Practical issues in hematology

Klaus Geissler

Accepted: 28 September 2021
 © Springer-Verlag GmbH Austria, part of Springer Nature 2021

Due to administrative burden in hospitals and outpatient facilities, the amount of time available for medical doctors to provide patient care is continuously decreasing. For physicians the amount of time spent with the patient, however, is a major factor to acquire experience in patient management and to establish a professional relationship with the patient. Because of limited time resources, it is crucial that physicians obtain important information in a concise and practice-oriented way. Reviews in the special issue “Practical issues in hematology” are “information dense” manuscripts which may help to expand practice-relevant knowledge for all physicians who see patients with key hematologic problems in their daily routine.

The article by Dr. Paul Kyrle helps hematologists and non-hematologists to understand to what extent laboratory thrombophilia screening can be applied to optimize the duration of anticoagulation in patients with a history of unprovoked deep venous thrombosis of the leg and/or pulmonary embolism. This information is of high clinical relevance not only for hematologists but also for family doctors and physicians of all subspecialties of internal medicine, who are frequently confronted with this situation [1].

In another paper Dr. Michael Filitz reviews practical considerations for the management of immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) and current guidelines of ITP management taking into account newly available therapy options. The optimal use of corticosteroids, of thrombopoietin-receptor agonists and the role of splenectomy is discussed. Since ITP management is

increasingly done in an outpatient setting, this information is useful not only for physicians in the hospital but also for practitioners and other physicians who are taking care of these patients in medical practice [2].

In the article by Dr. Klaus Geissler the most common and important causes of pancytopenia are presented. Blood picture abnormalities in the form of pancytopenia are not uncommon in patients with various nonmalignant and malignant diseases. Therefore, it is important to know when a patient has to be referred to a hematologist for bone marrow biopsy and when this is not necessary. This paper will help to make this decision [3].

There is another paper outside this special issue. In their paper Mohamed et al. determined the autophagy status in newly diagnosed patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) regarding its potential association with ALL phenotype and regarding its prognostic impact [4].

Thus, we hope that this special issue may be helpful in answering important questions in the field of hematology and hemostaseology but may also contain some information for readers who are interested in more scientific questions.

Conflict of interest K. Geissler declares that he has no competing interests.

References

1. Kyrle PA. Laboratory thrombophilia screening: essentials for hematologists. *memo* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00769-3>.
2. Filitz M, Dixler B, Keil F. Practical considerations for the management of immune thrombocytopenic purpura. *memo*. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00771-9>.

Prof. K. Geissler, MD (✉)
 Medical School, Sigmund Freud University, Vienna, Austria
 5th Department of Internal Medicine/Hemato-Oncology,
 Hospital Hietzing, Wolkersbergenstraße 1, 1130 Vienna,
 Austria
klaus.geissler@gesundheitsverbund.at

3. Geissler K. Pancytopenia—a diagnostic challenge?. memo. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00757-7>.
4. Ibrahim RI, Mohamed HS, Nagib MG, Fares M, Saeed AM. Value of autophagy-related gene 5 (ATG5) expression as a prognostic marker in adults with newly diagnosed acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL). memo. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00715-3>.

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

► For latest news from international oncology congresses see: <http://www.springermedizin.at/memo-inoncology>