

Multiple Myeloma Update

Essay

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Abstract

Multiple myeloma is a clonal disorder where terminally differentiated B-cells and plasma cells infiltrate the bone marrow, produce large amounts of monoclonal immunoglobulins and secrete osteoclast-activating factor leading to bone lesions.

During the last few years many insights have been gained into the immunobiology of multiple myeloma. The appreciation of the roles of various biological responses modifying cytokines, produced by lymphocytes has been of great importance to our understanding of the regulation of the immunobiology of multiple myeloma. The importance of understanding how these cytokines or interleukins control the tumour growth can improve the understanding of biology of multiple myeloma and provide insights which will facilitate the development of biologically specific therapeutic control regimens for this disease.

Interleukin-6, a pleotropic cytokine with the capacity to produce proliferation in human B-cells, is also a strong in-vitro growth factor for human myeloma cells.

Key Words:

Lymphocyte ontogeny and plasma cell development

Multiple myeloma.