

Preface

The field of Hematology has made great strides in recent years in diagnosis, prevention and treatment of a variety of blood disorders. Understanding the pathogenetic mechanisms of hematologic malignancies led to the development of targeted therapy for disorders like chronic myeloid leukemia, acute promyelocytic leukemia and B cell lymphoma. Exploring coagulation pathways further enhanced our knowledge of thrombotic disease and enabled the development of a new class of anticoagulant drugs specifically directed to inhibit certain coagulation factors such as thrombin and activated factor X. This issue of *IMAJ* features some aspects of the clinical research conducted in hematology departments in Israel.

Duek et al. report on the clinical and immunologic characteristics of autoimmune disorders associated with B cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Bairey and colleagues present a series of patients with the rare presentation of Hodgkin's lymphoma of the colon. Ellis et al. describe the successful management of two cases of clonal hypereosinophilic syndrome by means of specific therapy. Gurion and co-authors report a case of a patient with insulin-dependent diabetes and Hodgkin's lymphoma who developed a fluorodeoxyglucose-avid mass several months after completing chemotherapy. Elis et al. address the question whether routine bone marrow examination is necessary for the diagnosis of monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance.

Future progress in hemato-oncology through targeted and tailored therapy is described by Shpilberg et al. The short and long-term influence of phlebotomy on arterial complications in patients with polycythemia vera is discussed by Nemets and collaborators. In a prospective evaluation of patients hospitalized with acute venous thromboembolism, Kolomansky et al. compare the characteristics of cancer and non-cancer patients. The role of treatment with 5-fluorouracil in patients with advanced gastric carcinoma and disseminated intravascular coagulation is discussed by Tokar et al.

Severe manifestations of autoimmune disorders are also presented in this issue. Elchalal et al. report on catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome in a young woman, and Galarza-Maldonado and Serrano-Alvarado from Ecuador send an image report on mesenteric thrombosis in the setting of this disease.

Venous thrombosis during air travel is an emerging problem of global health. The magnitude, mechanisms and prophylactic measures are the focus of a debate on travel-related thrombosis presented by the discussants Aharon Lubetsky and Benjamin Brenner.

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Bracha Ramot, a leading figure in Hematology in Israel for the past four decades and a mentor to many of us.

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