

Some Considerations of Combined Treatment in Digestive Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas: Literature Review

Natalia Botnaru-Dub

Oncology Institute of the Republic of Moldova, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL) are malignant lymphoproliferative tumors of monoclonal origin. Any organ or tissue is susceptible to the development of NHL. The most common site for extranodal lymphomas is the gastrointestinal (GI) system. Although gastrointestinal lymphomas are quite rare, their prompt recognition, treatment and follow-up management are of crucial importance for patient safety.

A study was conducted, in the form of a synthesis article, through a narrative review of the literature. The paper systematized and summarized a series of researches, which focused on the combined treatment of gastrointestinal NHL.

Currently, systemic therapies such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy are the main focus of management, while surgery is used only in specific circumstances. Conservative treatment is preferred, especially in localized gastric lymphomas. However, numerous studies have shown that surgery was advantageous for patients who experienced hemorrhage, perforation, or ileus, particularly in patients with intestinal lymphomas.

According to studies, the main indications for surgical intervention are the difficulty of preoperative pathological diagnosis, the unforeseen danger of life-threatening consequences, such as hemorrhage, occlusion, perforation, and rapid tumor necrosis secondary to chemotherapy/radiotherapy. In gastrointestinal NHL, the combination of surgery and chemotherapy/radiotherapy can greatly improve survival rates. Surgical treatment has selected indications, but the value of preventive surgery cannot be underestimated.