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Acute Leukemias V

Experimental Approaches
and Management of Refractory Disease

With 211 Figures and 202 Tables

Springer
150 years after the first description of the clinical picture of “white blood” and the introduction of the term “leukemia” by R. Virchow it appears, that the leukemias, and the acute leukemias in particular, serve as an impressive example for the major improvements that have been achieved in the treatment but also in the understanding of the biology of malignant disorders. The international symposia “Acute Leukemia” which are held at Münster since 1986 have developed into an international forum to review the current progress and the future perspectives of leukemia research and therapy at a high scientific and clinical level. Since the possibility for active participation in these symposia is somewhat restricted we are glad to have the opportunity to extend the information that was presented at the symposium “Acute Leukemias V – Experimental Approaches and Management of Refractory Disease” which was held from February 27 to March 2, 1994 to a broader audience of basic scientists and clinicians. This meeting was especially designed to discuss experimental approaches and the management of refractory disease which allows to evaluate new experimental therapies on the basis of preclinical studies. Hence, topics such as the pharmacokinetics of cytostatic agents, drug resistance, the application of growth factors for the modulation of cytotoxicity as well as clinical trials in both acute myeloid and lymphoblastic leukemias and the biology of residual disease were all addressed in different sessions and discussed by well recognized experts in the respective fields. The results summarized in these Proceedings are mostly new and previously unpublished and demonstrate the rapid transformation of basic research into clinical practice. This development will continue to translate into further improvements of therapy which will ultimately benefit patients with these disorders.

July 1995

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