

Scientific Symposium (Sun, 25 Sep, 14:45–16:45) Tailored Chemotherapy in Colon Cancer

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INVITED

The Genomic and Stem Cell Perspective

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This presentation comprises a review of recent progress in colorectal cancer genetics and some new data in this field. The latter will include findings on: (i) inherited determinants of 5FU and bevacizumab toxicity; (ii) paradoxical influences of telomere length on colorectal cancer susceptibility and prognosis; and (iii) the potential importance of intestinal stem cell numbers in cancer predisposition. The applicability of genetic testing to colorectal cancer prevention in the general population is also discussed.

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INVITED

The Role of Microsatellite Instability in the Era of Personalized Medicine

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Microsatellite instability (MSI) is the molecular fingerprint of a deficient mismatch repair system. Approximately 15% of colorectal cancers (CRC) display MSI. The majority of these tumours are secondary to hypermethylation of the promoter of *MLH1* (sporadic MSI CRC). In addition, approximately 2–3% of MSI CRCs are caused by germline mutations in one of the mismatch repair genes *MLH1*, *MSH2*, *MSH6* or *PMS2* and are part of the presentation of the Lynch Syndrome (hereditary MSI CRC cases). A clinic-pathological profile of MSI tumours has been consistently described with recognizable features such as right-sided location, older age of diagnosis, lower pathological stage, characteristic histological tumour grade, mucinous presentation, prominent numbers of tumour infiltrating lymphocytes, absence of dirty necrosis, and the presence of a Crohn's like nodular infiltrate thus leading to the concept of an MSI phenotype in CRC. Multiple clinical studies have confirmed that MSI tumours result in a better prognosis than microsatellite stable (MSS) CRC; in fact, MSI tumours have a reduced likelihood of dissemination to lymph nodes and distant organs. However, MSI cancers do not necessarily benefit from the same chemotherapeutic strategies used to treat MSS tumours. Specifically, stage II cases with MSI cancers do not benefit from 5-Fluorouracil-based adjuvant chemotherapy regimens compared to MSS ones and have an inferior outcome. New data suggest a possible benefit for irinotecan-based regimens for MSI CRC, but these findings need further clarification. Moreover, data regarding the activity of Oxaliplatin in MSI CRCs is emerging but not conclusive at the present moment. Therefore, information on the MSI status has the potential to be informative on assisting the clinician in the selection of chemotherapy in the adjuvant and metastatic setting, although more data is needed. As the molecular basis of MSI CRC is elucidated, mutations in kinases and other candidate genes such as those involved in double strand break repair that harbor microsatellite tracts are clearly over-represented in MSI tumours and represent an opportunity to explore specific targeted therapeutics. We will review the data on the effect of targeted therapies against the PI3K-AKT-mTOR pathway and the use of PARP inhibitors in MSI CRCs, as well as other targeted agents. Some of these new therapeutic strategies have recently emerged from pathway-centered approaches that have examined the role of synthetic lethality in this tumour subtype. In addition, the use of systems biology approaches using meta-analysis of gene expression profiles of MSI tumours have provided with additional opportunities for targeting MSI tumours. These therapeutic strategies can be exploited not only in the context of treatment of hereditary and sporadic MSI tumours but also as chemopreventive agents for patients diagnosed with Lynch Syndrome.

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Optimal Approach on the KRAS Wild Type

Abstract not received

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INVITED

Optimal Approach of the KRAS Mutant

Abstract not received

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INVITED

The Angiogenesis Inhibition

Abstract not received

Scientific Symposium (Sun, 25 Sep, 14:45–16:45) Joint ECCO and ASCO Scientific Symposium on Improving the Quality of Delivered Cancer Care by Tools and Guidelines

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INVITED

Paediatrics as Model of Centralising Treatment of Rare Cancers

Abstract not received

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INVITED

QOPI Project

Abstract not received

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INVITED

Electronic Health Records and Other Health Information Technology and Their Ability to Measure and Improve Cancer Care

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Background: Cancer care has grown increasingly complex, in a relatively short time frame, making safe and optimal performance more of a challenge. In addition, it has become imperative to measure quality of ones cancer practice, and in some locations, such as the US, quality performance is linked to payment. Electronic health records (EHRs), and other health information technology (HIT) has the capability to positively impact both of these areas.

Methods: This presentation will be a compilation of the author's experience with HIT in regard to decision support to aid clinical performance, and in the measurement of oncology practice quality.

Results: The adoption of EHRs in the US has been slow in all settings, and particularly in medical and surgical oncology practices. There are relatively few vendors whose products adequately serve oncologists. Recently the Certification Commission on Health Information Technology (CCHIT) released criteria for oncology specific certification as well as criteria for clinical research certification. The establishment of these criteria, and the financial incentives for EHR adoption through government funding and reimbursement incentives, will hopefully increase EHR usage in the oncology community. EHRs already have the capability to provide substantial improvements in practice safety with aggregation of critical clinical information, standardization and decision support. In addition some EHRs are capable of monitoring practice performance, reporting the data, which can lead to performance improvement. In addition, EHRs have the potential to contribute data to large databases which can be used for research in unique and potentially very productive ways.

Conclusions: HIT has tremendous potential to improve oncology practice quality by live-time active use with decision support, and through performance measurement, as well as the aggregation of large informative databases.

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INVITED

Eurocancoms Project – Multidisciplinary Guidelines Where are we?

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Guidelines, defined as systematically developed statements to assist practitioner and patient decisions about appropriate health care for specific clinical circumstances, are practice tools to guide clinical treatment and care. Cancer treatment and care is becoming more and more complex and multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary cooperation is of utmost importance to ensure an optimal approach for the individual cancer patient.

It is therefore important, that when these guidelines are developed, involvement of the stakeholders is ensured.

Between April 2010 and July 2010, an electronic questionnaire based on the "Appraisal of Guidelines Research and Evaluation" was developed and sent to the different European Cancer Organisations (ECCO) members and other Scientific European Organisations involved in cancer care. It contained a module on the multidisciplinary approach of the guidelines.

Thirty European Cancer Organisations were contacted and 70% responded to the questionnaire. Of these, 38% were not involved in the production of cancer guidelines.

Of the 13 organisations producing guidelines, 47% involved less than 3 oncology disciplines; 38% from 3 to 5 and 15% involved more than 5 oncology disciplines. There was no systematic composition of the guideline development groups.

The most common disciplines always involved were medical oncologists (7); radiation oncologists (6); surgeons (5) and nurses (5). Disciplines

that were only involved if necessary were radiation oncologists (7); surgeons (6) and medical oncologists (6) or nurses (5). Besides medical professionals, specialists that were always involved were communication specialists (3); statisticians (2), social science specialists (2) and clinical epidemiologists (2); and health economic specialists (1) and informaticians (1). Disciplines that were involved only if necessary were health economics (9); clinical epidemiology (8) and statistics (8); communication (6) and informatics or library sciences (6); and social sciences (5).

Patient involvement was by participation in the development group (5); review by representatives of patient organizations (5); survey of patients views and preferences (4) and in 38% of guideline development patients were not involved.

Many oncology organisations are involved in the development of guidelines. These guidelines cover the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach of cancer patients. However, the systematic involvement (always involved) of oncology specialities such as medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons and nurses in guideline development groups is only 38%. Similar percentage are observed for patient involvement. In future, it is important that all cancer disciplines developing guidelines should reach a consensus which disciplines and should contribute to cancer guideline development and how patient organisations can be involved.

Special Session (Sun, 25 Sep, 15:00–16:00) Novel Targeted Therapies for Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

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ALK Inhibitors in Lung Cancer

INVITED

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The normal function of the anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) in adult humans is unknown. Oncogenic rearrangements of *ALK*, which place one of several different 5' fusion partners and their associated promoter region upstream of the 3' kinase domain of *ALK*, have been described in a number of rare lymphomas and solid tumours. In 2007, a rearrangement of *ALK* resulting in a fusion gene with *EML4* was described in approximately 4% of non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC). Other, rarer, non-*EML4* fusion partners (*KIF5B* and *TFG*) have also subsequently been described in NSCLC, together potentially accounting for up to 20% of *ALK* gene rearrangements in NSCLC.

Several different methods exist for detecting *ALK* gene rearrangements – both fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH) using break-apart probes and immunohistochemistry (IHC) have the potential to detect rearrangements or aberrant expression (given the low levels of the native protein in most normal tissues), respectively, regardless of the 5' fusion partner. In contrast, RT-PCR – while potentially offering additional information on the exact fusion partner and site of the relevant gene breakpoints requires the fusion partner to be known. Each technique has its pros and cons and is in a different state of development. FISH is the current gold-standard having been used as the entry criterion for all of the clinical trials of crizotinib (the furthest advanced *ALK* inhibitor to date).

Crizotinib (PF-02341066) is an orally bioavailable small molecule inhibitor of both *ALK* and *MET*. In the phase I trial of crizotinib, following determination of the recommended phase II dose and schedule (250 mg BID po) in an all-comers advanced cancer population, specific patient groups were prescreened for evidence of either *ALK* or *MET* activation with efficacy then explored within these different molecularly defined cohorts. Following the discovery of *ALK* rearrangements in NSCLC, an additional *ALK* positive NSCLC cohort was added to the trial. Although case reports of crizotinib's efficacy have been presented for both an *ALK* rearranged inflammatory myofibroblastic tumour and a *MET* gene amplified NSCLC, most data are available from the *ALK* rearranged NSCLC cohort. The objective response rate to crizotinib in this population is approximately 60% regardless of age, sex, performance status and line of therapy. Responses are often rapid and may be dramatic. The median progression free survival in this population is approximately 10 months. Side-effects are predominantly restricted to the gastro-intestinal and visual systems and are generally mild – although rare severe transaminitis and neutropenia have been reported. Crizotinib was submitted for accelerated approval to the FDA in early 2011. Results are awaited. Mechanisms of resistance to crizotinib include probable pharmacokinetic failure in sanctuary sites (CNS), proven gate-keeper mutations and the potential for the selection of as yet undescribed second-drivers. Multiple other *ALK* inhibitors and other agents targeting *ALK* gene rearranged cancers are now entering clinical trials.

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IGF1R Inhibitors

INVITED

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The insulin-like growth factor (IGF) system plays an important role in a variety of physiologic processes and in diseases such as cancer. Insulin-like growth factor (IGF) signaling is essential for cell survival, proliferation, and development, and plays a key role in tumour progression. The IGF system comprises the ligands IGF-1 and IGF-2, the IGF binding proteins (IGFBPs) 1–6, and the receptors IGF-1R and IGF-2R. IGF-1R is activated by IGF-1 and IGF-2, while IGF-2R binds IGF-2 only. Overexpression of IGF-1R and mutation of IGF-2R have been described in NSCLC. Furthermore, studies have suggested a correlation between high levels of circulating IGF-1/low levels of IGFBP3 and the incidence and severity of NSCLC. IGF-1R expression is higher in squamous cell carcinoma than in other histological subtypes, and seems to confer some adverse prognosis in the adjuvant and advanced disease setting.

Due to the potential relevance of this pathway many research groups and pharmaceutical companies have developed IGF pathway inhibitors: monoclonal antibodies directed to the external domain or tyrosine kinase inhibitors. Preclinical experiments showed that these inhibitors exhibited antitumour activity in cultured lines and human xenografts in mice. In addition they showed synergistic or additive effects in combination with chemotherapy or other targeted agents, such as EGFR TKIs or mTOR inhibitors. Initial clinical trials showed these agents are usually well tolerated as monotherapy or in combination, and hyperglycemia (GH mediated) was described as a class effect. Early studies suggested activity in Ewing and some other sarcoma, adrenal carcinomas, breast tumours and lung cancer. Unfortunately, the encouraging results of a phase II trial in NSCLC comparing carboplatin plus paclitaxel with or without figitumumab were not further validated in two randomized phase III trials of the anti IGF-1R in combination with paclitaxel/carboplatin or erlotinib. Preliminary biomarker trial suggested a role for serum IGF-1 (total or free) as a potential predictor of toxicity and efficacy associated with the treatment. We believe the available data further support the study of this class of agents in lung cancer, including NSCLC, with a particular focus on biomarker validation and targeted combination (mTOR inhibitors, PI3k inhibitors, etc.).

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Novel Molecular Targeted Agents in NSCLC (Beyond EGFR, ALK and IGF1R)

INVITED

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NSCLC is currently being revisited on the basis of modern molecular portraits that allow the identification of new molecular subtypes.

Molecular alteration	Frequency in adenocarcinoma	Frequency in squamous cell carcinoma	Potential drugs
EGFR mutation	10–40%	2–5%	Gefitinib Erlotinib Afatinib PF-00299804
EML4-ALK translocation	5–7%	Rare	Crizotinib New ALK-inhibitors HSP90 inhibitors
HER2 mutation or amplification	2% 6%	Rare 2%	Trastuzumab Lapatinib PF-00299804 Afatinib
PI3K mutation or amplification	5% <10%	5% <10%	GDC-0941 XL-147 XL-765 PX-866 BEZ-235 BKM120 PF-05212384
MET amplification	<10%	<10%	XL184 ARQ917 MetMab
RAS mutation	10–30%	5%	Sorafenib
RAF mutation	3%	2%	AZD6244; GSK1120212; AS703026; RO4987655
FGFR1 amplification	5%	20%	BJG398 AZD4547 TKI258

Large scale studies have identified frequent mutations mainly in TP53, RB1, CDKN2A, and STK11 tumour suppressors and in EGFR, KRAS and