

## **Bortezomib increases risk of herpes zoster infection in multiple myeloma**

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**Aims:** To find out the characteristic manifestations of herpes zoster (HZ) infections in multiple myeloma (MM) patients who received bortezomib, and analyze the risk factors for HZ infection in these MM patients.

**Methods:** Retrospectively compared the HZ infections in 142 cases of MM who received bortezomib and 86 cases receiving traditional chemotherapies to found out the characteristic manifestations in the bortezomib group.

**Results:** MM receiving bortezomib were more susceptible to HZ infection at the early stage of the treatment ( $P < 0.01$ ). Compared to the traditional regimens, bortezomib-base regimens brought higher HZ infection risk ( $P = 0.047$ ) and severe and atypical manifestations to MM patients ( $P = 0.028$ ). Worse still, bortezomib-treated patients needed more time to recover from HZ infections ( $P = 0.008$ ). And the IgG type, 6 months after bortezomib treatment and lymphocytes counts  $< 1.0 \times 10^9/L$

were independent risk factors of herpes zoster infection ( $P < 0.01$ ).

**Conclusions:** MM patients receiving bortezomib were more vulnerable to HZ infection. And once infected, they were slower in recovery and had to delay their chemotherapy plan ( $P = 0.48$ ). As a result, to those MM with risk factors of HZ infection, preventive antivirus and immuno enhancer are suggested.

### **Speaker Biography**

Ying Li holds the position of assistant fellow in Guangdong Institute of Microbiology, the state key laboratory of applied microbiology Southern China. Ying Li is thirty-two yrs old and have majored in clinical medicine, hematology and immunology in Sun-yat-sen University since 2004. She became Attending physician of hematology in 2016. In 2017, she joined the Guangdong Institute of Microbiology, the state key laboratory of applied microbiology Southern China as assistant fellow and continue her study on microbiome, immunology and hematology. Ying Li has published eight SCI manuscripts and three books about multiple myeloma and hematology.

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