5 Minute JournalClub

SPECIAL EDITION
Issue 2, 2011

Benefits of Early ASCT for Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma (MM) and the Incidence of Second Primary Cancer with Lenalidomide Maintenance in the Treatment of MM

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CME INFORMATION

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY

Each year, thousands of clinicians and basic scientists sojourn to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting to learn about recent clinical advances that yield alterations in state-of-the-art management for all tumor types. Attracting tens of thousands of attendees from every corner of the globe to both unveil and digest the latest research, ASCO is unmatched in attendance and clinical relevance. Results presented from ongoing trials lead to the emergence of new therapeutic agents and changes in the indications for existing treatments across all cancer medicine. Despite the importance of the conference, the demands of routine practice often limit the amount of time oncology clinicians can realistically dedicate to travel and learning. To bridge the gap between research and patient care, this CME activity will deliver a review of the key presentations from the ASCO Annual Meeting and expert perspectives on how these new evidence-based concepts can be applied to routine clinical care. This activity will assist medical oncologists and other cancer clinicians in the formulation of optimal clinical management strategies for diverse forms of cancer.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Counsel patients with myeloma who will receive maintenance or longer-term lenalidomide about the demonstrated clinical benefits of this treatment and the risk of developing a second primary cancer.
- Counsel patients with myeloma about the benefits of early ASCT in the era of novel agents.

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Sergio Giralt, MD
Chief, Adult Bone Marrow Transplant Service
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York

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Expiration date: September 2012

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To go directly to the slides and investigator commentary for the featured abstracts, **click here**.

An oncology specialist would be hard pressed to find a better hour of television than the first half of the oral leukemia/myelodysplasia plenary session from ASCO 2011. This riveting segment of the conference, available for your viewing pleasure as part of the virtual meeting, began with 2 complementary presentations of Phase III trials evaluating the JAK1/2 inhibitor ruxolitinib **(ab 6500**, **ab LBA6501)** in patients with myelofibrosis. These were followed by a fascinating BCR-ABL mutation analysis from the ENESTnd CML study **(ab 6502)** comparing nilotinib to imatinib and then a brilliant follow-up discussion by Dr Ross Levine outlining a new paradigm in myeloproliferative disorders focused on the search for mutations and related novel blocking agents. These 3 presentations and 14 other compelling ASCO heme-onc data sets are detailed in our slide sets and profiled below in this, the second half of our super-succinct special edition *5-Minute Journal Club*.

1. Ruxolitinib in myelofibrosis

As mentioned above, this trial duet occupies a unique spot on the ASCO highlights reel, and while our understanding of the exact mechanism of action of this oral TKI may be somewhat hazy and may relate to reduction in elevated cytokine levels, what is crystal clear is that this uncommon but merciless disease has instantly entered a new era. The US-based COMFORT-I study evaluating ruxolitinib versus placebo had a number of interesting and innovative features, including the use of MRI to objectively evaluate spleen size and electronic daily diaries to record patient symptoms. The dramatic waterfall plots visibly illustrate how treatment at least temporarily reversed an otherwise downhill course in most patients.

2. CML

Dr Giuseppe Saglio presented the other previously discussed ASCO standout — the landmark substudy from the ENESTnd trial **(ab 6502)** demonstrating that prior to treatment patients had almost no BCR-ABL mutations but after therapy a fascinating panoply of alterations was observed in some individuals. Dr Levine predicted that in the near future, mutation assays will be regularly integrated into the treatment algorithm.

Additionally, 24-month follow-up from 2 key Phase III studies (ENESTnd **[ab 6511]** and DASISION **[ab 6510]**) was also unveiled in Chicago, suggesting greater efficacy and perhaps less toxicity with up-front treatment with the second-generation TKIs nilotinib and dasatinib when compared to imatinib.

3. Inotuzumab ozogamicin (our vote for name of the year)
This antibody-drug conjugate in the lineage of brentuximab vedotin in lymphoma and T-DM1 in HER2-positive breast cancer links an anti-CD22 antibody to a cytotoxic agent from the calicheamicins class (runner up). The ASCO findings **(ab 6507)** in relapsed/refractory ALL demonstrated some type of CR in 61% of patients.

4. Myeloma
For more than a year we have witnessed the evolution of data from 2 major trials (CALGB, French IFM group) demonstrating an impressive delay in disease progression but the suggestion of an increased risk of second primary cancers (SPC) with 2 years of lenalidomide maintenance following stem cell transplant (SCT). At ASCO, 3 additional reports **(ab 8007, ab 8008, ab 8009)** have for the moment reinforced the concept that if there is an SPC signal it is relatively modest in magnitude and far outweighed by the antimyeloma benefit of maintenance len.

The other much-discussed myeloma paper was a landmark Italian study **(ab 8020)** that for the first time evaluated the role of autologous SCT in the era of novel antimyeloma agents. A progression-free survival benefit was reported with SCT, but other maturing studies are evaluating this important question.

5. CLL
Maybe the most exciting development in B-cell neoplasm research is the rapid evolution of small molecules that block B-cell receptor signaling, and at ASCO we saw more to be optimistic about with a report on the Bruton's tyrosine kinase inhibitor PCI-32765 in CLL. In this Phase Ib/II single-agent study **(ab 6508)**, response rates in excess of 50% were observed with minimal toxicity.

6. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
The lack of progress in this common cancer since the introduction of rituximab was highlighted again this year with 1 trial failing to show an advantage with dose-dense R-CHOP **(ab 8000)** and another showing no important survival benefit to consolidation autotransplant after R-CHOP induction **(ab 8001)**.

7. AML
AML in the elderly — a true clinical conundrum — was the subject of 3 underwhelming ASCO reports. The first **(ab 6503)** showed a modest benefit that was counterbalanced by a relatively high early mortality rate when clofarabine was combined with Ara-C. The

second **(ab 6504)** demonstrated a modest benefit for decitabine, but discussant Dr Gail Roboz verbalized hope that better outcomes might be observed in her ongoing trial evaluating 10 days of decitabine combined with the proteasome inhibitor bortezomib. The third study **(ab 6505)** was a Phase I effort evaluating a sequential regimen of azacitidine and lenalidomide that resulted in CRs in 7 of 16 patients.

Finally, we saw another interesting AML study perhaps suggesting a new model for the real-time personalized treatment of the disease. In this Phase I/II trial **(ab 6506)**, the MEK1/2 inhibitor GSK1120212 was shown to have specific activity in patients with RAS mutations.

Coming soon, an online quintet of virtual presentations delving into new developments in non-small cell lung cancer.

Neil Love, MD
Research To Practice
Miami, Florida

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Research To Practice
One Biscayne Tower
2 South Biscayne Boulevard, Suite 3600
Miami, FL 33131

Benefits of Early ASCT for Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma (MM) and the Incidence of Second Primary Cancer with Lenalidomide Maintenance in the Treatment of MM

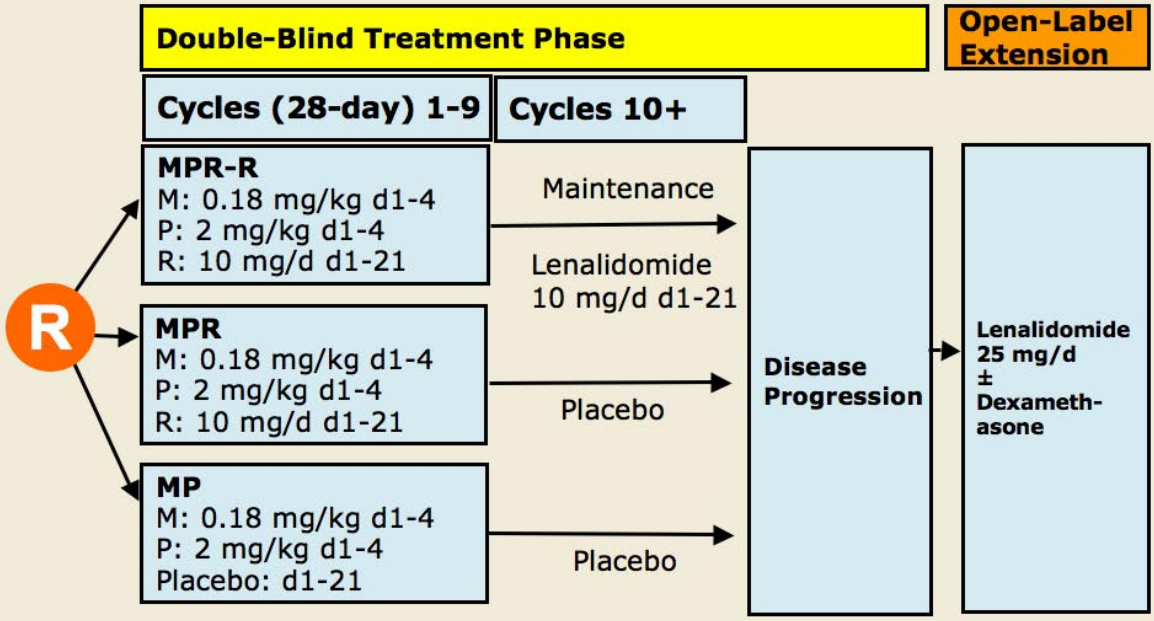
Presentation discussed in this issue

Palumbo AP et al. **Incidence of second primary malignancy (SPM) in melphalan-prednisone-lenalidomide combination followed by lenalidomide maintenance (MPR-R) in newly diagnosed multiple myeloma patients (pts) age 65 or older.** *Proc ASCO* 2011;**Abstract 8007**.

Slides from a presentation at ASCO 2011 and comments from Sergio Giralt, MD

MM-015: Study Design

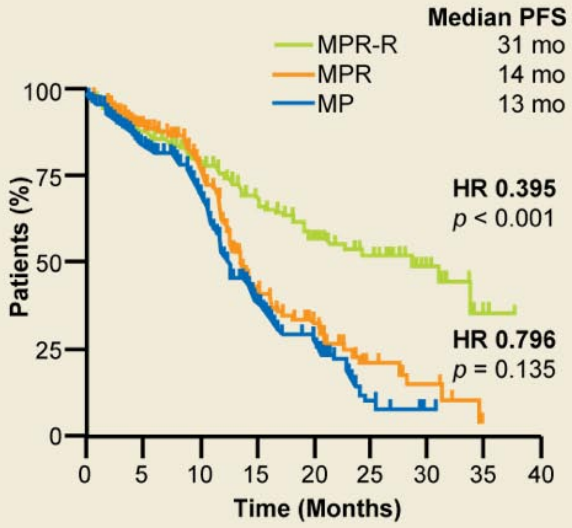
Accrual: N = 459 (82 centers in Europe, Australia and Israel)



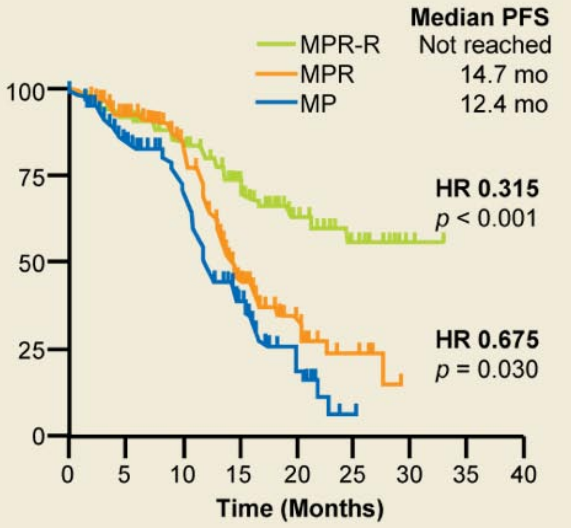
Palumbo A et al. *Proc ASCO* 2011;Abstract 8007.

MM-015: Progression-Free Survival

All Patients
60% Reduced Risk of Progression



65-75 Years of Age
69% Reduced Risk of Progression



Data cutoff: May 11, 2010

With permission from Palumbo A et al. *Proc ASCO* 2011;Abstract 8007.

MM-015: SPM Results

SPM, n (%)	MPR-R (n = 150)	MPR (n = 152)	MP (n = 153)
Total invasive SPMs	12 (8.0)	9 (5.9)	4 (2.6)
Hematologic malignancies	**7 (4.7)**	**5 (3.3)**	**1 (0.7)**
AML	4 (2.7)	2 (1.3)	0
MDS to AML	1 (0.7)	1 (0.7)	0
MDS	0	2 (1.3)	1 (0.7)
T-ALL	1 (0.7)	0	0
CMML	1 (0.7)	0	0
B-cell malignancy	0	0	0
Solid tumors	**5 (3.3)**	**4 (2.6)**	**3 (2.0)**
Non-melanoma skin cancer	**1 (0.7)**	**4 (2.6)**	**5 (3.3)**

Palumbo A et al. *Proc ASCO* 2011;Abstract 8007.

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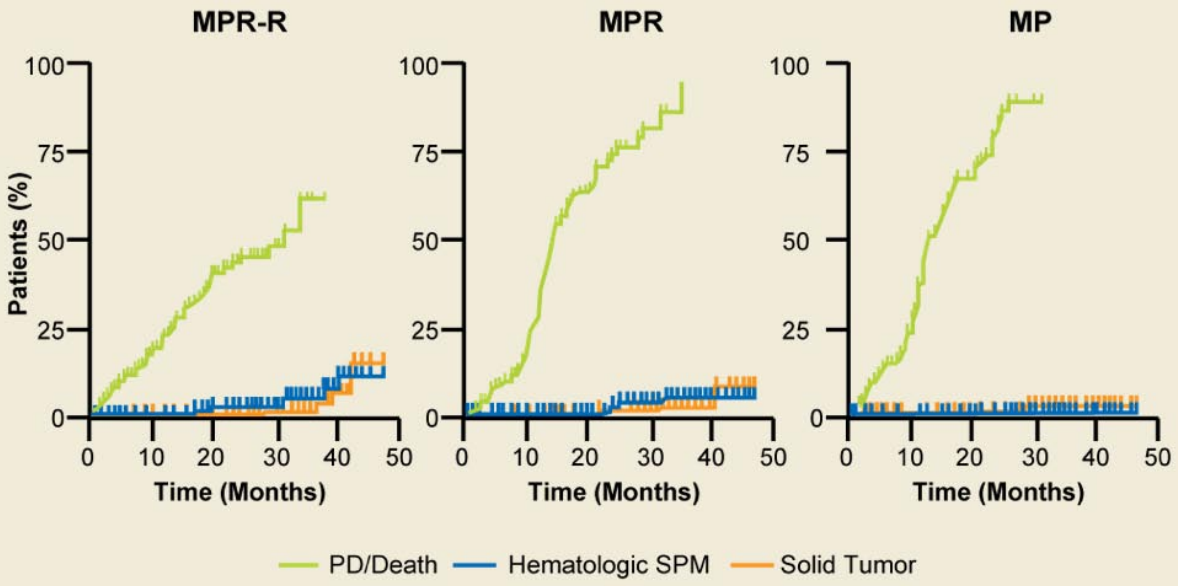
MM-015: Risk for SPM versus PD/Death (Safety Population)



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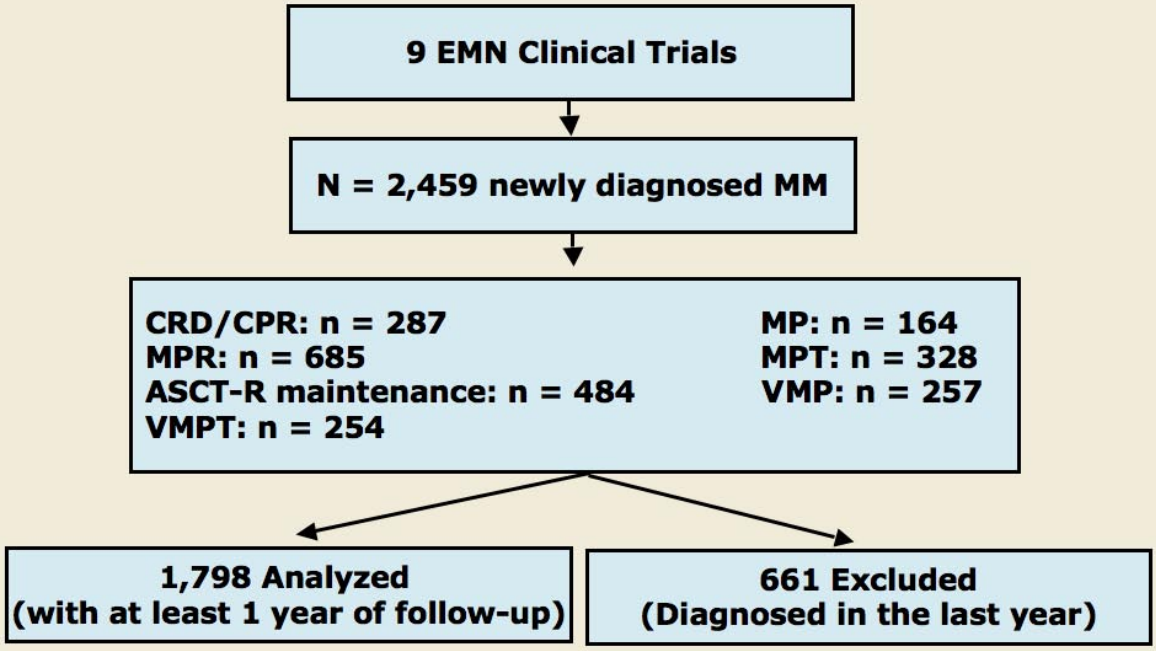
European Myeloma Network Retrospective Study



Palumbo A et al. *Proc ASCO* 2011;Abstract 8007.

Comparison of Observed to Expected Rate of SPMs

- SPMs observed in Italian patients
- SPMs expected from Italian Cancer Registry (adjusted for age and gender)

	SPMs Observed	SPMs Expected	SIR	95% CI
All patients	**27**	**48.11**	**0.56**	**0.37-0.82**
Male	16	30.25	0.53	0.30-0.86
Female	11	17.86	0.62	0.31-1.10

	SPMs Observed	SPMs Expected	SIR	95% CI
Lenalidomide-treated patients	**11**	**15.69**	**0.70**	**0.35-1.25**
Male	8	9.20	0.87	0.38-1.71
Female	3	6.49	0.46	0.10-1.35

Palumbo A et al. *Proc ASCO* 2011;Abstract 8007.

Conclusions

- Continuous lenalidomide demonstrated an unprecedented PFS improvement
- The risk of SPM is increased by concomitant use of lenalidomide with melphalan
- Incidence of SPMs is low
- At present, the benefit-risk profile is strongly in favor of continuous lenalidomide for patients with newly diagnosed MM
- Longer follow-up is needed

Palumbo A et al. *Proc ASCO* 2011;Abstract 8007.

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Investigator Commentary: Second Primary Cancer with MPR followed by R Maintenance in MM-015

The MM-105 study reported by Dr Palumbo evaluates MPR versus MPR followed by maintenance lenalidomide versus MP alone. Patients receiving long-term lenalidomide maintenance experienced a 59% reduction in the risk of progression, which is a significant benefit. The risk of a second primary cancer for patients receiving long-term lenalidomide was 4.7% compared to 3.3% for those who received MPR and 0.7% for those who received MP. That's a fourfold increase in risk. The hematologic diseases were AML, MDS and some lymphoid cancer. There was also an increased risk of solid tumors, but this was not statistically significant.

Dr Palumbo also presented data from the European Myeloma Network retrospective study, in which they examine the incidence of secondary primary cancer in the normal population. As we try to balance the risk-benefit ratio of long-term lenalidomide therapy, it's important to recognize that many of these patients already have an expected second cancer rate. This has to be balanced in the context of the significant benefit provided by lenalidomide with regard to long-term disease control.

Sergio Giralt, MD