EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES AND THEIR ROLE IN PATIENTS WITH MULTIPLE MYELOMA

1ST JULY 2021

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In the past decade, there have been major advances in the treatment of the blood cancer multiple myeloma (MM). The introduction of novel agents such as immune-modifying agents (IMIDs), proteasome inhibitors, monoclonal antibodies, with or without stem cell transplantation, has resulted in significantly improved patient survival. Meanwhile, the increased understanding of MM tumor biology has provided a rationale for new combinations of drugs and risk-adapted and individualized treatments to further improve patient management.

Extracellular vesicles (EVs) are cell-derived membranous particles that mediate cell-to-cell communication by transferring proteins, lipids and nucleic acids locally and through systemic circulation. EVs are active regulators in the cross-talk between MM tumor cells and bone marrow microenvironment, with the capacity to alter angiogenesis, osteoclast differentiation and immunosuppression, promoting tumor progression and drug resistance. Circulating EVs containing tumor-specific molecular signatures (oncoproteins, RNAs, DNA fragments) have potential clinical utility as next-generation liquid biopsy biomarkers in cancer diagnosis and management, with the potential to characterise both spatial heterogeneity and clonal evolution thus informing new modalities for diagnosis, risk stratification, monitoring and therapeutic intervention in MM. However, the nano-scale nature of EVs and the complexity of biofluids present challenges that need to be addressed before the potential of EVs as biomarkers and therapeutic targets can be achieved.

The Italian Society of Hematologic Oncology (SOHO Italy) was established as a non-profit organization in 2019 to promote worldwide research (education, prevention, preclinical and clinical studies and patient care) of hematologic malignancies and related disorders. In this scenario, SOHO Italy together with Australian colleagues aim to bring together international experts to discuss the latest advances in the pathophysiology and therapy of MM and to better understand the role of EVs in patients with MM.
07.50 OPENING REMARKS
C. Cerchione D. W. Greening G. Martinelli A. Reale A. Spencer A. Vacca

SESSION 1 - THE MULTIPLE MYELOMAS
H. Einsele A. Spencer G. Martinelli
08.00 WHAT IS SOHO ITALY C. Cerchione G. Martinelli
08.20 THE MULTIPLE MYELOMAS - BIOLOGY, DIAGNOSIS, RISK STRATIFICATION J.L. Harousseau
08.40 ROLE OF MICRONENVIRONMENT IN MM A. Vacca
09.00 IMMUNE SYSTEM IN MM P. Neri
09.20 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
09.30 LECTURE LIQUID BIOPSY IN MM A. Spencer

BREAK

SESSION 2 - UNDERSTANDING EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES
M. Bebawy A. Vacca D. W. Greening
10.20 EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES - OVERVIEW, UPDATE K. Witwer
10.40 EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES IN CANCER—IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN CANCER CARE A. Rai
11.00 EVS AS CANCER DIAGNOSTICS A. Möller
11.20 EV BYSTANDER SIGNALING AND CANCER RESISTANCE P. Samuel
11.40 TOOLS FOR TRACKING BIODISTRIBUTION OF CANCER EVS B. Sung
12.00 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
12.10 STUDENT/ECR NETWORK ON EVS (SNEV), OVERVIEW A. Nasiri Kenari

LUNCH

SESSION 3 - HOW I MANAGE MULTIPLE MYELOMA
K.C. Anderson C. Cerchione M.V. Mateos
12.55 HOW I MANAGE FRONTLINE MM M. V. Mateos
13.15 HOW I MANAGE RELAPSED/REFRACTORY MM C. Cerchione
13.35 BIOLOGICALLY BASED THERAPIES FOR MM K.C. Anderson
13.55 NEW TREATMENT AVENUES IN MM H.C. Lee
14.15 MANAGING INFECTIONS IN MM R. Ria
14.35 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

BREAK

SESSION 4 - ROLE OF EXTRACELLULAR VESICLES IN MYELOMA
A. Reale G. Simonetti B. Sung
14.55 EVS IN MM BONE DISEASE K. Vanderkerken
15.15 EVS IN MM PROGRESSION A. Roccaro
15.35 MM FIBROBLASTS ENHANCE BONE MARROW ANGIOGENESIS VIA SMALL EVS RELEASE I. Saltarella
15.55 MM-SMALL EVS, OMICS, PLASMA A. Reale
16.15 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
16.25 LECTURE PROTEOMIC INSIGHTS IN EVS: KEY PLAYERS IN CANCER AND POTENTIAL THERAPEUTIC STRATEGY D. W. Greening
16.55 CONCLUDING REMARKS C. Cerchione G. Martinelli A. Vacca

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