

Improving the treatment and the lives of patients with blood cancers through clinical trial research

Strict Embargo:

1. AMLM12 4.45am Eastern Summer Time Monday 5 December
2. CML9 10.15am Eastern Summer Time Tuesday 6 December

Media Release

| | | | |
|---------|---|------|-----------------|
| TO | All media journalists | DATE | 5 December 2016 |
| FROM | ALLG CEO | | |
| SUBJECT | AUSTRALIAN BLOOD CANCER RESEARCHERS CONTRIBUTE ON GLOBAL PLATFORM | | |

AUSTRALIAN BLOOD CANCER RESEARCHERS MAKE NEW DISCOVERIES

Clinician members of the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) have achieved international recognition at the American Society of Haematology Annual Meeting for breakthrough research results in the treatment of blood cancers, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

The world's premier conference on blood cancers is held in San Diego over 4 days, bringing together over 20,000 delegates from the global haematology community.

Delaine Smith, CEO, ALLG said: "The ALLG is Australia and New Zealand's only not-for-profit blood cancer clinical trial group comprising 600 members. We are proud that the collaborative clinical trial research efforts undertaken by our clinician members are being recognised for improving the treatment, lives and survival rates of patients with blood cancers."

The research results for three ALLG clinical trials will be highlighted at the conference outlined below:

Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML)

AML is a highly malignant disease that needs to be treated very quickly after diagnosis. Intense treatment is required but there is a risk of serious side effects. The results of the ALLG AMLM12, the largest study ever conducted by the ALLG, found a new way to intensify the treatment regimen without increasing the side effects. Associate Professor Andrew Wei will present the ALLGs trial results at the conference said: "the results of this clinical trial provide a basis for the ongoing improvement in treatment outcomes for patients with AML in Australia."

Improving the treatment and the lives of patients with blood cancers through clinical trial research

Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML)

CML patients will be given renewed hope following the successful ALLG CML9 clinical trial which enrolled more than 200 Australian and New Zealand patients and which is anticipated to translate into improvements in current practices and outcomes of CML patients in future.

The trial incorporated a novel treatment strategy for these patients, who were switched to an alternate medication Nilotinib, which belongs to a class of drugs known as second generation ABL inhibitor.

Dr David Leung, who will present the ALLG's trial results to the conference said: "By switching treatments to a second line treatment when the tests show that the patient has not responded to the first medication, we are able to achieve a faster and deeper response in their CML than would have occurred otherwise."

The results of the ALLG CML9 study are of great interest to the CML community as it is one of the few that report results of a switching strategy and may offer a basis in future for deciding on treatment selection to improve outcomes while avoiding long term side effects.

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia (CLL)

This trial, ALLG's CLL6 trial, aimed to improve outcomes for CLL patients who still have residual leukaemia after receiving standard chemotherapy. By using modern technology that allows detailed monitoring of blood and bone marrow, researchers were able to implement a secondary treatment using the medication lenalidomide. This resulted in improved control of their disease. The ALLG congratulates Professor David Gottlieb on this interim progress with the CLL6 trial, this trial is still open to recruitment in Australia and France.

International Collaborations

Australian researchers also participated in international collaborations. Working with the European Myeloma Network, researchers found a promising new treatment for the rare and devastating disease amyloidosis.

The ALLG MM13 study found a medication called bortezomib resulted in more and deeper responses without significantly adding to treatment side effects that are normally experienced with conventional treatments for Amyloidosis.

The ALLG, through ALLG NHL25 trial, participated in a French-led *REMARC* randomised trial for patients with aggressive B cell lymphoma. The trial investigated how best to ensure patients who are already in remission do not relapse later on. They found that a drug called lenalidomide shows great promise in achieving this.



Business & Central Trial Office
Ground Floor, 35 Elizabeth Street
Richmond, VIC 3121
Fax: +61 3 9429 8277
www.allg.org.au

Improving the treatment and the lives of patients with blood cancers through clinical trial research

Professor Mark Hertzberg, Chair of the ALLG Scientific Advisory Committee said “the ASH conference provides an opportunity for Australian and New Zealand researchers to discuss future research direction to ensure our efforts improve the outcomes of patients with blood cancers globally.”

Contacts:

ALLG Scientific Advisory Chair

Professor Mark Hertzberg

Prince of Wales Hospital, NSW

M: 0419 751 674

Australasian Leukaemia & Lymphoma Group (ALLG) CEO

Ms Delaine Smith

delaine.smith@allg.org.au

T: 03 8373 9701 M: 0438 047 177

About the ALLG:

The ALLG is a not-for-profit clinical trial organisation that sponsors local investigator initiated clinical trials. The ALLG membership of approximately 305 clinicians is made up of almost all of the Haematologists treating Leukaemia and Lymphoma across Australia and New Zealand. The ALLG plans, designs, conducts, monitors and publishes investigator initiated clinical trials.

- Established 1973
- Trials open to recruitment = 19
- Approx. 300 patients per year join an ALLG trial
- Participating hospitals = 80

For more information on the ALLG please visit our website www.allg.org.au

Cleared by: Delaine Smith

Title: CEO Date: 5 December 2016