Abstract. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) accounts for ~80% of all cases of lung cancer, and is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide. The majority of NSCLC cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage. The outcome of patients with advanced NSCLC is poor with a median survival time of ~12 months in European and American populations. Lymphoproliferative disorders (LPDs) represent a heterogeneous group of expanding lymphoid cells, which occurs as a result of immune dysfunction. LPDs are often associated with primary solid cancers. We report two cases of LPD diagnosed concurrently and successively to NSCLC. The first case presents a 65‑year-old female patient with advanced IV stage lung cancer, according to the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer TNM staging system. The patient developed a concurrent lymphoma and was treated with first-line therapy including six cycles of gemcitabine and cisplatin, however, the patient experienced an adverse drug reaction to bevacizumab, which was administered after gemcitabine and prior to cisplatin. The second case presented a 74‑year-old male patient diagnosed with large B cell lymphoma. The patient achieved remission of the illness, however, after one year the patient was diagnosed with squamous cell lung cancer. After three years, the patient underwent surgery, however disease recurrence was identified. Subsequently, the patient was treated with stereotactic radiotherapy and oral chemotherapy. A review of the associated literature was also conducted.

Introduction
Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality, which accounts for 15% of all new cases of cancer globally and this type of cancer has been considered as nonimmunogenic (1). In Europe, lung cancer accounts for ~3.2 million new cancer cases, annually. The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer TNM staging system identified four major stages of lung cancer, which correlate with significant differences in five-year survival rates (2). The five-year survival rate in patients with stage I cancer (70%) is significantly higher than that of patients with stage III A cancer (~25%)(3-5). Lymphoproliferative disorders (LPDs) are a heterogeneous group of biologically and clinically distinct neoplasms, including non-Hodgkin and Hodgkin's lymphoma, which originate from the lymphoid organs. Previous studies have investigated the molecular pathogenesis of lymphoid malignancies (6,7). Interactions between the immune system and cancer development and progression have been previously demonstrated. Lung tumors can evoke a cellular antitumor immune response (8). High expression of CD8 and CD4 T cells and macrophages in tumor tissue has been demonstrated (9). A case of primary lung cancer complicated by lymphoma was described by Ohno et al (9). Additional cases of primary cancers associated with LPDs have been reported, including breast and non-small cell lung cancer, however, gastric cancer with large B cell lymphoma was found to occur most frequently (10-12). In this study, the possible interaction between the immune system and solid tumors was investigated. In addition, two cases of LPD diagnosed concurrently and successively to NSCLC are presented. The first case presents a patient with the concurrent diagnosis of lymphoma and lung cancer, who exhibited an hypersensitivity reaction to bevacizumab, and the second case presents a patient characterized by sequential diagnosis. Written informed consent was obtained from both patients.

Case reports
Case one. The first patient was a 65-year-old female with a smoking history of 40 pack years and a family history of blood hypertension. The patient had previously suffered from pneumonia one year prior to diagnosis and, clinically, the patient complained of mild dyspnea and was admitted to the Cardiopulmonary Department of Sant'Andrea Hospital (Rome, Italy). Blood tests showed anemia with hemoglobin levels, 9.9 g/dl (normal range, 12.5-15 g/dl); platelet count, 360,000 µl (normal range, 150,000-450,000 µl; relative lymphocytosis (70%; normal range, ≤20%); creatinine levels,
I). levels, 7.5 ng
/CT scan following diagnosis /a /-

-itching, urticaria, erythematous rash and facial swelling. The symptoms of bevacizumab treatment 
gemcitabine and prior to cisplatin, and for this reason it was not 
b
1 and 8) and cisplatin (70 mg/m
therapy including six cycles of gemcitabine (1,000 mg/m
itive syndrome B, LNH type (Table
light

-
adenosquamous tumor.

that the tissue was positive for thyroid transcription factor 1,

CT-guided needle biopsy. Immunohistochemistry revealed

the upper right lobe and 5 cm in diameter, with contrast

(range, 2.5-5 ng/ml).

carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA)

1.3 mg/dl (normal range, 0.6-1 mg/dl); white blood cell
count, 18.0x10

A computed tomography (CT) scan was performed
(Fig. 1A) and a right lung mass was discovered, located in
the upper right lobe and 5 cm in diameter, with contrast
enhancement. The mediastinal lymph nodes were found to
be involved and thrombi were present in the right renal vein.

The patient subsequently underwent a transthoracic
CT-guided needle biopsy. Immunohistochemistry revealed
that the tissue was positive for thyroid transcription factor 1,
CK67 and p63. Therefore, the patient was diagnosed with an

Blood samples after each course revealed a grade 4
neutropenia with a high level of lymphocytes (lymphocytes,
70%; neutrophils, 12%). The total white blood cell count was
4,800/µl. A CT scan performed after the second line therapy
showed a partial response with lymph node down-staging
(Fig. 1C). Following multidisciplinary evaluation by radiother-
apists and hematologists, the case was considered amenable for
local radiotherapy. Treatment of LPD, including chemotherapy
and steroidal therapy, was delayed until the termination of
this course of radiotherapy, and a follow-up strategy has been
adopted until the time of writing, with a survival from diagnosis
of ~23 months without objective signs of hematological
disease.

Case two. A 74-year-old male was referred to the
Cardiopulmonary Department, Sant'Andrea Hospital,
Sapienza University (Rome, Italy) for dyspnea, weakness
and chest pain. The patient was subsequently admitted to
the Department of Lung Oncology (Sant'Andrea Hospital,
Sapienza University). Analysis of the patient's blood sample
revealed lymphocytosis. Further investigation included a
bone marrow biopsy, revealing an infiltration of large B-cell
lymphoma CD20/79a, stage IV (due to hepatic involve-
ment) according to the European-American classification of
lymphoid neoplasms (13).

The patient underwent chemotherapy with cyclophospha-
mine, prednisone, vincristine and doxorubicin. A positron
emission tomography (PET)-CT scan following diagnosis
revealed partial remission. Two months after diagnosis, due
to persisting metabolic uptake shown by PET, a second-line
therapy was started with cisplatin, dexamethasone and
rituximab. Subsequently, ibritumomab was used for the main-
tenance therapy and periodic follow-ups revealed the patient
was in remission.

The following year, the patient was diagnosed with squa-
omous cell lung cancer (p63- and CEA-positive). The patient
underwent a right superior lung lobectomy. The lung cancer
stage was determined as stage Ib, according to the most recent
staging system (14). A subsequent CT scan was performed
after surgery (Fig. 2A), which revealed the results of the right
superior lung lobectomy.

The patient achieved remission for three years, however,
was then referred to the Cardiopulmonary Department,
Sant'Andrea Hospital, Sapienza University for chest pain.
Laboratory tests revealed leukocytosis with a high level of
white blood cells (14,000 µl; normal range, 4,5000-10,000 µl)
and an increased level of C-reactive protein (16 mg/dl;
normal range, 0-0.5 mg/dl). Protein electrophoresis analysis
revealed that γ globulin levels were also increased (normal
range, 0.7-1.4 g/dl), and κ (normal range, 3.9-19.4 mg/l) and λ
(normal range, 5.7-26.3 mg/ml) light chains were lower.

A chest CT scan revealed an irregular profile mass
(Fig. 2B), which was confirmed as recurrent lung cancer after
fine needle aspiration biopsy. A brain CT scan also revealed a
metastatic lesion.

The patient underwent stereotactic radiotherapy over
one day, 20 Gy of the total dose. Subsequently, six cycles of
oral chemotherapy with 60 mg/m² vinorelbine was initiated for
12 days. Restaging three months after the beginning of therapy
showed a minimal response (Fig. 2C). The patient remained

| Table I. Citofluorimetric analysis of lymphoid population in Case 1. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Antigen | Frequency (%) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| CD3*    | 54            |
| CD5*    | 54            |
| CD3* CD5* | 54       |
| CD3* CD5* | 0          |
| CD19*   | 34            |
| CD20*   | 27            |
| CD19* CD5* | 0.7        |
| CD19* CD10* | 0        |
| CD19* CD23* | 2          |
| CD19* FMC7* | 26        |
| CD19* CD38* | NS     |
| CD19* CD49d* | NS    |
| CD19* CD20* | 27        |
| CD19* CD103* | 0       |
| CD19* CD11e* | 5         |
| CD19* sk*   | 1           |
| CD19* sl*   | 33          |

Bold text denotes an expansion of B lymphocytes, CD19* and CD20*
(normal value below 20%) and the presence of a clonal restriction for
λ chains is also observed.*High. NS, not significant.

1.3 mg/dl (normal range, 0.6-1 mg/dl); white blood cell
count, 18.0x10

A computed tomography (CT) scan was performed
(Fig. 1A) and a right lung mass was discovered, located in
the upper right lobe and 5 cm in diameter, with contrast
enhancement. The mediastinal lymph nodes were found to
be involved and thrombi were present in the right renal vein.

The patient subsequently underwent a transthoracic
CT-guided needle biopsy. Immunohistochemistry revealed
that the tissue was positive for thyroid transcription factor 1,
CK67 and p63. Therefore, the patient was diagnosed with an
adenosquamous tumor.

Lymphocyte typing and serum immunofixation tests
performed on the patient's blood sample showed, respectively,
a high level of B cells 41% 1318 (up to 400) and B lymphocyte
CD19* FMC7* presence, with an associated high intensity of
light λ-chains. Therefore, the diagnosis was lymphoproliferative
syndrome B, LNH type (Table I).

The patient was treated for lung cancer, with a first line
therapy including six cycles of gemcitabine (1,000 mg/m², days
1 and 8) and cisplatin (70 mg/m², day 1) for 12 days, showing a
good response (Fig. 1B). The patient had an adverse reaction to
bevacizumab during the first cycle, which was administered after
gemcitabine and prior to cisplatin, and for this reason it was not
administered further. The symptoms of bevacizumab treatment
were itching, urticaria, erythematous rash and facial swelling.
Second line therapy was initiated with six cycles of vinorelbine
(60 mg/m², days 1 and 8) as a single agent for 12 days.
alive at the follow-up after three years, with pulmonary stable
disease. Follow-up hematological and radiological CT scans
were also planned.

Discussion

It is well demonstrated that the population of cancer survi-
vors has an increased risk of developing secondary cancers
(8-16%). Leukemias and lymphomas generally
arise in the first
five years of treatment, whereas solid cancers such as breast,
lung, gastrointestinal, brain, genitourinary cancers usually
arise after five years (15-18). LPDs have three major categories:
B-cell, NK/T-cell neoplasms and Hodgkin lymphoma (HL),
according to the World Health Organization classification (19).
Recently, a marked improvement in survival was achieved for
patients with LPD, thus increasing the likelihood of secondary
cancer (20,21). LPDs are the neoplasms most frequently
involved in cases of multiple primary cancers (MPCs), as
primary or subsequent (1).

The etiology of second primary cancers may be attributed
to the interaction between the immune system and carcinoge-
etic factors; numerous risk factors have been described and
identified as contributing to the development of LPD. These
may act in association to result in a second malignancy, and
include immunodeficiency states (22,23), viruses (particu-
larly the Epstein-Barr virus), chemotherapeutic agents,
pesticides and organic solvents, and exposure to ultraviolet
radiation (23,24). A family history of LPD (24-28), but also
 genetic susceptibility (29), may be found. Shared risk factors,
such as smoking and genetics, may cause certain malignan-
cies to occur more frequently than expected. The study of
multiple primary malignancies following LPD therefore has
etiological and clinical importance. In a recent retrospective
study on MPC by Demirci et al (30), the ability to diagnose
a second cancer was shown to be earlier and more accurate
than in past reports. In a population of 242 patients, the mean
time for diagnosis of second malignancies was 55.5 months,
whereas a third cancer was diagnosed after 22 months of the
second neoplasm. In the same study, the incidence of solid
tumors compared with LPD as a second cancer was equal,
contrary to the results of previous studies (20,31,32). The
frequencies of primary and secondary diagnoses of LPD
were the same (27). NSCLC was the second most frequently
diagnosed solid tumor after LPD, the first being breast
cancer. Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma as a subsequent cancer
was the most frequent subtype of non-HL (NHL). Markedly
high incidences of lung cancer, melanoma, soft tissue sarcoma,
NHL, acute myeloid leukemia, genitourinary cancers, and
head and neck cancer have been reported in lymphoma survi-
vors (1,30,33). In the present case, the patient in case two had
a synchronous diagnosis of LDP and lung cancer. Tumors are
considered synchronous when the period of time between the
diagnoses of the primary and subsequent malignancies is less
than or equal to six months (10).

A synchronous diagnosis of thoracic MPC with lymphoma
and myeloma has previously been reported (10). BALT
lymphoma has been found in patients affected by lung adenocarcinoma in six cases and by squamous carcinoma in one
case (10,30,33-37). One case of lung adenocarcinoma and
mantle cell lymphoma of the pleura, and one case of unspeci-
ified lung cancer associated with tracheal mucosa-associated
lymphoid tissue lymphoma have also been reported. The

Figure 1. Case 1: (A) CT scan showing a lesion in the upper lobe of the right lung, (B) CT scan after three months of chemotherapy indicated a partial response
and (C) CT scan showing complete response after six cycles of chemotherapy. CT, computed tomography.

Figure 2. Case 2: (A) CT scan showing the lung after surgery, (B) CT scan three years after surgery showing recurrence of lung cancer and (C) CT scan after
three cycles of chemotherapy revealed disease progression. CT, computed tomography.
most common type of primary pulmonary lymphoma is bronchus-associated lymphoid tissue in the lungs (38). The concurrent presence of two solid and hematologic neoplasms may affect treatment choice, as solid tumors may cause a greater sensitivity to anticancer drugs and may lead to a worse prognosis. Numerous chemotherapeutic agents, including vincristine, carboplatin and cyclosporine are used as a single treatment, as well as in combination with other drugs. However, these drugs may induce hypersensitivity reactions.

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions for the majority of chemotherapeutic agents were described in a review by Visitsutthorn et al in the pediatric population (39). Symptoms were either moderate or mild, and early reaction onset is generally a result of IgE-mediated hypersensitivity. Delayed reactions could be explained by a release of TNF-α and interleukin 6 during treatment (40).

Vincristine as well as carboplatin, cyclophosphamide and cyclosporine may be used as monotherapies, as well as for combined treatments. Bevacizumab has not been yet presented in these settings, but the unusual manifestation we observed while using this drug in a ‘double-cancer’ patient could hide more complex mechanisms than simple immediate hypersensitivity. Immune interaction between coexisting neoplasms could lead to an increased susceptibility to develop side effects to specific chemotherapy agents. Relative lymphocytosis constantly shown in case 1 may be representative of such a ‘hypersensitive state’.

In conclusion, lymphoproliferative disorders can be associated with solid tumors and complicate their disease course. The time of manifestation with respect to the primary cancer and the type of LPD will determine the optimal treatment type. Treatment can often favor management of the cancer, which has a poorer prognosis. Early detection and specific diagnosis programs should be therefore perceived for cancer survivors, life-long. In addition, careful attention should be paid to the choice of the chemotherapy agents used in association, due to the potentially increased risk of drug reactivity.

References

1. Dong C and Hemminki K: Second primary neoplasms among 53 159 haematolymphoproliferative malignancy patients in Sweden, 1958-1996: a search for common mechanisms. Br J Cancer 85: 997-1005, 2001.
2. Giroux DJ, Rami-Porta R, Chansky K, et al: International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer International Staging Committee: The IASLC Lung Cancer Staging Project: data elements for the prospective project. J Thorac Oncol 4: 679-683, 2009.
3. Sano H and Marugame T: International comparisons of cumulative risk of lung cancer, from cancer incidence in five continents. Vol. VIII. Jpn J Clin Oncol 36: 334-335, 2006.
4. Wakelee HA, Chang ET, Gomez SL, et al: Lung cancer incidence in never smokers. J Clin Oncol 25: 472-478, 2007.
5. Chansky K, Scallier JP, Crowley J, et al: International Staging Committee and Participating Institutions: The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Staging Project: prognostic factors and pathologic TNM stage in surgically managed non small cell lung cancer. J Thorac Oncol 4: 792-801, 2009.
6. Swerdlow SH, Campo E, Harris NL, et al (eds): World Health Organization Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues. IARC Press, Lyon, 2008.
7. Klein U and Dalla-Favera R: Germinal centres: role in B-cell physiology and malignancy. Nat Rev Immunol 8: 22-33, 2008.
8. Bawers-Sarkar M, Lindner DJ, Liu JF, et al: Apoptosis and interferons: role of interferon-stimulated genes as mediators of apoptosis. Apoptosis 8: 237-249, 2003.
9. Ohno Z, Tamaki H, Ohsga T, et al: Primary lung carcinoma complicated by malignant lymphoma in two cases of Epstein Barr virus infection. Case Rep Oncol 5: 367-372, 2012.
10. Geyer Y, Liu T, Zhang L, et al: Five cases report of solid tumors synchronously with hematologic malignancy. Cancer Res Treat 44: 63-68, 2012.
11. Compostella A, Toffolotti T, Soloni P, et al: Multiple synchronous tumors in a child with Fanconi Anemia. J Pediatr Surg 45: e5-e8, 2010.
12. Kato S and Yamaguchi N: Epidemiological analysis of site relationships of synchronous and metachronous multiple primary cancers in the National Cancer Centers, Japan, 1962-1996. Jpn J Clin Oncol 29: 96-105, 1999.
13. Harris NL, Jaffe ES, Stein H, et al: A revised European-American classification of lymphoid neoplasms: a proposal from the International Lymphoma Study Group. Blood 84: 1361-1392, 1994.
14. Goldstraw P, Crowley J, Chansky K, et al: The IASLC Lung Cancer Staging Project: Proposal for the revision of the TNM stage groupings in the forthcoming (seventh) edition of the TNM classification of malignant tumours. J Thorac Oncol 2: 706-714, 2007.
15. Jung CY and Kwon KY: A case of synchronous lung adenocarcinoma and extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) type. Tuber Respir Dis (Seoul) 73: 61-66, 2002.
16. Dones GM, Metayac J, Curtis RE, et al: Second malignant neoplasms among long-term survivors of Hodgkin’s disease: a population-based evaluation over 25 years. J Clin Oncol 20: 3484-3494, 2002.
17. Hodgson DC, Koh ES, Tran TH, et al: Individualized estimates of second cancer risks after contemporary radiation therapy for Hodgkin lymphoma. Cancer 110: 2576-2586, 2007.
18. Groves FD, Linet MS, Travis LB and Devesa SS: Cancer surveillance series: non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma incidence by histologic subtype in the United states from 1978 through 1999. J Natl Canc Inst 92: 1240-1251, 2000.
19. Harris NL, Jaffe E, Diebold J, et al: World Health Organization classification of neoplastic diseases of the hematopoietic and lymphoid tissues: Report of the Clinical Advisory Committee Meeting-Arlie House, Virginia, November 1997. J Clin Oncol 17: 3835-3849, 1999.
20. Schmitz N, Pfister B, Sextro M, et al: Aggressive conventional chemotherapy compared with high-dose chemotherapy with autologous hematopoietic stem-cell transplantation for relapsed chemosensitive Hodgkin’s disease: a randomised trial. Lancet 359: 2065-2071, 2002.
21. Enblad G, Glimelius B and Sundström SS: Treatment outcome in Hodgkin’s disease in patients above the age of 60: a population-based study. Ann Oncol 2: 297-302, 1991.
22. Adami J, Frisch M, Yuen J, et al: Evidence of an association between non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and skin cancer. BMJ 310: 1491-1495, 1995.
23. Shugart YY, Hemminki K, Vaithinen P, et al: A genetic study of Hodgkin’s lymphoma: an estimate of heritability and anticipation based on the familial cancer database in Sweden. Hum Genet 106: 553-556, 2000.
24. Capalbo S, Trerotoli P, Ciancio A, et al: Increased risk of lymphoproliferative disorders in relatives of patients with B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia: relevance of the degree of familial linkage. Eur J Haematol 65: 114-117, 2000.
25. Cardous-Ubbink MC, Heinen PC, Bakker PJ, et al: Risk of second malignancies in long-term survivors of childhood cancer. Eur J Cancer 33: 351-362, 1997.
26. Wiernik PH, Wang SQ, Hu XP, et al: Age of onset evidence for association in familial non Hodgkin's lymphoma. Br J Haematol 108: 72-79, 2001.
27. Travis LB, Curtis RE, Bennett WP, et al: Lung cancer after Hodgkin's disease. J Natl Cancer Inst 87: 1324-1327, 1995.
28. Hemminki K and Vaithinen P: National database of familial cancer in Sweden, Genet Epidemiol 15: 225-236, 1998.
29. Milatovich A, Travis A, Grosschedl R and Francke U: Gene for lymphoid-enhancer-binding factor 1 (LEFI) mapped to human chromosome 4 (q23-q25) and mouse chromosome 3 near Egr-1. Genomics 11: 1040-1048, 1991.
30. Demirci U, Ozdemir N, Benekli M, et al: Lymphoproliferative disorders in multiple primary cancers. Asian Pac J Cancer Prev 13: 383-386, 2012.
31. Caillard S, Lelong C, Pessione F, et al: Post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorders occurring after renal transplantation in adults: report of 230 cases from the French Registry. Am J Transplant 6: 2735-2742, 2006.
Enblad G, Glimelius B and Sundström C: Treatment outcome in Hodgkin’s disease in patients above the age of 60: a population-based study. Ann Oncol 2: 297-302, 1991.

Bassal M, Mertens AC, Taylor L, et al: Risk of selected subsequent carcinomas in survivors of childhood cancer: a report from Childhood Cancer Survivor Study. J Clin Oncol 24: 476-483, 2006.

Chanel S, Burke L, Fiche M, et al: Synchronous pulmonary adenocarcinoma and extranodal marginal zone/low-grade B-cell lymphoma of MALT type. Hum Pathol 32: 129-132, 2001.

Oikonomou A, Astrinakis E, Kotsianidis I, et al: Synchronous BALT Lymphoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Lung: Coincidence or Linkage? Case Rep Oncol Med Volume 2013: 420393, 2013.

Cui Y, Liu T, Zhou Y, et al: Five cases report of solid tumor synchronously with hematologic malignancy. Cancer Res Treat 44: 63-68, 2012.

Jung CY and Kwon KY: A Case of Synchronous Lung Adenocarcinoma and Extranodal Marginal Zone B-Cell Lymphoma of Mucosa-Associated Lymphoid Tissue MALT type. Tuberc Respir Dis (Seoul) 73: 61-66, 2012.

Cadranel J, Wislez M and Antoine M: Primary pulmonary lymphoma. European Respiratory Journal 3: 750-762, 2002.

Visittsunthorn N, Utsawapreechawong W, Pacharn P, et al: Immediate type hypersensitivity to chemotherapeutic agents in pediatric patients. Asian Pac J Allergy Immunol 27: 191-197, 2009.

Ganz PA: Late effects of cancer and its treatment. Semin Oncol Nurs 17: 241-248, 2001.