

Splenic marginal zone lymphoma: a prognostic model for clinical use.

Arcaini L, Lazzarino M, Colombo N, Burcheri S, Boveri E, Paulli M, Morra E, Gambacorta M, Cortelazzo S, Tucci A, Ungari M, Ambrosetti A, Menestrina F, Orsucci L, Novero D, Pulsoni A, Frezzato M, Gaidano G, Vallisa D, Minardi V, Tripodo C, Callea V, Baldini L, Merli F, Federico M, Franco V, Iannitto E.

The Interguppo Italiano Linfomi (IIL) carried out a study to assess the outcome of splenic marginal zone lymphoma and to identify prognostic factors. We studied 309 patients: the 5-years cause-specific survival (CSS) was 76%. In univariate analysis the parameters predictive of shorter CSS were hemoglobin < 12 g/dl ($p=0.00002$), albumin < 3.5 g/dl ($p=0.001$), IPI 2-3 ($p=0.00001$), LDH >normal ($p=0.00001$), age >60 years ($p=0.01$), platelets < 100,000/ml ($p=0.04$), HbsAg-positivity ($p=0.01$), no splenectomy at diagnosis ($p=0.006$). Hemoglobin < 12 g/dl, LDH >normal, albumin < 3.5 g/dl maintained a negative influence on CSS in multivariate analysis. Using these 3 variables, we identified 3 prognostic categories: low-risk group (41%) with no adverse factors, intermediate-risk group (34%) with one factor, high-risk group (25%) with 2 or 3 factors. The 5-years CSS was 88% for the low-risk, 73% for the intermediate-risk, and 50% for the high-risk group. The cause-specific mortality rate (x1000 p-yrs) was 20 for the low-risk, 47 for the intermediate-risk, and 174 for the high-risk group. This latter group accounted for 54% of all lymphoma-related deaths. In conclusion, using readily available factors, this prognostic index may be a useful tool for evaluating the need for treatment as well as the intensity of therapy in an individual patient.