

IMMUNOTHERAPY OF SOLID TUMORS

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Croatian Society of Oncology and Radiotherapy, Croatian Medical Association, organized the symposium on Immunotherapy of Solid Tumors, March 23, 2017, Zagreb, Croatia. The symposium was designed to provide state-of-the-art informations on this topic and was primarily directed toward oncologists as well as other appropriate health care professionals. We are greatful to all speakers of this symposium for preparing their presentation as an article in this issue (Articles 1-10).

We oncologists take active part in the treatment of patients with malignant tumours on a daily basis. However, in spite of the obvious advancements that medicine has made in the past decades, we are still faced with a significant number of patients with the disseminated malignant disease that cannot be treated successfully by the standard mode of treatment.

This is the reason why, like all the other oncologists in the world, we are impressed by the successes achieved with the application of immunotherapy in the treatment of tumours, which has been gaining ground these past years. Immunotherapy is a kind of treatment which has been explored for decades and which has been showing

great potential to become a new method of treatment. Nevertheless, it has taken the advancements and breakthroughs in molecular biology to really push immunotherapy to the forefront of the newest medical achievements and make it the method of choice.

Nowadays, immunotherapy has become an integral part of the treatment of numerous tumours in the advanced stages of the disease and it is used in most of the countries belonging to the developed world. In Croatia, however, it is only recently that we are seeing the beginnings of availability of such treatments for our patients.

The intention behind this issue is to inform the oncologists about the following: up-to-date achievements with the application of immunotherapy in the treatment of solid tumours; current research taking place in the field; the way immunotherapy affects the disease; an assessment of the response to this specific way of treatment; the possible negative side-effects of the therapy and the ways in which they could be treated; the effect of radiation therapy on immunotherapy, as well as the possibility of predicting the response to the therapy on the basis of new biomarkers.