

Dear ILTE investigators,

the third ILTE investigators meeting took place in New Orleans on December 4th 2009, with the participation of 15 investigators.

The first topic discussed was the frequency of Bone Marrow aspirates in patients in CCyR after 5 years of treatment. This discussion was sparked by the ILTE data showing a low but existing numbers of patients developing chromosomal abnormalities in Ph negative cells after this date, and presented at ASH. Most investigators aggregated around two different choices: one group thought that a BM aspirate could be performed every 2 years, citing also the not absolute reliability of PCR as the only way to follow patients. The second group of investigators thought instead that BM aspirates should be performed after the fifth year only if clinically indicated (e.g. rise in PCR values or pre existing abnormalities).

I presented the data on PCR performed on 30 PCR negative pts received from various centers. These samples were reanalyzed in Monza with conventional RT-PCR and then sent to Saglio and Kim labs (Orbassano and Seoul) to be analyzed by a more sensitive technique. 30.4% of samples turned positive already in Monza; this value increased to 62.1% when tested in Seoul while the sensitivity in Orbassano seems a bit lower, but 50% of samples have not yet been tested there. The plan here is to organize during 2010 the sampling from patients with confirmed PCR negativity since 2 years.

We subsequently examined the data available so far and decided that they are mature for a publication describing safety data (with the exception of second cancers); therefore the 2009 follow-up forms will be simplified by removing NSAE forms.

There will be 3 publications in the future: one on safety data, one on PCR data, one (possible) on cytogenetic abnormalities. Authorship will be decided according to the publication policy present on the ILTE web site.

Finally I communicated that an EOI has been sent to the European Union for possible funding. It was decided to wait the publication of the first paper before applying for further funding.

I thank you again for taking part in the study.

2009 follow up forms and 2008 queries will be ready and will be sent to you within the first half of February 2010, with a request to return them by the end of March 2010.

Happy Holidays.

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ILTE study Chairman