



Haematology in India

18th – 21st November, 2010

EZCC, Kolkata



ISHTM HAEMATCON-2010

Indian Society of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine's (ISHTM) HAEMATCON-2010 is the 51st annual conference held at Bharatiyam Cultural complex and Aikataan, Eastern Zonal Cultural Center, IB-201, Salt Lake City, Kolkata from 18th to 21st November 2010. The theme of the conference was Haematology in India. The last conference held in Kolkata in 1997 was a great success. We have chosen the theme of the conference as "Haematology in India".

The main features of the conference includes pre-conference education symposium on haemostasis, 14 International faculty members from Australia, Canada, Italy, Lebanon, UK and US, 89 faculty members from all over India, 15 total scientific sessions, exhibition on haematology in India.

Editorial

Prof. Utpal Chaudhuri
Prof. Santanu Basu
Prof. Prantar Chakrabarti
Prof. Uttam Nath



International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH) conference day 1

Kolkata: Eighteenth day of November marks the unveiling of the day 1 conference of International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis (ISTH) at Dayanand Hall, Ramakrishna Mission Seva Pratishthan. Amidst the serenity, Dr. Renu Saxena, the President of ISTH conference along with Dr. Philip de Groot, from University Medical Center, Utrecht, Netherlands inaugurated the conference by lighting the lamp.

Prof. Andreas Greinacher, Institute for Immunology and Transfusions Medicine, Universität Greifswald, Germany, who commenced his career in India 2 decades ago was overwhelmed in extending warm welcome to the gathering. Prof. Joseph Emmerich, Cardiologist, Vascular Medicine, INSERM U765, Paris, France, shared his happiness in being part of the conference. Prof. H.P Pati released the continuous medical education book in haematology. Dr. Utpal Chaudhary proposed vote of thanks.

Educational Symposium-Haemostasis

Inherited platelet function defects



Dr. Renu Saxena, Professor and Head, Dept. of Hematology, AIIMS highlighted the salient features of inherited platelet function defects. She enlightened the audience about

the differential diagnosis, types of platelet defects, the diagnostic tool available and the need for research in elucidating the various types of mutations involved in their pathogenesis.

She concluded saying that:

- ◆ Platelet function defects though rare, needs to be identified for correct management
- ◆ Laboratory support is required
- ◆ Acquired causes are more prominent than the inherited ones
- ◆ Platelet concentrates required in severe cases

Heparin induced thrombocytopenia - advances and management



Prof. Andreas Greinacher stressed the need for platelet count monitoring during second week in post-operative patients as an effective strategy to diagnose heparin-induced

thrombocytopenia (HIT) to minimise the usage of microtitre plates and magnetic stirrers in conjunction with PRP and washing of platelets as a cheaper alternative to the expensive HIT antibody tests. This didactic session invoked interesting questions from the audience.

MESSAGE from Dr. Andrea Greinacher
Germany
says
"ISTH is very proud of the cooperation by the Indian Hematology and the International society is looking forward to building up a long-term relationship. We together can improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with clotting disorders in India. We are impressed by the large number of patients and rare diseases, which are treated here by my colleagues".

Advances in the management of refractory ITP



Prof. MB Agarwal, Head Dept of Haematology, Bombay Hospital, Institute of Medical Sciences, Mumbai spoke on the topic "advances in the management of refractory ITP". According to him, IVIg is the quickest way for the treatment. He revealed the fact that repeated courses of steroids or IVIg have resulted in long-term deferral or total avoidance of splenectomy. He also mentioned that

tapering of drugs in fourth-line therapy is not easy. Thrombopoietin analogs, Rituximab and H. pylori treatment are the other new treatment options available for refractory ITP. He stated that there is data which documented the efficacy of TPO analogs as first line drugs for refractory ITPs to be 80%. Rituximab is an increasingly popular alternative for ITPs. Overall, ITP has a varied treatment which is effective and safe.

ISHTM HAEMATCON 2010: CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER PERSONS

Name	Contact no.
Dr. Santanu Basu	9830033199
Prof. Utpal Chaudhuri	9831043608
Dr. Prantar Chakrabarti	9433018899/8961523684
Dr. Uttam Kumar Nath	9433982756/9674481875
Dr. Siddhartha Sankar Ray	9477303522
Mr. Rajesh Sharma	09374073512 & 9930744880
Mr. Yash Agarwal	09920082699
Mr. Sayan Dasgupta	9434854544
Mr. Debajyoti Sinha	9831657594/9674391964
Mr. Atanu Majumdar	9830489494

Highlights of the day

- Poster walk – 17:15-17:45
- Inauguration – 18:30-19:15
- Cultural programme – 19:30-20:30
- Baxter dinner symposium – Speakers -
 - ◆ Mammen Chandy - What can we do for haemophilia in India in 2010?
 - ◆ Dr. Scott Dunkley - Changing trends in haemophilia worldwide

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Because Hope is about finding ways

Lenalidomide
Lenomust
Redefining Hope





Prof. K Ghosh
India

Challenges in diagnosis and management of factor VIII inhibitors

Prof. Ghosh's oration went over the genetic and environmental factors affecting the incidence of factor VIII inhibitors in congenital and acquired hemophilias. He went over the challenges in laboratory diagnosis in the way of screening for other inhibitors like lupus inhibitor with emphasis on the various kinds of assays currently used in India and the need for regular screening in hemophiliacs in Indian context. He also went over the shifting treatment trends involved by comparing immunosuppressant therapy with Rituximab monotherapy. As per him, Rituximab is not only useful in achieving short-term reduction in factor VIII inhibitors but is also proving to be cost-effective when compared to life-long prophylactic immunomodulatory treatment. He said there is a strong need for novel therapies like CD 40/CD 40 ligand modification and gene therapy in the broad arena against factor VIII inhibitors.



Dr. Jayandharan
India

Molecular Genetics of Haemophilia

Just after the tea break, Dr. Jayandharan G Rao, PhD. Department of Haematology and Centre for Stem Cell Research Christian Medical College Vellore, India, began his session on the topic molecular genetics of haemophilia. He explained in detail the genetic principles of inheritance of haemophilia using well-illustrated family pedigrees. He also focused on the interpretation of powerful genetic tools like VNTRs, RFLP and linkage analysis. He opined that direct mutation testing by DNA sequencing though expensive is the gold standard in diagnosing haemophilia. To support this, he presented data's from various studies. He described how recombinant ABV is being used as a vector in successful phenotyping treatment of haemophilias with supporting statistics from clinical trials and prioritized the need for how immunologic yet effective vectors as a novel treatment. His session threw light on the other newly developed self-inactivating retroviruses which can tackle the problem of insertional mutagenesis.



Prof. Philip DeGroot
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Hepatic coagulopathies

Dr. Philip DeGroot's in-depth discussion on hepatic coagulopathies covered many core and advanced concepts about the role of liver in haemostasis. According to him, PT/INR is insensitive in measuring the degree of coagulopathy in liver patients. The balancing nature of the pro-coagulant and the anti-coagulant factors, role of platelet function defects in thrombocytopenia, the compensatory mechanisms in hepatic failure leading to rebalance, the various clinical presentation associated with portal hypertension, VTE, liver fibrosis and hepatic artery thrombus were among some of the topics covered. Per him, the best predictor of survival rate in liver transplant patients is the number of transfusions the patient has received.



Prof. HP Pati
India

Thrombosis and haemostasis during pregnancy

Prof. H. P. Pati, Professor, Dept. of Hematology, AIIMS orated about the etiopathogenesis of the pro-coagulant state present during normal pregnancy and narrated that, it is associated with a 4-5 fold increase in incidence of DVT and VTE. He pointed out that thrombotic events are fast becoming a major contributor to the maternal mortality rate and adverse fetal outcomes in the form of IUGR, IUFD, pre-eclampsia and abruptions. Emphasis was placed on the need for identifying the pregnant woman who are at special risk and to initiate them on antepartum prophylaxis with anti-coagulant therapy. He further envisaged that usage of low-dose aspirin with heparin is the most effective method to prevent pregnancy loss in thrombophilic women.



Prof. Joseph Emmerich
France

Issues in diagnosis and management of venous thrombosis

Prof. Joseph Emmerich elaborated on the issues in diagnosis of venous and thrombosis. He explained the issues in diagnosis of venous thromboembolism (VTE). He stressed on the point that highly sensitive assays rule out PE safety in patients with non high clinical probability. Another important information that he brought to light was that magnetic resonance pulmonary angiography should be considered only at centers that routinely perform it well and only for patients for whom standard tests are contraindicated. The treatment of DVT with PE has changed with the emergence of LMWH/Jondoparinus as first line treatment.

To conclude, he stated that markers of recurrence are necessary after a first idiopathic VTE to select sub-groups which requires secondary prophylaxis. He stressed on the point that major advances in the treatment of VTE is the development of the new oral anticoagulant drugs.



Prof. Philip DeGroot
Utrecht, The Netherlands

Antiphospholipid antibodies

Prof. Philip De Groot summarized the historical aspects of anti-phospholipid antibody syndrome to begin with and later on explored into the major scientific advances till date in chronological sequence. Then, he defined the key laboratory diagnostic criteria, etiopathology, clinical manifestations and the serology. He narrated the official guidelines to be adhered to while detecting anti-phospholipid antibodies and urged the physicians to not fall prey for commercial organizations' ads. He also probed into the two theories involving the etiology of anti-B2 glycoprotein antibodies and explained the differences between two. He also shared the data from his animal experiment studies and welcomed young researchers to study this yet unexplored disease and bring forth standardized literature. He also opined that lupus anticoagulant correlates well clinically with the severity of the disease.

Glimpse of ISHTM Haematology Conference 2010

