

Session I: Incidence and Predispositions to WM

Abstract 105

Presenter: M. McMaster

The relationship between Waldenström macroglobulinemia and IgM monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance: studies of high-risk families. Mary L. McMaster¹, Lynn Goldin¹, and Gyorgy Csako² ¹Genetic Epidemiology Branch, Human Genetics Program, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Bethesda, MD ²Department of Laboratory Medicine, Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Bethesda, MD, USA.

Identification of a precursor lesion for Waldenström's macroglobulinemia (WM) is desirable to i) improve understanding of pathogenetic pathways; ii) estimate risk; and iii) develop screening and prevention strategies. WM shares B-cell origin and certain other features with multiple myeloma (MM) but is currently considered to be a distinct clinicobiological entity. Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) has been long recognized as a precursor condition for MM, and there is growing evidence that WM may also have an associated precursor state, IgM MGUS. We are interested in understanding the role of IgM MGUS in progression to WM. We have studied a cohort of familial WM because these families appear to be enriched for IgM MGUS in blood relatives of WM cases. Updated data from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of these families will be presented, including prevalence estimates, clinical, laboratory and genetic correlates, and outcomes, in the context of existing population research.