Revised diagnosis and severity criteria for sinusoidal obstruction syndrome/veno-occlusive disease in adult patients: a new classification from the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)



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Sinusoidal obstruction syndrome, also known as veno-occlusive disease (SOS/VOD), is a potentially life threatening complication that can develop after hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT). While SOS/VOD progressively resolves within a few weeks in most patients, the most severe forms result in multi-organ dysfunction and are associated with a high mortality rate (>80%). Therefore, careful attention must be paid to allow an early detection of SOS/VOD, particularly as drugs have now proven to be effective and licensed for its treatment. Unfortunately, current criteria lack sensitivity and specificity, making early identification and severity assessment of SOS/VOD difficult. Here, we will describe the new definition for diagnosis, and the new severity grading system for SOS/VOD in adult patients, on behalf of the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT). By defining these new EBMT diagnostic and severity criteria for SOS/VOD, the goal is to overcome the lack of specificity and sensitivity of the current criteria. These new EBMT severity grading criteria could be a valuable tool to accurately assess the severity of the condition at diagnosis, rather than only retrospectively. Altogether, our proposed diagnostic and severity-grading criteria, when validated in prospective studies, will allow an earlier identification and quantification of SOS/VOD, aiding in the selection of patients requiring immediate therapeutic intervention.

Conflict of interest:

Author declares the following potential conflicts of interest: Jazz Pharmaceuticals