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Myelodysplastic syndrome: MDS

Ahmad Ali Basha
Saudi German Hospital, Dubai

Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are a spectrum of clonal myeloid disorders characterized by ineffective hematopoiesis, cytopenias, qualitative disorders of blood cells, clonal chromosomal abnormalities, and the potential for clonal evolution to acute myeloid leukemia (AML). In this review, we discuss the various pathogenic conditions included in the spectrum of MDS and the associated risk stratification for these conditions. We further discuss the treatment recommendations based on the risk status and the expected prognosis.

alipash@yandex.ru

Staging malignant lymphoma using 3 Tesla whole-body diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging

Katja De Paepe
University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium

Malignant lymphoma is the sixth most common type of cancer in the Western World, accounting for 4% of all new cancers (National Cancer Institute). Accurate baseline staging is crucial to determine appropriate initial treatment as well as prognosis (*Ansell, Myo Clin Proc, 2005*). For this purpose, a whole body imaging technique is preferable as lymphoma can develop in any tissue–mostly nodal, but also extranodal- and can disseminate throughout the entire body. Positron emission tomography (PET)/computed tomography (CT) is the most accurate imaging technique to stage lymphomas due to its ability to demonstrate a tumoral glucose metabolism, in contrast to conventional imaging techniques (e.g. CT) which only rely on morphological characteristics. Yet, as PET/CT is not widely accessible and potential staging discrepancies between PET/CT and contrast enhanced (CE)-CT rarely generate treatment changes (Kostakogly), staging is still mostly performed with CE-CT. However, both methods are associated with considerable ionizing radiation doses with a risk of inducing secondary malignancies, which is of special importance in the younger lymphoma population. Recently, there has been a great interest in the application of whole body diffusion-weighted magnetic resonance imaging (WB-MRI/DWI) as a radiation-free alternative for lymphoma staging purposes. One focus of our research is to examine whether the addition of the diffusion- weighted sequence as a functional imaging technique in combination with conventional imaging sequences might enhance the diagnostic performance of whole-body magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

katja.depaepe@uzleuven.be