A.1.3.3 Non-Technical Abstract

Phase I/II Study of Rituximab, High Dose Cyclophosphamide, and GMCSF Based Immunotherapy for Relapsed Hodgkin's Lymphoma

New treatments are needed for patients with relapsed or poor-risk Hodgkin's lymphoma. A variety of immunotherapies may be promising. Recent discoveries suggest that rituximab, an antibody used for non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, may also be effective in Hodgkin's, in part by attacking the "stem cell" that gives rise to the disease. Tumor vaccines are another treatment strategy, but how these are affected by rituximab or chemotherapy is largely unknown. This study combines rituximab, high doses of chemotherapy, and a new tumor vaccine for patients with relapsed Hodgkin's lymphoma. The vaccine expresses several proteins that are also found in Hodgkin's lymphomas. The effects of the vaccine on the immune system will be studied in detail, and the results will be extended to other studies of lymphoma immunotherapy.