Commentary

Dear Readers,

a new issue of „Progress in Medicine" has just been released. This issue is enterily devoted to problems of modern hematology and transplantology. Inside you find both original researches as well as reviews and case reports. I would like to draw you attention to the content of this issue and encourage you to read the attached manuscripts.

Invasive fungal infections remain the main cause of morbidity and mortality in patients after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. A highly interesting papers written by renown experts in field, present data on epidemiology, diagnostics and treatment of fungal disease in immunocopromised patients. I would focus on a paper presenting data of incidence and outcome of invasive fungal infections (IFI) in pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) units of Polish Pediatric Group for HSCT over a period of 2 years. The frequency of IFI after HSCT was 27% and no significant difference was detected in cure rate from IFI between autologous and allogeneic HSCT as well as between acute myeloid and acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Overall, the survival rate after IFI after HSCT was 75% and it was comparable with that obtained by other centers.

Discrepancies in results of diagnostic tests used for disease assessments of patients with multiple myeloma may influence its correct evaluation before auto-HSCT. It was demonstrated that 44% of myeloma patients may have discrepancies in diagnostic exams and that at least several different tests are required to assess myeloma response to treatment. A paper focusing on this important issue has also been attached.

The study from Clinical Immunology Centre in Lublin sheds a new light on the role of EBV infection in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The correlation between EBV and interleukin-4 has been demonstrated.

The number of autologous transplants for patients with autoimmune disorders is increasing. This procedure seems to be safe. Its high efficacy has been reported in a significant proportion of patients. Multiple sclerosis is the most common indication for autologous transplantation amongst the autoimmune disorders. Who can benefit from autotransplant and how does it influence the patients's immune system: the answers to these and other questions you may find in a nice review published in this issue.

This release includes also valuable case reports showing rare laboratory/imaging findings or atypical clinical outcomes with literature review.

The edition has been complemented by papers on HLA typing in transplanted siblings and on the expression of P-selectin in patients with acute myeloid leukemia.

I hope that this issue you consider worth reading.

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