

# Routine Use of Bendamustine (Ribomustin®) in the Treatment of CLL Patients – Updated Results

Sauer, A.<sup>\*,†</sup>; Göttel, R.<sup>\*\*</sup>, G. Günther<sup>\*,†</sup>

\*MVZ für Blut- und Krebserkrankungen, Potsdam

†PIO (Projektgruppe internistische Onkologie), Deutschland

\*\*rgb GmbH, Sarstedt, Deutschland

## Introduction:

Bendamustine alone and in combination is highly effective in the therapy of indolent lymphoma including CLL and MM<sup>1-3</sup>. Despite its wide therapeutic application in Germany for more than 30 years, the use of bendamustine outside of clinical trials has not been documented in a large number of patients.

To fill this gap, the PIO group of office based oncologists in Germany is currently documenting the routine usage of bendamustine with special focus on the quality of therapy.

## Methods:

Up to now 413 patients were reported and 187 were documented. 152 patients have been analysed so far. 51 medical centres specialised in oncological treatment participated in this survey. 4 (3%) patients had a BINET stage A, 92 (60%) stage B and 56 (37%) stage C before start of therapy. The median age was 71 years (43-95). 96 (64%) were male, 56 (37%) were female. 90 (59%) patients received a monotherapy, 21 (14%) a combination with prednisone or dexamethasone and 41 (27%) with rituximab.

## Results:

66 (44%) patients received a first-line therapy, 36 (24%) a second-line, 25 (16%) a third-line and 25 (16%) a fourth to seventh-line therapy. A median of 4 cycles was administered (1-8). In median 171 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (38-391 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) of bendamustine were applied monthly. The overall response rate (CR/PR) through all treatment schemes and lines of therapy was 76% and 77% when applied as primary therapy.

## Conclusions:

Bendamustine induced high response rates in clinical routine. It was applied as first-line therapy in about half of the patients. Data acquisition is ongoing. Updated data will be presented in a timely manner.

<sup>1</sup> B.D. Cheson et. al., Clinical Lymphoma, Myeloma & Leukemia 2010; 10, 21-27

<sup>2</sup> J. Barth & M.J. Rummel, Arzneimitteltherapie 2010; 28, 114-122

<sup>3</sup> W.U. Knauf et.al., J Clin Oncol 2009; 27, 4378-4384