



## 2022 Targeted Therapies Patient Forum

### Exon 20 and HER2: The Destiny Trial

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#### TRANSCRIPT

And now, the EGFR mutation is Exon 20 mutation, as we call it, and HER2 mutations. We do have drugs these days that can target those specific mutations as well. Preliminary data are very promising for these somewhat rarer mutations. They are slightly less common than the classical EGFR mutations. But again, we are currently developing drugs that can target them as well, and hopefully successfully.

Speaking of HER2 mutations, we can see here an overall response rate of 60% with this drug conjugate. This is a new avenue we are exploring, known as ADC (antibody-drug conjugates). The preliminary data with these specific drug conjugates are very promising.

This drug, targeting HER2, performs dual actions: firstly, the antibody targets the receptor on the cell surface, but the drug also has what we call a “warhead”, which penetrates the cell and attacks the cell nucleus and the DNA of the cell. We have several drugs like this, the determinant being the antibody. Are we dealing with an antibody for HER2, for HER3, or another receptor? This is where the development is headed these days.

How do we select patients for these new drugs? We don't really know yet. It might be that we need to look at protein expression, which is determined by immunohistochemistry. This is a technology we have known for years, but it has somewhat faded into the background because we've been focusing on mutations and next-generation sequencing. However, I believe that more classical immunohistochemistry, which is cheap, easy, and can be performed in all pathology labs across the country, is making a comeback and is highly relevant when we talk about the new agents — antibody-drug conjugates.