Highlights from EHA and ICML 2015

20th Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA)

**Dose reductions make ponatinib safer for CP-CML**
Administering ponatinib at lower doses can reduce the risk of arterial occlusive events (AOE) without hindering responses in patients with chronic-phase chronic myeloid leukemia (CP-CML), data from the PACE trial suggest.

**JAK inhibitor can provide long-term disease control in PV**
Updated results from the phase 3 RESPONSE trial suggest the JAK1/2 inhibitor ruxolitinib can provide long-term disease control in patients with polycythemia vera (PV) who are resistant to or intolerant of hydroxyurea.

**mAb produces responses in AL amyloidosis**
A monoclonal antibody (mAb) can produce responses in patients with light chain (AL) amyloidosis and persistent organ dysfunction, according to research presented at the 20th Congress of the European Hematology Association.

**Drug may be 'important treatment option' for AML**
Adding the anticancer quinolone derivative vosaroxin to treatment with cytarabine can improve outcomes for some older patients with relapsed/refractory acute myeloid leukemia (AML), results of the phase 3 VALOR trial suggest.

**Unsickling red blood cells**
Researchers say they have found a way to unsickle red blood cells (RBCs), at least in vitro.

**Triplet can provide clinical benefit in rel/ref MM**
Combination therapy consisting of the HDAC6 inhibitor ricolinostat, pomalidomide, and dexamethasone can provide a clinical benefit for patients with relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma (MM), according to a researchers.

**Combo delays progression in relapsed CLL**
Results of the COMPLEMENT 2 trial indicate that adding ofatumumab to treatment with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide (OFC) can improve some outcome measures in patients with relapsed chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), when compared to fludarabine and cyclophosphamide alone (FC).

**Jury still out on combo for elderly AML**
A 2-drug combination can produce complete responses (CRs) in elderly patients with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML), but whether the treatment confers a survival benefit remains to be seen.
Activin receptors continue to show efficacy in β-thalassemia
Two very similar activin receptors, luspatercept and sotatercept, continue to show efficacy in patients with β-thalassemia, according to research presented at the 20th Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA).

Drug won't advance to phase 3 in β-thalassemia
Data from a phase 2a trial suggest the activin receptor sotatercept can effectively treat patients with β-thalassemia.

Combo shows promise for heavily pretreated MM
Combining a novel agent with dexamethasone can produce successful results where other treatments have failed, according to a presentation at the 20th Congress of the European Hematology Association.

Agent reduces fibrosis, improves platelet counts in MF
The immunotherapeutic agent PRM-151, when given alone or in combination with ruxolitinib, can reduce bone marrow fibrosis and improve platelet counts in patients with myelofibrosis (MF), results of a phase 2 trial suggest.

HSCT outcomes 'encouraging' in JAKi responders
Outcomes of hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT) are encouraging in myelofibrosis (MF) patients who respond well to JAK inhibitors, according to researchers.

PI3Kδ/γ inhibitor generates rapid responses in CLL
New research indicates that duvelisib, a dual inhibitor of PI3Kδ and PI3Kγ, can generate rapid partial responses in treatment-naïve patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

13th International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma (ICML)

Bleomycin can be safely omitted after negative PET2 in HL
Results of the RATHL trial indicate that bleomycin can be omitted from ABVD therapy following a negative interim FDG-PET scan in patients with Hodgkin lymphoma.

EZH2 inhibitor proves active in rel/ref NHL
The EZH2 inhibitor tazemetostat (EPZ-6438) has shown "meaningful clinical activity" as monotherapy in patients with advanced non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), according to researchers.

Thiotepa, rituximab improve response in CNS lymphoma
Adding thiotepa and rituximab to the treatment of primary central nervous system (CNS) lymphoma is feasible from a safety perspective and has yielded promising results, according to new research.

Nivolumab produces 'dramatic' responses in HL
The PD-1 checkpoint inhibitor nivolumab produces rapid, durable, and, in some cases, "dramatic" responses in Hodgkin lymphoma (HL), according to a speaker at the 13th International Congress on Malignant Lymphoma.
**Targeted agent shows early promise for NHL**
An anti-CD37 antibody-radionuclide conjugate provides sustained efficacy and a manageable safety profile in patients with relapsed, CD37+ non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), according to researchers.

**Team endorses intensified chemo for PET-positive HL**
Long-awaited results of the Intergroup H10 trial in PET-positive Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) patients have shown that intensifying chemotherapy significantly increases 5-year progression-free survival (PFS) and produces a non-significant increase in overall survival (OS).

**'Radically different' PI3Kδ inhibitor not hepatotoxic**
Updated phase 1 results with TGR-1202 suggest this next-generation PI3Kδ inhibitor lacks the hepatotoxicity associated with other PI3Kδ inhibitors.

**Novel SYK inhibitor shows 'good early evidence' of activity**
The phase 1, first-in-human study of the novel SYK inhibitor TAK-659 is showing "good early evidence" of antitumor activity in patients with lymphoma, according to investigators.

**Novel mAb targeting CD70 shows activity in TCL**
The defucosylated monoclonal antibody (mAb) ARGX-110, which is active against CD70-bearing tumor cells and CD70-dependent stimulation of regulatory T cells, has shown activity in relapsed/refractory T-cell lymphoma (TCL), according to investigators.

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