Hypomethylating agents in the treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes: horizon scanning report
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Record Status
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Citation

Authors’ conclusions
Data from randomised controlled trials of the hypomethylating agents (azacitidine and decitabine) indicate that, for the first time, the natural history of MDS may be changed by non-intensive therapy with an acceptable toxicity profile. Recent trials have shown a survival benefit in patients treated with these agents when compared to patients treated with supportive or conventional care. High risk older patients, with low performance status and co-morbid disease who are not eligible for high dose/intensive therapeutic options currently form the bulk of the patient population treated with hypomethylating agents. There have also been randomised controlled trials to establish the most effective dose schedule. However, morphologic evidence of disease rarely disappears with treatment and several courses may be needed for best response. Clinical trials of combination therapy incorporating hypomethylating agents are ongoing.

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