

CLL – Patient registries confirm bendamustine-containing regimen (BR) as an effective first-line therapy

H. Linde¹, R. Göttel², HW. Tessen³, Project team of Internal Oncology (PIO)

¹Specialized oncology practice Potsdam, ²rgb Onkologisches Management GmbH Sarstedt,

³Specialized oncology practice Goslar

Introduction

The chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) is the most common leukemic disease in Central Europe. The median age of onset is between 70 and 75 years. The combination of bendamustine and rituximab has proven effective for the treatment of this disease in clinical trials and everyday use.

Methods

Since 2008, 61 hemato-oncological practices from 16 federal states within the project team of internal oncology (PIO) have been documenting disease histories of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia in the registry ONCOTest. 769 patients received a bendamustine-containing therapy, 525 (68.3 %) as first-line therapy, 124 (23.6 %) of which bendamustine mono and 401 (76.4 %) bendamustine/rituximab (BR).

Results

This analysis presents the results of the use of bendamustine/rituximab in the first-line treatment of CLL patients in clinical practice.

Patient characteristics:

Gender: 66 % m / 34 % f

Median age: 71 years

Without B-symptoms: 61 %

ECOG 0/1/2: 26 % / 59 % / 15 %

BINET A/B/C: 11 % / 55 % / 34 %

Period from initial diagnosis until first therapy: 22.3 months

Comorbidities: 37 % hypertension, 19 % diabetes; 10 % CHD, 8 % AIHA/ITP

Therapy:

A median of 6 (1-8) cycles were administered. The median total dose of bendamustine was 880 mg/m².

Response:

The objective remission rate is at 88.8 %, 48 % of which CR (haematologically tested) and 41 % PR.

Survival:

The median follow up is 24.3 months.

The median progression-free survival is at 44.5 months.

The median overall survival has not been reached yet. The 3-year survival rate is at 84 %.

Conclusion:

The analysis of the registry reflects the treatment routine and reveals the treatment of mostly older comorbid patients.

The therapy with bendamustine in combination with rituximab proves to be highly effective and safe.

The remission rates and PFS of ONCOReg are comparable to those of other patients registries (TLN) or to clinical studies such as CLL2M or CLL10. Recent studies in which older and comorbid ("not fit") patients were treated with newer substances do not show better results with regard to CR and PFS than the combination BR.

The results emphasize the high quality of the treatment of patients in the everyday routine and in specialized oncology practices.