

# **European Cancer Anaemia Survey (ECAS) – How Big is the Problem?**

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**for the ECAS Investigators**



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# Anemia in Cancer

- Anemia correlates with impairment of QOL<sup>1-4</sup>
- Anemia may be associated with shorter survival times<sup>5-8</sup>
- Representative data on anemia in cancer patients under actual practice conditions have not been available

<sup>1</sup>Glaspay (*JCO* 1997); <sup>2</sup>Demetri (*JCO* 1998); <sup>3</sup>Gabrilove (*JCO* 2001);  
<sup>4</sup>Littlewood (*JCO* 2001); <sup>5</sup>Caro (*Cancer* 2001); <sup>6</sup>Waters (*JCO* 2002);  
<sup>7</sup>Grogan (*Cancer* 1999); <sup>8</sup>Glaser (*Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2001)

# ECAS Overview

- Large, prospective, objective, observational, epidemiological survey
- Enrollment of 15,367 patients followed for up to 6 months
- ~750 centers in 24 European countries
- Over 1000 participating physicians

# ECAS Objectives

- **Assess in European cancer patients**
  - prevalence of anemia (Hb <12 g/dL)
  - incidence of anemia
  - severity of anemia
  - management of anemia

# ECAS Data Collection

- Tumor type
- Disease status
- Cancer treatment type and status
- Hb level
- Performance status (WHO score)
- Anemia treatment and Hb at initiation

# Patient Characteristics at Enrollment (n = 15,367)

## Disease status:

Newly diagnosed without treatment	32%
Newly diagnosed with treatment	23%
Persistent/recurrent	34%
In remission	11%

## Treatment status:

Without treatment	53%
Chemotherapy	40%
Radiotherapy	5%
Concomitant chemo-radiotherapy	3%

# Anemia At Enrollment by Disease and Treatment Status

**Overall anemia prevalence at enrollment: 39%**

## **Disease status**

Newly diagnosed without treatment	31%
Newly diagnosed with treatment	42%
Persistent/recurrent	49%
In remission	31%

## **Treatment status**

Without treatment	32%
Chemotherapy	51%
Radiotherapy	29%
Concomitant chemo-radiotherapy	44%

# Correlation Between Hb Level and WHO Performance Score at Enrollment

- Low Hb levels were associated with poor WHO performance scores
- Pearson  $R = -0.24$ ;  $p < .01$

# Anemia Treatment

- Only 40% of patients anemic at any time during ECAS received anemia treatment
- Mean Hb at initiation of anemia treatment:
  - 8.6 g/dL for transfusion
  - 9.9 g/dL for epoetin

# ECAS Overall Conclusions

- **Anemia is prevalent in cancer patients**
  - 39% of patients overall were anemic at ECAS enrollment
  - 31% of patients were anemic even before cancer treatment
  - 50% of patients who received chemotherapy were anemic
- **Low Hb levels are correlated with poor WHO performance scores**
- **The majority of anemic patients were not treated for their anemia**