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**EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE USE OF CONCURRENT R-EPOCH IN PATIENTS
WITH HIV-ASSOCIATED LYMPHOMA: AMC STUDY # 034**

ROCKVILLE, MD, MAY 11, 2011: A study investigating different strategies of administering rituximab (Rituxan) (a monoclonal antibody directed at lymphoma cancer cells) and EPOCH (a multiagent chemotherapy consisting of etoposide, prednisone, vincristine, cyclophosphamide, and hydroxyl-adriamycin) in patients with AIDS-related lymphoma was conducted among a total of 91 persons living with AIDS-related lymphoma. This study tested whether the timing of rituximab in conjunction with EPOCH chemotherapy led to a difference in treatment efficacy. There were two treatment groups:

- 1) Rituximab before each EPOCH chemotherapy cycle.
- 2) Rituximab after completing all EPOCH chemotherapy.

Both treatment arms were effective in producing a complete response/remission (no signs of lymphoma at completion of treatment). However, receiving rituximab before each EPOCH chemotherapy was more effective than receiving rituximab following the completion of all EPOCH chemotherapy (complete response rate of 73% for group 1 versus 55% for group 2. Chemotherapy side effects were similar in both treatment groups of the study. The way we treat AIDS-related lymphoma has improved greatly and future AIDS-related lymphoma patients will benefit from the knowledge gained from this study.

Reference: Sparano JA, Lee JY, Kaplan LD. Rituximab plus concurrent infusional EPOCH chemotherapy is highly effective in HIV-associated B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. *Blood* 2010 115(15):3008-16.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20023215>

AIDS Malignancy Study # 034: Randomized Phase II Trial of EPOCH given either concurrently or sequentially with Rituximab in Patients with Intermediate- or High-grade HIV-associated B-Cell Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

For more information about HIV cancer malignancies, visit the AMC Web site at

<http://www.AIDSCancer.org>