

VII International Conference Complex Treatment of Plasma Cell Dyscrasias in 2018

This interesting and instructive 1-day conference has been organized by Professors Artur Jurczynszyn and Aleksander Skotnicki of the Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow.

Professor Maciej Malecki, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Jagiellonian University Medical College will open the conference

Professor Sagar Lonial from Emory University in Atlanta will open the conference with a lecture on the best therapy for the newly diagnosed patient with multiple myeloma. He has had a great deal of experience in treating patients with this disease and is one of the internationally acclaimed leaders in the field. The choice of initial therapy is challenging in that there are a variety of useful agents and many different combinations of them. Dr. Lonial will provide a guide to the selection of the best available therapy.

Professor Noopur Raje will discuss the management of bone disease in multiple myeloma. She has had a great deal of experience with the diagnosis and management of skeletal involvement in multiple myeloma. She will emphasize the optimal radiographic evaluation of these patients as well as the use of the bisphosphonates and newer approaches including denosumab.

Professor David Vesole will present the treatment of relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma in view of the increasing numbers of new therapeutic agents. Even though first-line therapy produces a high percentage of response, the vast majority of these patients relapse. This is oftentimes a major clinical problem despite the variety of newer therapeutic approaches.

Professor Lauerent Garderet will discuss the role of auto and allo stem cell transplantation in the era of several new drugs for the treatment of this disease. Autologous stem cell transplantation is still a major therapeutic modality producing a high response rate which usually produces responses of approximately two years or sometimes longer. In view of the high cost of many of the novel agents, this has become a more economical treatment modality. Allogeneic transplantation is not utilized as often, but plays an important potential role in the management of multiple myeloma.

Professor Irit Avivi will present management possibilities of hematologic malignancies occurring during pregnancy. Although the occurrence of plasma cell disorders is infrequent in this population, it is a major challenge to the hematologist/oncologist as well as the obstetrician in the management of these young women. Lymphomas and leukemias occur more commonly and represent a high risk to the fetus and challenging management problems for the mother.

Professor Samir Parekh from Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City will provide a lecture on genomics which is an important, new area for the plasma cell disorders. It is likely that genomics will play a very important role in possibilities of different therapies in the future and add greatly to personalized medicine. A major challenge today is the selection of an appropriate therapeutic agent or combination thereof that one expects to be tolerated well by the patient as well as being effective for that patient's specific plasma cell disorder.

The final presentation is by Professor Leo Rasche who will discuss the prognostic impact of intraosseous focal lesions persisting after induction chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation. This is a subject that is important, but its significance is often unknown.

This is a very useful and helpful 1-day conference on management of the plasma cell disorders for the practicing physician.

Robert A. Kyle, M.D.