Physician-Reported Treatment Patterns and Outcomes in Marginal Zone Lymphoma in South Korea

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INTRODUCTION

- Due to the rarity of the disease, management of marginal zone B-cell lymphoma (MZL) remains largely understudied
- Only one chemoimmunotherapy—cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone plus rituximab (R-CVP)—is reimbursed in the first-line setting in South Korea
- After receiving first-line treatment, patients are monitored for relapsed/refractory MZL, and subsequent lines of treatment may be required[1]
- There is no established therapy reimbursed in the second-line setting for patients with advanced-stage MZL

CONCLUSIONS

- This survey provided valuable insights about treatment patterns and outcomes in patients with advanced MZL
- While the choice of first-line treatment was relatively consistent, more guidance is needed on the selection of subsequent treatments

OBJECTIVE

- The objective of this study was to examine the physician-reported treatment patterns and outcomes in advanced MZL in South Korea

METHODS

- Twelve South Korea–based hematologists were surveyed in 2023
- They had ≥5 years of experience managing ≥10 patients with MZL per year and spent ≥4 days per week directly involved in patient care
- Physicians completed an online questionnaire including questions on the physician's clinical background and the proportion of patients prescribed first-, second-, and third-line systemic treatments for nodal MZL (NMZL), extranodal MZL (EMZL), and splenic MZL (SMZL)
- Data were analyzed descriptively and reported using summary statistics
- The study protocol was approved by the Samsung Medical Center Institutional Review Board, and informed consent forms were collected from physicians

RESULTS

- All physicians were from university hospitals/academic institutes; 1 physician (8%) had a dual affiliation with a private hospital (**Table 1**)
- Physicians had a median of 20 years of post-specialty training
- Five physicians (42%) treated 10 to 29 patients per year, 5 physicians (42%) treated 30 to 49 patients per year, and 2 physicians (17%) treated ≥50 patients per year
- Among patients with advanced-stage MZL, 90% received first-line systemic treatment, most commonly R-CVP (EMZL, 80%; NMZL, 70%; SMZL, 75%) (**Table 2**)
- Approximately 25% of patients with advanced-stage MZL who received first-line systemic treatment had relapse or recurrence, ≥75% of whom received second-line treatment
- Choice of second- and third-line treatments was more varied
- The most prescribed second-line systemic treatments were bendamustine with rituximab (EMZL, 25%; NMZL, 12%); ifosfamide, carboplatin, and etoposide (NMZL, 25%; SMZL, 20%); and dexamethasone, cytarabine, and cisplatin (DHAP) (SMZL, 20%)
- DHAP (20%) was the most common regimen for SMZL
- Approximately 30% of patients who received second-line treatment received third-line treatment, with the most frequently reported treatment being DHAP (EMZL, 25%; NMZL, 20%; SMZL, 10%)

Table 1. Characteristics of Enrolled Physicians

Characteristics	Physicians (N=12) n	%
Practice setting[a]		
Public/government hospital	0	0
Private hospital	1	8
University hospital/academic institute	12	100
Private single-specialty clinic	0	0
Private multispecialty clinic	0	0
No. of years of post-specialty training		
Mean (SD)	18 (8)	
Median (Q1-Q3)	20 (14-24)	
Range (min-max)	5-31	
No. of patients with MZL treated per year		
10-29	5	42
30-49	5	42
≥50	2	17

MZL, marginal zone lymphoma; Q, quartile.
[a] Sum of the percentages may exceed 100% as each physician could select ≥1 option.

Table 2. Systemic Treatments Prescribed for Patients With Advanced-Stage MZL

	Patients prescribed the following treatments, median, %[a]								
	First-line treatment			Second-line treatment			Third-line treatment		
Systemic treatments	EMZL	NMZL	SMZL	EMZL	NMZL	SMZL	EMZL	NMZL	SMZL
Rituximab with cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone	80	70	75	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bendamustine with rituximab	10	15	10	25	12	–	–	–	–
Cyclophosphamide, vincristine, and prednisone	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–
Dexamethasone, cytarabine, and cisplatin	–	–	–	–	–	20	25	20	10
Ifosfamide, carboplatin, and etoposide	–	–	–	1	25	20	15	10	3

EMZL, extranodal marginal zone lymphoma; NMZL, nodal marginal zone lymphoma; SMZL, splenic marginal zone lymphoma.
[a] Proportions of patients do not add up to 100% as only median (not mean) is reported.

REFERENCE

1. Zelenetz AD, et al. *J Natl Compr Canc Netw*. 2021;19(11):1218-1230.

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SJK, SYY and **SC:** Nothing to disclose. **HB**, **JK** and **JN:** Employment by and hold shares in BeiGene, Inc.

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