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EHA-KCS Hematology Tutorial on Lymphoma and Multiple Myeloma

Tutored Clinical Case

Speaker:

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Almaty, Kazakhstan

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Disclosures:

No relevant conflicts of interest to declare



Clinical history

- A 81-year-old woman presented with fatigue and progressively increasing symptoms of anaemia
- Her medical history included only chronic bronchitis; family history didn't include any malignancy
- Performance status: ECOG 3
- Physical examination revealed marked splenomegaly, about 15 cm below the left costal margin, no palpable lymphadenopathy.



Clinical history

- At the onset of the disease laboratory evaluation revealed cytopenia:
 - Hb 78 g/l (NR 130-180), MCV 120 fl (NR 76-96)
 - WBC $3.4 \times 10^9/l$ (NR 4-11)
 - Platelet count $178 \times 10^9/l$ (NR 150-400)
- Biochemistry report:
 - Total bilirubin 29.5 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ (NR < 22) with direct bilirubin 10.0 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ (NR 0.0-5.0)
 - Serum B12 concentration 135 pg/ml (NR 180-900)



Clinical history

- The first diagnosis made was pernicious anemia
- The patient received a course of an antianaemic therapy (vitamin B12)
- Haemoglobin concentration increased to 90 g/l



No reticulocyte count

No attention to the possibility of a 'proliferative syndrome'



Clinical history

- An ultrasound scan of the abdomen demonstrated markedly enlarged spleen, 23 cm in length
An ultrasound scan showed also diffuse minor enlargement of lymph nodes: axillary – right 8.5 mm, left 14 mm, inguinal : right 4.5 mm, left 9.7 mm
- Computed tomography of the chest, abdomen and pelvis confirmed massive splenomegaly





Clinical history

- But the second diagnosis made was hepatic cirrhosis with massive splenomegaly and hypersplenism as a complication
- In the next 3 months the patient's condition deteriorated: she lost 15 kg in weight, the Hb fell to 57 g/l, total bilirubin rose to 150 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ and indirect bilirubin to 139 $\mu\text{mol/l}$
- Treatment with blood transfusions resulted in temporary improvement
- Anaemia, haemolysis, a 'proliferative syndrome', significant weight loss could not be related to one disorder

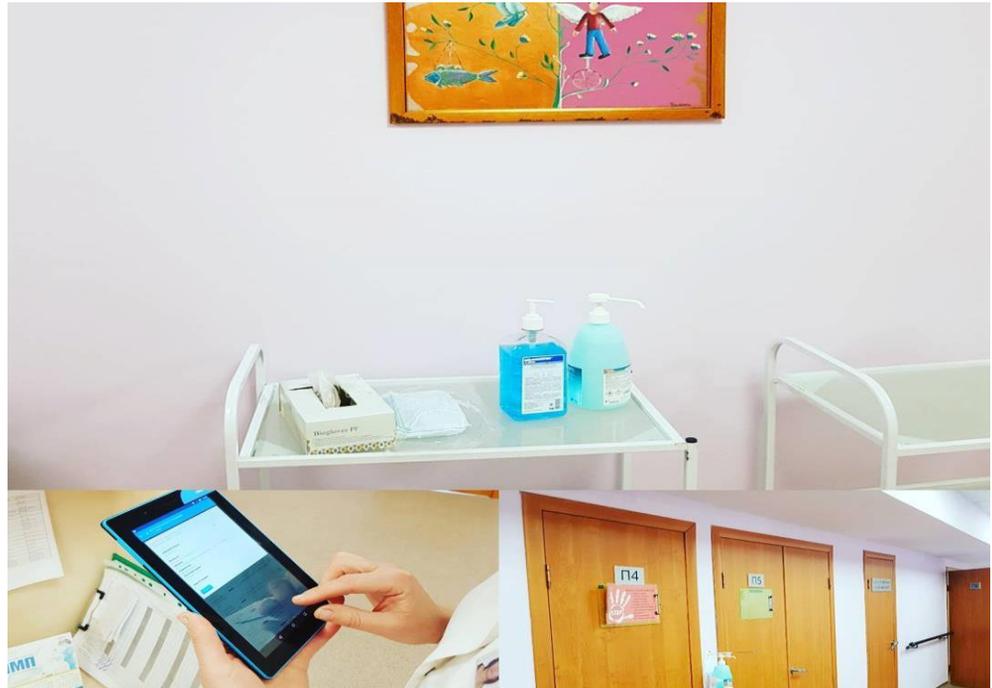




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Clinical history





Diagnosis

- Complete blood count revealed :
 - Hb 42 g/l, MCV 120 FL
 - WBC $5.3 \times 10^9/l$
 - The white blood cell differential was $2.7 \times 10^9/l$ neutrophils, $2.2 \times 10^9/l$ lymphocytes, $0.4 \times 10^9/l$ monocytes. No atypical lymphoid forms were noted in the peripheral film
 - Platelet count $231 \times 10^9/l$ (150-400)
 - Reticulocyte count 5.4 % (0.2-2)
- Other laboratory data:
 - Total bilirubin $194.5 \mu\text{mol/l}$ (< 22) with indirect bilirubin $170.0 \mu\text{mol/l}$
 - Lactate Dehydrogenase (LDH) 1200 iu/l (81-234)
 - Coombs positive

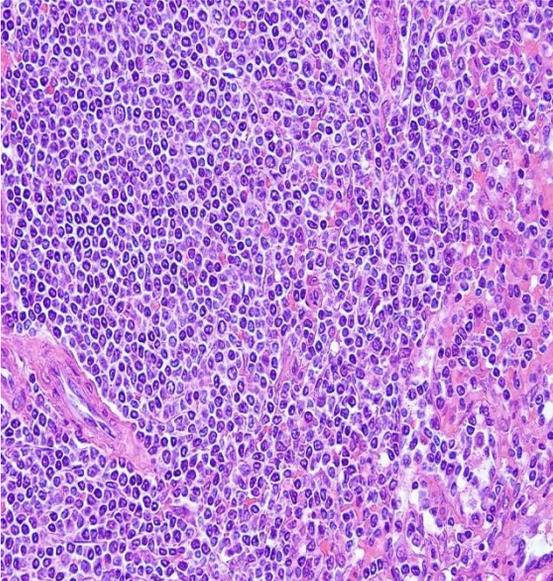


Diagnosis

- A bone marrow aspirate was hypocellular, with an insignificant increase of lymphocytes – 15%
- Flow cytometry: there was a clonal B-lymphoproliferative disorder with positive markers: CD5, CD23, CD19, CD22, CD20^{strong}, HLA-DR, CD200, FMC7. Negative markers: CD25, CD34, CD38, CD43, CD10, CD103.
- The immunophenotype required exclusion of a number of B-cell lymphoproliferative processes, such as chronic lymphocytic leukemia, mantle cell lymphoma and others.



Diagnosis



— **Bone marrow histology:** the marrow was hypercellular with diffuse replacement of normal marrow elements with a micronodular, interstitial and paratrabecular infiltrate of small to medium-sized lymphoid cells with moderate amounts of cytoplasm.

- **Immunohistochemistry:** infiltration by CD20-positive cells, Cyclin D1/BCL1 not expressed. Low grade B-cell lymphoma, compatible with splenic marginal lymphoma.



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Diagnosis

The clinical diagnosis was:

Splenic marginal zone lymphoma (SMZL), complicated by autoimmune haemolytic anaemia (AIHA).



Diagnosis

Diagnosis of SMZL was made by the presence the following features:

- massive splenomegaly, no palpable peripheral lymphadenopathy,
- micronodular, interstitial and paratrabecular infiltration by lymphoid cells on marrow biopsy,
- appropriate positive and negative immunophenotypic features

- presence of AIHA.

The diagnosis of AIHA was based on full blood count (severe macrocytic anaemia), increase of haemolytic parameters (reticulocyte count, lactate dehydrogenase level, hyperbilirubinaemia) in combination with positive Coombs.





Discussion

AIHA is reported as a potential risk factor of poor outcome for SMZL patients.

Other clinical features associated with a worse outcome:

- The development of lymphadenopathy,
- non-haematopoietic site involvement,
- leukocyte count $>20 \times 10^9/l$,
- lymphocytosis $>9 \times 10^9/l$,
- lymphopenia, anaemia,
- thrombocytopenia,
- use of chemotherapy,
- monoclonal component,
- ECOG ≥ 2 ,
- advanced age,
- diffuse pattern of bone marrow infiltration and histological transformation.



Discussion

In the case of our patient negative prognostic factors are:

- aged ≥ 80 years
- ECOG 3
- AIHA





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Discussion

- What about the treatment?

Difficulties:

- Age
- Comorbidity
- Haemolysis





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Revista Brasileira de Hematologia e Hemoterapia
Brazilian Journal of Hematology and Hemotherapy

www.rbhh.org



Discussion

Review article

Splenic marginal zone lymphoma: a literature review of diagnostic and therapeutic challenges



Tayse Silva dos Santos, Renato Sampaio Tavares, Danielle Leão Cordeiro de Farias*

Hospital das Clínicas, Universidade Federal de Goiás (UFG), Goiânia, GO, Brazil

Table 2 – Criteria to indicate treatment of splenic marginal zone lymphoma.

Progressive or symptomatic splenomegaly

Cytopenias:

Hemoglobin < 10 g/dL or

Neutrophils < $1 \times 10^9/L$

Progressive thrombocytopenia

Constitutional symptoms

Progressive nodal disease

Autoimmune hemolytic anemia



Discussion

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NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2019 Splenic Marginal Zone Lymphoma

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CLINICAL PRESENTATION

MANAGEMENT

FOLLOW-UP

Asymptomatic, without progressive cytopenia, no splenomegaly

Observe

Hepatitis C positive⁶

Hepatology consult

No contraindications for treatment of hepatitis

Appropriate treatment

CR/PR

No response

Contraindications for treatment of hepatitis

Splenomegaly

Hepatitis C negative

Assess

- Cytopenias
- Symptoms

Rituximab[†] (preferred) or Splenectomy[§] (if not responsive to rituximab)

No symptoms

Observe

Consider prophylaxis for tumor lysis syndrome (See [NHODG-B](#))

See monoclonal antibody and viral reactivation ([NHODG-B](#))

[See Follow-up \(SPLN-3\)](#)

⁶If there is hepatic involvement and hepatitis C positive, treat with an appropriate regimen for hepatitis C.

[†]Tsimberidou AM, Catovsky D, Schlette E, et al. Outcomes in patients with splenic marginal zone lymphoma and marginal zone lymphoma treated with rituximab with or without chemotherapy or chemotherapy alone. *Cancer* 2006;107:125-135.

[§]Pneumococcal, meningococcal, and hepatitis B vaccinations should be given at least 2 weeks before splenectomy.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

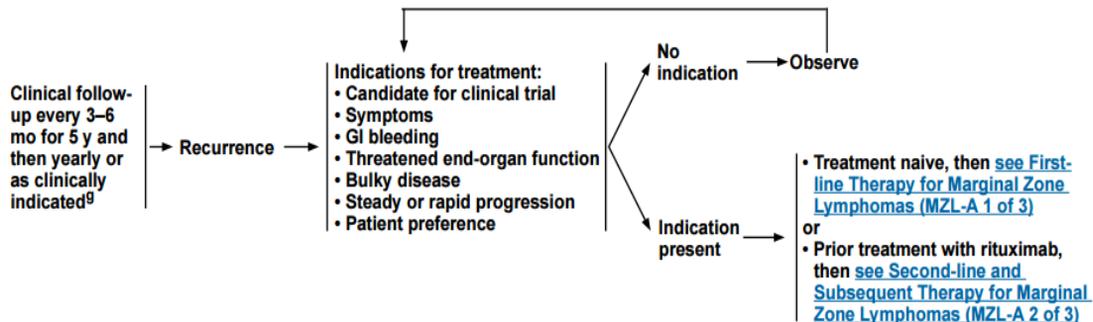
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2018 Splenic Marginal Zone Lymphoma NCCN Evidence Blocks™

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FOLLOW-UP





NCCN Guidelines Version 5.2018 Marginal Zone Lymphomas NCCN Evidence Blocks™

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SUGGESTED TREATMENT REGIMENS^{a,b,c}

First-line Therapy

- Preferred regimens (in alphabetical order)
 - ▶ Bendamustine + rituximab
 - ▶ RCHOP (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone)
 - ▶ RCVP (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone)
 - ▶ Rituximab (375 mg/m² weekly for 4 doses) (preferred for SMZL)
- Other recommended regimens (in alphabetical order)
 - ▶ Ibrutinomab tiuxetan^{d,e} (category 2B)
 - ▶ Lenalidomide + rituximab (category 2B)

First-line Therapy for Elderly or Infirm (if none of the above is expected to be tolerable in the opinion of treating physician)

- Rituximab (preferred) (375 mg/m² weekly for 4 doses)
- Chlorambucil + rituximab
- Cyclophosphamide + rituximab
- Chlorambucil
- Cyclophosphamide

First-line Extended Therapy (optional)

- If initially treated with single-agent rituximab, consolidation with rituximab 375 mg/m² one dose every 12 weeks

[See Second-line and Subsequent Therapy on MZL-A 2 of 3](#)

For patients with locally bulky or locally symptomatic disease, consider ISRT 4–24 Gy ± additional systemic therapy.

Consider prophylaxis for tumor lysis syndrome (See NHODG-B)
See monoclonal antibody and viral reactivation (NHODG-B)

^aSee references for regimens [MZL-A 3 of 3](#).

^bThe choice of initial therapy requires consideration of many factors, including age, comorbidities, and future treatment possibilities (eg, HDT with SCR). Therefore, treatment selection is highly individualized.

^cRituximab and hyaluronidase human injection for subcutaneous use may be substituted for rituximab after patients have received the first full dose of rituximab by



SUGGESTED TREATMENT REGIMENS^{a,b,c} (in preference order)

Second-line and Subsequent Therapy

- Bendamustine + rituximab
- RCHOP (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone)
- RCVP (rituximab, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone)
- Rituximab
- Ibrutinib^f
- Lenalidomide ± rituximab
- Bendamustine + obinutuzumab
- Idelalisib^f (refractory to both alkylator and rituximab)
- Ibrutinomab tiuxetan^{d,e} (category 2B)

Second-line and Subsequent Therapy for Elderly or Infirm (if none of the

- above is expected to be tolerable in the opinion of treating physician)
- Rituximab (preferred) (375 mg/m² weekly for 4 doses)
- Chlorambucil + rituximab
- Cyclophosphamide + rituximab
- Chlorambucil
- Cyclophosphamide

Second-line Consolidation or Extended Dosing (optional)

- If treated with bendamustine + obinutuzumab for recurrent disease then obinutuzumab maintenance for rituximab-refractory disease (1 g every 8 wks for total of 12 doses)
- High-dose therapy with autologous stem cell rescue
- Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant for highly selected patients

For patients with locally bulky or locally symptomatic disease, consider ISRT 4–24 Gy ± additional systemic therapy.

Consider prophylaxis for tumor lysis syndrome (See [NHODG-B](#))
See monoclonal antibody and viral reactivation ([NHODG-B](#))

^aSee references for regimens [MZL-A.3 of 3](#).

^bThe choice of initial therapy requires consideration of many factors, including age, comorbidities, and future treatment possibilities (eg, HDT with SCR). Therefore, treatment selection is highly individualized.



ESMO Consensus conferences: guidelines on malignant lymphoma. part 2: marginal zone lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, peripheral T-cell lymphoma

M. Dreyling^{1*}, C. Thieblemont², A. Gallamini³, L. Arcaini⁴, E. Campo⁵, O. Hermine⁶,
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Discussion

- Criteria for initiating treatment in SMZL are the following:
 - progressive or painful splenomegaly;
 - one of the following symptomatic/progressive cytopenias:
 - Hb <100 g/l
 - platelets <80 x 10⁹/l
 - neutrophils <1.0 x 10⁹/l
- Therapeutic options:
 - splenectomy
 - chemotherapy: rituximab alone or rituximab-chemotherapy



Discussion

Thus, therapeutic options for SMZL comprise:

- Active surveillance
- Splenectomy
- Use of the anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody rituximab alone
- Rituximab added to a variety of cytotoxic agents (chemo-immunotherapy) in various protocols.





Discussion

- Active surveillance can be a strategy for relatively asymptomatic patients
- Splenectomy is the oldest therapeutic option, can also be diagnostic and safe (by laparoscopy), with high short- and long-term efficacy
- However, splenectomy is no longer the treatment of choice, since rituximab is associated with a better outcome and significantly less toxicity.



Discussion

- Rituximab as monotherapy is effective in SMZL and provides better responses, has less toxicity compared to chemotherapy
- Rituximab has little impact on the quality of life, reduces risk of infections, seems to induce durable remissions and can be used again at relapse
- Clinical and laboratory responses are fast, with improvement in blood counts in about eight weeks



Discussion

Treating Indolent Lymphoma in Older Adults: What Is the Right Way?

Nurit Horesh, Noa Lavi, Eldad Dann, and Netanel A. Horowitz

Blood 2015 126:5097.

Article Info & Metrics

Abstract

Introduction: The treatment of hematological malignancies in older adults is an emerging and important issue due to the aging population trend as well as drug-related toxicities in pts (pts) with comorbidities. Indolent lymphomas constitute a subgroup of incurable non-Hodgkin lymphomas characterized by multiple relapses.

Chemo-immunotherapy in various protocols

- Anthracycline containing chemo-immunotherapy regimens (ACR) such as R-CHOP are very active in indolent lymphomas
- Due to their high rate of associated toxicities such regimens are less likely to be given to the elderly population
- The present analysis of a cohort of older adults with indolent lymphoma treated with chemo-immunotherapy regimens in routine clinical practice has demonstrated that ACR was safe and efficacious
- The patient's age should not deter physicians from using ACR in older adults.



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Discussion



**What about our
patient?**



Discussion

- While the results of immunohistochemistry of bone marrow were being prepared, our patient was initially started on 1 mg/kg prednisolone
- After 10 days of therapy:
 - Blood count: Hb 87 g/l, WBC $4.21 \times 10^9/l$, Platelet count $118 \times 10^9/l$
 - Abdominal examination showed persisting splenomegaly about 13 cm below the left costal margin



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Discussion



**What about further
treatment?**



Discussion

- ✓ Because of AIHA and massive splenomegaly, active surveillance is not appropriate
- ✓ Splenectomy is not recommended due to advanced age and high risk of post-splenectomy complications
- ✓ Rituximab at $375 \text{ mg/m}^2 \times 4$ weekly doses is a reasonable first-line therapy and a real and less traumatic alternative to splenectomy.



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Conclusion



Our patient is going to be treated with rituximab monotherapy for both lymphoma and secondary AIHA.



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Thank you for your
attention!