

Dear Colleagues

The European LeukemiaNet (ELN) and Novartis have launched a collaboration committed to improving the understanding and treatment of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) – the European Outcome and Treatment Study for CML (EUTOS). Uniting the expertise of the ELN and Novartis, the objectives of the collaboration are to gain a real-world pan-European picture of the incidence, distribution and outcomes of CML, and to inform and encourage improved management of the disease among healthcare professionals. These aims will be achieved by encouraging uptake of guidelines for the treatment of CML issued by the ELN in 2006, and by investigating the effects of treatments in patients across Europe.

The ELN represents 133 academic institutions, and unites over 1000 researchers in 24 countries, with the aim of research collaboration to make leukemia a curable disease. The ELN is committed to conducting clinical research and providing guidance to healthcare professionals about all types of leukemia, and CML is a key priority. The collaboration with Novartis, a company with a strong heritage in this field, has enabled a number of pan-European initiatives that will not only define best practice in the monitoring of patients with CML, but also deliver important advances in the understanding and treatment of this serious disease.

A key activity of the collaboration is the extension of the ELN registry – a database that follows CML patients and provides a real-world picture of their treatment and outcomes – into a pan-European study. This important initiative will provide a clear picture of the current management of CML, and will inform future guidance provided to physicians by the ELN.

Monitoring services will be made available to physicians treating patients with CML, providing free access to state-of-the-art technology that can assess patients' response to treatment, and providing imatinib blood-level monitoring. A further initiative will gather a large bank of data to investigate the most effective doses of the small-molecule targeted therapy, imatinib.

Educational initiatives providing background information and instruction regarding the projects covered by the collaboration, such as the materials included in this core resource, will inform healthcare professionals involved in the management of CML about the activities of the collaboration, allowing the sharing of knowledge and best practice.

Professor Hehlmann

Coordinator of the ELN

Guido Guidi

Head Region Europe Novartis Oncology, Novartis

EUTOS for CML



European Treatment and Outcome Study

References

Baccarani M *et al.* *Blood* 2006;108:1809–20. Hehlmann R *et al.* *Lancet* 2007;370:342–50.