ABSTRACT # 070

EARLY INTERIM REPORT OF THE LY03 RANDOMISED COOPERATIVE TRIAL OF OBSERVATION vs. CHLORAMBUCIL AFTER ANTI-HELCOBACTER THERAPY IN LOW-GRADE GASTRIC LYMPHOMA

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Antibiotic therapy aimed at eradicating H. pylori infection has been shown in early trial to induce histological regression in the majority of low-grade gastric lymphoma. An international cooperative trial (LY03) is ongoing to ascertain:

- for how long tumor regression is maintained and whether this therapy can permanently eradicate the lymphoma
- whether the addition of single-agent chlorambucil is of benefit in those patients who respond to antibiotics.

From March 1995 to September 1998, 183 patients with localized low-grade MALT lymphoma of the stomach entered the trial, 100 men and 83 women with a median age of 60 years (range 26-85).

Histological regression of the gastric lymphoma after anti-helicobacter triple therapy was observed in 57% of patients with about 75% of responses already evident in the first 8 months after antibiotic treatment; 70 patients (40%) have been randomised to observation vs. chlorambucil.

All cases undergo histological review, independently performed by two panels of expert pathologists. This review process is ongoing and the detailed analysis of the clinico-pathological features associated with the response to anti-helicobacter therapy will be presented.