Comprehensive Meta-analysis on Skin-Directed Therapies for Cutaneous Metastases Recently Published in Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Electrochemotherapy for cutaneous metastasis of cancer is increasingly being used, and also increasingly being recognized as an important treatment modality for this patient group. Over the last two years we have witnessed the guidance from the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) stating that electrochemotherapy is effective with no major safety concerns (1). Furthermore, in addition to abstracts and papers published, electrochemotherapy is now also frequently heard in discussions and overviews at for example the EADO (European Association of Dermato Oncology). And, as you all know, electrochemotherapy is now used in over 130 cancer centers in Europe.

Recently the most influential journal in oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology (impact factor 18), published a meta-analysis which comprehensively reviews different treatment modalities for cutaneous metastasis (2). Here, intralesional treatments (injection of chemotherapy into tumor lesions), topical treatment (i.e. creams, etc.), photodynamic therapy (PDT), radiotherapy, and electrochemotherapy are investigated. As randomized trials have not been performed, there is no direct comparison, but a very good overview of treatment efficiencies is given. Electrochemotherapy was analyzed to have a 47% complete remission rate, and an overall response rate (complete and partial responses) of 75%. Overall, the response rate for any skin-directed therapy was 60%, with 35% complete responses.

The paper from Spratt et al. serves as an excellent reference in our future work for several reasons: 1) It underlines that treatment of cutaneous metastasis is important for patients, and the fact that this leading cancer journal has chosen to publish this review highlights that patients with cutaneous metastasis should receive care for this indication. 2) It shows that several topical treatments are effective, and also that electrochemotherapy is a good alternative with responses that compare well with other mentioned therapies.
3) The conclusion that response rates are in the range of 75% (overall response), respectively 47% (complete response), is in line with what has previously been published, also by members of the COST Action(3).


Short Term Scientific Missions Call 6 / Year 3

In the Call 5, 10 STSMs were granted within the financial framework of slightly less than half of budget planned for the entire 3rd year. Altogether, 50 STSMs were approved until now since the beginning of the COST TD1104 Action. This seems to indicate the STSM instrument is recognized as a valuable tool in building our network.

Important dates:

Assessment: February 1 - February 16, 2015
Announcement of approved grants: February 17, 2015
Start of STSMs: February 25, 2015
End of STSMs: May 31, 2015

Detailed information and instructions about the application procedure are available on www.electroporation.net – private, Action members’ section (log-in required).

Forthcoming activities

The Electroporation-based Technologies for Biorefinery Workshop
Compiègne, January 27-28, 2015
http://www.electrobioref.com/ebr2015

School on PEF for Food Processing
Fisciano, February 7-12, 2015
http://www.prodalricherche.it/PEFSchool