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Cover Figure

Membrane associated endothelial cell protein C receptor. This figure is taken from the article by Molina et al. on page 878.

Editorials and Perspectives

801 **Post-remission therapy in acute myeloid leukemia: what should I do now?**
William Blum

In this perspective article, Dr. Blum summarizes current evidence guiding the selection of post-remission therapy for acute myeloid leukemia, focusing on recent advances in our understanding of the molecular basis of this condition. See related articles on page 826 and 834.

805 **Neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia**
Cécile Kaplan

Neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia can be associated with major bleeding. Dr. Kaplan discusses the laboratory diagnosis of this condition and its treatment. See related article on page 870.

807 **n-3 fatty acids and cardiovascular disease**
Heidi Grundt, Dennis W.T. Nilsen

Diets rich in n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids have been found to be associated with a reduced risk of coronary atherothrombogenesis. In this perspective article, Dr. Grundt and Nilsen analyze the current evidence regarding n-3 fatty acids and cardiovascular disease. See related article on page 892.

812 **Endothelial cell protein C receptor and the risk of thrombosis**
Sophie Gandrille

The endothelial cell protein C receptor has anticoagulant and anti-inflammatory properties. In this perspective article, Dr. Gandrille discusses the relationship between abnormalities in this receptor and the risk of venous thrombosis. See related articles on page 878 and 885.

Original Articles

Thalassemia Syndromes

817 **Inflammation and oxidant-stress in β-thalassemia patients treated with iron chelators deferasirox (ICL670) or deferoxamine: an ancillary study of the Novartis CICL670A0107 trial**
Patrick B. Walter, Eric A. Macklin, John Porter, Patricia Evans, Janet L. Kwiatkowski, Ellis J. Neufeld, Thomas Coates, Patricia J. Giardina, Elliott Vichinsky, Nancy Olivieri, Daniele Alberti, Jaymes Holland, and Paul Harmatz for the Thalassemia Clinical Research Network

In thalassemia patients treatment with iron chelators deferasirox or deferoxamine, decreases plasma malondialdehyde levels significantly.

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

826 **Impact of different post-remission strategies on quality of life in patients with acute myeloid leukemia**
Dorle Messerer, Jutta Engel, Joerg Hasford, Markus Schaich, Gerhard Ehninger, Cristina Sauerland, Thomas Büchner, Andrea Schumacher, Rainer Krahl, Dietger Niederwieser, Jürgen Krauter, Arnold Ganser, Ursula Creutzig, Hartmut Döhner, and Richard F. Schlenk for the German AML Intergroup

In patients with acute myeloid leukemia, post-remission therapy with allogeneic stem cell transplantation had a worse long-term impact on quality of life than did to conventional therapy. See related perspective article on page 801.

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

834 **Results of syngeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for acute leukemia: risk factors of outcomes for adults transplanted in first complete remission**
Loic Fouillard, Myriam Labopin, Alois Gratwohl, Eliane Gluckman, Francesco Frassoni, Dietrich W. Beelen, Roelof Willemze, Emili Montserrat, Didier Blaise, Arturo Iriondo Atienza, Jorge Sierra, Moema Santos, Norbert-Claude Gorin, and Vanderson Rocha on behalf of the Acute Leukemia Working Party of the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

Findings of this study suggest that when a syngeneic donor is available for patients with high risk acute leukemia, allotransplantation should be performed as soon as the first complete remission has been achieved. See related perspective article on page 801.

Malignant Lymphomas

842 **Diabetes and the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma in the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition**
Aneire E. Khan, Valentina Gallo, Jakob Linseisen, Rudolf Kaaks, Sabine Rohrmann, Ole Raaschou Nielsen, Anne Tjønneland, Hans E. Johnsen, Kim Overvad, Manuela M. Bergmann, Heiner Boeing, Vasiliki Benetou, Theodora Psaltopoulou, Antonia Trichopoulou, Giovanna Masala, Amalia Mattiello, Sara Grioni, Rosario Tumino, Roel C.H. Vermeulen, Petra H.M. Peeters, H. Bas Bueno-de-Mesquita, Martine M. Ros, Eiliv Lund, Eva Ardanaz, María-Dolores Chirlaque, Paula Jakszyn, Nerea Larrañaga, Adamina Losada, Nikolaus Becker, Alexandra Nieters, Carmen Martínez-García, Åsa Ågren, Göran Hallmans, Göran Berglund, Jonas Manjer, Naomi E. Allen, Timothy J. Key, Sheila Bingham, Kay Tee Khaw, Nadia Slimani, Pietro Ferrari, Paolo Boffetta,

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Teresa Norat, Paolo Vineis, and Elio Riboli, on behalf of the EPIC Group

This prospective study by the EPIC group did not provide evidence for a role of diabetes in the etiology of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or multiple myeloma.

Multiple Myeloma

851 **Expression of c-Kit isoforms in multiple myeloma: differences in signaling and drug sensitivity**
Juan Carlos Montero, Ricardo López-Pérez, Jesús San Miguel, and Atanasio Pandiella

Findings of this study indicate that c-Kit expression is functional in multiple myeloma cells, and is coupled to survival pathways that may modulate cell death in response to therapeutic drugs.

Multiple Myeloma

860 **The effect of azacitidine on interleukin-6 signaling and nuclear factor-κB activation and its *in vitro* and *in vivo* activity against multiple myeloma**
Tiffany Khong, Janelle Sharkey, and Andrew Spencer

Results of this study indicate that azacitidine rapidly induces apoptosis of multiple myeloma cells.

Platelet Disorders

870 **A prospective study of maternal anti-HPA1a antibody level as a potential predictor for alloimmune thrombocytopenia in the newborn**
Mette Kjær Killie, Anne Husebekk, Jens Kjeldsen-Kragh, and Bjørn Skogen

Neonatal alloimmune thrombocytopenia is most commonly due to transplacental passage of maternal anti-HPA 1a antibodies. This study shows that maternal anti-HPA 1a antibody levels in weeks 22 and 34 of pregnancy are good predictors of the degree of thrombocytopenia in the newborn. See related perspective article on page 805.

Hemostasis

878 **The functional properties of a truncated form of endothelial cell protein C receptor generated by alternative splicing**
Eva Molina, José Hermida, Jacinto López-Sagaseta, Cristina Puy, and Ramón Montes

This article describes a truncated form of alternatively spliced endothelial cell protein C receptor in the endothelium. This truncated receptor behaves as the soluble form of endothelial cell protein C receptor generated by shedding of the cellular form. See related perspective article on page 812.

Thrombosis

885 **Haplotypes of the *EPCR* gene, prothrombin levels, and the risk of venous thrombosis in carriers of the prothrombin G20210A mutation**
Silvia Navarro, Pilar Medina, Yolanda Mira, Amparo Estellés, Piedad Villa, Fernando Ferrando, Amparo Vayá, Rogier M. Bertina, and Francisco España

Findings of this study suggest that in carriers of the prothrombin G20210A mutation the risk of venous thrombosis is influenced by haplotypes of the EPCR *gene. See related perspective article on page 812.*

Thrombosis

892 **Effect of the administration of n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids on circulating levels of microparticles in patients with a previous myocardial infarction**
Serena Del Turco,Giuseppina Basta, Guido Lazzerini, Monica Evangelista, Giuseppe Rainaldi, Piero Tanganelli, Jeppe Hagstrup Christensen, Erik Berg Schmidt, and Raffaele De Caterina

This study shows that treatment with n-3 fatty acids after myocardial infarction exerts favorable effects on levels of platelet- and monocyte-derived microparticles. See related perspective article on page 807.

Thrombosis

900 **Different cut-off values of quantitative D-dimer methods to predict the risk of venous thromboembolism recurrence: a *post-hoc* analysis of the PROLONG study**
Cristina Legnani, Gualtiero Palareti, Benilde Cosmi, Michela Cini, Alberto Tosetto, Armando Tripodi for the PROLONG Investigators (on behalf of FCSA, Italian Federation of Thrombosis Centers)

Findings of this study suggest that quantitative D-dimer assays may provide information useful for evaluating the individual risk of recurrent venous thromboembolism.

Brief Reports

Hematopoietic Stem Cells

908 **Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor mobilized CFU-F can be found in the peripheral blood but have limited expansion potential**
Troy C. Lund, Jakub Tolar, and Paul J. Orchard

Although CFU-F can be mobilized in peripheral blood by granulocyte colony-stimulating factor, their expansion potential is limited.

Thalassemia Syndromes

913 **β-thalassemia major evolution from β-thalassemia minor is associated with paternal uniparental isodisomy of chromosome 11p15**
Jan-Gowth Chang, Wen-Chan Tsai, Inn-Wen Chong, Chao-Sung Chang, Chyi-Chang Lin, and Ta-Chih Liu

This report shows that uniparental disomy of chromosome 11p15 can cause beta thalassemia major in a subject heterozygous for beta thalassemia.

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Thalassemia Syndromes

917 **Onset of cardiac iron loading in pediatric patients with thalassemia major**
John C. Wood, Raffaella Origa, Annalisa Agus, Gildo Matta, Thomas D. Coates, and Renzo Galanello

Findings of this study based on cardiac T2 assessment indicate that cardiac iron loading in unlikely in the first decade of life in patients with thalassemia major who receive adequate iron chelation therapy.*

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

921 **Early prediction of treatment outcome in acute myeloid leukemia by measurement of *WT1* transcript levels in peripheral blood samples collected after chemotherapy**
Daniela Cilloni, Francesca Messa, Francesca Arruga, Ilaria Defilippi, Enrico Gottardi, Milena Fava, Sonia Carturan, Renata Catalano, Enrico Bracco, Emanuela Messa, Paolo Nicoli, Daniela Diverio, Miguel Sanz, Giovanni Martinelli, Francesco Lo-Coco, and Giuseppe Saglio

Within patients with acute myeloid leukemia, WT1 transcript levels in peripheral blood samples may allow the identification of individuals at high risk of relapse soon after induction chemotherapy.

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

925 **Eligibility for allogeneic transplantation in very high risk childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia: the impact of the *waiting time***
Adriana Balduzzi, Paola De Lorenzo, André Schrauder, Valentino Conter, Cornelio Uderzo, Christina Peters, Thomas Klingebiel, Jan Stary, Maria S. Felice, Edina Magyarosy, Martin Schrappe, Giorgio Dini, Helmut Gadner, and Maria Grazia Valsecchi

Results of this study suggest that in children with very high risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia in first complete remission, the outcome with allogeneic stem cell transplantation is superior to that obtained with chemotherapy at any time point.

Platelet Disorders

930 **Lower dose rituximab is active in adults patients with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura**
Francesco Zaja, Marta Lisa Battista, Maria Teresa Pirrotta, Salvatore Palmieri, Michela Montagna, Nicola Vianelli, Luciana Marin, Margherita Cavallin, Monica Bocchia, Marzia Defina, Micaela Ippoliti, Felicetto Ferrara, Francesca Patriarca, Maria Antonietta Avanzini, Mario Regazzi, Michele Baccarani, Miriam Isola, Franca Soldano, and Renato Fanin

In patients with idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, low doses of rituximab (100 mg IV weekly for 4 weeks) are effective in correcting thrombocytopenia.

Disorders of Hemostasis

934 **Phenotype and genotype report on homozygous and heterozygous patients with congenital factor X deficiency**
Mehran Karimi, Marzia Menegatti, Abdolreza Afrasiabi, Sanaz Sarikhani, and Flora Peyvandi

This report indicates that factor X deficiency is one of the most serious rare bleeding disorders and is genetically heterogeneous in different populations.

Letters to the Editor

Red Cell Disorders

939 **Pyruvate kinase deficiency protects against malaria in humans**
Pierre M. Durand, and Theresa L. Coetzer

Thalassemia Syndromes

941 **Elevated levels of circulating procoagulant microparticles in patients with β-thalassemia intermedia**
Aida Habib, Corinne Kunzelmann, Wael Shamseddeen, Fatiha Zobairi, Jean-Marie Freyssinet, and Ali Taher

Bone Marrow Failure

943 **Expanding the clinical phenotype of autosomal dominant dyskeratosis congenita caused by *TERT* mutations**
Lina Basel-Vanagaite, Inderjeet Dokal, Hannah Tamary, Abraham Avigdor, Ben Zion Garty, Alexander Volkov, and Tom Vulliamy

Myelofibrosis

945 **Angiogenesis in pulmonary hypertension with myelofibrosis**
Eva Zetterberg, Uday Popat, Hans Hasselbalch, Josef Prchal, and Jan Palmblad

Acute Myeloid Leukemia

947 ***WTX* is rarely mutated in acute myeloid leukemia**
Carolyn Owen, Priya Virappane, Mary Alikian, Iryna Stasevich, Karin Summers, Debbie Lillington, Dominique Bonnet, Alan Burnett, Ken Mills, T. Andrew Lister, and Jude Fitzgibbon

Malignant Lymphomas

949 **Recurrent loss of the Y chromosome and homozygous deletions within the pseudoautosomal region 1: association with male predominance in mantle cell lymphoma**
Inga Nieländer, José I. Martín-Subero, Florian Wagner, Michael Baudis, Stefan Gesk, Lana Harder, Dirk Hasenclever, Wolfram Klapper, Markus Kreuz, Christiane Pott, José A. Martinez-Climent, Martin Dreyling, Norbert Arnold, and Reiner Siebert

Malignant Lymphomas

951 **Hepatitis B virus-related liver disease in isolated anti-hepatitis B-core positive lymphoma patients receiving chemo- or chemo-immune therapy**
Clara Targhetta, Maria Giuseppina Cabras, Angela Maria Mamusa, Gabriella Mascia, and Emanuele Angelucci

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Multiple Myeloma

953 **Hemostatic effects of bortezomib treatment in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma**
Maurizio Zangari, José Guerrero, Federica Cavallo, H. Keshava Prasad, Dixie Esseltine, and Louis Fink

Monoclonal Gammopathies

955 **Bone involvement in patients with systemic AL amyloidosis mimics lytic myeloma bone disease**
Stefan O. Schonland, Jochen Hansmann, Gunnhild Mechtersheimer, Hartmut Goldschmidt, Anthony D. Ho, and Ute Hegenbart

Disorders of Hemostasis

957 **Severe factor XI deficiency in Abruzzo region of Italy is associated with different *FXI* gene mutations**
Giancarlo Castaman, Sofia H. Giacomelli, Alfredo Dragani, Ornella Iuliani, Stefano Duga, and Francesco Rodeghiero

Thrombosis

959 **Aquaporin 2 gene variations, risk of venous thrombosis and plasma levels of von Willebrand factor and factor VIII**
A. Yaël Nossent, Hans L. Vos, Frits R. Rosendaal, Rogier M. Bertina, and Jeroen C.J. Eikenboom

Online Only Articles

e49 **Comment to: Development of lens opacities with peculiar characteristics in patients affected by thalassemia major on chelating treatment with deferasirox. Haematologica 2008;93:e9-10**
J.M. Ford, L. Rojkjaer

e50 **Reply to: [Comment to: Development of lens opacities with peculiar characteristics in patients affected by thalassemia major on chelating treatment with deferasirox. Haematologica 2008;93:e9-10]**
N. Masera

e51 **Comment to: Hepcidin: from discovery to differential diagnosis. Haematologica 2008; 93:90-7**
K.S. Olsson, A. Norrby

e52 **Reply to: [Comment to: Hepcidin: from discovery to differential diagnosis. Haematologica 2008; 93:90-7]**
E.H.J.M. Kemna, H. Tjalsma, H.L. Willems, D.W. Swinkels