ORIGINAL RESEARCH REPORTS

CHEMOTHERAPY
Arsenic trioxide plus cisplatin/ interferon α-2b/ doxorubicin/ capcitabine combination chemotherapy for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma
Tomuleasa and colleagues from Romania showed in vitro that the addition of arsenic trioxide to conventional chemotherapy sensitized liver stem-like cancer cells, which show increased resistance to cancer drugs, to conventional chemotherapy. Further studies in animal models are needed before the approach is tested in humans.

INFECTIONS
Cytomegalovirus infections in unrelated cord blood transplantation in pediatric patients: incidence, risk factors, and outcomes
In a retrospective case-control study, Al-Hajjar and colleagues of King Faisal Specialist Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, found that 68% of 73 pediatric patients were CMV seropositive after UCBT for HSCT. High levels of CMV antigenemia were associated with a higher risk of progression to CMV disease. CMV infections was associated with CMV seropositivity, GVHD, use of high-dose corticosteroids, underlying diseases and older age at time of transplant. The authors conclude that CMV infection is a significant complication in pediatric patients who are UCBT recipients and is associated with an increase in transplant-related morbidity and mortality. Late CMV infection was strongly associated with a previous history of CMV infection.

RENAI TRANSPANTATION
Very late onset lymphoproliferative disorders occurring over 10 years post renal transplantation: PTLD.Int. Survey
Taheri and Khemat from Tehran, Iran, in a search of the medical literature, found 27 reports with 303 patients with lymphoproliferative disorders after renal transplantation. Patients with very late onset PTLD were less likely to be under MMF and/or FK-506 (vs azathioprine)-based immunosuppression and less likely to have a history of antibody induction immunosuppression. Older patients were at a greater risk of very late onset PTLD. Survival analysis showed no difference in outcome.

CASE REPORTS

Rosai-Dorfman disease of the paranasal sinuses and orbit
Khan and colleagues from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi present an unusual case in a 30-year-old woman of Rosai Dorfman disease with extranodal involvement, affecting the nose, paranasal sinuses, and right orbit, but without any accompanying lymphadenopathy.

Complete recovery following sudden sensorineural hearing loss in a patient with sickle cell disease
A case presented by Alkindi and colleagues of Sultan Qaboos University Hospital in Oman demonstrates the otologic manifestations of sickle cell disease. The 26-year-old female responded well to steroids, which averted a permanent hearing loss.

Successful treatment of steroid-refractory autoimmune thrombocytopenia associated with Castleman disease with anti-CD-20 antibody (rituximab)
Ibrahim and colleagues of King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh successfully treated a 70-year-old female with multicentric Castleman disease with rituximab after failed steroid treatment and a transient response to intravenous immunoglobulin. There was complete recovery of her platelet count and very good response in nodal disease after 3 weekly doses.