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Improving diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) patients: Results from the Dutch GIST Registry
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Stellingen behorend bij het proefschrift

1. In elderly GIST patients both surgery and systemic treatment seem feasible and effective treatments, but are significantly less frequently given in this population. (This thesis)
2. GISTs harboring a *PDGFRA* exon 18 mutation should be subtyped in order to assess the a priori chances for response to imatinib. (This thesis)
3. Familial GISTs associated with a germline *KIT* or *PDGFRA* mutation are very rare and screening in these patients should be considered starting at the age of 18 years. (This thesis)
4. Early response FDG-PET should be standard of care in GIST patients with a non-*KIT* exon 11 mutation treated with neo-adjuvant imatinib. (This thesis)
5. "The GIST genotyping is critical in personalizing the care of patients who need TKI therapy." (Corless C.L. Gastrointestinal stromal tumors: what do we know now? *Modern Pathology* 2014; 27: S1-S16)
6. "It is clear that adjuvant therapy with imatinib can improve the RFS and OS of molecularly selected patients with GIST. For these patients, an ounce of prevention may be just what the doctor ordered; for the rest, a pound of research is still recommended." (Heinrich MC, Corless CL, Demetri GD. Defining the impact of adjuvant therapy in molecularly defined subsets of gastrointestinal stromal tumor – from lumping to splitting. *JAMA Oncology* 2017; 3(5):597–599)
7. "Shared decision-making" kan alleen goed werken als de patiënt goed geïnformeerd is, begrijpt wat de behandeling inhoudt en ook weet wat de alternatieven zijn." (Van Oortmerssen G., voorzitter van het Nederlands Patiëntenplatform Sarcomen)
8. "As focus on patients becomes the norm, listening to them will help companies align scientific, regulatory and reimbursement decision making with the value that patients perceive in new medicines." (Wicks P et al. increasing patient participation in drug development. *Nature Biotechnology* 2015; 33: 134-135)
9. Please sometimes, slay often, smile always.
10. Keep the little things in place, big things will follow.