OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITY

The myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are a diverse group of hematologic disorders associated with ineffective production of myeloid blood cells. Patients with MDS generally experience resultant cytopenias, and their disease also has the significant potential for transformation to acute leukemia, leading to shortened survival. MDS is a disease that primarily affects older adults. Clinical care for the elderly is complicated by the myriad of physical, cognitive and psychosocial changes associated with aging, necessitating that medical oncologists and allied cancer professionals be able to individualize the treatment of these patients.

To offer optimal patient care — including the option of clinical trial participation — practicing medical oncologists, hematologists and hematology-oncology fellows must be well informed of advances in this field. Meet The Professors uses relevant case-based discussions between community oncologists and clinical investigators to assist practicing clinicians with the incorporation of this information into their management strategies for MDS.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

• Develop an understanding of the various prognostic scoring systems, and use this information in counseling patients and treatment decision-making.
• Determine the optimal dosing schedule and treatment duration with azacitidine and decitabine.
• Appraise the role of bone marrow transplantation for patients with MDS.
• Evaluate available efficacy and safety data with the use of lenalidomide in patients with low- to intermediate-risk MDS with and without del(5q).
• Recognize the impact of patient-related factors, including age and cytogenetic abnormalities, on therapeutic planning and potential outcomes.
• Recall the emerging data with novel agents (eg, checkpoint inhibitors and TGF-beta inhibitors) being investigated in the treatment of MDS.

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FACULTY — The following faculty (and their spouses/partners) reported relevant conflicts of interest, which have been resolved through a conflict of interest resolution process:

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Hardware/Software Requirements:
A high-speed Internet connection
A monitor set to 1280 x 1024 pixels or more
Internet Explorer 7 or later, Firefox 3.0 or later, Chrome, Safari 3.0 or later
Adobe Flash Player 10.2 plug-in or later
Adobe Acrobat Reader
(Optional) Sound card and speakers for audio

Last review date: July 2016
Expiration date: July 2017

ResearchToPractice.com/MTPMDS116
A multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial of deferasirox in patients with myelodysplastic syndromes (low/int-1 risk) and transfusional iron overload. NCT00940602

A phase I/IB study of ipilimumab or nivolumab in patients with relapsed hematologic malignancies after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation. NCT01822509

A phase I/II study of ABT-199 in combination with low-dose cytarabine in treatment-naïve subjects with acute myelogenous leukemia who are ≥ 65 years of age and who are not eligible for standard anthracycline-based induction therapy. NCT02287233

A phase IB/II multi-arm study with venetoclax in combination with cobimetinib and venetoclax in combination with idasanutlin in patients aged ≥ 60 years with relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia who are not eligible for cytotoxic therapy. NCT02670044

A phase II trial evaluating the combination of lirilumab and nivolumab with 5-azacitidine in patients with MDS. NCT02599649

A phase II trial evaluating the combination of nivolumab and ipilimumab with 5-azacitidine in patients with MDS. NCT02530463

A phase III trial to evaluate imetelstat (JNJ-63935937) in transfusion-dependent subjects with IPSS low or intermediate-1 risk MDS that is relapsed/refractory to erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA) treatment. NCT02598661


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