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Hematology - Basic Area

Characterization of the population submitted to hematopoietic stem cell transplantation performed during a one-year period at a university hospital in southern Brazil

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The hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is a therapeutic procedure that aims to consolidate a favorable response to the chemotherapy treatment or as rescue therapy for recurred or refractory disease. The aim of this work was to describe the HSCT performed during the year 2015 in the Protective Environment (PE) unit of a university hospital in Porto Alegre-RS. This was a retrospective cross-sectional study that analyzed data from all HSCT performed in the PE unit of the institution throughout the year 2015. The data were obtained from the electronic records (Project No. 150011 submitted to the institutional Research Ethics Committee). During the analyzed period 80 transplantations were performed, of which 40 (50%) were autologous, 23 (28.75%), related allogeneic and 17 (21.75%) were unrelated allogeneic. Multiple myeloma was the most prevalent diagnosis in autologous transplantation, present in 22 patients (55%), followed by 6 (15%) non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, 5 (12.5%) patients with myelodysplastic syndrome and the 7 patients (17.5%) with lower prevalence diagnoses. In related allogeneic transplantation, the most prevalent diagnosis was Hodgkin's lymphoma, with 8 (34.78%) cases, followed by acute lymphocytic leukemia, with 5 (21.73%) cases, 4 (17.39%) patients with aplasia and the other 6 (26.08%) with lower prevalence diagnoses. Regarding the unrelated allogeneic transplantation, 11 (64.7%) patients were diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia and 6 (35.29%) with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The median age of the population was 39.5 years (1-66). It was also observed a higher prevalence of the male gender, with 44 (55%) patients, as well as 73 (91.25%) patients who self-reported as white, 4 (5%) as black and 3 (3.75 %) as mixed-race. Regarding the place of origin, 20 (25%) patients were from Porto Alegre-RS, 18 (22.5%), from the metropolitan region, 38 (47.5%), from the countryside of the state of RS, and 4 (5%) from other Brazilian states. Regarding the outcome, the number of deaths among patients submitted to HSCT was 19, with 4 (21.05%) occurring after autologous transplantation, 7 (36.84%) after related allogeneic transplantation and 8 (42.20 %) after unrelated allogeneic transplantation. The present study showed a higher prevalence of males among patients submitted to HSCT, in agreement with the estimates of the National Cancer Institute (INCA), which reported a higher prevalence of hematological cancers in men. According to data from the Brazilian Transplantation Registry (RBT) of 2015, the State of Rio Grande do Sul performed 81 HSCT, which leads us to believe that there is underreporting of data by transplantation centers. This record also shows that the majority of HSCT procedures performed in the country are the autologous type. Therefore, although the findings suggest a similarity to the Brazilian population, it is necessary to carry out further studies and assess the reporting by the transplantation centers.

Keywords: hematological diseases, hematology, transplantation, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation