

Long-Term Follow-up of Survival in Hodgkin's Lymphoma

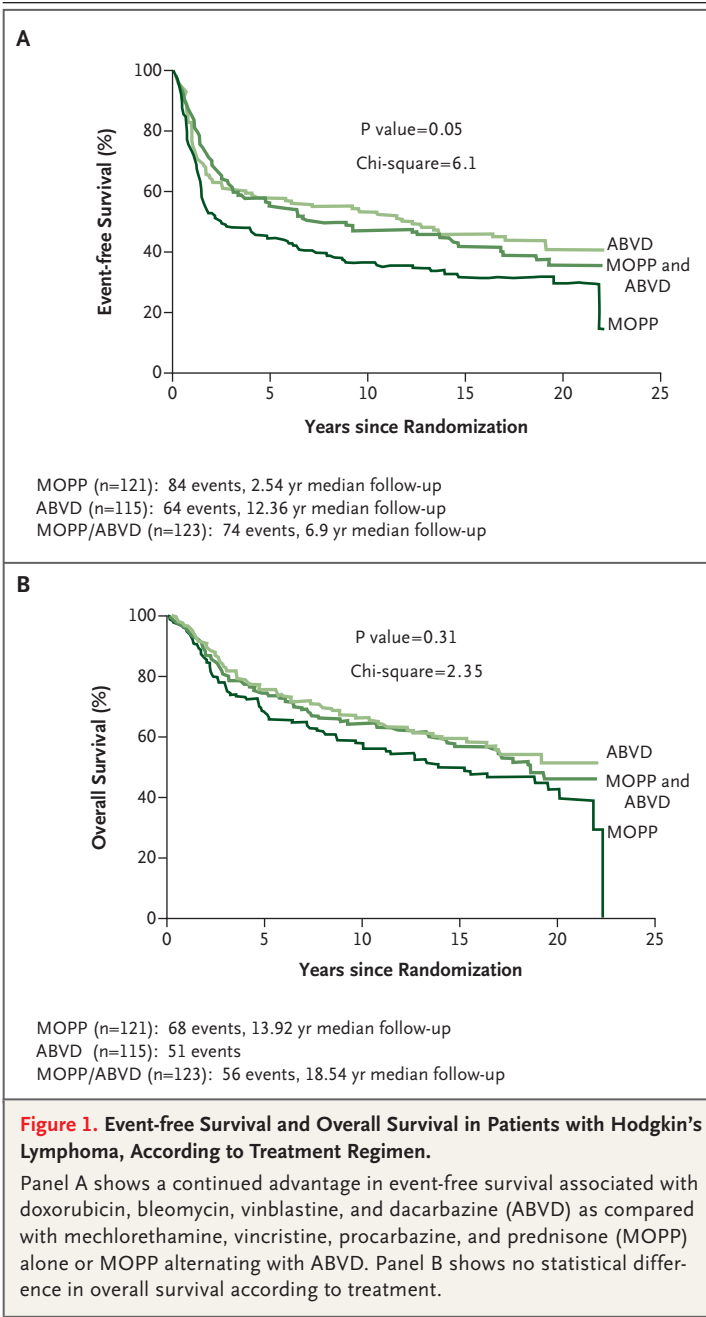
TO THE EDITOR: In 1992, the Cancer and Leukemia Group B (CALGB) reported the results of a prospective three-group randomized trial involving 359 patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma. This trial

compared the following regimens: doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine (ABVD) for 6 to 8 months, mechlorethamine, vincristine, procarbazine, and prednisone (MOPP) for 6 to 8 months, and MOPP alternating with ABVD for 12 months.¹ The trial was limited to patients with advanced disease (clinical stages III and IV). No radiotherapy was administered. The results, published in the *Journal* in 1992, indicated an event-free survival advantage of ABVD over MOPP but no differences in overall survival between the ABVD and MOPP groups. These findings were reemphasized in a follow-up study of the data published in 2002.² We report further follow-up data from a median follow-up period of 18.1 years (Fig. 1).

We analyzed the results from a follow-up period of at least 20 years. The fact that overall survival was still equivalent among the three groups despite a higher failure rate associated with MOPP is a testimony to the effective salvage treatments for Hodgkin's lymphoma. A review of the 12 consecutive series of prospective, randomized therapeutic trials involving a total of 6200 patients with advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma that have been published since 2003 revealed only one trial in which a small statistically significant difference in overall survival was noted.³ Relatively small but statistically significant differences in event-free survival, if seen, were corrected in terms of overall survival by effective salvage therapy.

Long-term results with the use of ABVD alone in the above-mentioned CALGB trial are often used to compare newer regimens. This comparison is not valid, since the trial began in 1982. The 5- and 10-year rates of both event-free and overall survival have increased from 73.5% and 62.0%, respectively, between 1980 and 1984 and, more recently, from 85.0% and 80.0%, respectively, in the 2000–2004 interval as shown in the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results program.⁴

More intensive and toxic chemotherapy may confer a statistical event-free survival advantage but, unless overall survival is improved, the greater toxicity could compromise quality of life without a survival benefit. However, the identification of high-risk patients on the basis of persistently positive findings on positron-emission tomography



during therapy may warrant an alternative, more intensive, approach.

George P. Canellos, M.D.

Dana–Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, MA
george_canellos@dfci.harvard.edu

Donna Niedzwiecki, Ph.D.

Jeffrey L. Johnson, M.S.

Cancer and Leukemia Group B Statistical Center
Durham, NC

1. Canellos GP, Anderson JR, Propert KJ, et al. Chemotherapy of advanced Hodgkin's disease with MOPP, ABVD, or MOPP alternating with ABVD. *N Engl J Med* 1992;327:1478-84.
2. Canellos GP, Niedzwiecki D. Long-term follow-up of Hodgkin's disease trial. *N Engl J Med* 2002;346:1417-8.
3. Diehl V, Franklin J, Pfeundsich M, et al. Standard and increased-dose BEACOPP chemotherapy compared with COPP-ABVD for advanced Hodgkin's disease. *N Engl J Med* 2003;348:2386-95. [Erratum, *N Engl J Med* 2005;353:744.]
4. Brenner H, Gondas A, Pulte D. Ongoing improvement in long-term survival of patients with Hodgkin disease at all ages and recent catch-up of older patients. *Blood* 2008;111:2977-83.

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CORRECTIONS

Intensity of Renal Support in Critically Ill Patients with Acute Kidney Injury (July 3, 2008;359:7-20). In the Results section, under the subheading "Complications of Therapy" (page 13), the percentages in the second sentence (for hypotension re-

ported as a complication of therapy) should have been 17.4% and 17.7%, respectively, rather than 18.5% and 18.9%. These percentages were also reported in Table 6 in the Supplementary Appendix. The article has been corrected and the Supplementary Appendix replaced at NEJM.org.

Case 25-2008: A 43-Year-Old Man with Fatigue and Lesions in the Pituitary and Cerebellum (August 14, 2008;359:736-47). The penultimate sentence of the third paragraph in the "Presentation of Case" section (page 737) should have read, "the angiotensin-converting enzyme level was normal," rather than "the acetylcholinesterase level was normal." The article has been corrected at NEJM.org.

NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal's Web site (NEJM.org/meetings). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL BRAIN-COMPUTER INTERFACE MEETING 2010

The meeting will be held in Monterey, CA, May 31–June 4. Deadline for submission of abstracts is Dec. 31.

Contact the Brain-Computer Interface Laboratory, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, P.O. Box 509, Albany, NY 12201-0509; or see <http://bcimeeting.org/2010>.

HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

A researcher working on a history of American graduate medical education is seeking diaries, journals, or correspondence written by physicians during their internships and/or residencies about their experiences in U.S. training programs between 1945 and 2003.

Contact Heather Varughese, Program in the History of Science and Medicine, Yale University, 333 Cedar Street, Room L 132, New Haven, CT 06520-8015; or call (203) 785-4338; or e-mail heather.varughese@yale.edu.

ALLERGY AND ASTHMA RESOURCE FOR CHOOSING BEST HEALTH PLANS

The American College of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology has developed "A Consumer Checklist for Allergy and Asthma Benefits" to advise consumers about the features to look for when they enroll in a managed care or insurance program.

The checklist is available online at <http://www.acaa.org>; or by calling the American College of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology at (800) 842-7777.

MAYO CLINIC SCOTTSDALE

The following courses will be offered in Scottsdale, AZ: "Update in EEG, EMG, and Clinical Neurophysiology" (Jan. 24–30); "Women's Health 2010" (March 4–6); "Clinical Reviews 2010: A Family Practice and Internal Medicine Update" (March 24–27); and "A Multidisciplinary Update in Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine" (April 8–11).

Contact Mayo School of CME, Mayo Clinic, 13400 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85259; or call (480) 301-4580; or fax (480) 301-8323.