

Response to taxanes in triple negative breast cancer

Nilufer Bulut · Sadettin Kilickap · Ebru Sari ·
Kadri Altundag

Received: 19 December 2007 / Accepted: 19 February 2008 / Published online: 4 March 2008
© Springer-Verlag 2008

To The Editor,

We read with great interest the article by Torrisi et al. [2]. In their preoperative treatment of locally advanced triple negative breast cancer, cisplatin containing chemotherapy followed by paclitaxel induced a high pCR rate. Authors in the discussion part state that their results support lower responsiveness to taxanes if compared with cisplatin in BRCA1 defective breast cancer. Hayes et al. [1] study evaluated HER2 and response to paclitaxel in node-positive breast cancer. In this retrospective analysis of CALGB 9344/INT0148 study in which randomly selected 1,500 women from 3,121 women with node-positive breast cancer had been randomly assigned to receive adjuvant doxorubicin plus cyclophosphamide (for four cycles), followed by four cycles of paclitaxel or observation. In the subgroup analysis according to estrogen receptor and HER-2 receptor

status, patients with a HER2-negative and estrogen-receptor negative breast cancer benefited from paclitaxel significantly ($P = 0.002$). This information may indicate that in long-term run, triple negative breast cancer patients may get benefit from addition of paclitaxel to standard regimen.

References

1. Hayes DF, Thor AD, Dressler LG, Weaver D, Edgerton S, Cowan D et al (2007) HER2 and response to paclitaxel in node-positive breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 357:1496–1506
2. Torrisi R, Balduzzi A, Ghisini R, Rocca A, Bottiglieri L, Giovanardi F et al (2007) Tailored preoperative treatment of locally advanced triple negative (hormone receptor negative and HER2 negative) breast cancer with epirubicin, cisplatin, and infusional fluorouracil followed by weekly paclitaxel. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* Dec 7 [Epub ahead of print]

N. Bulut · S. Kilickap · E. Sari · K. Altundag (✉)
Department of Medical Oncology, Institute of Oncology,
Hacettepe University, Sıhhiye Ankara 06100, Turkey
e-mail: altundag66@yahoo.com