



ESMO 2018 Highlights Report

Securing access to optimal cancer care

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Melanoma

October 22, 2018

[Optimal neo-adjuvant combination of ipilimumab and nivolumab devised in high risk melanoma](#)

Evaluation of three dosing schemes alternating levels of neoadjuvant ipilimumab and nivolumab administered to patients with resectable stage III melanoma and lymph node metastasis has yielded an optimal regimen that reduces toxicity while maintaining high response rates in this patient population. Data from the OpACIN-neo study suggest an attractive schedule to be tested in a phase III study. (Rozeman et al., LBA42). [Read more ⇒](#)

Sarcoma

October 19, 2018

[First-in-class NBTXR3 provides a new option for preoperative treatment in patients with locally advanced STS](#) (Act-In-Sarc). More patients with locally advanced soft tissue sarcoma (STS) of the extremity and trunk wall who received treatment with NBTXR3 hafnium oxide nanoparticles activated by radiotherapy showed a pathological response than patients treated with radiotherapy alone. Phase II/III trial met both primary and main secondary endpoints. (Bonvalot et al. LBA66) [Read more ⇒](#)

Gastrointestinal cancers

October 19, 2018

[Women more prone to selected oesophagogastric cancer chemotherapy side-effects](#). In the large pooled analysis of sex effect on outcome and toxicity in patients with advanced oesophagogastric cancer treated with first line chemotherapy, females demonstrated significantly higher rates of a number of toxicities, primarily gastrointestinal in nature, and a trend towards increased rates of neutropaenia. Such results suggest that further research on the impact of sex on the efficacy and toxicity of chemotherapy is necessary. Davidson et al., 619PD_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

October 22, 2018

[CheckMate-142: Immunotherapy may become new first line treatment in some metastatic colorectal cancers](#)

Immunotherapy with nivolumab and ipilimumab could become a new first line treatment in patients with some metastatic colorectal cancers following results from the CheckMate-142 study. The drug combination shrank tumours and had beneficial effects on survival in patients with microsatellite instability (MSI)-high metastatic colorectal cancer. Around 4% of metastatic colorectal cancers are MSI-high/dMMR. (Lenz et al., LBA18_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

[Major pathological response to neoadjuvant immunotherapy in mismatch repair deficient colon cancer](#)

Pre-operative treatment with a combination of the immune checkpoint inhibitors nivolumab and ipilimumab achieves major pathological responses in 100% of early-stage colon cancers with mismatch repair deficiencies, according to results from the first exploratory phase II trial to investigate this approach. (Chalabi et al., LBA37_PR)

[Read more ⇒](#)

[Carboplatin plus paclitaxel represents a new standard of care for patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the anal canal](#)

Patients with inoperable locally recurrent or metastatic, treatment-naïve, squamous cell carcinoma of the anal canal showed an equivalent response to treatment with cisplatin plus 5-fluorouracil versus carboplatin plus weekly paclitaxel. However, longer survival and less toxicity was observed in patients receiving carboplatin and paclitaxel. (Rao et al., LBA21). [Read more ⇒](#)

Lung cancer

October 19, 2018

[Patients with lung adenocarcinomas and specific uncommon EGFR mutations have improved survival with chemotherapy compared to TKIs](#)

Analysis of a large database of rare EGFR and corresponding patient outcomes has revealed uncommon EGFR mutations that associate survival was improved following first-line chemotherapy compared with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) in these patients. Furthermore, exon 18 and exon 20 associated with a better prognosis, whereas L861Q was linked to a poorer prognosis. (Brindel et al., LBA60) [Read more ⇒](#)

[Promising anti-tumour activity demonstrated with first-line nazartinib in adult patients with EGFR-mutant NSCLC](#). Treatment with nazartinib (EGF816), a third generation epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI), provided durable responses in adult patients with EGFR-mutated non-small-lung cancer (NSCLC) who had not received prior treatment according to the primary efficacy and safety data from a phase II trial. (Tan et al., LBA61). [Read more ⇒](#)

October 21, 2018

[CTONG 1103: Neoadjuvant erlotinib improves PFS in early EGFR-mutated NSCLC](#).

Neoadjuvant erlotinib benefits selected patients with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR)-mutated tumours who undergo complete resection of stage IIIA-N2 non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), shows a randomised study comparing erlotinib with gemcitabine plus cisplatin. This is the first study to demonstrate progression-free survival (PFS) superiority for erlotinib over chemotherapy in the neoadjuvant/adjuvant treatment in this setting. (Zhong et al., LBA48_PR)

[Read more ⇒](#)

October 22, 2018

[Alectinib provides superior outcomes compared with crizotinib in Asian patients with advanced ALK-positive NSCLC, with and without CNS metastases](#)

The highly selective CNS-active ALK inhibitor, alectinib, demonstrated superior efficacy compared to crizotinib when administered first-line in Asian patients with advanced ALK-positive non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), according to findings from the phase III ALESIA trial. Results from the ALESIA study are consistent with those in the global ALEX trial. (Zhou et al., LBA10). [Read more ⇒](#)

[B-F1RST study evaluates blood-based tumour mutational burden as a biomarker of atezolizumab activity in first-line NSCLC treatment](#)

Prospective phase II B-F1RST trial evaluates the utility of a novel blood-based tumour mutational burden assay as a predictive biomarker for atezolizumab administered as first-line therapy to PD-L1–unselected patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Reported results represent the first prospective dataset evaluating the clinical utility of blood tumour mutational burden. (Kim et al., LBA55). [Read more ⇒](#)

Breast Cancer

October 20, 2018

[IMpassion 130: Some patients with metastatic triple negative breast cancer live longer with immunotherapy.](#)

Atezolizumab in combination with nab-paclitaxel is the first treatment to improve survival in metastatic triple negative breast cancer. It is also the first immunotherapy to improve outcome in this cancer. Most of the survival benefit was in patients with PD-L1 positive tumours. While the benefit in terms of progression-free survival was around three months, the gain in overall survival in the PD-L1 positive subgroup was impressive with a ten-month benefit. (Schmid et al., LBA1_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

[SOLAR-1: Targeting PIK3CA in breast cancer improves outcomes.](#)

SOLAR-1 is the first trial to show a clinically relevant benefit with a PI3K inhibitor combined with endocrine therapy in patients with HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer with PIK3CA mutations. Results showed the progression-free survival was nearly twice as long in patients with PIK3CA mutations randomised to alpelisib compared to the placebo group. (André et al., LBA3_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

[PALOMA-3: Final overall survival data with palbociclib plus fulvestrant in HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer](#)

Treatment with CDK4/6 inhibitor palbociclib achieves a clinically meaningful improvement in overall survival in patients with hormone receptor (HR)-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 (HER2)-negative advanced breast cancer that has relapsed or progressed on hormonal therapy, according to the final analysis of overall survival data from the PALOMA-3 study. (Cristofanilli et al., LBA2_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

[HOBEO-2: Zoledronic acid improves disease-free survival in premenopausal HR-positive early breast cancer](#)

Adjuvant treatment with zoledronic acid plus hormonal therapy with the aromatase inhibitor letrozole plus triptorelin significantly increases disease-free survival compared to tamoxifen plus triptorelin in premenopausal women with hormone receptor (HR)-positive early breast cancer, according to results from HOBEO-2 study. It is the first study to assess this specific combination in premenopausal breast cancer and adds to previous observations with zoledronic acid and anastrozole in premenopausal women receiving ovarian suppression. (Perrone et al., LBA14_PR) [Read more](#) ⇒

October 21, 2018

[Video: Highlights in metastatic triple negative breast cancer](#)

Peter Schmid reports on key results from LBA1_PR - IMpassion130: Results from a global, randomised, double-blind, phase III study of atezolizumab + nab-paclitaxel vs placebo + nab-paclitaxel in treatment-naive, locally advanced or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer.

[Watch the video](#) ⇒

[Video: Highlights in HR-positive, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer](#)

Massimo Cristofanilli reports on key results from LBA2_PR - Overall survival with palbociclib plus fulvestrant in women with hormone receptor-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative advanced breast cancer: Analyses from PALOMA-3.

[Watch the video](#) ⇒

Gynaecologic cancers

October 20, 2018

[Immunotherapy may be a new treatment option for patients with chemotherapy resistant gestational trophoblastic neoplasia](#)

Treatment with the anti-PD-L1 monoclonal antibody, avelumab, provided normalisations of human chorionic gonadotrophin in patients with chemotherapy-resistant gestational trophoblastic neoplasia and was well-tolerated, according to results from TROPHIMMUN, the first clinical trial to report potential cures with a non-chemotherapy agent in patients with this rare cancer. (You et al., LBA35) [Read more](#) ⇒

October 21, 2018

[SOLO-1: Olaparib maintenance extends PFS by estimated 3 years in women with newly diagnosed advanced BRCA-mutated ovarian cancer](#)

Two-year maintenance therapy with a PARP inhibitor olaparib led to a substantial, unprecedented improvement in progression-free survival (PFS) in newly diagnosed patients with advanced ovarian cancer and a BRCA 1 or 2 mutation - as shown by results from the phase III SOLO-1 trial. The study provides the first large data set of prospectively collected outcomes in this setting. (Moore et al., LBA7_PR).

[Read more](#) ⇒

Genitourinary cancers

October 20, 2018

[**Addition of ipilimumab improves nivolumab response in PD-L1 unselected patients with platinum-pretreated metastatic urothelial cancer**](#). Although some patients with platinum-pretreated metastatic urothelial cancer demonstrated good responses to nivolumab monotherapy, the response rate and survival were higher with combined nivolumab plus ipilimumab therapy, according to findings from the CheckMate 032 study. (Rosenberg, et al., LBA32)

[Read more ⇒](#)

[**Molecular characteristics of clinical response to atezolizumab plus bevacizumab differ from sunitinib in IMmotion151 study**](#). Prospective evaluation of biomarkers in IMmotion 151 validated molecular signatures that could differentiate between clinical outcomes to the combination of atezolizumab and bevacizumab vs sunitinib in first-line treatment of patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma. These data also identified tumour genomic profiles that associated with prognostic risk groups and sarcomatoid histology. (Rini et al., LBA31)

[Read more ⇒](#)

[**Cabozantinib improves survival over everolimus or sunitinib in PD-L1 unselected patients with mRCC**](#) Cabozantinib treatment in two randomised controlled clinical trials improved progression-free and overall survival consistently over everolimus and sunitinib in patients with metastatic, clear cell, renal cell carcinoma (mRCC). Data from investigation of the utility of PD-L1 status as a potential prognostic and/or predictive biomarker support use of cabozantinib in a PD-L1 unselected population and, possibly, in combination with checkpoint blockers irrespective of PD-L1 status. (Choueiri, et al., LBA34)

[Read more ⇒](#)

October 21, 2018

[**JAVELIN: Avelumab plus axitinib significantly improve PFS in untreated RCC**](#)

A combination of the immune checkpoint blocker, avelumab, plus the tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI), axitinib, significantly improves progression-free survival (PFS) in previously untreated patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma (RCC). JAVELIN Renal 101 is the first positive phase III study combining an immune checkpoint inhibitor with a TKI compared to TKI alone in the first line treatment of advanced RCC. (Motzer et al., LBA6_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

Head and neck cancer

October 22, 2018

[**KEYNOTE-048: Immunotherapy improves survival in metastatic or recurrent head and neck cancer**](#)

Immunotherapy with pembrolizumab improves survival in patients with head and neck cancer that has recurred or metastasised, according to results from the KEYNOTE-048 study. This is the first study to show superior overall survival over the decade-old standard of care, platinum-based chemotherapy and cetuximab, and establishes PD-L1 CPS as a valid biomarker for head and neck cancer that should be routinely measured in these patients. (Burtness et al., LBA8_PR) [Read more ⇒](#)

[more ⇒](#)

[Patients with HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer should receive chemoradiation](#)

Patients with human papilloma virus (HPV)-positive oropharyngeal cancer should receive chemoradiotherapy rather than cetuximab with radiotherapy. Oropharyngeal cancer is rapidly becoming more common in Western countries. This study compared side effects and survival with the two treatments in patients with HPV-positive tumours enrolled from centres in the UK, Ireland, and the Netherlands. (Mehanna et al., LBA9_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

Basic Science

October 20, 2018

[Early results from a ground breaking study of tumour evolution identifies genetic drivers in NSCLC](#)

Data from the first 4 patients analysed in a longitudinal study evaluating the genetic and phenotypic relationships between primary and metastatic tumours were presented. The investigators are working towards establishing a model for tumour progression and the metastatic process, as well as identifying the potential mechanisms that are involved in tumour evolution and the development of therapeutic resistance. (Jamal-Hanjani et al., LBA11) [Read more ⇒](#)

Developmental therapeutics

October 21, 2018

[Entrectinib is effective across NTRK fusion positive solid tumour types](#)

Entrectinib is a CNS-active, potent inhibitor of all TRK proteins as well as ROS1 and ALK. Treatment with entrectinib induced responses that were durable in more than half of patients with solid tumours and NTRK rearrangements, according to findings from an integrated efficacy and safety analysis of three phase I/II clinical trials, ALKA, STARTRK-1, and STARTRK-2. (Demetri et al., LBA17)

[Read more ⇒](#)

Public Health

October 19, 2018

[Huge variations between countries in time for reimbursement decisions on new cancer drugs](#). Some European countries take more than twice as long as others to reach health technology assessment decisions to reimburse new cancer drugs following their approval by the European Medicines Agency. The average decision time is longer than one year in some countries. (Hwang T et al., 1555O_PR). [Read more ⇒](#)

#ESMO18: More news

[Study indicates HER2-positive early breast cancers where shorter-course trastuzumab could be an option.](#) (Conte et al., 191PD_PR; Culme et al., LBA12_PR)

[One in six premenopausal early breast cancer patients do not adhere to hormonal therapy.](#) (Pistilli et al., 185O_PR).

[Epigenetic therapy worth pursuing in hormone receptor positive advanced breast cancer](#) (Jiang et al., 283O_PR)

[Pregnancy may be possible after chemotherapy for breast cancer patients – but many no longer wish to](#) (Martin-Babau et al., 251P_PR)

[Regular exercise should be part of cancer care for all patients](#) (Di Meglio et al., 1684PD_PR; Vanlemmens et al., 1753P_PR)

[New research shows benefits of exercise for first time in advanced lung cancer](#) (Wiskemann et al., 1480P_PR; Tran et al., 1777P_PR)

[Social vulnerability and medical skepticism top factors limiting adherence to cancer screening: an online survey](#) (Morere et al., 1350PD_PR; La Motte Rouge et al., 962P_PR)

[Immunotherapy is safe and feasible in cancer patients treated for HIV, study suggests](#) (Gobert et al., 1213P_PR)

[STAMPEDE: Local radiotherapy improves survival in metastatic prostate cancer with low disease burden](#) (Parker CC et al., LBA5_PR)

[Barriers to early clinical trial access for adolescents and young adults still exist, study shows](#) (Vozy et al., 424P_PR)

[Multi-strain probiotic reduces chemotherapy-induced diarrhoea](#) (Sharma et al., 1682O_PR)

[Drugs for treating breast cancer in women are effective and well tolerated in men](#) (Reinisch et al., 273PD_PR; Zamagni et al., 293PD_PR; Sirieix et al., 294PD_PR)