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NEWS

2335 CancerScope: Oncology Issues in Focus
Carrie Printz
This news section offers Cancer readers timely information on events, public policy analysis, topical issues, and personalities. In this issue, we report on efforts to improve the clinical development of drug-radiotherapy combinations. We also cover new findings about the HPV infections most often linked to cervical cancer and a study that suggests patients with HER2-positive, stage IV breast cancer experience better survival with surgery.
Published online 1 July 2019

INSIGHT FROM THE EXPERTS

2338 Patient-Centered Engagement and Symptom/Toxicity Monitoring in the New Era of Tumor Next-Generation Sequencing and Immunotherapy: The OncoTool and OncoPRO Platforms
Betina Yanez, Laura C. Bouchard, David Cella, Jeffrey A. Sosman, Sheetal M. Kircher, Nisha A. Mohindra, Massimo Cristofanilli, and Frank J. Penedo
The growing use of tumor next-generation sequencing and immunotherapy has led to an increasing need among providers and patients for educational resources and supportive resources for remote and routine symptom and toxicity monitoring. This article describes the development of the OncoTool and OncoPRO platforms, which have been designed to provide easy-to-comprehend patient education about advanced cancer treatment options, generate more accurate expectations about tumor next-generation sequencing and treatment toxicities, and conduct remote and routine monitoring of patient-reported symptoms, toxicities, and quality of life.
Published online 29 April 2019

COMMENTARY

2345 Pathfinders in Oncology from the End of the 19th Century to the First Description of Ewing Sarcoma
Steven I. Hajdu
During the 4 decades reviewed herein, advancements in surgical techniques and tumor pathology dominated the field of oncology; however, with the discoveries of x-ray and radium, the era of diagnostic radiology and radiation therapy commenced. The biographies and historical background of 7 individuals who contributed the most to the progression of oncology from 1884 to 1922 are presented.
Published online 15 April 2019

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EDITORIALS

2359  Children and Thyroid Cancer: Interpreting Troubling Trends  
Amy Y. Chen and Louise Davies  
In this issue, Bernier et al assert that their findings provide evidence that there is a true increase in the incidence of pediatric thyroid cancer, and appear to be working to extend their findings from 2017, in which they came to similar conclusions for the adult population. Although the authors of this editorial agree that a true increase in the incidence of thyroid cancer is possible, and in fact one of them reported in the past on this concern, they also are once again worried that the inferences being drawn from the US cancer epidemiology data may be artifactual.  
See also pages 2362-3 and 2497-505.  
Published online 23 April 2019

2362  We Cannot Ignore the Real Component of the Rise in Thyroid Cancer Incidence  
David Goldenberg  
Although overdiagnosis certainly occurs, this does not absolve clinicians of the duty to seek the cause of the real rise in thyroid cancer. In this light, factors that may be causing a true increase in thyroid cancer must be examined closely, and which thyroid cancers will behave in an indolent fashion versus an aggressive fashion must be differentiated.  
See also pages 2359-61 and 2497-505.  
Published online 23 April 2019

REVIEW ARTICLES

2364  Daratumumab in Multiple Myeloma  
Daratumumab is the first CD38 monoclonal antibody to deliver unprecedented clinical responses as a single agent in heavily pretreated patients with myeloma, and this had led to several US Food and Drug Administration approvals for treating myeloma. Daratumumab in the first-line setting has demonstrated a beneficial role as an addition to the existing induction regimens for patients with newly diagnosed myeloma.  
Published online 5 April 2019

2383  Effects of Psychosocial Interventions on Meaning and Purpose in Adults With Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis  
Crystal L. Park, James E. Pustejovsky, Kelly Trevino, Allen C. Sherman, Craig Esposito, Mark Berendsen, and John M. Salsman  
This meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials evaluates the effects of psychosocial interventions on meaning/purpose in adults with cancer and tests potential moderators of intervention effects. The results suggest that psychosocial interventions are associated with small to medium effects in enhancing meaning/purpose among patients with cancer, and the benefits are comparable to those of interventions designed to reduce depression, pain, and fatigue in patients with cancer.  
Published online 29 April 2019

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Disease Site

Chest and Lung Disease

2394 Association Between Depth of Response and Survival in Patients With Advanced-Stage Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer Treated With First-Line Chemotherapy

Daniel Morgensztern, Amy Ko, Mary O’Brien, Tong Jin Ong, Saima N. Waqar, Mark A. Socinski, Pieter E. Postmus, and Rafi Bhore

The Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors for a partial tumor response include a wide range of tumor reduction (30%-99%). In patients with advanced-stage non–small cell lung cancer treated with first-line carboplatin plus nab-paclitaxel or paclitaxel, the depth of response is an independent predictor for overall survival.

Published online 1 April 2019

Genitourinary Disease

2400 A Phase 2, Randomized Trial Evaluating the Combination of Dalantercept Plus Axitinib in Patients With Advanced Clear Cell Renal Cell Carcinoma


In this randomized phase 2 study, patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma who were treated with prior angiogenesis inhibitors were randomized 1:1 to receive axitinib plus dalantercept versus axitinib plus placebo. Although tolerance was comparable, the study did not reach its primary endpoint of improving progression-free survival in the investigational versus the placebo arm.

Published online 5 April 2019

Gynecologic Oncology

2409 Activating p53 Family Member TAp63: A Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Targeting p53-Altered Tumors


This study uncovered a new feed-forward loop that involves tumor protein p53 family member TAp63 and its downstream target microRNA 130b (miR-130b). Injection of miR-130b using 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine liposomes (nontargeted) and a clinically tested, tumor-targeted nanocomplex (sCL) resulted in significantly decreased tumor burden and improved overall survival, suggesting that the miR-130b/TAp63 tumor-suppressor axis could open up novel therapeutic options for many cancers with alterations in the p53 gene and/or pathway.

Published online 23 April 2019

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Head and Neck Disease

2423 Mutation of Chromatin Regulators and Focal Hotspot Alterations Characterize Human Papillomavirus–Positive Oropharyngeal Squamous Cell Carcinoma
Sunny Haft, Shuling Ren, Guorong Xu, Adam Mark, Kathleen Fisch, Theresa W. Guo, Zubair Khan, John Pang, Mizuo Ando, Chao Liu, Akihiro Sakai, Takahito Fukusumi, and Joseph A. Califano
A high frequency of mutations within chromatin regulatory genes and domain-specific alterations within phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit α (PIK3CA) and fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3) are novel findings that distinguish the molecular signature of human papillomavirus–positive oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma from that of its smoking-related counterpart.
Published online 1 April 2019

Hematologic Malignancies

2435 Multiple Myeloma Epidemiology and Patient Geographic Distribution in Canada: A Population Study
Matthew Tsang, Michelle Le, Feras M. Ghazawi, Janelle Cyr, Akram Alakel, Elham Rahme, François Lagacé, Elena Netchiporouk, Linda Moreau, Andrei Zubarev, Osama Roshdy, Steven J. Glassman, Denis Sasseville, Gizelle Popradi, and Ivan V. Litvinov
Large metropolitan cities as well as high-latitude regions (north of the 53rd parallel) are associated with lower incidence rates of multiple myeloma. Higher incidence rates are noted in smaller cities and rural areas and are clustered in relatively low-latitude areas that are largely located within the reported geographic boundaries of fertile cropland in Canada.
Published online 5 April 2019

Soft Tissue and Bone Sarcoma

2445 A Phase 1 and Randomized Controlled Phase 2 Trial of The Safety and Efficacy of the Combination of Gemcitabine and Docetaxel With Ontuxizumab (MORAb-004) in Metastatic Soft-Tissue Sarcomas
Endosialin is involved in tumor blood vessel formation and is expressed on sarcoma tumor cells. This phase 1/2 randomized controlled trial shows that ontuxizumab, an endosialin-directed monoclonal antibody, does not enhance efficacy in sarcomas when it is combined with chemotherapy (gemcitabine and docetaxel), although the combination is generally well tolerated.
Published online 29 April 2019

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Cancer Prevention

2465 A Genetic Variation in the CpG Island of Pseudogene GBAP1 Promoter Is Associated With Gastric Cancer Susceptibility
Gaoxiang Ma, Hanting Liu, Mulong Du, Gang Zhang, Yadi Lin, Yuqiu Ge, Meilin Wang, Guangfu Jin, Qinghong Zhao, Haiyan Chu, Weida Gong, and Zhengdong Zhang
The single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) rs2990245, which is located in the promoter of pseudogene GBAP1, is associated with gastric cancer risk, as validated by 3 independent cohorts. SNP rs2990245 can moderate the expression of GBAP1 by influencing the methylation status of the GBAP1 promoter. GBAP1 can act as a competing endogenous RNA by binding competitively with micro-RNA-212-3p and promoting GBA expression.
Published online 5 April 2019

Clinical Trials

2474 Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Versus Standard of Care in Relapsed or Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Final Report and Long-Term Survival Follow-Up From the Randomized, Phase 3 INO-VATE Study
Hagop M. Kantarjian, Daniel J. DeAngelo, Matthias Stelljes, Michaela Liedtke, Wendy Stock, Nicola Gökbüget, Susan M. O’Brien, Elias Jabbour, Tao Wang, Jane Liang White, Barbara Sleight, Erik Vandendries, and Anjali S. Advani
All key subgroups of patients with relapsed or refractory CD22-positive B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia have the potential to benefit from inotuzumab ozogamicin in comparison with the standard of care (intensive chemotherapy). In the future, the combination of inotuzumab ozogamicin with other therapies may provide improved outcomes.
Published online 28 March 2019

(Continued)
Family Communication and Patient Distress After Germline Genetic Testing in Individuals With Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma


In this prospective cohort study, the authors survey patients about their genetic testing experience using the Multidimensional Impact of Cancer Risk Assessment survey, a standardized instrument with which to measure distress, and ask about their disclosure of genetic testing results to first-degree relatives. Positive test results do not appear to lead to significantly more distress, and a large percentage of patients are found to disclose test results to family members within 3 months.

Published online 12 April 2019

Trends in Pediatric Thyroid Cancer Incidence in the United States, 1998-2013

Marie-Odile Bernier, Diana R. Withrow, Amy Berrington de Gonzalez, Clara J. K. Lam, Martha S. Linet, Cari M. Kitahara, and Meredith S. Shiels

Significantly increasing rates of pediatric differentiated thyroid cancer between 1998 and 2013 have been reported in the United States. They are unlikely to be entirely explained by increases in medical surveillance during childhood because rates of large and late-stage differentiated thyroid cancer are increasing over time.

See also pages 2359-61 and 2362-3.

Published online 23 April 2019

Willingness to Bear Adversity and Beliefs About the Curability of Advanced Cancer in Older Adults


Patients who were more willing to bear adversity in the form of an abstract state, decreased quality of life, were more likely to believe, with 100% certainty, that they could be cured. Although conversations regarding prognosis should be conducted with all patients, those who are willing to trade quality of life for survival may especially benefit from conversations that focus on values and emotions.

Published online 28 March 2019

Retraction

INFORMATION ITEM