

Time to Treatment and Care Pathways in Newly Diagnosed DLBCL: A Real-World Eastern European Study

A.M. PETRARU MD¹, G.E. DOBRE MD¹, M.S. HERDEA MD¹, A.S. IONESCU MD¹, M. ANDREESCU MD^{1,2}, O.D. DRAGOI-COZMACIUC MD¹

1.Colentina Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania.

2.Titu Maiorescu University, Bucharest, Romania.



BACKGROUND

Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is an aggressive disease requiring prompt diagnosis and timely initiation of treatment. However, real-world care pathways may be influenced by patient-, disease-, and health system-related factors. Data on diagnostic and treatment delays in Eastern European healthcare settings remain scarce.

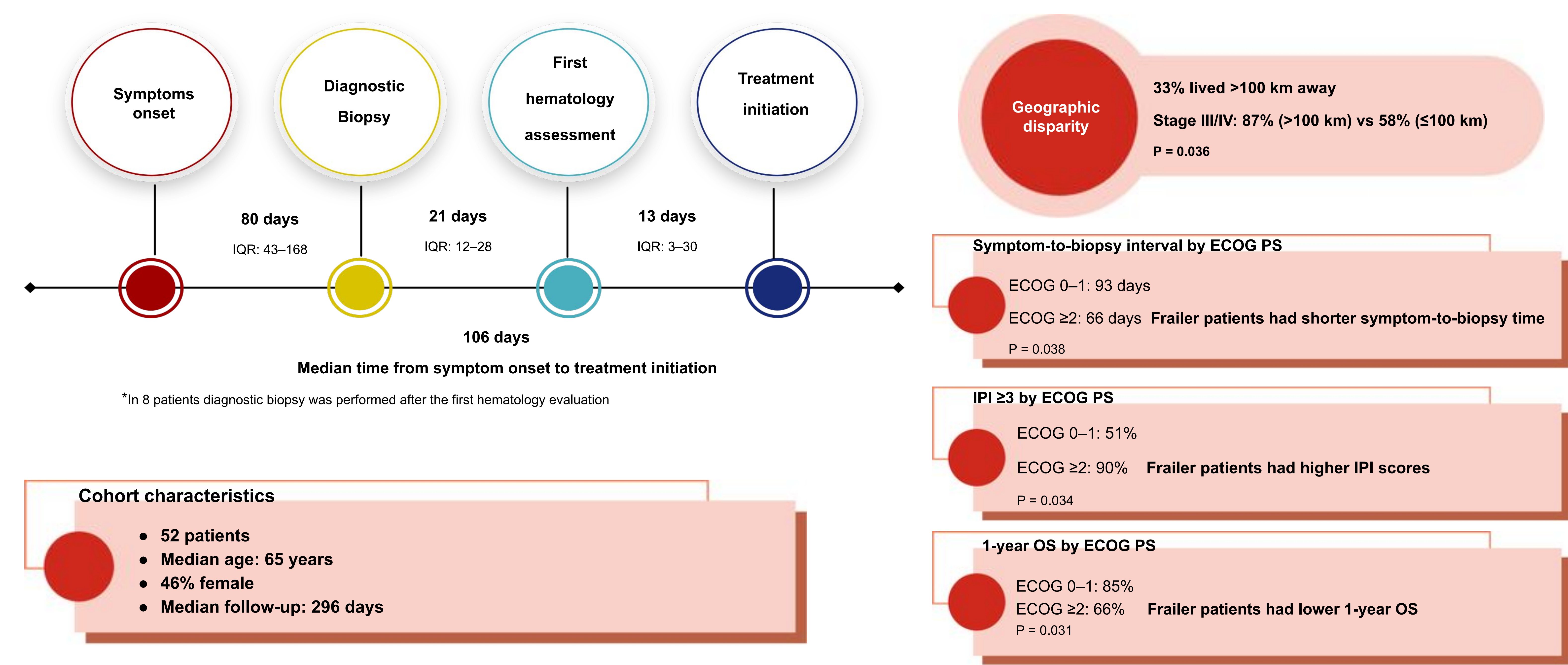
AIM

To characterise care pathways, patient profiles and clinical outcomes in a Romanian cohort of newly diagnosed DLBCL patients.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- **Study design:** Retrospective single-center analysis of 52 consecutive DLBCL patients.
- **Data collected:** Patient characteristics, disease features, diagnostic and treatment intervals, and clinical outcomes.
- **Methods:** Fisher’s exact test or chi-square test was applied for categorical variables while differences between continuous variables were assessed using the Mann–Whitney U test. Survival analysis was performed using the Kaplan–Meier method, and groups were compared using the log-rank test.

RESULTS



CONCLUSIONS

- In our cohort, diagnostic and treatment delays were not significantly associated with inferior OS, and the observed intervals were comparable to those reported internationally.
- Patients living farther from the treatment center were more likely to present with advanced-stage disease, highlighting potential disparities in access to medical care.
- Despite an accelerated diagnostic pathway, frailer patients had higher IPI scores and inferior 1-year OS, suggesting a symptom-driven rather than proactive diagnostic approach.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Corresponding author: Ana-Maria Petraru, MD
Colentina Clinical Hospital, Bucharest, Romania
Email: petraru.anamaria6@gmail.com

REFERENCES

1. Nikonova A, Guirguis HR, Buckstein R, Cheung MC. Predictors of delay in diagnosis and treatment in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and impact on survival. Br J Haematol. 2015;168(4):492-500.
2. Zurko JC, Wade RC, Mehta A. The impact of structural factors on diagnostic delay in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Cancer Med. 2019;8(4):1416-1422.
3. Yoshida M, Nakaya Y, Shimizu K, et al. Importance of diagnosis-to-treatment interval in newly diagnosed patients with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Sci Rep. 2021;11:2837.
4. Williams RA, Williams MH, Blaize JP, Ananth S, Gregorio D, Rosas GM, et al. Impact of Differences in Time from Diagnosis to Treatment on DLBCL Response and Survival Outcomes: A VA Study. Blood. 2020;136(Suppl 1):1-2