ABSTRACT

Germ cell tumors are rare neoplasms that affect young males. Nearly 99% of patients with localized stage I disease and nearly 80% of patients with metastatic disease can be cured. Even patients who relapse following chemotherapy can achieve a long-term survival in approximately 30-40% of cases. The main objective in early stages and in good prognosis patients has changed in recent years, and it has become of major importance to reduce treatment-related morbidity without compromising the excellent long-term survival rate. In poor prognosis patients, there is a correlation between the experience of the treating institution and the long-term clinical outcome of the patients, particularly when the most sophisticated therapies are needed. So far, of utmost importance is the information from updated practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of germ cell tumors. The Italian Germ cell cancer Group (IGG) has developed the following clinical recommendations, which identify the current standards in diagnosis and treatment of germ cell tumors in adult males.

Key words: germ cell tumor, guidelines, non-seminoma, seminoma, testicular cancer.