



The scientific appeal of malignant lymphomas

Five original papers and an editorial in this issue deal with malignant lymphomas. In the last few years Haematologica has received a very high proportion of contributions in this field, covering all different aspects of malignant lymphomas.¹⁻²² About 3,000 hematologists and oncologists took part in the recent meeting on malignant lymphomas held in Lugano, Switzerland. Clearly these disorders have a high scientific appeal.

Such interest is also reflected in the continuous search for refined classification of these disorders. At the recent Fourth Congress of the European Haematology Association (EHA-4) in Barcelona a special session was devoted to the classification of hematopoietic and lymphoid neoplasms. The World Health Organization (WHO) seeks to achieve international consensus on the classification of neoplastic diseases since the implementation of a single classification on an international scale would facilitate studies regarding the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of lymphomas and leukemias.



Figure 1. Haematologica published both the Educational and the Abstract Book of the EHA-4 meeting. The full texts can be freely downloaded from our website at the following address: <http://www.haematologica.it/eha4.html>.

The following presentations regarded malignant lymphomas:

- a. Piris MA. B-cell lymphomas in the updated REAL and WHO classification;
- b. Müller-Hermelink HK. T-cell lymphomas: WHO classification;
- c. Delsol G. WHO-1120 anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) and Hodgkin's disease (HD);
- d. Hiddemann W. The new WHO classification of malignant lymphomas. Clinical implications.

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