

Use of New Chemotherapeutic Agents in Acute and Chronic Myeloid Leukemia

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Azathioprine in acute leukemia

Our experience in the Imuran treatment of acute leukemia is rather scarce. Indeed because of the difficulty to get this drug, we could use it in 6 cases only. These 6 cases belonged to the following forms: 3 to the stem cells type, 1 to the myelomonocytic type, 1 to the histiomonocytic ungranulated type, 1 to the promyelocytic type (acute terminal crisis of chronic myeloid leukemia). All these patients had been already treated with other antineoplastics.

Positive results we had just in 2 cases, precisely in a case of stem cells leukemia and in the last case above mentioned. Similar results in acute relapsing phase of chronic myeloid leukemia obtained Eridani *et al.* (1965). Where we applied strong doses (mg 300 of Imuran daily for 10 days), following the advice of Storti and Traldi (1965), and thus obtained a full three months remission (Fig. 1).

According to this modest experience of ours Azathioprine is a drug that does not present clear advantages on 6-Mercaptopurin.

New Ethylenimide derivatives in chronic myeloid leukemia

These drugs are the phosphoric acid-N-allylanylid-diethylenimide (« C 69 ») and its derivative, diethylenimino phosphonyl-N-phenylurea (C 73). Both these compounds were synthesised by Gericke. C 69 has been firstly tested by Ehrhart in 1962 on several patients with chronic myeloid leukemia, and it showed to be quite active even on the cases not any more sensitive to Busulphan.

In 1962-63 we treated with this drug 21 cases of chronic myeloid leukemia as it is shown in Tab. I.

C 69 efficacy was really surprising since the drug operated even on some patients already for a long time treated with other antimitotics and not any more sensitive to Busulphan (Fig. 1).

In other cases (still living) a very long remission was obtained through 1 or 2 cycles of such a therapy. We think therefore this ethylenimino-phosphorated

Tab. 1. 21 cases of chronic myeloid leukemia treated with "C 69"

	N.	Good results
Never treated with antimetotics	5	5
Already treated with antimetotics	16	15

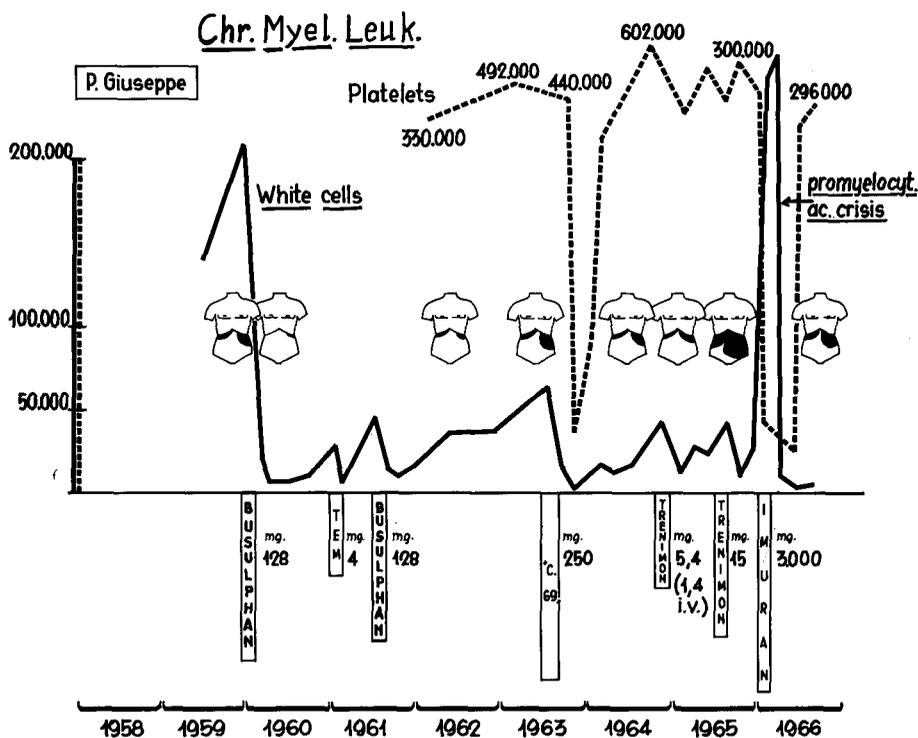


Fig. 1

derivative can be usefully, with caution through, employed to treat chronic myeloid leukemias. In confirmation of this judgement of ours, based on an enough wide clinical experimentation a recent work has to be remembered where the authors report the good results obtained with C 73 in some cases of chronic myeloid leukemia (Grignani *et al.*, 1965).

Gericke showed this drug is so far the most active one, in comparison with Thio-TEPA and "C 69" against myeloid leukemia and Shay's experimental lymphatic leucoma.

References

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