Editorial

Fifteen Years Later

In 1992 the Hereditary Colorectal Cancer Registry of A.C.Camargo Hospital (RCCH) was created. The initial idea was modest, that is, only try to organize data and information on patients and their families, diagnosis or diagnostic suspicion of hereditary syndromes of predisposition to colorectal cancer, mainly Familial Adenomatous Polyposis - FAP. Coincidently, at the time throughout the world some research centers established the molecular bases of Lynch's Syndrome, or Hereditary non Polyposis Colorectal Cancer - HNPCC. The descriptions of repair genes, their association with Microsatellite Instability - MSI, ran parallel with the attempts of establishing objective clinical criteria for identification and diagnosis of Lynch's Syndrome. First Amsterdam Criteria appeared that were specific and restrictive, but with low sensibility. They were much criticized but great was their merit, for they allowed setting a world standard for characterizing families suspect of having HNPCC. Some years later, with Bethesda Criteria, much less restrictive and consequently more sensible, a greater number of families and individuals were included in the high-risk group for HNPCC. RCCH was meanwhile adapting to Amsterdam and Bethesda Criteri and registering more and more families and individuals under risk. With the inclusion of several extracolonic tumors as integrant part of the Syndrome of Lynch (Criteria of Amsterdam II), the spectrum of the illness was extended still more, with bigger number of individuals and families under risk. Again RCCH was adapted to follow the evolution of the syndrome diagnosis, with a reorganization of its database and the elaboration of updated educational materials. In this context, from 2000, with more established genes and criteria, RCCH, besides playing a role on diagnosis, orientation, education and treatment of families under risk, it also begin to effectively to play an important part in research on the area. Today it gives basic support for Lynch Syndrome, FAP, and other syndromes of predisposition to cancer still little known and not characterized. With about 300 families and thousand of registered individuals, RCCH works integrated with A.C.Camargo Hospital Research Group in Colorectal Cancer, including some students of the Graduate Program in Oncology of Antonio Prudente Foundation, with well structured research projects, which made possible receiving grants from research sponsoring agencies such as FAPESP, CAPES and CNPq. Therefore, fifteen years later, RCCH fulfills the tripod that must guide its mission: clincal management, education and research.

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