References


Treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes

Recent articles in this journal have analyzed etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDSs).1-11 A meta-analysis of available studies has showed that the only two treatments that can prolong survival are allogeneic stem cell transplantation (SCT) and intensive chemotherapy, although only a minority of MDS patients can really benefit from them.10

In this issue Santini and Giles12 analyze the potential of amifostine in the treatment of MDSs. There are great expectations about this drug, but – as the authors underline – prospective randomized clinical trials are needed to establish the real usefulness of amifostine.