A phase II study of foretinib in triple-negative, recurrent/metastatic breast cancer: NCIC CTG trial IND.197 (NCT01147484).

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Author(s):
Daniel Rayson, Sasha M. Lupichuk, Stephen K. L. Chia, Kylea R. Potvin, Susan Dent, Ming Sound Tsao, Catherine Prady, Susan Ellard, Muhammad Salim, Ghassan Allo, Olga Ludkovski, Rachel Anne Goodwin, Nancy Wainman, Wendy Walsh, Pat Farmer, Elizabeth A. Eisenhauer; QEII Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, NS, Canada; Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Calgary, AB, Canada; London Health Sciences Centre, London, ON, Canada; Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre, Ottawa, ON, Canada; Princess Margaret Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; Hospital Charles-LeMoyne, Greenfield Park, QC, Canada; Cancer Centre for Southern Interior, Kelowna, BC, Canada; Allan Blair Cancer Center, Saskatoon, SK, Canada; Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada; Applied Molecular Profiling Laboratory, Toronto, ON, Canada; The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre, Ottawa, ON, Canada; NCIC CTG, Kingston, ON, Canada; NCIC Clinical Trials Group, Kingston, ON, Canada; Kingston General Hospital, Kingston, ON, Canada

Background: Met, a receptor tyrosine kinase, is preferentially expressed in basal-like compared to luminal breast cancer. In murine models, overexpression of the oncogenic Met receptor transgene induces tumors with human basal gene expression characteristics supporting Met
inhibition as a treatment strategy for triple negative (TN) breast cancer. Foretinib is an oral multi-kinase inhibitor of Met, RON, AXL, TIE-2 and VEGF receptors with anti-tumor activity in advanced HCC and papillary renal cell cancer. **Methods:** Patients (pts) with TN breast cancer and 0-1 prior regimens for metastatic disease received daily foretinib 60 mg po in a 2-stage single arm trial. Primary endpoints were objective response and early progression rates per RECIST 1.1. Tumor samples were centrally reviewed to confirm ER/PR/HER2 status and for correlative studies including Met, PTEN and EGFR expression. Stage 1 accrual required 23 response-evaluable Met unselected patients with accrual continuing if >= 1 response or < 17 early progressions (PD <= 8 weeks on study) were observed. **Results:** Accrual is 29 pts to date; 24 are eligible, 22 evaluable for toxicity and 15 for response. Median age is 56 y (43-81), ECOG PS 0-1 in 23/24. Grade 3 laboratory adverse events were: lymphopenia (9%), elevations in ALT (5%), GGT (5%) and INR (5%). Treatment-related non-hematologic toxicities included (all/grade 3-4) fatigue (64%/5%), nausea (55%/5%), diarrhea (41%/5%), hypertension (32%/14%), vomiting (27%/0%), anorexia (23%/5%) and rash (14%/0%). Three SAEs possibly related to foretinib included; asymptomatic pulmonary embolism, reversible CHF and pleural effusion with QTc prolongation. One PR (7%), 8 early PD (53%) and 6 SD (40%) have been observed to date with median SD duration of 5.4 months (range 2.7-5.5). Preliminary correlative results (IHC): 5/8 (62.5%) evaluable Met positive cases had SD and 4/5 (80%) Met negative cases had PD as best response. Met IHC was negative in the pt with PR. **Conclusions:** Foretinib shows preliminary evidence of activity and tolerability in metastatic, TN breast cancer. Stage 2 of accrual will include 15 pts with pre-treatment biopsies of metastases and circulating tumor cell collection.

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