



Advances in Pediatric Cancer Therapy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Progress in pediatric hematology and oncology is correlated to the identification of clinical and biologic prognostic factors, leading to risk-adapted therapeutic approaches with treatment intensity modulated to the molecular characteristics at diagnosis as well as to the response in the treatment course. The risk of late effects associated with intensive treatment are widely recognized. Hence, new therapeutic approaches combining less intensive chemotherapy and innovative treatments are under investigation with the aim to increase overall survival and minimize late mortality and side effects. Advances in the understanding of the genetics of pediatric cancer have allowed the identification of molecular targets that can potentially be exploited for therapeutic benefits. Many novel agents that target specific genetic lesions are under evaluation in subgroups of relapsed/refractory patients in prospective clinical trials and retrospective series. Other therapeutic approaches characterized by immunotherapeutic strategies, e.g. monoclonal antibodies, BiTEs and CAR T-cells, are improving remission rates in refractory/relapsed disease, and are under evaluation in first-line settings.





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