

Chinese American Hematologist Oncologist Network (CAHON)

Good News from the 35th ESMO Annual Meeting

The 35th European Society for Medical Oncology Congress (ESMO) Annual Meeting, held in Milan, 8-12 October 2010, brought us some interesting news and developments to share. Some of them most likely introduce changes in our practice. If you go through the few developments selected for this issue of our newsletter, you may agree to our assessment. Want to learn more about other new developments, please use the following link to hear and/or read:

<http://www.esmo.org/events/milan-2010-congress.html#c5170>.



Biweekly News
and Information
Updates for
Members

Volume 1, Issue 4

October 22, 2010

Highlights:

- *Celebrating Autumn*
- *Abiraterone prolongs survival in patients with advanced prostate cancer after docetaxel*
- *Herceptin for advanced gastric cancer overexpressing HER-2*
- *Bevacizumab in Ovarian Cancer*
- *CAHON Gathering at ASH*

It is Autumn!

It would be silly for us to remind that autumn is coming or has already come in your region! But it is true if you pay attention to the nature from your forever-busy schedules. Make time to enjoy with your loved ones. Work never ends, making money never ends either, but life is short, especially for good quality of life that we can enjoy while being relatively young and physically competent!

Trick or Treat?

Abiraterone Prolongs Survival of Patients with Advanced Prostate Cancer after Docetaxel-Based Chemotherapy

Summarized Based on the Abstract and News Reports

Dr. De Bono and colleagues reported in the 35th ESMO meeting that abiraterone acetate (AA), a novel oral androgen biosynthesis inhibitor, significantly prolonged survival of patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) refractory to taxane-containing chemotherapy. The study supporting that claim enrolled 1,195 men with metastatic CRPC who had one or two chemotherapy regimens, at least one of which contained docetaxel. Patients were randomized to receive either abiraterone at 1000 mg once daily plus prednisone (5 mg BID) (n = 797) or placebo plus prednisone (5 mg BID) (n = 398). The primary endpoint was overall survival. Secondary endpoints included time to PSA progression, radiographic PFS (rPFS), and PSA response rate. Efficacy results from a pre-specified interim analysis are summarized in the following table. Evidently, treatment with abiraterone acetate resulted in a 35 percent reduction in the risk of death (HR=0.65; 95 percent CI: 0.54, 0.77; p<0.0001) and a 36 percent increase in median survival (14.8 months vs. 10.9 months) compared with placebo. This appeared to be supported with the antitumor activity demonstrated by the improvements in the measured secondary endpoints as listed in the Table.

	AA	Placebo	HR (95% CI)	p
OS, median	14.8 mos	10.9 mos	0.65 (0.54, 0.77)	<0.0001
TTPP, median	10.2 mos	6.6 mos	0.58 (0.46, 0.73)	<0.0001
rPFS, median	5.6 mos	3.6 mos	0.67 (0.58, 0.78)	<0.0001
PSA Response	38%	10%	-	<0.0001

The reported common toxicities included mineralocorticoid-related adverse events (the AA arm vs placebo): fluid retention 30.5% vs 22.3% and hypokalemia 17.1% vs 8.4%; Grade 3/4 hypokalemia (3.8% vs 0.8%) and Grade 3/4 hypertension (1.3% vs 0.3%) were also observed. Abnormal hepatic function also occurred in 10.4% AA vs 8.1% Placebo; and cardiac disorders were observed in 12.5% AA vs 9.4% Placebo.

The Company plans to file marketing applications for abiraterone acetate by the end of the year according to the news release. "A program that provides early access to abiraterone acetate for eligible patients is expected to be opened in the U.S. in October and will be opened in sites outside the U.S. in the following months, with the timing of the program contingent on local health authority and ethics committee approvals." Please "google" relevant information if your patients are indicated to receive this product.

Relevant to the above report, it is necessary to remind that cabazitaxel, administered at 25 mg/m² intravenously every three weeks in combination with prednisone 10 mg per day, has been recently approved for the treatment of metastatic CRPC previously treated with a docetaxel-containing treatment regimen. There was a clinical significant improvement in survival demonstrated with cabazitaxel compared to the control [HR 0.70 (95% CI 0.59-0.83), p<0.0001]. The median survivals were 15.1 and 12.7 months for cabazitaxel-treated and mitoxantrone-treated (control) patients, respectively.

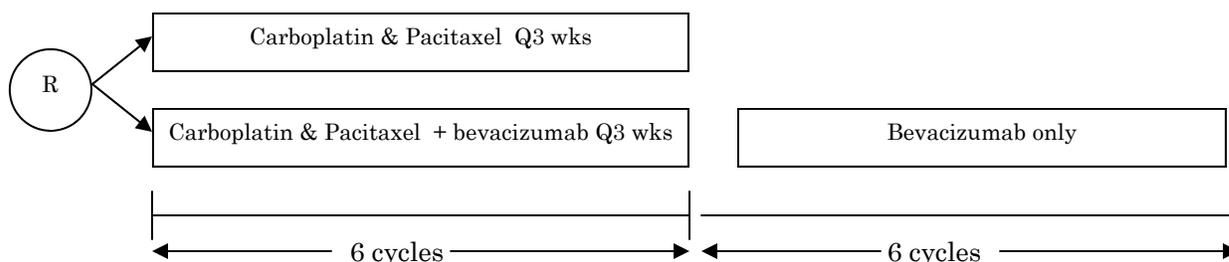
Would there be a challenge to choose between the two products for patients indicated? Exercise your clinical judgment with consideration of both efficacy and safety information! Comparative effectiveness studies may be needed to help define which one would be better or the first one to choose for patients with limited lifetime.

Promising Early Results Suggest Bevacizumab Delays Progression in Newly Diagnosed Ovarian Cancer

October 11th, 2010

At the 35th Congress of the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) in Milan, Italy, Dr Tim Perren from UK, reported findings from the international ICON7 trial, a phase III randomized study of carboplatin and paclitaxel with and without bevacizumab, which included 1528 women with high-risk early or advanced stage epithelial ovarian cancer, primary peritoneal cancer or Fallopian tube cancer.

After preparatory surgery, the women were randomly assigned as:



The preliminary data do show an encouraging data with 15% decrease of 12 months PFS in the bevacizumab arm comparing to the chemotherapy alone arm., and the major benefit is obtained in sub-optimally de-bulked and advanced-stage patients It is still too early to evaluate the impact in overall survival. The pending results of ICON 7 translational studies should identify the population who benefits from this treatment.

Herceptin (trastuzumab) Approved for the Treatment of HER2-Overexpressing Metastatic Gastric Cancer

In the first issue of our newsletters, we reported the new clinical trial findings about Herceptin (trastuzumab) in the treatment of patients with HER2 overexpressing metastatic gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma. Now, Herceptin in combination with chemotherapy received FDA approval for the treatment of patients the disease who have not received prior treatment for metastatic disease.

The recommended dosing schedule for Hercept (in combination with chemotherapy cisplatin and a fluoropyrimidine) is to administer Herceptin at an initial dose of 8 mg/kg as a 90 minute intravenous infusion, followed by subsequent doses of 6 mg/kg as an intravenous infusion over 30-90 minutes every three weeks until disease progression.

Please refer to the approved product label for efficacy and safety information.

http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2010/103792s5250lbl.pdf

Meet and Make Friends at ASH, 2010

Dear CAHON Members:

The annual meeting of American Hematology Society (ASH) is coming. And it's the time of year to meet our old friends and make new friends. We are planning for a dinner gathering at ASH in Orlando, FL. The time and place will be announced on the next eNews Letter. And we look forward to seeing you in Orlando.

CAHON Executive Committee

Biweekly News and Information Updates

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CAHON's MISSION

CAHON, founded by Chinese American Hematologists and Oncologists in 2005, is dedicated to fostering communication amongst Chinese-American medical professionals for delivering high-quality health care to patients with neoplastic and hematological diseases, and to promoting medical information exchange between the United States and China in the field of hematology and oncology. CAHON strives to serve as a vital bridge between American and Chinese Hematology-Oncology communities in the levels of academia, industry, government regulation, and private practice.

2010 CSTRO/SANTRO Joint Symposium and Meeting

Our sister organization, SANTRO (Sino-American Network for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology) Jointed CSTRO (Chinese Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology) held Radiation Oncology Symposium in Hangzhou China from October 14-16. The focus of the SANTRO/CSTRO symposium was on the opportunities and challenges of joint clinical trials: standardization of disease specific protocols, quality control, and technology implementation. The meeting brought world class faculty to discuss the most current advances in Radiation Oncology including issues related to; clinical practice, clinical trials, translational research and quality management of modern radiation therapy.

Volunteers and Constructive Ideas Highly Needed

We'd like to have more volunteers to help fulfill our mission and develop in the future. We are specially interested in any motivated member or their kid (at college or high school) who has strong knowledge and skills on managing websites to maintain and update our website(www.cahon.org). Periodic complimentary pay for the service provided will be negotiable and available. Please contact our website improvement team members.

We also welcome your super ideas on how we could improve or what else would be appropriate to add or modify. Together, we advance and will have more opportunities to magnify the value of life.

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