Clinical Impact of Internet-Based Tools to Help Guide Therapeutic Decisions for Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL)

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Background

Clinical practice guidelines are an important resource to help guide management of patients with mantle cell lymphoma (MCL). However, guidelines can be difficult to apply to individual patients, particularly when there are 2 or more treatment options with similar levels of evidence. We sought to determine whether expert recommendations for MCL treatment, delivered via an interactive, online decision support tool, would change or confirm the treatment decisions of community practitioners.

Study Components

- Online decision support tool developed in 2014; expert insights received in September 2014
- Faculty: James O. Armitage, MD; Christopher R. Flowers, MD; Andre Goy, MD; John P. Leonard, MD; and Julie M. Vose, MD, MBA
- The tool included 120 different MCL case variations based on specific patient characteristics, including age, fitness, histologic subtype, lactate dehydrogenase level, Ki-67 level, and any previous treatment and response
- Tool users were prompted to enter patient/disease characteristics and indicate their intended clinical approach
- Recommendations from the 5 experts were then displayed
- Finally, users were asked whether the experts’ recommendations confirmed or changed their intended clinical approach
- 248 clinicians input 365 different patient cases from October 2014 to November 2015
- MCL tool online at: http://clinicaloptions.com/MCLTool

Results

Patient Cases by User Degree and Country

- Overall (n = 365): 72 US, 91 Non-US
- US (n = 112): 54 US, 31 Non-US
- Non-US (n = 253): 80 US, 61 Non-US

Choice of Therapy

- In patients > 75 years of age, experts agree on bendamustine-R for 1st-line therapy, and 4 of 5 experts agree on bortezomib for 2nd-line therapy, regardless of type of or response to previous therapy
- More variability occurred among experts on choice of therapy for younger or more fit patients, with 1st-line treatment ranging from bendamustine-R to R-hydroxyCVD or R-CHOP/CHAP
- Experts selected R-CHOP in 50% of 120 total scenarios and only in the relapsed/refractory setting; however, tool users selected R-CHOP 25% of the time for younger, fit patients in the newly diagnosed setting

Intended Use of Tool (n = 103 respondents)

- The patient case entered was hypothetical, % (n) 56 (58)
- I was interested in recommendations for a specific patient, % (n) 44 (45)

Impact on Treatment Choice (n = 103 cases)

- Overall, % (n) Changed my treatment choice to agree with experts 16 (77)
- I am still undecided on what treatment to use 8 (25)
- I agree with the experts, but there are barriers to implementing their recommendations 18 (28)

Conclusions

- Expert consensus on bendamustine-R for older patients with newly diagnosed MCL and bortezomib for relapsed/refractory disease; more disagreement among experts for younger, more fit patients
- Treatment choices were more varied in both the newly diagnosed and relapsed/refractory setting for users of the online tool, and 10% to 23% of users indicated that they were unsure of optimal treatment approaches for patients with R/M RCL
- This tool either confirmed or changed the user’s intended clinical approach in 76% of cases
- Viewing the expert insights led to a planned treatment change in 17% of cases in which users indicated they were seeking advice for a real patient
- Online tools providing customized, patient-specific expert advice may increase the number of clinicians making optimal treatment decisions for MCL

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MCL Tool Screenshots (Examples)

Entry of Patient Characteristics

Expert Recommendations

Newly Diagnosed MCL

Patients < 75 Years of Age and Fit

Patients > 75 Years of Age or Unfit

Maintenance/Consolidation Treatment

Patients < 75 Years of Age and Fit

Patients > 75 Years of Age or Unfit

Relapsed/Refractory MCL

Patients < 75 Years of Age and Fit

Patients > 75 Years of Age or Unfit

The authors have no real or apparent conflicts of interest to report.