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ABSTRACT # 264

REACTIVE PERIVASCULAR T-CELL INFILTRATE IS AN INDEPENDENT FAVORABLE PROGNOSTIC FACTOR IN PRIMARY CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM LYMPHOMAS (PCNSL) IN IMMUNOCOMPETENT PATIENTS

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Introduction: No clear-cut histopathologic prognosticators have been identified so far in PCNSL.

Aim: To assess the prognostic role of reactive perivascular T-cell infiltrate (RPVI) in 120 immunocompetent patients (pts) with available histologic specimens enrolled in the context of IELSG retrospective study on PCNSL (IELSG#7).

Methods: Thirty-five cases are pending because of needing for additional clinical information or completion of basic immunophenotyping. Eighty-five patients were evaluable (i.e. available morphologic and immunostaining results). Pathologic variables considered were: presence of tumor necrosis (TN) (coagulative type) and presence of RPVI. The latter was defined as a perivascular rim of small reactive T-lymphocytes occurring alone or at least interposed between vessel wall and neoplastic cells. Fifty-nine cases were assessable for TN and RPVI, while 26 were assessable only for TN. Results: REAL histotypes were: 83 diffuse large B-cell lymphomas, 1 Ki-1+ ALK-1+ anaplastic large cell lymphoma and 1 no further classifiable B-cell lymphoma. TN was observed in 17 (20%) cases, RPVI in 19 (32%) cases. RPVI was inversely correlated with cerebrospinal-fluid protein concentration, which was elevated in 17 (71%) of 24 RPVI-negative cases and 5 (38%) of 13 RPVI-positive cases ($p=0.05$). Patients with RPVI-positive lesions exhibited a trend to improved survival, with a 2-yr OS of $48\pm 13\%$ and $45\pm 8\%$ ($p=0.07$), respectively. Multivariate analysis confirmed an independent association between RPVI ($p=0.0006$, Odds ratio: 0.15, 95%CI:0.05-0.42) and survival. No association was found with TN.

Conclusions: our preliminary results suggest an independent prognostic role for RPVI in PCNSL. Additional investigations are ongoing in order to assess whether this attitude could be related to distinct immunophenotypes or biologic properties carried by neoplastic cells.