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## Treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes

Recent articles in this journal have analyzed etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDSs).<sup>1-11</sup> A meta-analysis of available studies has showed that the only two treatments that can prolong survival are allo-

genic stem cell transplantation (SCT) and intensive chemotherapy, although only a minority of MDS patients can really benefit from them.<sup>10</sup>

In this issue Santini and Giles<sup>12</sup> analyze the potential of amifostine in the treatment of MDSs. There are great expectations about this drug, but – as the authors underline – prospective randomized clinical trials are needed to establish the real usefulness of amifostine.

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