ABSTRACT # 444 O

NON-GASTRIC MALT LYMPHOMAS: A SURVEY OF 369 EUROPEAN PATIENTS - THE INTERNATIONAL EXTRANODAL LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP (IELSG)

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Background: Extranodal marginal zone B cell lymphomas (MZL) of MALT type occurs most often in the stomach, but have been described in virtually all organs. However, the study of the clinical features of non gastric MALT lymphoma has been historically confronted with the difficulty to assemble representative series of any primary site. Patients and methods: A retrospective survey of 369 patients with a diagnosis of extranodal non-(MZL) of MALT type from 20 European institutions has been completed by the IELSG with the aim of improving our knowledge on the less common non-gastric presentations. Results: A histological review of the cases, by an international panel of expert pathologists is now ongoing. As of February 2000, 292 cases have already been reviewed and the initial diagnosis was confirmed in 249 of them, 156 women and 93 men. The median age was 60 years (range 20-93). In 26% of the cases the patients presented with a disseminated disease and 23% had high LDH level at diagnosis. Twenty-four percent of the patients had salivary or parotid gland involvement, 24% showed infiltration of the ocular adnexa. The lung was involved in 14% of the cases, the thyroid in 7%, but almost all organs can be involved. A high proportion of cases responded to surgery and/or local radiotherapy. The median follow up is 44 months, the actuarial 5-year overall survival (OS) is 93% (95%C.I 87%-96%) and the actuarial 5-year event-free survival (EFS) is 71% (95%C.I 63%-78%). A poorer OS was significantly associated with advanced stage and nodal involvement. High LDH, disseminated disease, nodal involvement were also significantly associated with shorter EFS. Conclusions: The preliminary results of this study seem to confirm that this particular clinicopathologic entity has a generally good prognosis despite its presentation as a disseminated disease in a relevant percentage of cases.