

Exploring Personalized Therapy for First Line Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)



Suresh S. Ramalingam, MD
Director of Thoracic Oncology
Associate Professor
Emory University
Atlanta, GA



Funded by an educational grant from Eli Lilly

Are there agents specifically
targeted for patients with a
K-RAS mutation?

Are you doing molecular testing on patients with squamous cell NSCLC and other patients with low probability of carrying an EGFR mutation?

What do you consider to be the role of the anti-EGFR antibody Erbitux (cetuximab) in NSCLC today?

How do you manage patients with
a histologic diagnosis of NSCLC
not otherwise specified?
Does this deter you from using
Avastin (bevacizumab) and/or
Alimta (pemetrexed)?

How does age affect your
inclination to recommend Avastin
(bevacizumab)?

Efficacy by Age on ECOG 4599 Trial

	Elderly (≥ 70)		Non-Elderly (< 70)	
	Chemo	Chemo/ Avastin	Chemo	Chemo/ Avastin
Objective Response Rate	17%	29%	14%	36%
Stable Disease	50%	39%	50%	39%
Median Progr-Free Survival	4.9 mo	5.9 mo P=0.063	4.4 mo	6.2 mo P<0.001
1-Yr Survival	50%	46%	42%	53%
Median Overall Survival	12.1 mo	11.3 mo P = 0.4	9.6 mo	12.8 mo P = 0.0027

Ramalingam, J Clin Oncol 2008

Moderate to Severe Side Effects: Non-Elderly vs. Elderly Patients

Grade 3/4	≥ 70 yrs	< 70 yrs	P
Neutropenia (Gr 4)	34%	22%	0.02
GI Bleed	3.5%	0.9%	0.005
Proteinuria	7.9%	1.3%	0.001
Motor neuropathy	3.5%	0.6%	0.05
Treatment-Related Deaths	6.3%	2.6%	0.08

Ramalingam, J Clin Oncol 2008

Are there particular considerations for molecular testing when managing patients with bronchioloalveolar carcinoma (BAC)?

Should we be concerned about reliability and reproducibility in testing for EGFR mutations?

How might we explain a disconnect between EGFR mutation result and clinical response to an EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor?

THE TISSUE IS THE ISSUE

Should tissue testing be repeated if there has been a long interval between tissue collection and the current management setting?

How do you navigate a patient through challenging side effects of an EGFR inhibitor? When do you just give up on it and move on?

We depend on your support to continue
GRACE educational programs like these.

PLEASE contribute at
<http://cancergrace.org/donate/>

