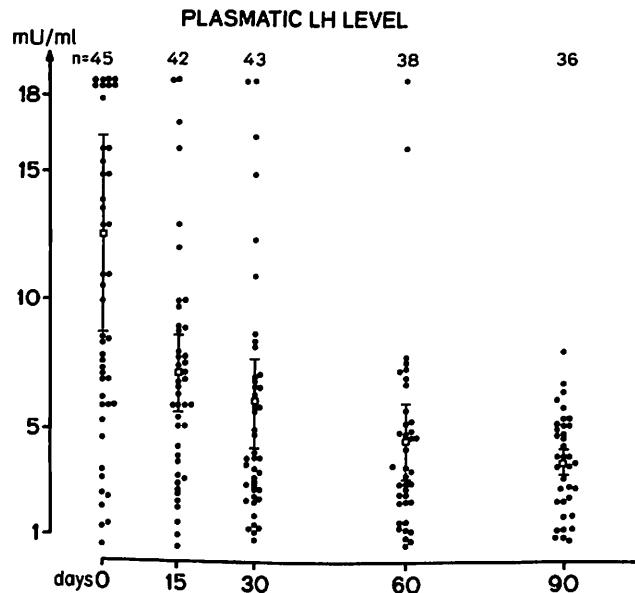


Fig. 2. Plasma LH level before the first injection of D-Trp-6-LH-RH and after 15, 30, 60 and 90 days.

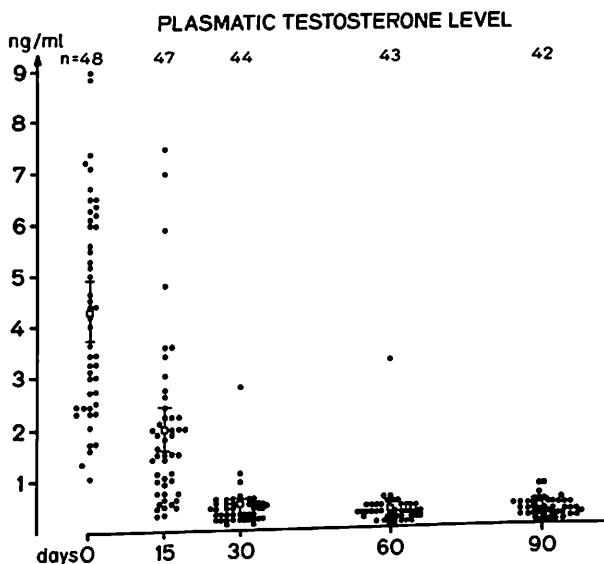


Fig. 3. Plasma testosterone level before the first injection of D-Trp-6-LH-RH and after 15, 30, 60 and 90 days.

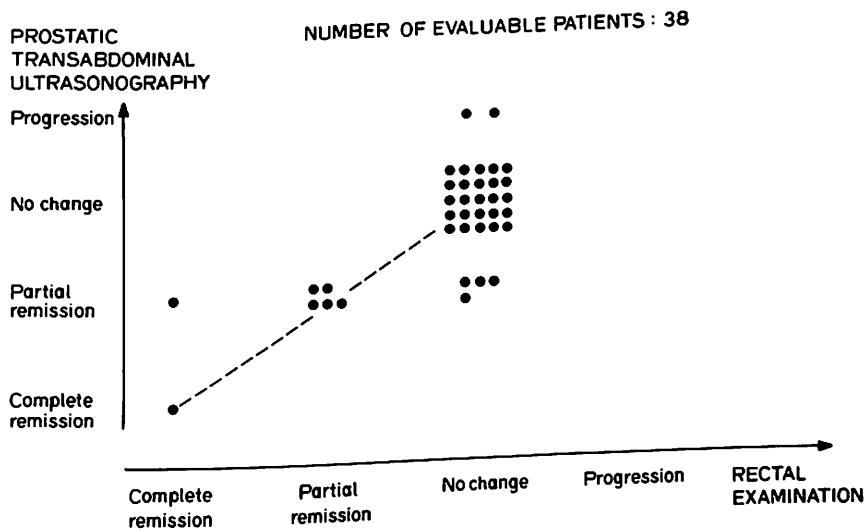


Fig. 4. Correlation between prostatic volume as evaluated by rectal and ultrasonographic examinations.

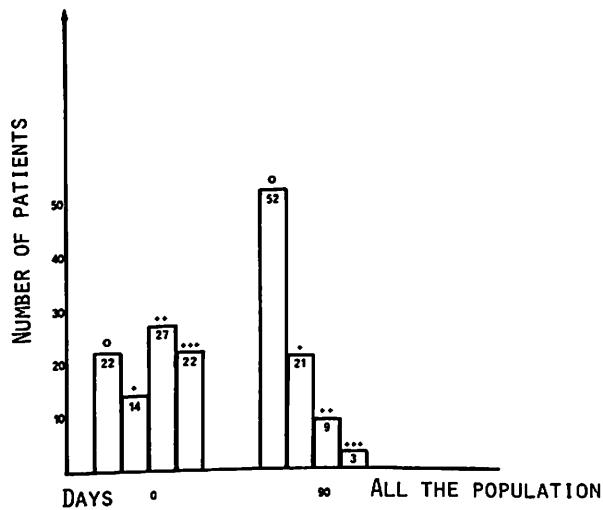


Fig. 5. Prostatism: evaluation at 3 months of therapy. Intensity 0 to +++.

decrease in bone pain was seen after a few days or a week of therapy. After 90 days, 70 patients were free of bone pain and an additional 6 had only mild pain (Fig. 6).

When the response is based on the decrease in prostatic acid phosphatase levels,

the results are not correlated with the estimation of the prostate size (17) (Fig. 7). On the basis of prostatic acid phosphatase levels, the total incidence of regression was 66.7%, of which 41% was complete and 25% only partial, a result which shows a positive bias. The reason for the overestimation of response with

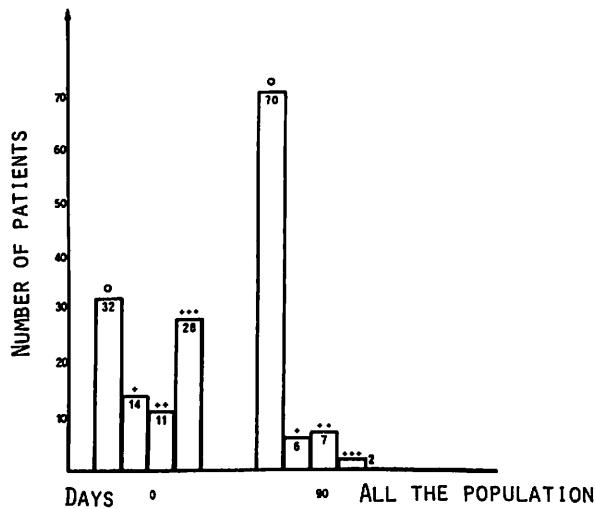


Fig. 6. Bone pain: evaluation at 3 months of therapy. Intensity 0 to +++: 0 none, + mild, ++ moderate, +++severe.

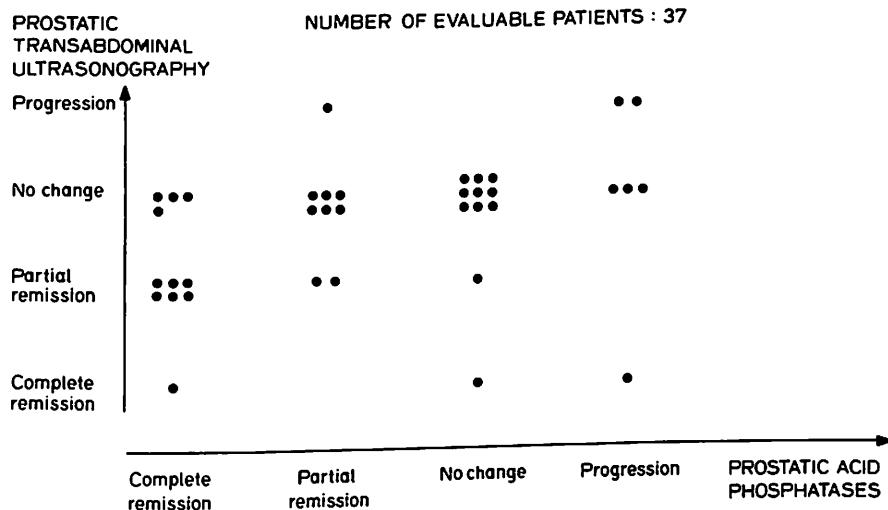


Fig. 7. Absence of correlation between transabdominal ultrasonography and prostatic acid phosphatase levels.

acid phosphatase may be that this test measures only the differentiated cell volume.

In conclusion, the best parameter to establish the response of manifest prostatic carcinoma is the reduction in size of the prostate estimated by transabdominal ultrasonography or rectal examination (17). The incidence of regression based on these parameters is smaller than that based on prostatic acid phosphatase levels (Table 1), and there is no correlation between them (Fig. 7).

POSSIBILITIES FOR TREATMENT OF MINIMAL RESIDUAL PROSTATIC CANCER

A complete remission, i.e. a stage of minimal residual disease can be achieved in between 1/3 and 1/4 of the patients (Tables 2 and 3).

Continued treatment with D-Trp-6-LH-RH in the minimal residual stage of prostatic cancer has been reported to lead to a flare-up of the disease (18). This has not been observed, however, in any of our patients subjected to

TABLE 1. Evaluation of prostatic acid phosphatases after 3 months of therapy with D-TRP-6-LH-RH in 28 patients with prostate cancer

	Normalization	$R \geq 50\%^*$	$R < 50\%\dagger$	No change	Progression
No. of patients	14	3	1	8	2
Response rate (%)	50	11	3.5	28.5	7

61

* Regression $\geq 50\%$ compared with the initial value.

† Regression $< 50\%$ compared with the initial value.

TABLE 2. Patients with prostate cancer: stages of disease and stage D localization; previous therapy

	No. of patients
Stage B	8
Stage C	9
Stage D	
Bone metastases only	48
Bone + lung metastases	5
Bone + lymph node metastases	5
Bone + lymph node + lung metastases	1
Bone + bone marrow metastases	2
Lymph node metastases only	3
Total	64
Previously untreated	24
Previous hormonal therapy	40
Previous surgery	11
Previous chemotherapy	0
Previous radiotherapy	6

hormonal treatment for 3 month periods. If treatment of minimal residual prostatic cancer is considered, D-Trp-6-LH-RH is more effective than estrogens (2) which suppress testosterone secretion by inhibiting gonadotropin release (12). A major advantage of D-Trp-6-LH-RH over estrogens is that it does not have any secondary metabolic effects. Estrogens raise plasma prolactin, which increase androgen transport into the cells.

Prolonged maintenance treatment of non-symptomatic minimal residual disease is difficult if side effects are pronounced.

Table 4 lists the comparative side effects of the different endocrine treatments of prostatic carcinoma, according to Geller and Albert (8). It is difficult to compare the incidence of side-effects of D-Trp-6-LH-RH with other hormonal

treatments of prostatic carcinoma, because of dose differences. Other investigators registered 38% adverse cardiovascular effects with DES, 14% with CPA and 20% with MPA (7). It is possible that equally beneficial results might have been obtained with lower doses of these hormones, with fewer side-effects. In addition, the duration of treatment varied. It should be mentioned that painful gynecomastia appears in 40% of patients treated with DES (6), but in only 6% of those receiving CPA and MPA (7). This complication was not observed in a single patient in our study.

The side-effects and mechanisms of action discussed above must be considered in reaching a decision on the indications for treatment with D-Trp-6-LH-RH, given alone or in combination. Because of the two cases of apparent disease flare-up at the onset of the treatment with D-Trp-6-LH-RH (18), an initial combination with an antiandrogen was suggested. Labrie et al. (19) claimed a high incidence of beneficial results obtained by the combination of buserelin with the antiandrogens, anadron or flutamide. Unfortunately, an accurate oncologic evaluation of their results is difficult (20). Moreover, the authors (19) mentioned the regression of pain (which is a subjective manifestation), in nine out of ten patients and a fall in serum acid phosphatases (a test which may not be valid) in three out of four patients, as well as a reduction in alkaline phosphatases in five out of six patients. However, neither ultrasonographic changes, nor changes of LASA levels were reported (19). It is not known at present whether these combinations have significant advantages over the LH-RH agonists alone and whether such a possible advantage would be nullified by toxic side-effects of the antiandrogens, especially on the liver.

An important point in selecting hormonal therapy for prostate cancer is the finding that D-Trp-6-LH-RH is more effective than castration (Table 4), at least over a short time period. The psychological and social complications of castration are sometimes severe. Impotence is a complication of both types of treatment, but it is permanent after castration and reversible after LH-RH agonists.

TABLE 3. Prostatic volume at rectal examination and transabdominal ultrasonography after 3 months of treatment with D-Trp-6-LH-RH

	Complete remission —normalization	Partial remission objective, $R \geq 50\%†$	Minor remission objective, $R < 50\%‡$ with major life quality improvement	No change	Progression
No. of patients	9	6	10	9	0
Response rate	26.4%	17.6%	29.4%	26.4%	
	44%		73.5%		

No. of evaluable patients = 34.

* In which the ultrasonography image was initially abnormal.

† Regression $\geq 50\%$: with three-dimensional evaluation.

‡ Regression $< 50\%$, proven or not proven with three-dimensional evaluation.

TABLE 4. Comparative side effects of various therapies for prostate carcinoma

D-Trp-6-LH-RH	Castration	DES	Megestrol plus low dose of DES or estradiol	Flutamide	LHRH agonist plus antiandrogen
Gynecomastia *	—	0	++++	+	++
Loss of libido	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Salt retention	No	No	Yes	No	No
Thromboembolism	No	No	Yes	No	No
Convenience	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cost	?	One time cost only	Inexpensive	\$60/Month	?
					High

* Intensity: 0 to ++++.

It appears that D-Trp-6-LH-RH and other agonists can advantageously replace estrogens because the agonists may be more effective in the same kind of tumors and are without the short-term complications such as gynecomastia. It seems that D-Trp-6-LH-RH, unlike estrogens (21), will not cause thromboembolic

complications, but additional, careful, long-term studies will be needed to demonstrate this with certainty.

One of the most pressing questions concerns the advisability of combining LH-RH agonist with an antiandrogen, the choice of the

latter and especially the optimal timing of combination therapy. As complete remissions are obtained with D-Trp-6-LH-RH alone, we think that it is more rational for patients with prostate cancer to be treated first only with an LH-RH agonist. In case of failure, or appearance of resistance, antiandrogens can be tried. It is not advantageous or rational to use a therapeutically inert drug in a combination. Other hormonal treatments cannot be expected to work when a LH-RH agonist and an antiandrogen are not effective. Unresponsiveness to these agents would imply that the tumor is hormone-insensitive, which is an indication for chemotherapy.

Instead of combining both hormonal and cytostatic treatments at random, we have chosen our present approach on the basis of some theoretical considerations and findings. It is known that in hormone-dependent tumors there are cell clones which do not carry receptors for hormones or in which the receptors are not activated, but these clones are sensitive to cytostatics. We have shown in castrated animals (22) that hormonal treatment which stimulates cell division recruits the cells into the cycle, partially synchronizes the cycle phase of cell growth and significantly enhances their sensitivity to cytostatics. Consequently, we decided to start the combined treatment with D-Trp-6-LH-RH and apply chemotherapy 10 hours later at the time of the transitory peak of androgen. On the basis of CR and PR, the most efficacious cytostatic agents on prostate carcinoma are platinum complexes (31.6%), anthracyclines (25%), 5-fluorouracil (12%) (10) and bleomycin (23,24).

Thus, we are currently using in prostatic carcinoma patients D-Trp-6-LH-RH alone for a few hours until LH and testosterone levels increase. We then start chemotherapy combining, in cycles, 5-fluorouracil modulated by folinic acid (24), the new platinum complex 1-OHP (25,26) and a new anthracyclin, THP-adriamycin (27), which has no cardiac toxicity (28); pepleomycin is also given midway in the treatment cycles of 2-3 weeks (23). Hormonal therapy and chemotherapy are continued until maximal regression is attained.

At the stage of minimal residual tumor, a combined therapy (hormonal, immunorestorative and cell differentiating) is applied as well. The hormonal treatment consists of an intermittent application of D-Trp-6-LH-RH; the differentiating agents employed are bestatin and zinc gluconate (29). It is also known that D-Trp-6-LH-RH exerts an immunorestorative action (30). In addition, we have been able to demonstrate a significant protective effect on the bone marrow stem cells by D-Trp-6-LH-RH both *in vivo* and *in vitro* (31). The results of this combined approach will be reported after a complete evaluation is made. In a few cases, we have been tempted, facing the apparently complete tumor volume regression, to subject the patients to prostatectomy. This operation, using the technique established by Walsh (32), does not induce impotence, in contrast to radiotherapy, which is also complicated by cystitis, rectitis and iliac bone metastasis enhancement (33). It is possible that controlled studies on the effect of intermittent or alternating treatment of prostatic carcinoma in complete remission with hormone-cytostatic combinations are indicated, perhaps even after prostatectomy, in an effort to study the effect of such treatment on remission, duration of survival and incidence of possible cure.

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Adjuvant Treatment of Minimal Residual Tumors. A Comparison of Chemotherapy and Immunotherapy

G. Mathé, P. Reizenstein and
M. Erlguchi

Abstract

Adjuvant chemotherapy. The frequent 6 month complete remission induction chemotherapy is not discussed here. What is under debate at present is the prolonged maintenance or adjuvant chemotherapy, which in comparative trials with 5 year follow-up does not appear to improve survival prognosis in leukemia, myeloma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma or post-menopausal breast cancer. However, it may prolong the duration of the first remission.

It is suggested that the sensitivity to chemotherapy might depend on cells being induced into the G₂ or M phases by growth growth promotor(s), such as estrogens in breast carcinoma. Their presence before the menopause could explain why this neoplasia in this condition is one of the few tumoral diseases transitorily sensitive to adjuvant chemotherapy.

Adjuvant immunotherapy is also under debate. Immunotherapy has been reported to give a significant improvement in remission duration and/or overall survival and/or survival after relapse in several tumors and in several trials. However, for almost every trial reporting a statistically significant effect there is one (or more) which shows no significant effect.

Theoretically, immunotherapy has several advantages over chemotherapy. It may be effective in minimal residual disease if tumor cells are in the G₀ phase. So-called kinetic refractoriness (see separate chapter in this volume) may not apply to immunotherapy. Finally, tumor cells appear to be more sensitive than normal cells to some cytotoxic mechanisms which form a part of the biological response to tumors.

TUMOR PROMOTION

Let us call cancer cells, cells which have undergone malignant transformation (1), probably along several steps, one of the

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most important being the modification of a normal gene into an activated 'oncogene' (2). This can be the consequence of several possible, especially viral (3), chromosomal (4) or chemical accidents (5). These cells may for a time behave like saprophytic, pathogenic microbes (6), as a result of an equilibrium between their tendency to proliferate and the immunosurveillance of the host (7,8).

This equilibrium is disturbed if there is a proliferation promotion and/or an immunological control defect. Cancer cells may thus escape because of a proliferative 'promotion' event (9,10) in the two step oncogenesis scheme (11–13), or possibly because of differentiation (14) or disturbances in the cell communication (15) mechanism (17,18).

TUMOR REMISSION

Tumors can disappear after surgical and/or radiological or chemotherapeutic interventions—so-called complete remissions. However, usually some cancer cells persist and constitute a residual, minimal imperceptible tumor (19,20).

The present purpose is not to discuss the cell heterogeneity (21), anatomical sanctuaries (22), chemotherapy (24) resistance, or any other reasons for escape from the primary treatment, but to discuss the residual tumors.

MINIMAL RESIDUAL TUMORS AND ADJUVANT TREATMENT

That residual imperceptible disease occurs is shown by the high incidence of relapses and by the fact that relapses may or may not be caused by cells which carry the initial phenotype (25).

Tumor relapses are frequently seen after local surgery in the case of breast carcinoma (26,27) and that of other solid tumors such as cancers of the stomach, colon, rectum, pancreas, liver and lung. They are also frequent after radiotherapy of gliomas, head and neck and lung tumors (28).

Adjuvant radiotherapy

Generally, the incidence of metastases is not

reduced by adjuvant radiotherapy (29,30), which can sometimes cause adverse effects (31,32). Nor does adjuvant radiotherapy increase the number of cures of stage III Hodgkin's disease (33). It does, however, prevent the incidence of local metastases after surgery of mammary carcinoma.

Adjuvant surgery

Adjuvant or 'second look' surgery is efficient in ovarian carcinoma (35,36).

Intensification chemotherapy

Relapses occur almost invariably in chronic myeloid (39) or lymphatic leukemias (39), myeloma (39) and small cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (39).

The relapse incidence can be reduced by the intensity of remission induction chemotherapy in acute or rapidly growing neoplasias, for example embryonic tumors such as placental (41) and testis choriocarcinomas (42) in adults, or in acute lymphatic leukemia (ALL) (40) in children and in acute myeloid leukemia in man.

It is conceivable that the large number of cells in the DNA synthesis phase in these acute neoplasias allows more cells to be killed by the cytostatics, known to be active on cells in cycle (43,44).

Adjuvant chemotherapy

In contrast to induction chemotherapy, maintenance treatment has weak effects. It is true that pre- and post-surgical radiochemotherapy is effective in Ewing's tumor. Prolonged adjuvant chemotherapy (54) appears to play no beneficial role, however, in chronic or slowly growing tumors. Maintenance longer than 6 months is of uncertain benefit in ALL (45), Hodgkin's disease (55–57), AML (46–53) and placental (41) and testis carcinomas (42). In large-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), a 1 year duration of maintenance chemotherapy may even be worse than only 6 months of chemotherapy (58–60).

Maintenance chemotherapy is also of uncertain benefit in chronic lymphatic leukemia (39),

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myeloma (61,62), small cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) (39,58) and chronic myelocytic leukemia (39,63). In ovarian carcinoma, the usually efficient chemotherapy (36,78) does not lead to complete remission. Adjuvant chemotherapy has not been shown, by a valid comparative trial (88), to be efficient in osteosarcoma.

In polycythemia vera, continuous treatment does much less well (64) than the discontinuous remission induction (65). Nor has the usefulness of maintenance chemotherapy been demonstrated in soft tissue sarcomas (66), melanoma (67), glioma (68), head and neck tumors (69), lung cancers (70) including the small cell type (71), stomach (72) and colon (73-75) carcinomas, prostate (76), uterus (77) and breast carcinoma in post-menopausal (79-82) and, in some trials, also in pre-menopausal patients as far as survival is concerned (82).

Pre-menopausal breast cancer

In addition to Ewing's tumor, pre-menopausal breast cancer may be the exception to the rule (90-92). Here, maintenance chemotherapy may in fact increase the disease-free survival (DFS) and, in some trials, the life expectancy. This has been shown by Nissen-Meyer (83), Donegan (84) and Fisher (85) with one cytostatic, and by Rossi (79) with the combination of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and 5-fluoro-uracil (CMF). An oncofrance study (80,81) obtained a still better DFS with the combination adriamycin, vincristine, cyclophosphamide and 5-fluoro-uracil (AVCF), but no increased survival at 5 years (81). In the pre-menopausal patients, a 1 year duration of CMF does not seem to work better than a 6 month treatment (89). In fact, 1 year of CMF even seems to give a non-significantly less good result than a 6 month treatment (89). It therefore is not impossible that prolonged adjuvant chemotherapy may in fact be harmful, as has been suggested in non-Hodgkin lymphoma (58).

Post-menopausal breast cancer

Maintenance chemotherapy appears to be inefficient after the menopause. Bonadonna

(86) has suggested that a reduction of CMF doses after the menopause could explain the absence of a chemotherapy effect. However, we found the same absence of an effect at the same age, although we applied the same AVCF doses as before the menopause (80,81). Similarly, no dose decrease in post-menopausal adjuvant chemotherapy was found either by the Ludwig Group (87) or by Howell et al. (82). Howell et al. (82) and Goldstein and Wabb (93) have, in fact, criticised the use of adjuvant chemotherapy in all forms of breast cancer.

It is possible that the absence of estrogen promotion of growth could explain the failure after the menopause. For instance, a relation between the effect of CMF on the DFS before menopause and the incidence of progesterone receptors has been found on tumor cells. There was a correlation between the DFS and the amenorrhea during chemotherapy (82). AVCF, which is superior to CMF for DFS in pre-menopausal patients, induced amenorrhea in all patients (81).

Acute leukemia

Early trials in 1961-63 showed, for example in ALL, that maintenance treatment with 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP) (94) or 6-MP combined with methotrexate (95) increased the length of the disease-free survival (DFS). This was at a time when there was no cure of ALL; remission induction therapy was poor. Today, when we have efficient induction chemotherapy, maintenance chemotherapy may not increase the cure rate (96). It does not seem to increase that of any of the three subgroups of patients with low, intermediate and high risks (96). It even reduces the cure rate in the standard risk group in our experience (97). Similarly, central nervous system radiotherapy (100) does not appear to be beneficial any longer in ALL (98). In contrast, radiotherapy may do neurological harm (99). Similarly, adjuvant chemotherapy in small cell lung carcinoma (102) and lung irradiation in osteosarcoma (88) no longer seems efficient. Again, these recent results contradict initial evaluations (101,103).

One of several possible explanations of these findings is that maintenance or adjuvant

chemotherapy might, in the earlier studies have been working only on the most sensitive cells (43,44), leaving relatively insensitive cells to respond to maintenance treatment. The residual tumor cells remaining after today's efficient induction treatment, on the other hand, also seem to be insensitive to maintenance treatment.

Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL)

Maintenance treatment in large cell NHL does not improve the final prognosis (58), suggesting that the persisting cells survive because they are resistant. Cytostatics normally effective for induction treatment of stage I or stage II Hodgkin's disease are also effective as re-induction of patients who relapse after radiotherapy, if radiation was initially applied alone (117). The chemotherapy re-induction result is less efficient if chemotherapy is given even in the initial stage. Similarly, in AML, aclaranomycin gives a high incidence of second remissions when the first remission was induced without aclaranomycin (129,130). Similarly, almost 100% second responses are seen if myeloma patients without maintenance treatment are reinduced, but only 18% are seen in patients who had maintenance treatment, even if re-induction is performed with cytostatics not previously used (130a). A similar phenomenon is also seen in testis carcinoma (42).

Conclusion about maintenance chemotherapy

A reduction in the number of side effects and secondary leukemias (118) and other secondary malignancies (119,120), of chromosomal abnormality (121,122), as well as of patient discomfort (123) and sterility may be achieved (124,125) if maintenance chemotherapy is not routinely given.

Minimal residual tumors and immunotherapy

Acute lymphatic leukemia. When proposing active immunotherapy in 1968 (19,137) we have shown, in animal experiments, that cells in the G₀ or G_s phases (138) are the most sensitive. In fact, the neoplastic cells of minimal residual disease may well be in G₀, since it has

been shown that hematological malignancies may have prolonged average generation time (138a). However, immunotherapy provoked controversy for many reasons.

First, the tumor-associated antigens (TAA), demonstrated in experimental tumors by Foley (139) and Prehn (140), could be found in human tumors neither by Hewitt (141) nor by Baldwin (142).

The availability of monoclonal antibodies today has resulted in many reports about TAA, usually related to cell differentiation and possibly to oncogene activation (146), in both animal and human tumors (143). However, tumor cell heterogeneity (143a), maturation asynchrony (143b) and lineage infidelity (143c) render tumor-associated antigens ineffective in tumor surveillance. Moreover, such antigens may not be required for the cytotoxic activity of NK-cells (144), macrophages (8), or other cytotoxic cells (145).

Second, several clinical immunotherapy results have been controversial. Nevertheless, there are suggestions that even the primitive first generation immunotherapy can improve DFS and survival in ALL (152,153). In 1969 (152), no ALL-patients had been cured. Seven cures out of 20 patients was at that time significant. A genetic selection of the patients occurred with immunotherapy (154,155). A comparative trial with historical controls (45) and one randomized study (156) seemed to confirm the first results, but there are several negative trials as well. Stratification (157), multicentricity (157,159) and unequal patient numbers in the treatment (158) are discussed elsewhere (20). One trial had 27 participating centers for 300 patients and five treatment arms. In three of these arms there were 153 patients, which means 1.88 patients per arm per center (157). Another trial had 18, 52 and 52 patients in three treatment arms.

Chronic leukemia and lymphoma. In chronic lymphatic leukemia, Binet et al. (160) have recently published data which record a significant improvement after levamisole treatment. Salmon (161) has reported the same in myeloma.

In large cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Hoerni (162) and Jones (163,164) still report significant benefits of BCG treatment with several years of follow-up, but here also other negative results exist. In AML (165,166), BCG initially prolonged remission duration and survival, and so did bestatine (167).

In CML (168) and melanoma (169,170) benefits have also been reported, but, again, many negative reports exist.

Carcinomas

In bronchial carcinoma, benefits were found by Maver et al. with intrapleural BCG (175), by Yasumoto and Yamamura with a cell wall substance (N.CWS, 176), by Stewart et al. with an antigenic preparation (177) and by Focan et al. (178) with levamisole.

In gastric cancer, Ochiai (179) found a significant benefit with N.CWS which is associated, as was the one we observed in our first ALL study (154,155), with a genetic selection (179).

In colon cancer, Robinson (180) obtained a benefit with a methanol residue (MER) of a BCG extract. In bladder cancer, local immunotherapy has been effective in several phase II trials (181).

In ovarian carcinoma, Albert (182) found favorable results after immunotherapy. In cervical carcinoma, Okamura (77) has registered a significant benefit, in breast carcinoma, Lacour (183,184), and in prostatic carcinoma, Edsmyr (151).

Second generation immunotherapy

Experimentally, minimal residual tumor cells seem to be sensitive to adoptive immunotherapy (188) as well as to cells mediating the graft versus leukemia reaction (189) or possibly the graft versus leukemogenic virus (190) reaction. The results of Weiden et al. (191) and other groups (192) tend to confirm this in man, as do the recent results with NK-like cells and lymphokine-activated killer (LAK) cells.

The possible role of hormones

Minimal residual tumors have been shown by Fisher (193) to be sensitive to hormonotherapy

with anti-estrogens, but only in post-menopausal breast cancer with female hormone receptors. In contrast, estrogens reduce the survival of patients with prostatic carcinoma because of vascular complications (127).

CONCLUSION

It is not self-evident at present that maintenance chemotherapy is more effective in containing or eradicating minimal residual tumors than are the various attempts to use or activate the biological response to the tumor. There are indications that this latter response is mediated by antigen-independent cytotoxic cells. This cell population may include the cells responsible for the graft versus leukemia reaction.

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Propriétés

Le fenoterol est un bronchospasmolytique puissant stimulant les récepteurs bêta-2-adrénergiques. Il agit sélectivement au niveau de la musculature bronchique et utérine. Ses effets cardio-vasculaires sont faibles. De plus, le fenoterol stimulate le transport mucociliaire et exerce un effet anti-allergique. En inhalation par aérosol-doseur (Berotec®), la dose unitaire recommandée est de 0,2 mg (c'est-à-dire une bouffée).

L'ipratropium est un bronchospasmolytique à effet parasympatholytique qui inhibe la bronchoconstriction réflexe induite par le vague, contrairement à l'atropine, l'ipratropium n'agit pas au niveau du système nerveux central, du fait de la présence dans sa structure chimique d'un groupement ammonium quaternaire. Par inhalation, une très faible dose suffit pour relâcher la musculature bronchique (la dose unitaire délivrée par l'aérosol-doseur d'Airovent® est de 0,02 mg et la dose recommandée (en 1 fois) est de 0,04 mg). Une telle dose n'induit pas d'effets secondaires systémiques de type anticholinergique tels que sécheresse buccale ou troubles de l'acc commodation visuelle, par ailleurs, elle est sans influence sur la sécrétion bronchique et la fonction mucociliaire. D'autre part, lorsqu'on en accroît les doses, l'ipratropium dispose encore d'une marge de sécurité particulièrement étendue.

Le Duovent associe le fenoterol et l'ipratropium.

Grâce à leur mode d'action différent, chacun des composants exerce un effet complémentaire.

En pathologie bronchique, il en résulte un élargissement du spectre thérapeutique de la médication et une diminution du taux de non-répondeurs à chacune des composantes. En effet, le bronchospasme peut être influencé quel qu'en soit le mécanisme : sympathique ou para-sympathique, allergique ou non.

La présence de fenoterol se traduit par une entrée en action immédiate de l'effet bronchodilatateur, qui apparaîtra plus lentement sous ipratropium seul. La durée de l'effet thérapeutique varie entre 4 et 8 heures, en fonction du degré de sévérité des bronchospasmes.

Des études de pharmacologie animale ont montré que le rapport optimal des 2 drogues dans l'association est de 2,5 pour le fenoterol et de 1 pour l'ipratropium.

L'aérosol-doseur de Duovent délivre par bouffée... 0,100 mg de fenoterol et 0,040 mg d'ipratropium.

Ainsi, l'adjonction d'ipratropium au fenoterol permet une réduction de moitié du dosage du fenoterol habituellement admis, tout en garantissant le maintien d'un effet thérapeutique au moins équivalent.

Il en résulte aussi une diminution de la fréquence et de l'intensité des effets secondaires du fenoterol.

Indications

- Traitement ou prévention du bronchospasme dans les bronchopneumopathies obstructives, telles que l'asthme bronchique, la bronchite chronique, l'emphysème pulmonaire, les pneumoconioses.
- Pré-traitement (ouverture des voies respiratoires) avant l'inhalation d'aérosols d'antibiotiques, de mucolytiques, de corticostéroïdes, de cromoglycate disodique ou de dérivés de la theophylline.

Contre-indications

Thyreotoxicose.
Sténose hypertrophique idiopathique subaortique
Hypertrophie prostatique

Précautions particulières

On utilisera le Duovent avec prudence dans les affections cardiaques accompagnées de tachycardie ou de tacharythmies. On évitera la prescription simultanée d'autres substances sympathicomimétiques.

Utilisation au cours de la grossesse

Bien qu'aucun effet délétère ne soit apparu chez l'animal, on évitera par principe d'administrer le Duovent durant les trois premiers mois de la grossesse. Au cours de la période précédant immédiatement l'accouchement, il convient de tenir compte du fait que le fenoterol exerce également un effet tocolytique.

Effets secondaires

Au dosage recommandé, on ne constate qu'exceptionnellement des effets secondaires de type sympathicomimétique et pratiquement aucun effet secondaire de nature anticholinergique. A dose élevée, ou chez des patients présentant une sensibilité particulière aux sympathicomimétiques, on pourra observer des tremblements digitaux, des palpitations ou de l'agitation. Rarement, on voit survenir, à titre de réaction locale, une sécheresse buccale ou, en cas de projection dans les yeux, des troubles modérés et reversibles de l'acc commodation visuelle.

Surdosage et antidote

En cas d'intoxication par une dose massive, les symptômes principaux de surdosage sont essentiellement de caractère sympathicomimétique. On administrera dès lors en tant qu'antidote spécifique une substance bêta tylique. Dans ce cas, il faut toutefois prendre en considération l'éventualité d'une aggravation de l'obstruction bronchique chez des patients souffrant d'une affection bronchospastique.

Posologie

Adultes et enfants au-dessus de 6 ans : 1 bouffée, à répéter éventuellement après 5 minutes. L'inhalation d'une telle dose peut être pratiquée à intervalles de 4 à 6 heures en moyenne. On ne dépassera pas une dose totale de 6 doubles bouffées, reparties sur 24 heures. Comme dose d'entretien moyenne, on administrera 1 ou 2 bouffées 3 à 4 fois par jour. L'administration aux enfants se fera sous la surveillance d'un adulte.

Mode d'emploi

- 1 Enlever le capuchon de protection de l'embout plastique.
- 2 Agiter l'appareil (voir schéma) avant chaque emploi.
- 3 Prendre l'appareil entre deux doigts. L'index sur le fond de la cartouche en aluminium et le pouce sur l'embout. La flèche de l'étiquette est ainsi dirigée vers le haut.
- 4 Expirer à fond.
- 5 Serre l'embout plastique avec les lèvres (voir schéma).
- 6 Inspire par la bouche le plus profondément possible tout en exerçant une pression sur le fond en aluminium de l'appareil. Il y a libération d'une bouffée d'aérosol. Refaire la respiration quelques secondes.
- 7 Retirer l'embout de la bouche, puis expiration lente.
- 8 Remettre le capuchon de protection.



L'opacité du flacon ne permet pas de contrôler le niveau du liquide. Aussi faut-il l'agiter pour en vérifier la présence. Dès qu'il paraît vide, la soupape peut encore fonctionner efficacement une dizaine de fois. L'embout buccal doit être conservé dans un parfait état de propreté. Il peut être nettoyé facilement à l'eau chaude savonneuse et rincé à l'eau claire. L'aérosol-doseur de Duovent est sous pression, il ne peut être ouvert avec violence ni exposé à des températures supérieures à 50 °C.

Présentation

Aérosol-doseur cartouche avec embout buccal contenant 30 mg de fenoterol et 12 mg de bromure d'ipratropium (300 doses).

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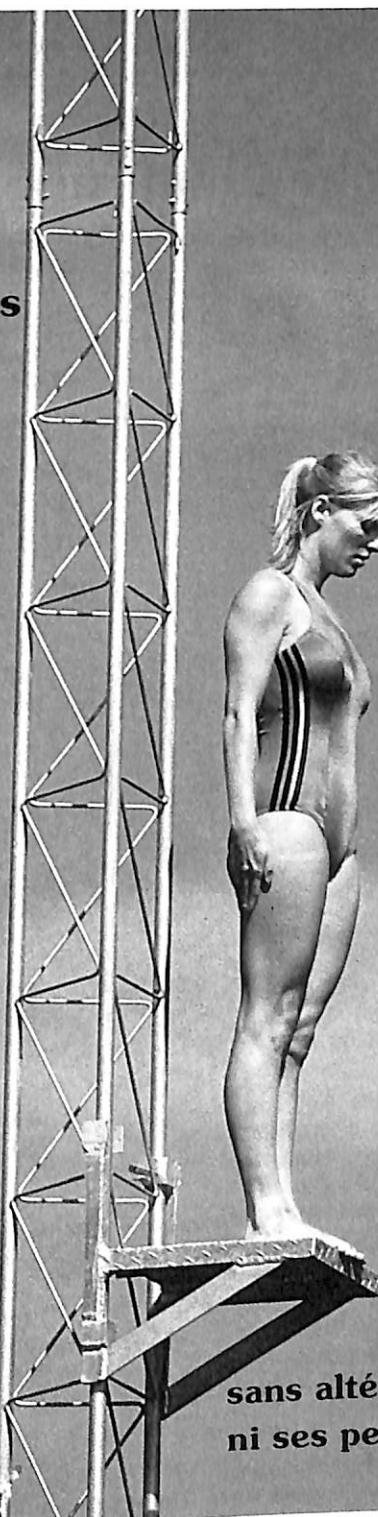
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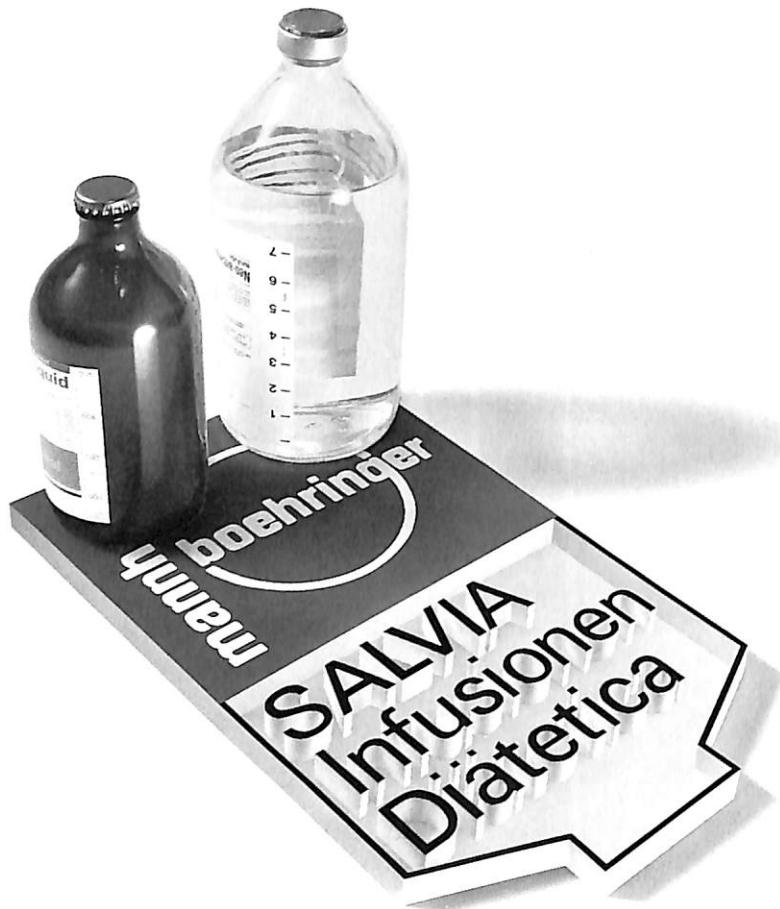
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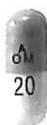
LOSEC®



Ulcère Duodénal

Ulcère Gastrique

Oesophagite par Reflux



2 sem.

par jour } 4 sem.

par jour
à jeun 4 à 8 sem.

Dénomination**LOSEC®**
(oméprazole)**Titulaire d'enregistrement**N.V. ASTRA-NOBELPHARMA S.A.
1180 BRUXELLES**Fabricant**

ASTRA (Suède)

Composition**LOSEC®, gélules à 20 mg**

Omeprazol, 20 mg - Mannitol - Hydroxypropylcellulose. - Cellulose microcristalline. - Naïtr. laurylsulfate. - Lactosum - Dinatrii phosphates - Hydromellos. - Hydroxypalmitate - cellulose, phthalate. - Alcohol cetyl. - Ferr. oxyd. rubr. (E 172) - Titan. dioxyd. (E 171) - Gelatine. - Enc. q.s. pro capsula una.

LOSEC®, poudre injectable pour administration i.v.

Vial: Natr. omeprazol, 42,6 mg = Omeprazol, 40 mg - Naïtr. hydroxyd q.s. ad pH 12.

Ampoule: Macrogol 400 - Naïtr. dihydrogenophosphas - Dinatrii phosphases q.s. ad pH 7,5 - Aqua ad inject. ad 10 ml.

Formes, voies d'administration et conditionnements

- LOSEC®, gélules à 20 mg : 28 gélules.

- LOSEC®, poudre injectable pour administration i.v. : boîte de 1 vial contenant l'oméprazole lyophilisé et 1 ampoule de solvant. La solution pour injection intraveineuse est obtenue en dissolvant l'oméprazole lyophilisé avec le solvant de l'ampoule.

Propriétés

LOSEC (oméprazole) réduit la sécrétion gastrique acide grâce à un mécanisme d'action entièrement nouveau.

L'oméprazole est un inhibiteur spécifique de la pompe à proton gastrique dans la cellule pariétale. L'oméprazole agit rapidement; il exerce un contrôle réversible de la sécrétion gastrique acide avec une seule administration quotidienne.

Lieu et mécanisme d'action :

L'oméprazole est une base faible. Il est concentré et converti en forme active dans l'environnement acide des canalicules intracellulaires au sein de la cellule pariétale, où il inhibe l'enzyme H⁺-K⁺-ATPase - la pompe à proton. Cet effet sur l'étape finale du processus de formation de l'acide gastrique dépend de la dose et entraîne une inhibition efficace, à la fois de la sécrétion acide basale et de la sécrétion acide stimulée, quel que soit le sécrétagogue.

L'oméprazole n'a pas d'effet sur les récepteurs de l'acétylcholine ou de l'histamine. On n'a pas observé d'effets pharmacodynamiques cliniquement significatifs, étrangers à ceux qui s'expliquent par l'action de l'omeprazole sur la sécrétion acide.

Effet sur la sécrétion acide :

L'administration orale de LOSEC, à raison de 20 mg une fois par jour, entraîne une inhibition rapide et efficace de la sécrétion acide de l'estomac. L'effet maximum du traitement est atteint dans les 4 jours. Chez les patients souffrant d'ulcère duodénal, une diminution moyenne de 80 % environ de l'acidité intragastrique sur 24 heures est alors maintenue, tandis que la diminution moyenne du pic du débit acide après stimulation par la pentagastrine est d'environ 70 %. 24 heures après l'administration de LOSEC.

Absorption et distribution :

L'oméprazole est labile en milieu acide. Il est administré par voie orale sous forme de granules à enrobage entérique, contenus dans une gélule.

L'absorption se produit dans l'intestin grêle ; elle est généralement complète en 3-6 heures. La biodisponibilité systémique de l'oméprazole, à partir d'une dose orale unique de LOSEC, est d'environ 35 %. Après administration répétée d'une dose quotidienne, la biodisponibilité augmente jusqu'à 60 % environ. L'absorption simultanée de nourriture n'a pas d'influence sur la biodisponibilité. La liaison de l'oméprazole aux protéines plasmatiques est d'environ 95 %.

Elimination et métabolisme :

La demi-vie moyenne de la phase terminale de la courbe des concentrations plasmatiques par rapport au temps est approximativement de 40 minutes. La demi-vie ne change pas au cours du traitement. L'inhibition de la sécrétion acide est en relation avec la surface sous la courbe, mais non avec la concentration plasmatique présente à un moment donné.

L'oméprazole est entièrement métabolisé, principalement dans le foie. Les métabolites identifiés dans le plasma sont le dérivé sulfoné, le dérivé sulfuré et l'hydroxy-oméprazole, ces métabolites n'exerçant pas d'effet significatif sur la sécrétion acide. Environ 80 % des métabolites sont excrétés dans l'urine et le restant, dans les fèces. Les deux principaux métabolites urinaires sont l'hydroxy-oméprazole et l'acide carboxylique correspondant.

La biodisponibilité systémique de l'oméprazole n'est pas altérée de façon significative chez les patients ayant une fonction rénale réduite. La surface sous la courbe des concentrations plasmatiques par rapport au temps est augmentée chez les patients ayant une fonction hépatique altérée, mais l'on n'a pas trouvé de tendance à une accumulation de l'oméprazole.

Indications**LOSEC est indiqué pour le traitement de:**

- l'ulcère duodénal
- l'ulcère gastrique
- l'oesophagite de reflux
- le syndrome de Zollinger-Ellison.

Posologie et mode d'emploi**ADMINISTRATION ORALE****Ulcère duodénal**

La posologie recommandée est de 20 mg de LOSEC, une fois par jour. Le soulagement symptomatique est rapide et chez la plupart des patients, la guérison intervient endéans 2 semaines.

Chez les patients qui pourraient n'avoir pas été entièrement guéris après le traitement initial, la guérison s'obtient généralement au cours d'une période de traitement supplémentaire de 2 semaines. Chez les patients porteurs d'un ulcère duodénal réfractaire aux autres traitements, on a utilisé 40 mg de LOSEC une fois par jour, et la guérison est généralement intervenue endéans 4 semaines. Comme l'expérience du traitement à long terme de l'ulcère duodénal avec LOSEC est encore limitée, un traitement d'entretien n'est pas recommandé tant qu'une expérience plus large n'aura pas été acquise. Pour éviter rechute ou récidive, on aura donc recours à une autre thérapeutique, à déterminer individuellement selon le patient.

Ulcère gastrique

La posologie recommandée est de 20 mg de LOSEC, une fois par jour. Le soulagement symptomatique est rapide et chez la plupart des patients, la guérison intervient endéans 2 semaines.

Chez les patients qui pourraient n'avoir pas été entièrement guéris après le traitement initial, la guérison s'obtient généralement au cours d'une période de traitement supplémentaire de 4 semaines. Chez les patients porteurs d'un ulcère gastrique réfractaire aux autres traitements, on a utilisé 40 mg de LOSEC une fois par jour, et la guérison est généralement intervenue endéans 8 semaines.

Comme l'expérience du traitement à long terme de l'ulcère gastrique avec LOSEC est encore limitée, un traitement d'entretien n'est pas recommandé tant qu'une expérience plus large n'aura pas été acquise. Pour éviter rechute ou récidive, on aura donc recours à une autre thérapeutique, à déterminer individuellement selon le patient.

Desophage de reflux

La posologie recommandée est de 20 mg de LOSEC, une fois par jour. Le soulagement symptomatique est rapide et chez la plupart des patients, la guérison intervient endéans 4 semaines.

Chez les patients qui pourraient n'avoir pas été entièrement guéris après le traitement initial, la guérison s'obtient généralement au cours d'une période de traitement supplémentaire de 4 semaines. Chez les patients souffrant d'une oesophagite de reflux réfractaire aux autres traitements, on a utilisé 40 mg de LOSEC une fois par jour, et la guérison est généralement intervenue endéans 8 semaines.

Comme l'expérience du traitement à long terme de l'oesophagite de reflux avec LOSEC est encore limitée, un traitement d'entretien n'est pas recommandé tant qu'une expérience plus large n'aura pas été acquise. Pour éviter rechute ou récidive, on aura donc recours à une autre thérapeutique, à déterminer individuellement selon le patient.

Syndrome de Zollinger-Ellison

La posologie initiale recommandée est de 60 mg de LOSEC par jour. La posologie doit être ajustée individuellement et le traitement poursuivi aussi longtemps qu'il est indiqué d'un point de vue clinique. Tous les patients gravement atteints et ne répondant pas de façon adéquate à d'autres thérapeutiques, ont été contrôlés efficacement et plus de 90 % des patients ont été maintenus à des doses de 20-120 mg par jour. Pour les posologies supérieures à 80 mg par jour, la dose quotidienne doit être répartie en deux prises.

Posologie en cas d'altération de la fonction rénale et hépatique

Il n'est pas nécessaire d'effectuer un ajustement de la posologie chez les patients souffrant d'une altération de la fonction rénale ou hépatique.

ADMINISTRATION INTRAVEINEUSE

Lorsqu'une thérapeutique orale est inadéquate, p.ex. chez des patients gravement malades, on recommande l'administration intraveineuse de LOSEC, à raison de 40 mg par jour. Ce traitement entraîne une diminution immédiate de l'acidité intragastrique, avec une diminution moyenne sur 24 heures d'environ 90 %.

Dans le syndrome de Zollinger-Ellison, la posologie doit être ajustée individuellement, et une posologie plus élevée avec une administration plus fréquente peut s'avérer nécessaire.

La solution i.v. est obtenue par dissolution de l'oméprazole lyophilisé à l'aide du solvant contenu dans l'ampoule (il ne faut pas utiliser d'autre solvant). La solution de LOSEC ainsi reconstituée doit être utilisée uniquement pour l'injection i.v. et ne peut pas être ajoutée à des solutions pour perfusion i.v.

Après reconstitution, la solution doit être injectée lentement sur une période d'au moins 2 1/2 minutes et à une vitesse maximum de 4 ml par minute.

La solution doit être utilisée endéans les 4 heures après sa reconstitution.

ENFANTS

On ne dispose pas d'une expérience clinique avec LOSEC chez l'enfant.

PATIENTS AGES

Il n'est pas nécessaire d'effectuer un ajustement de la posologie chez les patients âgés.

Contre-indications

Il n'existe pas de contre-indications connues à l'utilisation de LOSEC.

Effets indésirables

LOSEC est bien toléré. On a signalé des nausées, des maux de tête, de la diarrhée, de la constipation et de la flatulence mais ces cas ont été rares.

Chez quelques patients, on a observé une éruption cutanée. Ces effets indésirables ont été généralement dépourvus de gravité et transitoires, et leur relation avec le traitement n'a pas été uniforme.

Précautions particulières

Si l'on suspecte un ulcère gastrique, la possibilité de malignité doit être préalablement exclue, car le traitement peut atténuer les symptômes et retarder le diagnostic.

Incompatibilités

La solution de LOSEC pour injection i.v. ne peut être reconstituée qu'à partir du solvant contenu dans l'ampoule. Aucun autre solvant ne peut être utilisé.

La solution reconstituée ne peut pas être ajoutée à des solutions pour perfusion i.v.

Utilisation en cas de grossesse et de lactation

Les études sur animaux n'ont mis en évidence aucun risque lié à l'administration de LOSEC durant la gestation et la lactation et aucune manifestation d'une toxicité foetale ou d'un effet tératogène n'a été relevée.

Cependant, comme tout nouveau médicament, LOSEC ne devrait être administré pendant la grossesse et la lactation que si son utilisation est considérée comme indispensable.

Interactions

LOSEC peut prolonger l'élimination du diazépam et de la phénytoïne, substances qui sont métabolisées par oxydation dans le foie. Il est donc recommandé de surveiller les patients qui reçoivent de la phénytoïne, une réduction de la dose de phénytoïne pouvant être nécessaire. On n'a pas trouvé d'interaction avec la théophylline, mais il pourrait exister des interactions avec d'autres médicaments métabolisés par l'intermédiaire du système enzymatique de cytochrome P 450, comme la warfarine.

On n'a pas trouvé d'interaction avec les antécidés administrés conjointement.

Surdosage

On ne dispose pas d'information sur les effets d'un surdosage chez l'homme et il n'est donc pas possible de donner des recommandations spécifiques pour un traitement.

Des doses orales uniques allant jusqu'à 160 mg et des doses intraveineuses uniques allant jusqu'à 80 mg ont été bien tolérées. Des doses intraveineuses allant jusqu'à 200 mg en un seul jour et jusqu'à 520 mg sur une période de trois jours ont été administrées sans effets indésirables.

Conservation

LOSEC®, gélules à 20 mg : conservation à température ambiante (15°-25°) et à l'abri de l'humidité.

LOSEC®, poudre injectable pour administration i.v. : conservation au réfrigérateur (2°-8°) et à l'abri de la lumière.

La solution reconstituée est stable pendant 4 heures à température ambiante (15°-25°).

Stabilité :

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Implications of Survival Curve Slopes on the Interpretation of Adjuvant Therapy Results

M. Eriguchi and
G. Mathé

Abstract

Two mathematical models can approximate the survival curves for malignant diseases. The models identify the segments of the survival curve. Also, the hazard function of the curve and the confidence intervals of the curve could be calculated.

First, we studied the survival-after-relapse curve of malignant melanoma. The curve of chemo-immunotherapy showed three segments and that for immunotherapy had two segments. The immunotherapy showed its effect in the early period of treatment.

Second, the disease-free survival curves for adjuvant therapies of breast cancer were compared. In the Oncofrance trial, a combination of adriamycin, vincristine, cyclophosphamide (C) and 5-fluoro-uracil (F) (AVCF) was superior to a combination of C, methotrexate and F (CMF) in all the periods of the therapy. In Lacour's trial, poly A-poly U was more effective than the no treatment in the middle and late period. In Bonadonna's trial, CMF was superior to no treatment in the early period.

Third, the survival curves for immunotherapy versus non-immunotherapy of stomach cancer were analysed. Comparison of the confidence intervals of each curve clarified that no significant difference could be found between them.

INTRODUCTION

There are three kinds of survival curves: those describing the duration of remission or of disease-free survival (DFS), those describing overall survival and those describing survival after relapse. These curves have several segments or sub-populations. Morton (9) has described the survival curve of patients with malignant melanoma as having three sub-populations: those who relapse or die soon, those who relapse or die late and those who neither relapse nor die, and who may be considered as cured.

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Theoretical models suggest two types of survival curves, a convex-concave curve and a concave curve (Fig. 1) (11). To describe these curves, the Weibull, log-normal and exponential distributions have been used (1,3,12).

The theoretical models proposed here can be used to identify slopes of curve segments and to calculate the hazard function (3) and the confidence intervals of the curve. The results of adjuvant therapies for malignant melanoma, breast cancer and stomach cancer are thus analysed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

$S(t)$ was defined as the probability of survival at time t . Figure 1 shows the equation for the concave and the convex-concave curves, respectively. Observed data were used to obtain the equation by the least squares method. Among the several equations which could be obtained for one given curve, the one having the smallest residual variance was selected. It was possible to identify several

segments in the curve (Fig. 2), the number of observations or patients, and the slope or mortality or relapse rate of each segment. If the curve was composed of three segments, these segments were assumed to reflect, respectively, the high risk, intermediate risk and low risk groups.

Linearity is necessary for obtaining the constant death rate or relapse rate of the segments.

Relapse rates could not be compared in all trials because the curves of some segments were not linear on a semi-log scale. Therefore the hazard functions were compared. The hazard function, which is correlated with the slope of the curve and its confidence intervals, was then calculated.

The Oncofrance trial of adjuvant therapy for melanoma (6), in which the survival-after-relapse curve of the immunotherapy group was compared to that of chemo-immunotherapy, was analysed with this method.

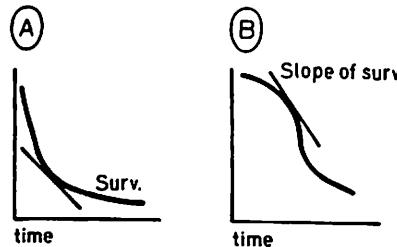


Fig. 1. Two theoretical models of survival curve on a semi-log scale. Equation (A): the probability of the survival stands for a concave curve and equation (B): the probability of the survival for a convex-concave curve. The tangential line of the curve represents the slope of curve.

3

$$\text{Equation (A): } P(t) = \sum \text{Exp}(-\lambda it + Ni).$$

$i = 1$

2

$$\text{Equation (B): } P(t) = \sum \text{Exp}(-\lambda it + Ni) + \text{Exp}[\sum -\lambda it^2(i-2) + N^3].$$

$i = 3$

4

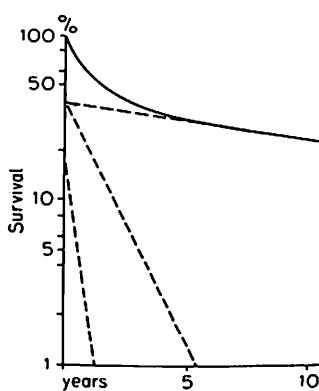


Fig. 2. A hypothetical concave survival curve on semi-log scale. The original curve is the addition of three curves (in dotted lines) which are suggested to represent the high risk, intermediate risk and low risk groups, respectively.

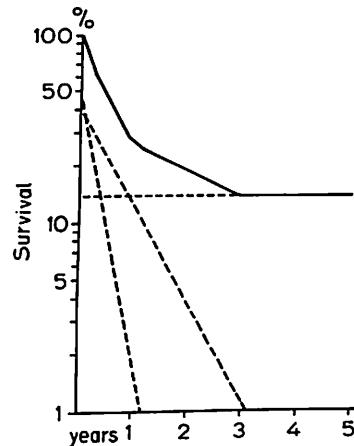


Fig. 3. Observed survival curve after relapse in melanoma according to adjuvant treatment: chemo-immunotherapy (solid line). It is composed of three segments (dotted lines).

In addition, three trials of adjuvant therapy for breast cancer, the Oncofrance trial (7), Lacour's trial (4) and Bonadonna's trial (10) were studied. The Oncofrance trial compared a combination of cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and 5-fluoro-uracil (CMF) with a combination of adriamycin, vincristine, cyclophosphamide and 5-fluoro-uracil (AVCF). The disease-free survival curve for pre-menopausal patients with positive nodes (N+) was analysed both in the Oncofrance and in Lacour's trials, where poly A-poly U treatment was compared to no treatment. In Bonadonna's trial, cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and 5-fluoro-uracil (CMF) was compared to no treatment, and the disease-free survival curve for pre-menopausal patients was analysed. Finally, Fujii's trial (2,8) of adjuvant immunotherapy for stomach cancer was analysed.

RESULTS

Melanoma

Figure 3 shows the analysed curves of melanoma. The equations of the curves were as follows: chemo-immunotherapy: $S(t) = \exp(-3.246t + 3.813) + \exp(-1.173t + 3.706) + \exp(0t + 2.639)$. Three segments could thus be identified. Immunotherapy: $S(t) = \exp(-1.196t + 4.435) + \exp(-0.035t + 3.150)$. Two segments were identified. It is suggested here that immunotherapy 'shifts' the high risk group of chemo-immunotherapy into the intermediate risk group.

$S(t) = \exp(-0.198t^2 + 4.224) + \exp(-0.082t + 3.474)$, again two segments. Poly A-poly U of Lacour's trial: $S(t) = \exp(-0.372t^2 + 2.818) + \exp(-0.036t + 4.428)$, two segments. Half of the controls at high risk seem to have been 'shifted' to the low risk group by poly A-poly U.

Breast cancer

The following equation was formed for breast cancer treated with CMF in the Oncofrance trial: $S(t) = \exp(-0.205t^2 - 0.0007t^4 + 3.929) + \exp(0t + 3.911)$, i.e. two segments. AVCF in the Oncofrance trial: $S(t) = \exp(-0.064t^2 - 0.040t^4 + 2.870) + \exp(0t + 4.414)$, also two segments. It is suggested here that 30% of the patients were 'shifted' by AVCF from the high risk group of CMF to the low risk group.

Lacour's controls: $S(t) = \exp(-0.198t^2 + 4.224) + \exp(-0.082t + 3.474)$, again two segments. Poly A-poly U of Lacour's trial: $S(t) = \exp(-0.372t^2 + 2.818) + \exp(-0.036t + 4.428)$, two segments. Half of the controls at high risk seem to have been 'shifted' to the low risk group by poly A-poly U.

The controls in Bonadonna's trial (Fig. 4): $S(t) = (-0.883t + 3.473) + \exp(-0.511t + 3.322) + \exp(0t + 3.689)$, i.e. three segments.

CMF in Bonadonna's trial: $S(t) = \exp(-0.347t^2 + 2.715) + \exp(-0.054t + 4.437)$, two segments. The CMF treatment seems to have 'shifted' half of the controls in the high risk group and all in the intermediate risk group.

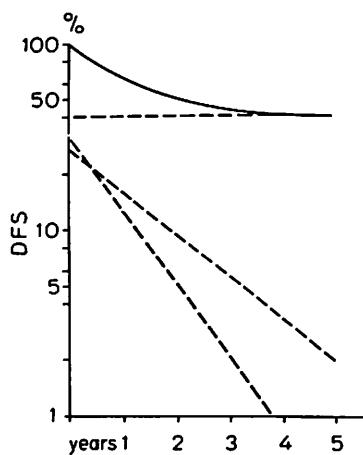


Fig. 4. Observed disease-free survival curve of the control group in adjuvant therapy of breast cancer (premenopausal) in Milan (solid line). It has three segments (dotted lines).

The hazard function of the Oncofrance AVCF suggests that AVCF is better than the Oncofrance CMF in all the periods.

The result of Lacour's poly A-poly U treatment was superior only in the middle and late periods. In contrast, the result of Bonadonna's CMF treatment was superior in the early period.

Figures 5 and 6 show the analysis of the survival curves of stomach cancer in different stages. The equation for patients given immunotherapy was: $S(t) = \exp(-0.324t^2 + 3.088) + \exp(-0.024t + 4.366)$. That for no immuno-

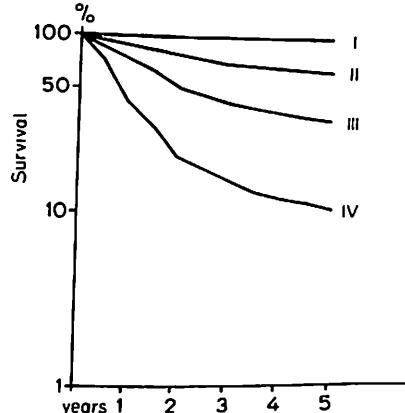


Fig. 5. Observed survival curves of patients with gastric cancer in Japan according to stage.

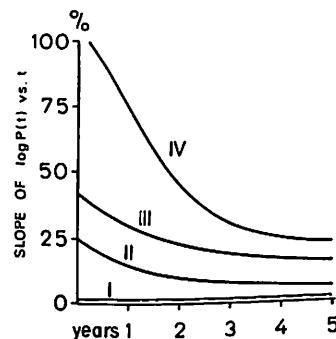


Fig. 6. Slopes of survival curves of patients with gastric cancer in Japan according to stage.

therapy was: $S(t) = \exp(-0.624t^2 + 3.207) + \exp(-0.008t + 4.282)$. Each curve has two segments. The 95% confidence intervals of the curves show that results of immunotherapy are superior only in the short early period.

DISCUSSION

A comparison of the hazard functions, which can be calculated from the equation of each curve, can indicate during which period the adjuvant treatment is effective.

Mathé (5) has suggested that adjuvant chemotherapy works on the first segment

assumed to represent the high risk group and adjuvant immunotherapy on the second segment, the intermediate risk group. This could suggest that chemotherapy affects many tumor cells in cycle and that immunotherapy affects tumor cells in G₀.

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Ethical Problems in Clinical Trials Concerning Minimal Residual Tumors*

Sophie Dion and
Peter Reizenstein

INTRODUCTION

The treatment effectiveness of imperceptible tumors is judged by the duration of remission and/or survival. Since these patients are usually apparently healthy and free from symptoms, and may in fact even be cured already, particular care is required from an ethical and legal stand-point.

PHASE II TRIALS

Relatively few basic ethical problems present themselves in the comparative or prolonged phase II trials. It is an ethical advantage if the oriented phase II trial according to Gehan's rigorous statistical design is used which requires only 25 patients to detect a 20% difference in treatment effect with a $p < 0.05$ (1,2). In this way, the need of a very large patient population to obtain statistical significance and the inclusion of too many subjects might be avoided.

If there is a heterogeneous distribution of patients within the groups, a requirement of 3000 patients in order to detect a 20% difference has been considered necessary (15). Even larger numbers of patients are sometimes subjected to trials in order to affirm that smaller differences are statistically significant. Such figures are both ethically and pragmatically questionable. It is important to balance the risk against the importance of calculating the significance of a small difference.

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PATIENTS AT RISK

Every patient in a clinical trial is at risk and the physician is responsible. In the U.S., every death during a clinical trial involving new drugs must be reported within 24 hours to the authorities, even if death was not related to the trial. Every protocol thus includes a risk, related to the rigidity of the protocol and to the fact that, for instance, dose corrections for individual variations of pharmacokinetics are not always anticipated and are sometimes even prohibited. In a trial in Memphis (3), nine children developed leuco-encephalopathy, and in the polycythemia vera study group, a large number of acute leukemias were induced before the treatment was stopped. This is ethically and legally unacceptable. Individualized treatment may well entail advantages, both as regards economy and patient satisfaction, in comparison to the rigid protocol required for randomized trials (4). Protocols should thus attempt to provide for planned, standardized individualization, for instance in the case of liver, renal or bone marrow failure.

ETHICS OF RANDOMISATION

Randomisation of patients (5,6) may initially appear shocking to the patients. Kassiner has even described it as an insult to the individual (7). This is true even if patients are in fact well-informed, both of the possible beneficial effects of a placebo and of the effects of no treatment (5,8,9), and of the fact that the relative advantages and risks of the two treatments to be compared are not yet known. In reality, however, many patients are not well-informed. It is even difficult to see how a placebo may be used with the full consent of family members, the family doctors and the patient.

It is, of course, important not to delay the development of more effective treatment. The purpose here is to try to propose ways to reduce patient discomfort and risk. The random choice between treatment and no treatment is useful in certain cases. It is not the purpose here to criticize all randomisations, or to establish an inventory of the technical defects of the randomisation methods. The

present discussion deals only with the stage of minimal residual disease. In this stage, where patients are apparently healthy, ethical requirements are particularly important.

ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RANDOMISATION

When two treatments are to be compared, they must be selected to be the two most effective ones for the disease in question, there must be no known difference between them, but there must be at least a pilot study suggesting one. To launch a several year multi-center randomized trial without a promising pilot study is unacceptable. If an old treatment is known to be effective, frequently because it was compared with no treatment, the new treatment must be compared with the old one. This is generally accepted in theory, but in practice there are several trials (10-13) where the controls did not obtain the treatment which has previously been shown to be more effective than no treatment at all.

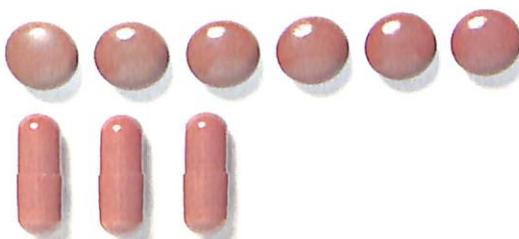
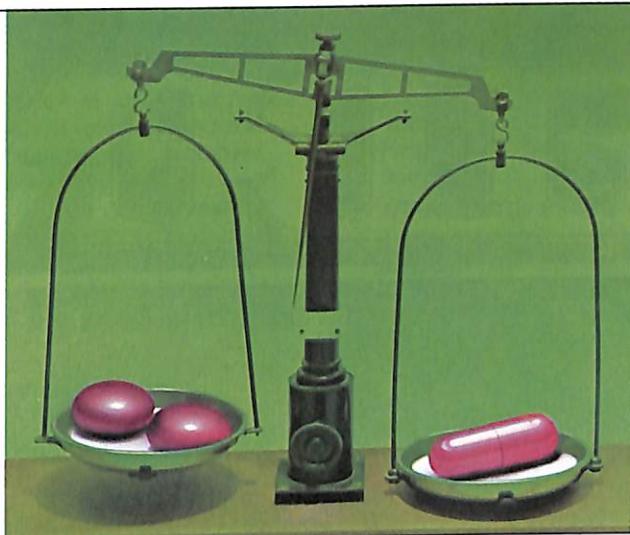
Repetitive randomized trials should be avoided, since it is always a disadvantage to be a randomized patient. There are, for instance, two randomized trials on patients with osteosarcoma, which only confirmed the 60% beneficial effect of chemotherapy that had been known of for 10 years (12,13), and one randomized trial of treatment with acyclovir, which only confirmed its well known effect on prevention of herpes virus infection (14).

The ethical requirements acquire increased importance now that studies seem to include an increasing number of subjects since the differences sought get smaller. This places a very large number of patients at both positive risk (toxicity) and negative risk (depriving them of another treatment).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the law requires that the scientific methodology must not reduce the patient's rights. The patient's right should be guaranteed, *a priori*, by ethics; rather than being debated, *a posteriori*, in court. Considering ethics before is better than having medicolegal problems after a clinical trial.

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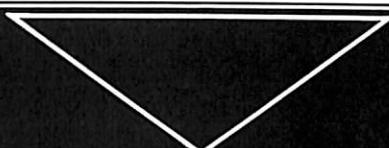
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Not even comparative trials with a random selection will always produce reproducible results. The adjuvant chemotherapy effect on survival claimed by Rossi et al. (10) in pre-menopausal breast cancer was not found in an identical trial in the United Kingdom. Moreover, many women who received the treatment were later affected by severe bone marrow sequelae. The fact that these patients had severe complications of the probably inefficient adjuvant chemotherapy illustrates the ethical problem of randomisation.

Clinical trials must continue, but with the caution alluded to above. The International Society of Ethics in Cancer Research and the Committee of Ethics, where the discussions on which this paper is based took place, have proposed a three-pronged solution.

(a) Reduce the number of trials where promising pilot studies are missing or whose quantitative importance justifies neither the patient's discomfort nor the ethical problems following randomisation.

(b) Monitor the degree to which physicians respect the rights of each individual patient.

(c) Ensure that no trials are started that are impractical, repetitive or a threat to the patient's rights.

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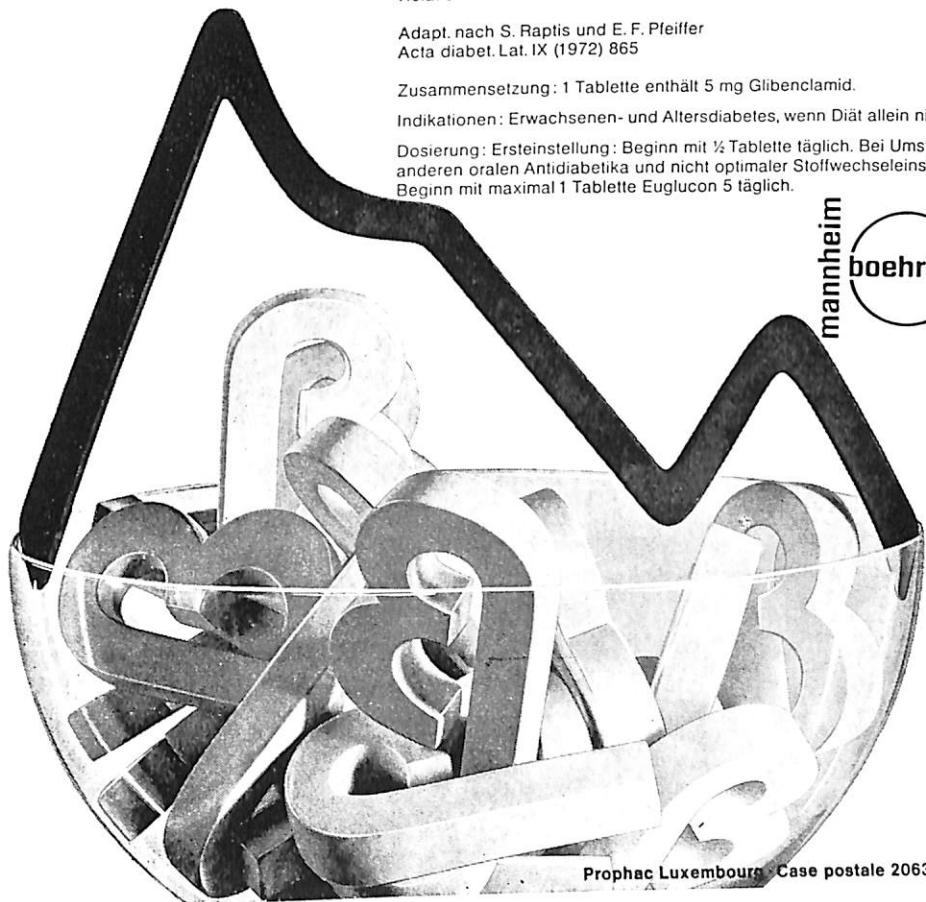
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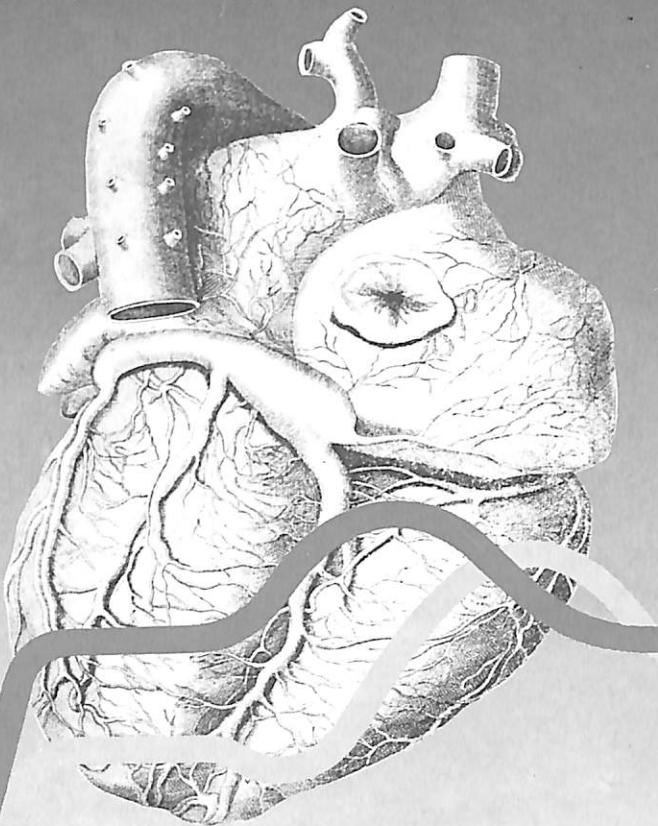
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de la cardiopathie coronarienne.



Composition: 1 comprimé contient 20 mg resp. 40 mg de la substance active mononitrate-5-d'isosorbide. **Indications:** Traitement d'entretien de la cardiopathie coronarienne. Prévention des crises d'angine de poitrine, même lors du stade précoce de la cardiopathie coronarienne. Traitement subéquent de l'infarctus du myocarde. **Contre-indications:** Infarctus du myocarde avec des pressions de remplissage basses; hypotension artérielle prononcée; état de choc. En cas de grossesse, le médicament ne doit être administré que sur prescription formelle du médecin. **Effets secondaires:** Occasionnellement, des maux de tête passagers peuvent apparaître, comme on l'observe avec tous les dérivés nitrés. Il est conseillé de commencer avec une posologie progressive et de poursuivre le traitement avec persévérance, afin d'éviter l'apparition de ces céphalées, resp. de les supprimer. Lors de la première prise du médicament, il peut se produire un chute de la tension artérielle resp. un collapsus circulatoire. **Posologie:** Pour le traitement d'entretien, on administre 1 comprimé 3 fois par jour après les repas. En cas de besoin, on peut aussi augmenter les doses. **Remarque:** En cas d'emploi simultané d'antihypertenseurs, l'effet de ceux-ci peut être renforcé. La consommation simultanée d'alcool peut provoquer une hypertension artérielle et ainsi une diminution de la faculté de réaction.

Pour la prescription: elantan 20: 50 et 100 comprimés, elantan 40: 50 et 100 comprimés

Sur prescription médicale



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