Dyslipidemia at diagnosis of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Mogensen, Pernille Rudebeck; Grell, Kathrine; Schmiegelow, Kjeld; Overgaard, Ulrik Malthe; Wolthers, Benjamin Ole; Mogensen, Signe Sloth; Vaag, Allan; Frandsen, Thomas Leth

Published in:
PLoS ONE

DOI:
10.1371/journal.pone.0231209

Publication date:
2020

Document version
Publisher’s PDF, also known as Version of record

Document license:
CC BY

Citation for published version (APA):
Mogensen, P. R., Grell, K., Schmiegelow, K., Overgaard, U. M., Wolthers, B. O., Mogensen, S. S., ... Frandsen, T. L. (2020). Dyslipidemia at diagnosis of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. PLoS ONE, 15(4), [e0231209]. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231209
Dyslipidemia at diagnosis of childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia

Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen1,2, Kathrine Grell2,3, Kjeld Schmiegelow2,4, Ulrik Malthe Overgaard6, Benjamin Ole Wolthers2, Signe Sloth Mogensen2, Allan Vaag6, Thomas Leth Frandsen2*

1 Department of Diabetes and Bone-metabolic Research Unit, University Hospital Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2 Department of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, University Hospital Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, 3 Section of Biostatistics, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark, 4 Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 5 Department of Hematology, University Hospital Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, 6 Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

* Thomas.Leth.Frandsen@regionh.dk

Abstract

As survival of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) exceeds 90%, limiting therapy-related toxicity has become a key challenge. Cardio-metabolic dysfunction is a challenge during and after childhood ALL therapy. In a single center study, we measured triglycerides (TG), total cholesterol (TC), high (HDL) and low density lipoproteins (LDL) levels at diagnosis and assessed the association with BMI, early therapy response, on-therapy hyperlipidemia and the toxicities; thromboembolism, osteonecrosis and pancreatitis. We included 127 children (1.0–17.9 years) all treated according to the NOPHO ALL2008 protocol. Dyslipidemia was identified at ALL-diagnosis in 99% of the patients, dominated by reduced HDL levels (98%) and mild hypertriglyceridemia (61%). Hypertriglyceridemia was not associated with body mass index (P = 0.71). Five percent of patients had mild hypercholesterolemia, 14% had mild hypocholesterolemia, 13% had decreased and 1% elevated LDL-levels. Increased TG and TC levels at ALL-diagnosis were not associated with any on-therapy lipid levels. Lipid levels and BMI were not associated to MRD after induction therapy; However, BMI and hypercholesterolemia were associated with worse risk group stratification (P < 0.045 for all). The cumulative incidence of thromboembolism was increased both for patients with hypo- (20.0%) and hypercholesterolemia (16.7%) compared to patients with normal TC levels (2.2%) at diagnosis (P = 0.0074). In conclusion, dyslipidemic changes were present prior to ALL-therapy in children with ALL but did not seem to affect dysmetabolic traits during therapy and were not predictive of on-therapy toxicities apart from an association between dys-cholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis and risk of thromboembolism. However, the latter should be interpreted with caution due to low number in the groups.

Introduction

Intensification of therapy has yielded survival rates above 90 percent in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)[1]. However, this intensification has led to severe therapy-
related toxicity as well. Thus, more than 50% of children diagnosed with ALL experience toxicity during or after therapy [2,3]. While mechanisms between anti-leukemic drugs and toxicity have been well-studied, studies on potential predictive risk factors prior to ALL therapy have been limited. Identification of such risk modifiers could enable interventions and decrease acute and chronic toxicities in children with ALL.

Obesity and metabolic dysfunction play a major role in survivors of childhood ALL leading to increased risk of morbidity and mortality throughout their life [3–6]. Altered lipid metabolism caused by intensive therapy has been addressed [7–11] and contradictory associations to toxicities such as thromboembolism [12–15], osteonecrosis [16,17] and pancreatitis [18–24] have been reported. Furthermore, abnormal lipid levels prior to ALL therapy [25–29] and obesity at time of ALL-diagnosis have been associated with reduced efficacy of induction therapy, impaired event-free and overall survival [30–32] as well as suggested as a part of the leukogenesis [33]. However, the mechanism of an altered lipid metabolism in childhood ALL has yet to be elucidated.

Accordingly, the aim of this retrospective study was to explore lipid profiles in children diagnosed with ALL prior to onset of therapy, and its potential association with BMI, early therapy response, on-therapy hyperlipidemia and/or steroid- and asparaginase-associated toxicities; thromboembolism, osteonecrosis and pancreatitis.

Methods

Patient population

All children (1 to 17.9 years of age) diagnosed with Philadelphia chromosome negative B-cell precursor or T-lineage ALL from July 2008 to December 2016 at Copenhagen University Hospital Rigshospitalet (Denmark) and enrolled in the Nordic Society of Pediatric Hematology Oncology 2008 (NOPHO ALL2008) protocol were included in the study. Patients with Down syndrome or who received glucocorticoid treatment prior to ALL-diagnosis were excluded from the study cohort.

NOPHO ALL2008 protocol

The NOPHO ALL2008 protocol is described in detail elsewhere [34]. In brief, patients were stratified into high risk (HR) or non-HR treatment groups at time of diagnosis based on white blood cell count (WBC) and immunophenotype. Following induction (day 29) and consolidation (day 79) patients were subsequently stratified into three risk groups; standard risk (SR), intermediate risk (IR), and HR based on cytogenetics as well as treatment response measured through levels of minimal residual disease (MRD). Induction therapy consisted of a systemic three-drug regimen including Vincristine and Doxorubicine and either Prednisolone or Dexamethasone for non-HR and HR, respectively. Additionally, intrathecal methotrexate or triple therapy was administered depending on CNS involvement (triple for CNS 2/3). Pegylated asparaginase, 6-mercaptopurine and high-dose methotrexate therapy were given from early consolidation phase.

All patients included in the protocol were prospectively registered regarding demographics, anthropometric measurements, and disease characteristics (immunophenotype, WBC, mediastinal mass, MRD, risk group at diagnosis/day 29/day 79, treatment-related toxicities, relapse, secondary malignancy and death). We retrieved data on thromboembolism, osteonecrosis and pancreatitis. Each toxicity was identified based on the Ponte di Legno criteria (PdL) [2]. Venous and/or arterial thromboembolism was registered if confirmed by imaging (ultrasound, CT, or MRI) or by autopsy [2]. Osteonecrosis was indicated by pain in at least one joint, limited activities of daily living and confirmed by MRI [2]. Pancreatitis was registered if at least two of three...
features were fulfilled: abdominal pain suggestive of pancreatitis; serum lipase or amylase three or more times above upper normal limit (UNL); and characteristic image findings suggestive of pancreatitis (ultrasound, CT, or MRI)[2].

**Blood samples at time of ALL-diagnosis**

Blood samples were systematically collected at time of diagnosis before onset of induction therapy prior to or during anesthesia. Patients were fasting at the time point when the blood sample was taken; allowing clear liquids up to two hours and solid foods up to six hours prior to the onset of anesthesia. The lipid analysis (TG, TC, LDL, HDL) were either performed the same day or stored in minus 80 degrees Celsius until batch analysis.

Standardized measurements (WBC, hemoglobin levels, platelet levels, liver biomarkers etc.) were collected before onset of therapy and were extracted from the NOPHO register and medical charts.

**Lipid profiling**

The lipid levels were categorized according to the normal limits (lower normal limit [LNL] = 2.5 percentile and UNL = 97.5 percentile) in sex and age matched healthy references defined by an expert panel on integrated guidelines in the Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry[35–37] (S1 Table). Dyslipidemia was defined as levels above or below the normal range in one or more of the lipids. Hypertriglyceridemia and hypercholesterolemia, were defined and graded according to the PdL consensus criteria based on triglycerides/cholesterol blood concentrations: mild hypertriglyceridemia/hypercholesterolemia 1–10×UNL, moderate hypertriglyceridemia/hypercholesterolemia 10–20×UNL, severe hypertriglyceridemia/hypercholesterolemia above 20×UNL[2]. Moreover, we defined the lipid levels as normal if within LNL and UNL and decreased if below LNL.

**On-therapy lipid levels**

Lipid levels during therapy, including triglyceride and cholesterol levels, were collected from electronic medical charts. Lipids during therapy were not measured systematically. If more than one measurement was available from the same day, the mean of these measurements were calculated.

**Statistics**

Age at diagnosis was divided into two groups; children aged 1 to 9.9 years and adolescents 10 to 17.9 years[38]. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared and converted to z-scores according to Danish references based on the LMS method[39]. BMI z-scores at diagnosis were divided in three BMI groups defined as: lean body weight <90th percentile, overweight 90th–99th percentile, and obesity ≥99th percentile[39]. Triglyceride and cholesterol standard deviation (SD) scores were calculated based on log-transformed values because especially triglycerides are right-skewed. The mean values and SDs for log-triglycerides and log-cholesterol were calculated from the 2.5 and 97.5 percentiles from the distribution of the healthy references assuming that these log-transformed would be approximately normal. As for the BMI z-scores, the triglyceride and cholesterol SD scores reflect how much a (log-) measurement deviates from the average of an age- and sex-matched healthy reference group.

Associations between hypertriglyceridemia/hyper- and hypocholesterolemia/decreased LDL and categorical and continuous characteristics at time of ALL-diagnosis, day 29, or day
79 after diagnosis were analyzed by Fisher’s exact test and Wilcoxon two-sample rank sum test, respectively. Correlations between lipid measurements at diagnosis were evaluated by Spearman’s correlation coefficient.

To illustrate the data, on-therapy mean TG and mean TC were estimated with a cubic smoothing spline with the smoothing parameter chosen by the leave-one-subject-out cross-validation procedure. Subject uniform weights were used in the estimation assigning each patient a weight depending on the patient’s number of repeated measurements. Approximate 95% percentile bootstrap pointwise confidence intervals for the estimated mean curves were obtained from 1000 resampling-subject bootstrap samples. Mean curves were fitted separately for patients with normal/hypertriglyceridemia and normal/hypocholesterolemia (hypercholesterolemia excluded because of too few patients) at time of ALL-diagnosis, respectively, and both TG and TC were log2-transformed.

The 2.5-year cumulative incidences of thromboembolism, osteonecrosis, and pancreatitis were estimated by the Aalen-Johansen estimator considering relapse, secondary malignancy, and death as competing events, and the estimates were compared with Gray’s test. The Cox proportional hazards model was used to calculate age-adjusted hazard ratios of thromboembolism, osteonecrosis, and pancreatitis for the lipid levels at diagnosis with the significance evaluated by Wald tests.

In all analyses two-sided P-values <0.05 were considered statistically significant. All analyses were carried out using the statistical software SAS® version 9.4[40] and R® version 3.5.0[41].

**Ethics**

The study has been approved by the ethical institutional review board of The Capital Region of Denmark (Protocol no.: H-2-2010-002).

**Results**

A total of 127 children diagnosed with ALL (60% males) with a median age of 4.7 years of age (interquartile range [IQR] 2.9–10.4) fulfilled the inclusion criteria. Information on demographic and disease specific characteristics is presented in Tables 1 and S2. Lipid levels measured at diagnosis were available for 112 patients (88.2%). The 15 patients without available lipid measures did not differ from the included cohort in demographic and disease characteristics. Of the 112 included patients, 82 patients had at least one on-therapy TG measurement and 71 had at least one on-therapy TC measurement.

**Lipid levels and BMI at time of ALL-diagnosis**

The associations between TG and cholesterol levels at diagnosis are shown in Fig 1A–1C. The inverse correlations between TG and HDL as well as TG and LDL were significant (p<0.0001 and p = 0.0069, respectively), while no correlation between TG and TC was found (p = 0.96).

Dyslipidemia was identified at time of ALL-diagnosis in 99% (111/112) of patients who had lipid measures at time of ALL-diagnosis (Fig 2). We identified 66% (74/112) of patients with combined dyslipidemia at time of ALL-diagnosis, primarily mild hypertriglyceridemia combined with decreased HDL levels (47/112). HDL levels were reduced in 98% (110/112) and normal in 2% (2/112) and mild hypertriglyceridemia were present in 58% (65/112) of the patients at time of ALL-diagnosis. Mild hypercholesterolemia was present in 5% (6/112), whereof three (3/112) also had hypertriglyceridemia. No patients had moderate or severe hypertriglyceridemia or hypercholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis. Conversely, 14% (15/112) had mild hypocholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis. LDL-levels were normal in 86%
Table 1. Characteristics for the total cohort, triglyceride and total cholesterol groups.

| Variables at time of ALL-diagnosis | Total cohort N = 112 | Triglyceride levels at time of ALL-diagnosis N = 112 | Total cholesterol levels at time of ALL-diagnosis N = 112 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| **Age group**                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Children, Age < 10 years           | 95 (75)             | 31 (66)                                             | 54 (83)                                                |
| Adolescents, Age ≥ 10 years        | 32 (25)             | 16 (34)                                             | 11 (17)                                                |
| **Sex**                            |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Male                               | 76 (60)             | 30 (64)                                             | 34 (52)                                                |
| Female                             | 51 (40)             | 17 (36)                                             | 31 (48)                                                |
| **BMI group**                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Lean (<90 percentile)              | 105 (83)            | 40 (85)                                             | 53 (82)                                                |
| Overweight (≥90–<99 percentile)    | 17 (13)             | 5 (11)                                              | 10 (15)                                                |
| Obese (≥99 percentile)             | 5 (4)               | 2 (4)                                               | 2 (3)                                                  |
| **Risk group at diagnosis**        |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Non-high risk                      | 100 (89)            | 38 (80)                                             | 50 (77)                                                |
| High risk                          | 27 (21)             | 9 (20)                                              | 15 (23)                                                |
| **Immunophenotype**                |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Pre B-cell precursor               | 110 (87)            | 41 (87)                                             | 56 (86)                                                |
| T-cell                             | 17 (13)             | 6 (13)                                              | 9 (14)                                                 |
| **WBC group**                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| <50 ×10^9/L                        | 93 (73)             | 37 (79)                                             | 46 (71)                                                |
| 50–100 ×10^9/L                     | 14 (11)             | 3 (6)                                               | 8 (12)                                                 |
| ≥100 ×10^9/L                       | 20 (16)             | 7 (15)                                              | 11 (17)                                                |
| **Mediastinal mass**               |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| No                                 | 102 (94)            | 43 (98)                                             | 59 (91)                                                |
| Yes                                | 7 (6)               | 1 (2)                                               | 6 (9)                                                  |
| Missing                            | 18                  | 3                                                   | 0                                                      |
| **Thrombocytes (10^9/L)**          | 54 (20–128)         | 32 (15–87.5)                                        | 0.086                                                  |
| **Leukocytes (10^9/L)**            | 6.7 (3.1–24.9)      | 9.0 (5.3–49.0)                                      | 0.13                                                   |

P-values (comparison between normal and hypocholesterolmia)

| Variables at time of ALL-diagnosis | Total cohort N = 112 | Triglyceride levels at time of ALL-diagnosis N = 112 | Total cholesterol levels at time of ALL-diagnosis N = 112 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| **Age group**                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Children, Age < 10 years           |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Adolescents, Age ≥ 10 years        |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Sex                                |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Male                               |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Female                             |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| **BMI group**                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Lean (<90 percentile)              |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Overweight (≥90–<99 percentile)    |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Obese (≥99 percentile)             |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| **Risk group at diagnosis**        |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Non-high risk                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| High risk                          |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| **Immunophenotype**                |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Pre B-cell precursor               |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| T-cell                             |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| **WBC group**                      |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| <50 ×10^9/L                        |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| 50–100 ×10^9/L                     |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| ≥100 ×10^9/L                       |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| **Mediastinal mass**               |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| No                                 |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Yes                                |                     |                                                     |                                                        |
| Missing                            |                     |                                                     |                                                        |

(Continued)
### Table 1. (Continued)

| Total cohort | Triglyceride levels at time of ALL-diagnosis |  | Total cholesterol levels at time of ALL-diagnosis |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|              | N = 112                                      | N = 112         | N = 112                                          |
|              | Normal triglyceride levels N = 47 N (%)      | Normal total cholesterol levels N = 91 N (%) | Hypocholesterolemia N = 15 N (%) | P-value (comparison between normal and hypocholesterolemia) |
|              | Hypertriglyceridemia N = 65 N (%)            | Hypocholesterolemia N = 15 N (%) | Hypercholesterolemia N = 6 N (%) | P-value (comparison between normal and hypercholesterolemia) |
| Hemoglobin (mmol/L) | 4.2 (3.0–4.9) | 4.4 (3.3–5.4) | 4.2 (3.1–5.2) | 4.5 (3.1–6.5) | 4.3 (4.3–5.2) | 0.36 |
| C-reactive protein (mg/L) | 13 (3–33) | 10 (5–26) | 9 (3–29) | 16 (10–39) | 21 (13–32) | 0.14 |
| Ferritin (μg/L) | 394 (275–560) | 257 (178–362) | 287 (185–442) | 393 (264–925) | 300 (218–427) | 0.92 |
| Sedimentation reaction (mm) | 74 (42–107) | 51 (24–80) | 54 (32–103) | 57 (25–105) | 50 (24–140) | 0.90 |
| ALAT (U/L) | 15 (11–49) | 21 (14–38) | 19 (13–41) | 21 (14–38) | 15 (7–70) | 0.54 |
| Bilirubin (μmol/L) | 5 (3–7) | 5 (3–8) | 4 (3–7) | 7 (5–10) | 6 (4–10) | 0.25 |
| Early treatment response | | | | | | |
| Risk group end of induction | | | | | | |
| Standard risk | 61 (47) | 23 (49) | 29 (45) | 45 (50) | 7 (47) | 0 (0) |
| Intermediate risk | 50 (40) | 21 (45) | 24 (38) | 34 (38) | 6 (40) | 5 (83) |
| High risk | 15 (13) | 3 (6) | 11 (17) | 11 (12) | 2 (13) | 1 (17) |
| Missing (dead) | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| MRD at end of induction | | | | | | |
| No | 75 (69) | 35 (76) | 40 (65) | 61 (70) | 10 (67) | 4 (67) |
| Yes | 33 (31) | 11 (24) | 22 (35) | 26 (30) | 5 (33) | 2 (33) |
| Missing | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Final risk group (Day 79) | | | | | | |
| Standard risk | 59 (45) | 23 (49) | 29 (46) | 45 (51) | 7 (47) | 0 (0) |
| Intermediate risk | 47 (38) | 21 (45) | 21 (33) | 32 (36) | 5 (33) | 5 (83) |
| High risk | 19 (16) | 3 (6) | 13 (21) | 12 (13) | 3 (20) | 1 (17) |
| Missing (dead) | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| MRD at day 79 | | | | | | |
| No | 106 (98) | 42 (100) | 51 (96) | 76 (99) | 12 (92) | 5 (100) |
| Yes | 2 (2) | 0 (0) | 2 (4) | 1 (1) | 1 (8) | 0 (0) |
| Missing | 19 | 5 | 12 | 14 | 2 | 1 |

P-values are from Fisher’s exact test. Abbreviations: BMI, body mass index; MRD, minimal residual disease; WBC, white blood cell count.

^Median and interquartile range, P-value from Wilcoxon two sample test.

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0231209.t001
of the patients (96/112), and 13% (15/112) had decreased and 1% (1/112) elevated LDL-levels. The combinations of altered lipid levels for the patients are illustrated in Fig 2, and characteristics for patients and TG and TC levels at time of ALL-diagnosis are presented in Table 1, and for LDL and BMI levels in S2 Table. BMI in the study cohort did not differ from healthy sex- and age-matched references (median BMI z-score -0.03 [IQR -0.98–0.82]). No associations

Fig. 1. Triglyceride levels and A) total cholesterol levels, B) high-density lipoprotein (HDL) levels, and C) low-density lipoprotein (LDL) levels at time of ALL-diagnosis for 112 patients.
were found between mild hypertriglyceridemia/hypercholesterolemia and BMI groups (P = 0.71 and P = 0.68, respectively) at time of diagnosis.

Patients with mild hypertriglyceridemia at time of ALL-diagnosis were significantly younger than patients with normal TG levels (median age 4.2 years [IQR 2.8–7.5] vs. 6.1 years [3.1–12.0], P = 0.043), and the association was also significant when comparing children and adolescents (<10 years vs. ≥10 years, P = 0.045). Contrary, patients with hypocholesterolemia were older than patients with normal TC levels (P = 0.0017) (Table 1).

Immunophenotype and WBC was not associated with mild hypertriglyceridemia (P > 0.99 and P = 0.56, respectively) (Table 1). Mediastinal mass was present in six patients with mild hypertriglyceridemia vs. one patient without hypertriglyceridemia, all seven patients were diagnosed with T-lineage leukemia (P = 0.12 and P = 0.24 for patients with T-lineage ALL and for all patients, respectively). Ferritin levels and sedimentation reaction (SR) were significantly lower in patients with hypertriglyceridemia compared to those with normal TG levels (ferritin median 257 [IQR 178–362] vs. 394 [275–560]; and SR median 51 [IQR 24–80] vs. 74 [42–107]) and no difference were shown for C-reactive protein (CRP) (P = 0.58).

Hypercholesterolemia was not statistically associated to BMI group; however, all six patients were present with mild hypercholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis (Table 1). Compared to patients with normal levels of TC, they were characterized by all being males (P = 0.035), five/six had T lineage ALL (P = 0.00017) and thus stratified into HR at time of ALL-diagnosis (P = 0.0026) and six/six stratified into either IR or HR at end of induction and at day 79 (P = 0.024 and P = 0.029, respectively). Furthermore, hypercholesterolemia tended to be associated with tumor burden since four/six had mediastinal mass at time of ALL-diagnosis (P = 0.061) and three of six had WBC count above 50 ×10⁹/L (P = 0.069). Hypercholesterolemia was not statistically associated to BMI group; however, all six patients...
were lean at time of ALL-diagnosis. Patients with hypocholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis did not differ in characteristics from patients with normal TC levels besides being older (P = 0.0017) and having higher levels of ferritin and bilirubin at time of ALL-diagnosis (P = 0.031 and P = 0.0081, respectively).

Early treatment response
MRD measures were missing for five patients at the end of induction (EOI) and additional 14 patients at day 79 (Table 1). Patients missing MRD at EOI or day 79 were either stratified into HR already at day 15/29 due to poor response or died during therapy (one patient died during induction and two patients died during remission before day 79). No association was found between lipid levels or BMI at time of ALL-diagnosis and MRD measures at end of induction and/or at day 79. Using risk stratification at the end of induction and at day 79 as a proxy for risk of therapy outcome we found a significant association between hypercholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis and a poorer risk stratification at end of induction and day 79 (P = 0.024 and P = 0.025, respectively). Likewise, overweight/obesity at time of ALL-diagnosis was associated with poorer risk group stratification both after induction (P = 0.049) and at day 79 (P = 0.017) (S2 Table). Hypertriglyceridemia at time of ALL-diagnosis was not associated to risk group stratification at end of induction (P = 0.24) though a tendency were seen at day 79 (P = 0.098) (Table 1).

On-therapy hypertriglyceridemia and hypercholesterolemia
Of the 112 patients with lipid measurements at time of ALL-diagnosis 82 patients had 1–98 (median 21, total 2070) on-therapy TG measurements, and of these 71 patients had 1–92 (median 23, total 1752) on-therapy TC measurements, reflecting that the sampling of on-therapy lipids was highly irregular. The sampling frequency varied from 1–548 (median 4, IQR 1–8) days between on-therapy TG measurements from the same patient. Most of the lipid measurements were from the first 270 days of therapy (during induction and asparaginase therapy) (91.5% of the TG and 92.5% of the TC measurements).

On-therapy TG and total TC levels within the first 270 days of therapy are demonstrated according to levels at time of ALL-diagnosis in Fig 3 for 80 patients with a median of 20 TG measurements (IQR 11–32) and 65 patients (3 patients with hypertriglyceridemia excluded) with median 23 TC measurements (IQR 14–32), respectively. We could not detect a difference in development in TG or TC over time for the groups defined by at-diagnosis lipid levels illustrated by fitted curves with overlapping confidence intervals in Fig 3. The curve for hypercholesterolemia could not be illustrated due to low numbers.

Neither was a difference identified when comparing the fitted curves for TG and TC on-therapy levels for induction therapy groups (prednisolone [non-HR] vs. dexamethasone [HR], respectively) (S1 Fig).

To illustrate the individual variation in TG on therapy, S2 and S3 Figs show the on-therapy TG SD scores and raw measurements, respectively, for the 16 patients with most measurements within the first year of therapy. S4 and S5 Figs similarly show the on-therapy TC SD scores and raw measurements for the same 16 patients.

Toxicities
The cumulative incidences of thromboembolism, osteonecrosis, and pancreatitis were 5.5% (95% CI 2.4–10.5), 7.2% (3.5–12.7), and 18.2% (12.1–25.4), respectively, and were not associated with age group in the study cohort (P > 0.26 for all) (Table 2). The cumulative incidence of any toxicity was 31.1% (22.9–39.4) with no significant association with age group or any of the lipid levels at diagnosis (P > 0.11 for all). The cumulative incidence of thromboembolism was
significantly higher for patients with hypocholesterolemia (20.0%) and hypercholesterolemia (16.7%) at diagnosis compared to patients with normal TC levels (2.2%) \((P = 0.0074)\). Correspondingly, the age-adjusted hazard ratio of thromboembolism was significantly associated with dyscholesterolemia (9.3, 95% CI 1.7–50.8, \(P = 0.011\)) (S3 Table).
No other significant associations were found between the lipid levels or BMI level at time of ALL-diagnosis and age-adjusted hazard rate of thromboembolism (P > 0.78) (S3 Table), and no significant associations with osteonecrosis or pancreatitis (P > 0.25) (S3 Table).

Discussion

Tumor development influences the host lipid metabolism in animals by inducing hyperlipidemia partly through reprogramming of hepatic lipoprotein homeostasis[42]. This provides enhanced cholesterol uptake by the tumor and supports its growth[42]. Metabolic dysfunction...
is likewise presented in cancer patients with cancer-associated cachexia[43]. However, only scarce literature exists on this complex multi organ syndrome in children with ALL. We demonstrated that 99% of the children had dyslipidemia at time of ALL-diagnosis, with abnormalities in at least one type of lipids, highly dominated by decreased HDL levels and hypertriglyceridemia and to less extent by altered TC and LDL levels. This is compatible with previous findings from smaller ALL cohorts[25–28] possibly caused by the cancer-induced catabolism[44]. The catabolism changes substrate supply priorities and stimulated adipose tissue lipolysis in peripheral and visceral adipose storages, as well as a decreased fatty acid oxidation. The increased release of free fatty acids instigate elevated hepatic production of TG and secretion of very low density lipoprotein (VLDL)[10,44]. Furthermore, catabolism leads to decreased levels and compositional changes of plasma LDL and HDL[44].

Overweight/obesity at time of ALL-diagnosis was associated to a poorer risk group stratification in our study indicating a poorer treatment outcome which previously have been shown by other studies[30,31]. Both interpatient variation of pharmacokinetics (over- and under-treatment) as well as protective mechanisms in adipocytes have been suggested to explain a worse therapy outcome in obese patients with ALL[30,45,46]. Furthermore, it has been discussed if obesity takes part in the’ leukemogenesis’ in adults, though it was not supported by our results[33,47,48]. Likewise, hypercholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis was associated to a worse risk group stratification probably explained by immunophenotype since five of six of the patients with hypercholesterolemia had T-cell ALL and will, according to the protocol, receive IR or HR therapy. MRD measures did not support the findings possibly due to lack of power and available MRD measures for HR patients. The lipid levels at diagnosis have not previously been associated to treatment response. However, an association to tumor burden at diagnosis has been indicated[26,27]. Also, differences in the leukemogenesis of T-ALL, compared to B-ALL, might be a part of the association with hypercholesterolemia, but this need to be further determined. We demonstrated a non-significant association between hypercholesterolemia at diagnosis and WBC >50x10^9/L as well as an association with risk of mediastinal mass, suggesting an association between increased TC and higher tumor burden[43]. Hypercholesterolemia was strongly associated to immunophenotype, which suggests that T-cell leukemia induces a different host-response, with increased levels of TC, than B-cell leukemia. However, these results should be interpreted with care due to low numbers in the group. Furthermore, TC was not associated to any of the measured liver numbers. No literature is available on this topic but needs further research.

The sampling frequency and levels of on-therapy TG and TC varied considerably between patients throughout the first year of therapy, and sampling frequency was typically higher in periods with high levels, making it difficult to classify a patient as having high or low levels. We hypothesized that increased lipid levels at time of ALL-diagnosis could predict on-therapy lipid levels; however, our data did not support this. In fact, patients with elevated TG levels at time of ALL-diagnosis had lower levels compared to those with normal or decreased levels at time of ALL-diagnosis. This probably reflects two different mechanisms for increased TG and TC levels at time of ALL-diagnosis and during asparaginase/dexamethasone therapy. On-therapy lipid levels are known to be related to the intense therapy with glucocorticoids and asparaginase[2,11,49,50], supported by the findings in the present study with the highest levels of TG and TC during therapy with both asparaginase and dexamethasone. The wide variation in TG and TC levels during therapy for the individual patient points to studies using systematic measurements in defined time/therapy intervals to obtain a better understanding of the lipid response during therapy, could be useful to further understand the fluctuations and relationship to toxicities. Glucocorticoids are known to have anabolic side effects in children with ALL.
and cause weight gain[51]. The combination of anabolism and decreased physical activity will lead to metabolic dysfunction (including obesity, (pre-)diabetes and cardiovascular disease) in children with ALL both during and after treatment[52,53].

Thromboembolism in patients with ALL are usually related to complications with central venous lines[14]. However, our age-adjusted analyses suggests an increased incidence of thromboembolism for both hypo- and hypercholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis, supporting possible changes in the vascular wall exists at time of ALL-diagnosis[44] and may persist during therapy. Although, central venous line and circulating factors or other prothrombotic factors may also impact the risk of thromboembolism. Unfortunately, we did not measure VLDL levels in this study, which hypothetically would track with the TG levels[44]. Furthermore, our results are in line with a large randomized controlled trial showing an association between the formation of blood clots and cholesterol levels, and could indicate a need for statin therapy, or other lipid lowering therapy, for patients being at high risk of thromboembolism without having hyperlipidemia[54]. Rank et al. have shown an association between risk of thromboembolism and immunophenotype as well as mediastinal mass[13] which support our finding on hypercholesterolemia at time of ALL-diagnosis being associated with all three variables. The exact mechanism behind the association between hypocholesterolemia and risk of thromboembolism needs further investigation.

The lipid levels at time of ALL-diagnosis were not associated to osteonecrosis. However, an association between osteonecrosis and on-therapy lipid levels were previously demonstrated by our group in a larger cohort [17]. However, this could support the notion of different causes and implications of elevated TG levels at diagnosis versus during treatment or reflect the low number of patients with ON in the present study. No association between the lipid levels at diagnosis and pancreatitis were shown. Risk of pancreatitis may primarily be caused by the intense asparaginase therapy[55], possibly by asparaginase-induced hypertriglyceridemia; although, this remains to be demonstrated in children with ALL.

This study cohort was treated according to the same protocol and population based, representing all patients below 18 years of age, diagnosed with ALL in the eastern part of Denmark since 2008 (approximately 50% of the national cohort). However, the study is limited by the size of the cohort, its retrospective design and lack of systematic lipid measures during therapy.

Cardio-metabolic conditions are emerging concerns in children during and after ALL therapy. To clarify this major issue a better understanding of the interaction between the dyslipidemic host-response, prior to and during ALL therapy, and the ALL is needed.

Supporting information

S1 Fig. On-therapy levels of A) triglycerides and B) total cholesterol, both with fitted smoothed spline curves according to induction therapy (prednisolone vs. dexamethasone). The shaded areas show the approximate 95% percentile bootstrap pointwise confidence intervals for the estimated mean curves. (DOCX)

S2 Fig. Triglyceride SD scores for 16 patients (4 patients within each Fig A-D) with more than 36 measurements within the first year of therapy. (DOCX)

S3 Fig. On-therapy triglycerides for 16 patients (4 patients within each Fig A-D) with more than 36 measurements within the first year of therapy. (DOCX)
S4 Fig. Total cholesterol SD scores for 16 patients (4 patients within each Fig A-D) with more than 36 measurements within the first year of therapy. (DOCX)

S5 Fig. On-therapy total cholesterol for 16 patients (4 patients within each Fig A-D) with more than 36 measurements within the first year of therapy. (DOCX)

S1 Table. Normal age- and sex adjusted lipid levels determined by an expert panel from the Danish Society of Clinical Biochemistry based on clinical studies.35,36,37 (DOCX)

S2 Table. Characteristics for LDL and BMI groups. (DOCX)

S3 Table. Age-adjusted hazard ratios for toxicities. (DOCX)

Acknowledgments
Thank you to all patients and staff on the pediatric oncology department and hematology department at University Hospital in Copenhagen for being a part of this study.

Author Contributions
Conceptualization: Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen, Kjeld Schmiegelow, Signe Sloth Mogensen, Thomas Leth Frandsen.

Formal analysis: Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen, Kathrine Grell, Benjamin Ole Wolthers.

Investigation: Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen, Ulrik Malthe Overgaard, Benjamin Ole Wolthers, Allan Vaag.

Methodology: Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen, Kathrine Grell, Kjeld Schmiegelow, Allan Vaag, Thomas Leth Frandsen.

Project administration: Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen, Thomas Leth Frandsen.

Software: Kathrine Grell.

Supervision: Kjeld Schmiegelow, Allan Vaag, Thomas Leth Frandsen.

Writing – original draft: Pernille Rudebeck Mogensen, Thomas Leth Frandsen.

Writing – review & editing: Kathrine Grell, Kjeld Schmiegelow, Ulrik Malthe Overgaard, Benjamin Ole Wolthers, Signe Sloth Mogensen, Allan Vaag.

References
1. Pui C-H, Yang JJ, Hunger SP, Pieters R, Schrappe M, Biondi A, et al. Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: Progress Through Collaboration. J Clin Oncol [Internet]. 2015; 33(27):2938–48. Available from: http://ascopubs.org/doi/10.1200/JCO.2014.59.1636 PMID: 26304874

2. Schmiegelow K, Attarbaschi A, Barzilai S, Escherich G, Frandsen TL, Halsey C, et al. Consensus definitions of 14 severe acute toxic effects for childhood lymphoblastic leukaemia treatment: a Delphi consensus. Lancet Oncol. 2016; 17(6):e231–9. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30035-3 PMID: 27289279

3. Oeffinger KC, Mertens AC, Sklar CA, Kawashima T, Hudson MM, Meadows AT, et al. Chronic Health Conditions in Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer for the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study*. 2006;15.

4. Ziegler-Heitbrock H-L, Niehuis K, Sander K, Sander M, Gatzemeier U, Buecker A, et al. Risk of invasive breast cancer in women with childhood cancer: a population-based cohort study. Lancet Oncol. 2016; 17(12):1770–8. doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30246-7 https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30246-7
4. Diller L, Chow EJ, Gurney JG, Hudson MM, Kadin-Lottick NS, Kawashima TI, et al. Chronic Disease in the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study Cohort: A Review of Published Findings.

5. Morel S, Leahy J, Fournier M, Lamarche B, Garofalo C, Grimard G, et al. Lipid and lipoprotein abnormalities in acute lymphoblastic leukemia survivors. J Lipid Res [Internet]. 2017; 58(5):982–93. Available from: http://www.jlr.org/lookup doi:10.1194/jlr.M072207 PMID: 28274961

6. Nottage KA, Ness KK, Li C, Srivastava D, Robison LL, Hudson MM. Metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular risk among long-term survivors of acute lymphoblastic leukemia—From the St. Jude Lifetime Cohort. Br J Haematol. 2014; 165(3):364–74. https://doi.org/10.1111/bjh.12754 PMID: 24467690

7. Blackett PR, Koren E, Blackstock R, Downs D WC. Hyperlipidemia in acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Ann Clin Lab Sci. 1984; 14(2):123–9. PMID: 6585175

8. Bhojwani D, Darbandi R, Pei D, Ramsey LB, Chemaitilly W, Sandlund JT, et al. Severe hypertriglyceridemia during therapy for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Eur J Cancer [Internet]. 2014; 50(15):2685–94. Available from: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=4180109&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract doi:10.1016/j.ejca.2014.06.023 PMID: 25087182

9. Steinherz PG. Transient, severe hyperlipidemia in patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia treated with prednisone and asparaginase. Cancer. 1994; 74(12):3234–9. https://doi.org/10.1002/1097-0142(19941215)74:12<3234::aid-cncr2820741224>3.0.co;2-1 PMID: 7982187

10. Hoogerbrugge N, Jansen H, Hoogerbrugge PM. Transient hyperlipidemia during treatment of ALL with L-asparaginase is related to decreased lipoprotein lipase activity. Leukemia [Internet]. 1997; 11(8):1377–9. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&dopt=Citation&list_uids=9264396 doi:10.1038/sj.leu.2400703 PMID: 9264396

11. Cohen H, Bielorai B, Harats D, Toren A, Pinhas-Hamiel O. Conservative treatment of L-asparaginase-associated lipid abnormalities in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Pediatr Blood Cancer [Internet]. 2010; 8(3):n/a-n/a. Available from: http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/pbc.22305

12. Payne JH, Vora AJ. Thrombosis and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Br J Haematol. 2007; 138(4):430–45. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2457.2007.06077.x PMID: 17608766

13. Rank CU, Toft N, Tuckuviene R, Grell K, Nielsen OJ, Frandsen TL, et al. Thromboembolism in acute lymphoblastic leukemia: Results of nopho all2008 protocol treatment in patients aged 1 to 45 years. Blood. 2018; 131(22):2475–84. https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2018-01-827949 PMID: 29661787

14. Tuckuviene R, Ranta S, Albertsen BK, Andersson NG, Bendtsen MD, Frisk T, et al. Prospective study of thromboembolism in 1038 children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A Nordic Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (NOPHO) study. J Thromb Haemost. 2016; 14(3):485–94. https://doi.org/10.1111/jth.13236 PMID: 26707629

15. Prasca S, Carmona R, Ji L, Ko RH, Bhojwani D, Rawlins YA, et al. Obesity and risk for venous thromboembolism from contemporary therapy for pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Thromb Res [Internet]. 2018; 165(October 2017):44–50. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.thromres.2018.02.150 PMID: 29567586

16. Kawedia JD, Kaste SC, Pei D, Panetta JC, Cai X, Cheng C, et al. CME article Pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and pharmacogenetic determinants of osteonecrosis in children with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. Blood. 2011; 117(8):2340–7. https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2010-10-31969 PMID: 21148812

17. Mogensen SS, Schmiegelow K, Grell K, Albertsen BK, Wehner PS, Kampmann P, et al. Hyperlipidemia is a risk factor for osteonecrosis in children and young adults with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Haematologica [Internet]. 2017 May; 102(5):e175–8. Available from: http://www.haematologica.org/lookup/doi/10.3324/haematol.2016.160507 PMID: 28209659

18. Forsmark CE, Swaroop Vege S, Wilcox CM. Acute Pancreatitis. N Engl J Med [Internet]. 2016; 375(20):1972–81. Available from: http://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMra1505202 PMID: 27959604

19. Yadav D, Pitchumoni CS. Pancreatic and biliary diseases: Issues in hyperlipidemic pancreatitis. J Clin Gastroenterol. 2003; 36(1):54–62. https://doi.org/10.1097/00004836-200301000-00016 PMID: 12488710

20. Raja RA, Schmiegelow K, Sørensen DN, Frandsen TL. Asparaginase-associated pancreatitis is not predicted by hypertriglyceridemia or pancreatic enzyme levels in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Pediatr Blood Cancer [Internet]. 2017; 64(1):32–8. Available from: http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/pbc.26183 PMID: 27555294

21. de Pretis N, Amadio A, Frulloni L. Hypertriglyceridemic pancreatitis: Epidemiology, pathophysiology and clinical management. United Eur Gastroenterol J [Internet]. 2018; 6(5):649–55. Available from: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2050640618755002

22. Denton CC, Rawlins YA, Oberley MJ, Bhojwani D, Orgel E. Predictors of hepatotoxicity and pancreatitis in children and adolescents with acute lymphoblastic leukemia treated according to contemporary...
regimens. Pediatr Blood Cancer [Internet]. 2017;(August):e26891. Available from: http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/pbc.26891

23. Mogensen PR, Wolthers BO, Grell K, Schmiegelow K, Frandsen TL. Association between body mass index and pancreatitis in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2018;(February):1–3.

24. S.K. P, S.X. S, E.J. N, C. K, M.L. Y, M. D, et al. Asparaginase-associated lipid abnormalities in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Blood [Internet]. 1997; 89(6):1886–95. Available from: http://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&PAGE=reference&D=emed4&NEWS=N&AN=1997092275 PMID: 9058708

25. Halton JM, Nazir DJ, McQueen MJ, Barr RD. Blood lipid profiles in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Cancer [Internet]. 1998; 83(2):379–84. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/9669823 PMID: 9669823

26. Moschovi M, Trimiti G, Apostolakou F, Papassotiriou I, Tzortzatou-Stathopoulou F. Serum lipid alterations in acute lymphoblastic leukemia of childhood. J Pediatr Hematol Oncol [Internet]. 2004; 26(5):289–93. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15111780 https://doi.org/10.1097/00043426-200405000-00006 PMID: 15111780

27. Spiegel RJ, Schaefer EJ, Edwards BK. Plasma lipid alterations in leukemia and lymphoma. Am J Med. 1982; 72(2):775–82. https://doi.org/10.1016/0002-9343 (82)90543-5 PMID: 7081275

28. Scrivano D, Baroni S, Pagano L, Zuppi C, Leone G, Giardina B. Return to normal values of lipid pattern after effective chemotherapy in acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Haematologica. 1996; 81(4):343–5. PMID: 8870380

29. Usman H, Rashid R, Ameer F, Iqbal A, Hasnain S, et al. Revisiting the dyslipidemia associated with acute leukemia. Clin Chim Acta [Internet]. 2015; 444:43–9. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cca.2015.01.038 PMID: 25680744

30. Butturini AM, Dorey FJ, Lange BJ, Henry DW, Gaynon PS, Fu C, et al. Obesity and outcome in pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia. J Clin Oncol. 2007; 25(15):2063–9. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2006.07.7792 PMID: 17513811

31. Orgel E, Tucci J, Alhushki W, Malvar J, Sposto R, Fu CH, et al. Obesity is associated with residual leukemia following induction therapy for childhood B-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Blood. 2015; 124(26):3932–9.

32. Eissa HM, Zhou Y, Panetta JC, Browne EK, Jeha S, Cheng C, et al. The effect of body mass index at diagnosis on clinical outcome in children with newly diagnosed acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Blood Cancer J [Internet]. 2017; 7(2):e531. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1038/bcj.2017.11 PMID: 28212374

33. Larsson SC, Wolk A. Overweight and obesity and incidence of leukemia: A meta-analysis of cohort studies. Int J Cancer. 2008; 122(6):1418–21. https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.23176 PMID: 18027857

34. Toft N, Birgens H, Abrahamsson J, Griskevičius L, Hallbök H, Heyman M, et al. Toxicity profile and treatment delays in NOPHO ALL2008-comparing adults and children with Philadelphia chromosome-negative acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Eur J Haematol. 2016; 96(2).

35. Hilsted L, Rustad P, Aksglaede L, Sørensen K, Juul A. Recommended Nordic paediatric reference intervals for 21 common biochemical properties. Scand J Clin Lab Investig. 2012; 73(July(2)):1–9.

36. Colantonio DA, Kyrakiopoulou L, Chan MK, Daly CH, Brinc D, Venner AA, et al. Closing the gaps in pediatric laboratory reference intervals: a CALIPER database of 40 biochemical markers in a healthy and multiethnic population of children. Clin Chem. 2012 May; 58(5):854–68. https://doi.org/10.1373/clinchem.2011.177741 PMID: 22371482

37. Aldrimer M, Ridefelt P, Rodro P, Nikolsson F, Gustafsson J, Hellberg D. Reference intervals on the Abbot Architect for serum thyroid hormones, lipids and prolactin in healthy children in a population-based study. Scand J Clin Lab Invest. 2012 Jul; 72(4):326–32. https://doi.org/10.3109/00365513.2012.667571 PMID: 22724627

38. World Health organisation. Strategy on Diet, physical activity and health [Internet]. Available from: https://www.who.int/dietphysactivity/childhood_what/en/

39. Nyssom K, Melgaard C, Hutchings B, Fleischer Michaelsen K. Body mass index of 0 to 45-y-old Danes: Reference values and comparison with published European reference values. Int J Obes. 2001; 25(2):177–84.

40. Software S. No Copyright © [year of copyright] SAS Institute Inc. SAS and all other SAS Institute Inc. product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA.

41. R Core Team (2017). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. Available from: https://www.r-project.org/
42. Huang J, Li L, Lian J, Schauer S, Vesely PW, Kratky D, et al. Tumor-Induced Hyperlipidemia Contrib- 
utes to Tumor Growth. Cell Rep. 2016; 15(2):336–48. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2016.03.020 
PMID: 27050512

43. Petruzzelli M, Wagner EF. Mechanisms of metabolic dysfunction in cancer-associated cachexia. 
Genes Dev. 2016; 30(5):489–501. https://doi.org/10.1101/gad.276733.115 PMID: 26944676

44. Carpentier YA, Scruel O. Changes in the concentration and composition of plasma lipoproteins during 
the acute phase response. Curr Opin Clin Nutr Metab Care. 2002; 5(2):153–8. https://doi.org/10.1097/ 
00075197-200203000-00006 PMID: 11844981

45. Gurney H, Shaw R. Obesity in dose calculation: A mouse or an elephant? J Clin Oncol. 2007; 25 
(30):4703–4. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2007.13.1078 PMID: 17947715

46. Redlarski G, Palkowski A, Krawczuk M. Body surface area formulae: An alarming ambiguity. Sci Rep 
[Internet], 2016; 6(October 2015):1–8. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1038/srep27966 doi: 10.1038/ 
s41598-016-0001-8

47. Pluijm SMF, den Hoed MA, van den Heuvel-Eibrink MM. Comment on “Acute lymphoblastic leukemia 
and adiponcrosis” by M. Bifulco and AM Malfitano. Haematologica [Internet]. 2015; 100(10):e432–3. 
Available from: http://www.haematologica.org/cgi/doi/10.3324/haematol.2015.130500 PMID: 
26432384

48. Bifulco M, Malfitano AM. Comment on “the negative impact of being underweight and weight loss on 
 survival of children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.” Haematologica. 2015; 100(3):e118–9. https:// 
doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2014.221168 PMID: 25740108

49. Schmiegelow K, Müller K, Mogensen SS, Mogensen PR, Wolthers BO, Stoltze UK, et al. Non-infectio us 
chemotherapy-associated acute toxicities during childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia therapy. 
F1000Research [Internet]. 2017; 6(0):444. Available from: https://f1000research.com/articles/6-444/v1

50. Warris LT, van den Akker ELT, Bierings MB, van den Bos C, Zwaan CM, Sassen SDT, et al. Acute Acti-
vation of Metabolic Syndrome Components in Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Patients 
Treated with Dexamethasone. PLoS One [Internet]. 2016; 11(6):e0158225. Available from: http://dx. 
plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0158225 PMID: 27362350

51. Reilly JJ, Brougham M, Montgomery C, Richardson F, Kelly A, Gibson BES. Effect of Glucocorticoid 
Therapy on Energy Intake in Children Treated for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. J Clin Endocrinol 
Metab [Internet]. 2001; 86(8):3742–5. Available from: https://academic.oup.com/jcem/article-lookup/ 
doi/10.1210/jcem.86.8.7764 PMID: 11502805

52. Reilly JJ. Obesity during and after Treatment for Childhood Cancer. 2009; 15(1):40–58.

53. Chow EJ, Pihoker C, Friedman DL, Lee SJ, McCune JS, Wharton C, et al. Glucocorticoids and insulin 
resistance in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Pediatr Blood Cancer [Internet], 2013; 60 
(4):621–6. Available from: http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=3568436&tool= 
pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract doi: 10.1002/pbc.23464 PMID: 23042765

54. Ridker PM, Danielson E, Fonseca FAH, Genest J, Gotto AMJ, Kastelein JJP, et al. Rosuvastatin to pre-
vent vascular events in men and women with elevated C-reactive protein. N Engl J Med. 2008 Nov; 359 
(21):2195–207. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa0807646 PMID: 18997196

55. Albertsen BK, Grell K, Abrahamsson J, Lund B, Vettenranta K, Jonsson OG, et al. Intermittent Versus 
Continuous PEG-Asparaginase to Reduce Asparaginase-Associated Toxicities: A NOPHO ALL2008 
Randomized Study. J Clin Oncol. 2019 Jul; 37(19):1638–46. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.18.01877 
PMID: 30978155