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Due to interleukin-6 type cytokine redundancy only glycoprotein 130  
receptor blockade efficiently inhibits myeloma growth

Renate Burger, Andreas Guenther, Katja Klausz, Matthias Staudinger,  
Matthias Peipp, Eva Maria Murga Penas, Stefan Rose-John, John  
Wijdenes, and Martin Gramatzki

Disclosures: John Wijdenes was an employee of Gen-Probe/Diaclone. Stefan Rose-John is an inventor on gp130 patents owned by CONARIS and a shareholder of the CONARIS Research Institute AG (Kiel, Germany), which is commercially developing sgp130Fc as a therapy for inflammatory diseases. All other authors declare no conflict of interest.

Contributions: RB designed, supervised and performed experiments, analysed data, wrote the manuscript and prepared the figures. KK and MS performed flow cytometry, assisted in data acquisition and analysis of the in vitro experiments. AG and MP helped with the design and execution of the in vivo experiments and data analysis. EMMP performed the cytogenetic analysis. SR-J provided the sgp130Fc fusion protein and Hyper-IL-6 and assisted in designing the experiments and revised the manuscript. JW provided the B-E8, B-R6 and B-R3 antibodies and helped with the design of the experiments and data interpretation. MG developed the concept, supervised the research and revised the manuscript.