The appearance of inhibitors in hemophilia is now considered by far the severest problem of hemophilia treatment, being associated with increased morbidity if not mortality. The presence of an inhibitor, especially if high-titer, leads to a clinical situation which is comparable to that of the early years of hemophilia treatment when bleedings were difficult to treat and arthropathy rapidly progressed towards disability.

However, in recent years, new drugs and treatment modalities have been introduced which have modified this otherwise gloomy scenario. In addition, there has been a tumultuous increase in scientific knowledge on the matter and important fall-out concerning the management of patients with inhibitors to factor VIII (FVIII) is foreseen in the forthcoming years. Among the many issues of interest, we are understanding more about the humoral and cellular mechanisms of inhibitor formation and some of the processes underlying the return to a tolerant status towards FVIII.

A recent supplement of Haematologica contains selected papers from the Third Workshop on Immune Tolerance which took place in Palermo, Italy, October 1999.1-28 The discussion developed during the meeting has been included, which involved a major editorial effort. All things considered, this volume contains a great deal of information valuable for both researchers and clinicians.

The full text of the Third Workshop on Immune Tolerance in Hemophilia and the Treatment of Hemophiliacs with an Inhibitor, Proceedings of the Workshop held in Palermo, Italy; October 7-9, 1999, can be downloaded at the following Internet site:

http://www.haematologica.it/e-page.html
The fourth Workshop on Immune Tolerance will take place in Bonn, Germany, Thursday August 30th through September 1st 2001. Information concerning the site and the program will be circulated soon.

Guglielmo Mariani, Hans-Hermann Brackmann
E-mail: guglielmo.mariani@tin.it

References


