design of a phase I study and in the selection of the dosing strategy and treatment schedule. Optimal use of the preclinical PK−PD database may improve the selection of dose and schedule in early clinical studies and facilitate the execution of these studies, thereby reducing the length of the studies, number of patients needed and patients that are being exposed to sub-therapeutic doses. An example of the implementation of such strategy is the clinical development of the a2-integrin inhibitor E7820 whereby the expression of a2-integrin on platelets and tumor cells served as a biomarker. Another example is the PK−PD modeling of the multitargeted tyrosine kinase inhibitor E7080 (HOPE). By applying PK−PD and modeling the magnitude of the effect of antihypertensive therapy could be predicted on the dose-limiting hypertension and proteinuria upon treatment with E7080, demonstrating the usefulness of the outlined methodology.

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26 INVITED

Is a side effect of molecular targeted therapy a marker of efficacy?

J. Tabernero[1], J. Rodon[1], R. Dienstmann[1], I. Braña[1], A. Cervantes[2]. *[1]Vall D'Hebron University Hospital, Medical Oncology Department, Barcelona, Spain; [2]Hospital Clínico, Medical Oncology Department, Valencia, Spain*

The target of signal transduction inhibitors may be present on normal as well as tumor cells, what explains the side effects in addition to antitumor activity of molecular targeted therapy. Some toxicities may be a pharmacodynamic effect of pathway inhibition (mechanism-based toxicities) and, in tumours that depend on the inhibited pathway for proliferation, a biomarker of efficacy. Hypertension, a recognized adverse event of angiogenesis inhibitors, may be a potential biomarker of VEGF pathway inhibition and, in some occasions, of efficacy. Retrospective analyses of various studies with bevacizumab, sorafenib, sunitinib, and axitinib have verified that early development of hypertension correlates with clinical outcome in patients with different tumour types, including advanced colorectal, breast and renal cell carcinoma. In addition, several studies have suggested that development of rash with treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitors or monoclonal antibodies against EGFR is associated with improved outcomes in patients with non-small-cell lung cancer, head and neck, colorectal and pancreatic cancer. Response rates as well as progression-free and overall survivals have improved in patients that develop skin toxicity with anti-EGFR targeted agents, such as erlotinib, gefitinib, cetuximab and panitumumab. The development of hypertriglyceridemia with mTOR inhibitors and hyperglycemia with PI3K/AKT inhibitors are pharmacodynamic effects of pathway inhibition and the potential value as markers of efficacy is under evaluation. However, the predictive value of a side effect requires validation in prospective trials, like the "dosing-to-rash" studies that are currently underway. Oncogene addiction on a specific pathway that is targeted with the therapy may be the possible link between a mechanism-based adverse event and efficacy. In addition, biological basis for this association may be pharmacological, with subjects with higher plasma levels of the drug attaining greater toxicity and antitumor response, and also genetic, as single nucleotide polymorphisms play a role in drug pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic processes. Additional studies are of utmost importance for further clarifications of this correlation.

27 INVITED

Drug response in a genetically engineered mouse: clinical implications

M. Hidalgo[1,2,3]. *[1]Universidad CEU-San Pablo, Madrid, Spain; [2]Centro Integral Oncologico "Clara Campal", Madrid, Spain; [3]Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncologicas, Madrid, Spain*

The progress in the development of new anticancer agent's remains rather slow. One of the bottlenecks in anticancer drug development is the lack of predictive preclinical models. Conventional cancer models, based on cultured cell lines and xenograft derived from these cell lines are poor predictors of clinical outcome. In addition, as these models do not represent well the full heterogeneity of the disease have not been very useful as platforms for biomarker discovery. Recently, there has been interest in the newer models for anticancer drug development including genetically engineered mouse models and as well as freshly generated xenograft obtained directly from cancer patients. These models have several biological features that suggest may be predictors of clinical outcome. These included a more diverse and close to human cancer spectrum of genomic alterations, and the presence of stroma and cancer stem cells. A series of recent studies demonstrate that these preclinical models are suitable for biomarkers discovery and, in fact, some of the biomarkers currently in clinical use could had been discovered in preclinical models. Emerging data also suggest that these models are better predictors of the outcome of clinical trials indicating that could be useful for drug screening and design of clinical trials. Indeed, it is expected that these models will be progressively used in drug development in lieu of extensive clinical programs as it will permit a much focused clinical plan. Finally, these models look promising as platform for personalized cancer treatment. However, additional data is needed to fully determine their role in this setting.

Current representative preclinical models. drugs in patients with pancreatic cancer. Multiple clinical trials conducted in this disease have been negative. While the ultimate progress in pancreatic cancer will come from the discovery of new drugs and strategies, it is also clear that a better understanding of drug mechanism of action and expected antitumor effect may help in clinical development. If could also be argue that some agents form which preclinical results are not optimal should perhaps not be developed clinically so that resources can be prioritized and focused in those compounds with a better chance. It is noteworthy that most new agents tested in the clinic are selected with very limited preclinical information. In general, studies are limited to a few conventional cell lines at the most. It is doubtful that these cell lines, which have adapted to growth in culture for prolonged periods of time maintain are predictive of pancreatic cancer clinical outcome.

More recently, two models of pancreas cancer have become available which may facilitate the clinical development of new agents. Using genetically engineering techniques several groups have developed genetically modified mouse models which faithfully recapitulate the development and clinical presentation of the disease in mice. While these models were initially used to understand the molecular biology of pancreatic cancer, more recent studies have used these models for drug testing. In parallel to this work, other groups including our own have developed personalized pancreatic cancer tumors using patient derived tumor materials obtained at the time of surgery and propagating these tumors in nude mice. We have used this platform to perform drug screening studies, biomarker development and to design personalize treatment strategies. This work has already identified interesting new targets and strategies which are been advanced to clinical development.

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27A

Targeting the PI3K/mTOR pathway in genetically engineered mouse models of advanced prostate cancer

A. Patnaik[1,3], K. Courtney[2,3], S. Signoretti[2,3], M. Loda[2,3], A. Grant[1,3], I. Pedrosa[1,3], E. Lunsford[1], J. Frangioni[1,3], P. Pandolfi[1,3], L. Cantley[1,3]. *[1]Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA; [2]Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; [3]Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA*

The PTEN and p53 tumor suppressors are among the most commonly inactivated or mutated genes in human cancer, including prostate cancer. Loss of PTEN is associated with increased pathologic Gleason score and risk of clinical recurrence, and 20–60% of human metastatic prostate cancers have loss of heterozygosity at the PTEN locus, resulting in hyperactivation of the PI3K/mTOR pathway. Mice with germline heterozygosity for PTEN have been shown to develop prostate intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN) at a high rate (>60%) and mice with prostate specific homozygous deletion of PTEN develop invasive prostate cancer, albeit with prolonged latency. Combined inactivation of PTEN and p53 in mouse prostate elicits invasive cancer by 9 weeks of age and invariable lethality by 7 months of age. We evaluated the impact of GSK48 (dual PI3K/mTOR inhibitor) in prostate-specific PTEN/p53 double knockout mice and prostate-specific PTEN mice, respectively. The mice were imaged by 18FDG-PET and T2-weighted MRI, respectively, for baseline tumor metabolic and volumetric assessment prior to drug administration. GSK458 was