



Blood 2018 (21st - 24th October 2018)

Venue: Brisbane, Australia

Recently, I had the privilege to attend and present a poster at the combined Annual Scientific Meeting co-organised by Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand, Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion, and Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand.

It was a fruitful 4-days event and I managed to learn and gain knowledge from the symposium that I had attended. Advances in the management of multiple myeloma, acute leukaemia, aggressive B cell lymphoma, and Hodgkin lymphoma were part of the conference highlights and these included the role of immunotherapy, CAR-T therapy, and clonal evolution in AML.

First day (21st October)

The first day started off with molecular haematopoiesis. With the development of next generation sequencing techniques, much understanding was gained on the complex landscape of genetic changes in AML. Clonal evolution in AML was further discussed in this session with the emergence of new mutation in relapses and how it affects the management and outcome.

The subsequent sessions were on multiple myeloma and lymphoma. The invited speakers shared their experiences in the treatment of multiple myeloma especially in transplant eligible patients with newer generation proteasome inhibitors and iMiD, as well as daratumumab in newly diagnosed multiple myeloma. During the lymphoma session, 3 main topics were discussed, included high grade aggressive DLBCL, Hodgkin lymphoma, and mantle cell lymphoma. They mainly shared their experiences in treating these patients and follow-up monitoring.

Second day (22nd October)

The second day was started with free communication/oral presentation on selected topics. I had attended the Leukaemia session and had the opportunity to get to know the on going clinical trial conducted such as Gilterinib in addition to standard induction in newly diagnosed AML, use of Venetoclax in elderly AML, monitoring of MRD with flow cytometry in AML, etc.

I had attended the afternoon session on state of art in myeloma and two main topics were discussed. The first one was on the goals of therapy especially the role of MRD in clinical practice, in which Dr Gareth Morgan had discussed in depth on MRD in daily practice and its feasibility. Dr Ola Landgren subsequently discussed on the progression of MGUS to MM. He raised the potential benefits of early treatment in smouldering myeloma. However, there was still much to explore before it could be recommended in routine clinical practice.

The day ended with poster session in the evening.

Third and fourth day (23th - 24th October)

On the third day, I managed to attend the development of immunotherapy in lymphoma, CART therapy in haematology malignancies, and state of art in CLL. Also, the management of TTP and atypical HUS were discussed in THANZ symposium.

Patient blood management in ageing population is a topic that warrant mentioned as this is much related to our daily practise. The speaker had stressed on several issues between restrictive transfusion versus liberal transfusion in ageing population due to oxygen reserve capacity in elderly patients.

Overall, this conference was informative and helped in my understanding on topics related in our daily practices. I wished I could have attended some of the additional topics that run concurrently. I would like to thank to Malaysian Society of Haematology (MSH) for the provision of the Education Fund for making this possible.

Sincerely,

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