National Societies: Joint Meeting

AINO and ANOCEF

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On November 5, 2011, the first Italian Association for Neuro-Oncology (AINO) and Association des Neuro-Oncologues d’Expression Française (ANOCEF) Joint Meeting was held in Milan during the 16th Annual Congress of the AINO. For the first time, a joint meeting between 2 national groups was organized with the purpose of bringing together leading experts from both countries to discuss similarities and differences in the approach of specific tumour types. Low-grade gliomas were chosen as the main topic and were addressed in all aspects from biology to treatment modalities within 4 sessions.

The meeting was opened by Marie de Tayrac (Rennes) with a lecture on, “Molecular profiling of gliomas”, illustrating the usefulness of a multi-dimensional integrated analysis to identify prognostic signatures.

In the first session, chaired by Carmine Carapella (Rome) and Marc Sanson (Paris), the role of molecular markers was addressed. Felice Giangaspero (Rome) illustrated the diagnostic contribution of molecular markers, such as p53 mutations, 1p/19q co-deletion, alpha-internexine expression, IDH1/2 mutations, or BRAF alterations to conventional neuropathological tools for differential diagnosis. Marc Sanson discussed the prognostic and predictive values of molecular markers in low-grade gliomas, particularly IDH-1/2 mutations, 1p19q co-deletion, and MGMT methylation/CIMP phenotype.

The second session, chaired by Jean Yves Delattre (Paris) and Massimo Scerrati (Ancona), was devoted to neuroimaging techniques. Andrea Falini (Milan) reviewed the role of MRI diffusion and DTI tractography for diagnosis, for predicting the extent of surgical resection, and for monitoring the response to chemotherapy. Alberto Bizzi (Milan) reported a prospective study on monitoring the eloquent areas for language with fMRI and neuropsychological tests. Finally, Eric Guedj (Marseille) reviewed the role of old (FDG) and new (methionine, FLT) tracers for radiotherapy planning and monitoring the response to treatments.

The third session, chaired by Giovanni Broggi (Milan) and Xavier Muracciole (Marseille), addressed the role of surgery and radiotherapy. Lorenzo Bello (Milan) and Hugues Duffau (Montpellier) discussed the role of intraoperative use of brain mapping techniques (intra-operative monitoring and awake surgery) to maximize both the extent of resection and the functional integrity of eloquent areas. A survey on patterns of care within centres of radiotherapy in Italy and France was presented by Ugo De Paula (Rome), Laura Fariselli (Milan) and Xavier Muracciole. Particular attention was paid to the respective roles of radio- and chemotherapy as upfront treatment for high-risk patients after surgery.

The fourth session discussed the role of chemotherapy: Khê Hoang-Xuan (Paris) provided an exhaustive review of the state of art, while Roberta Rudà (Turin) and Luc Taillandier (Nancy) described the ongoing Italian and French studies on new strategies, such as dose-dense temozolomide, PCV and its sustained effect as a valuable alternative to TMZ, and preoperative chemotherapy. Andrea Pace (Rome) addressed the topic of epilepsy, supportive care, and cognitive rehabilitation. The last talk (Costanza Papagno, Milan) was focused on quality of life and cognitive functions that are increasingly recognized as major endpoints in studies on low-grade gliomas.

Olivier Chinot (Marseille) and Riccardo Soffietti (Turin), chairmen of the last session, closed the meeting with the hope to strengthen, both in terms of future meetings and conjoint studies, the cooperation between the 2 countries. A joint session with AINO is planned at the next ANOCEF meeting in Clermond-Ferrand, France.

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