

## **CHEMO OR CHEMO-FREE REGIMENS IN HEAVILY PRETREATED MULTIPLE MYELOMA? ROLE OF BENDAMUSTINE-BORTEZOMIB-DEXAMETHASONE (BVD) IN NOVEL AGENTS' ERA**

**Cerchione, Claudio**<sup>1</sup>; Catalano, Luci<sup>2</sup>; Nappi, Davide<sup>3</sup>; Rocco, Stefano<sup>4</sup>; Palmieri, Salvatore<sup>4</sup>; Pareto, Anna Emanuele<sup>5</sup>; Musuraca, Gerardo<sup>6</sup>; Ronconi, Sonia<sup>6</sup>; Ceccolini, Michela<sup>6</sup>; Cangini, Delia<sup>6</sup>; Pane, Fabrizio<sup>2</sup>; Ferrara, Felicetto<sup>4</sup>; Martinelli, Giovanni<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hematology Unit, Istituto Romagnolo per lo Studio dei Tumori "Dino Amadori" - IRST IRCCS,

<sup>2</sup>Hematology Unit, AOU Federico II - Napoli, <sup>3</sup>Department of Hematology & CBMT, Ospedale di

Bolzano, <sup>4</sup>Hematology, A.O.R.N. Cardarelli, <sup>5</sup>Hematology Unit, Ospedale San Giuliano - Giugliano in

Campania, <sup>6</sup>Hematology Unit, Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori (IRST) IRCCS

**INTRODUCTION:** We present here a retrospective, real-life analysis of patients with relapsed/refractory MM (rrMM), who had received salvage therapy with bendamustine in combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone (BVD).

**MATERIAL AND METHODS:** 81 patients (44 M/37 F), with rrMM, median age at diagnosis 59.4 years (r. 36-82), median age at start of treatment 63.6 years (r.37-86) treated with several lines of treatments (median 6, r. 2-11), every refractory to all the drugs previously received (also Bortezomib), received BVD (B 90 mg/sqm days 1,2; V 1.3 mg/sqm days 1,4,8,11, D 20 mg days 1,2,4,5,8,9,11,12, Pegfilgrastim day +4) every 28 days, until progression.

**RESULTS:** Bendamustine was well tolerated, with grade 3-4 transfusion-dependent anemia in 56% (46/81) of patients, and 43% (35/81) grade 3-4 neutropenia (no ospedalization required, no septic shocks observed). No severe extrahematologic toxicity was observed, only grade 1 gastrointestinal side effect (nausea), treated by common antiemetic drugs.

According to IMWG, ORR was 63% (51/81: 7 CR, 18 VGPR, 15 PR, 11 MR) with 11 PD and 19 patients in SD, which can be considered as an impressive result in this subset of rrMM patients. In particular, for 11 patients, BVD was, after having achieved at least a PR, a bridge to second auSCT, and for two patients a bridge to alloSCT. Eight patients have surprisingly achieved a notable PR after failure of novel agents (i.e. Carfilzomib, Daratumumab and Pomalidomide).

Median time to response was 1.3 months (r.1-3), median OS from diagnosis was 67.3 months (r.6-151), median OS from start of Bendamustine was 9.6 months (r.2-36).

**CONCLUSIONS:** The triplet Bendamustine-Bortezomib-Dexamethasone has shown significant efficacy in a particularly severe setting of patients, relapsed and refractory to all available therapeutic resources, and, in particular cases, it could be considered as a bridge to a second autologous or allogenic SCT, also after failure of novel agents.