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# FITCáncer-8 On site & On line

Barcelona, 10 - 12 de marzo de 2022

**VIII FORO DE**  
Inmunología Traslacional e  
**INMUNOTERAPIA DEL CÁNCER**

Organizado por/Organized by









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Inmunología Traslacional e

# INMUNOTERAPIA DEL CÁNCER

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Grupo Español de Terapias Inmuno-Biológicas en Cáncer  
Spanish Group for Cancer Immuno-Biotherapy

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# Summary

## SESSION ■ March 10th

Precision medicine strategy COVID-19 and cancer Mariano Provencio .....	1
Experience in using oncology drugs in patients with COVID-19 Paolo A. Ascierto .....	4
<b>COMMUNICATIONS XXXXX</b> .....	7



# Precision medicine strategy Covid-19 and cancer

Mariano Provencio

Servicio de Oncología Médica. Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda. Majadahonda, Madrid

**CANCER – VACCINES- COVID-19**  
With cytotoxic chemotherapy

Considerations for patients:  
treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy

Patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, in which the immune system is directly impacted by disease as well as treatment:

- Can still generate immune responses after vaccination, ranging from 10-27% of patients immunized with hepatitis B and meningococcal subunit vaccines and 100% immunized with diphtheria and tetanus toxoid vaccines.

Patients with hematologic malignancies responded to one dose of influenza vaccine in 10-42% and its higher in solid tumors, at least 78% in patients with lung cancer and 81% with breast cancer.

**CANCER – VACCINES- COVID-19**  
With cytotoxic chemotherapy

Considerations for patients:  
treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy

Response to influenza virus vaccination during chemotherapy in patients with breast cancer

Lower responses compared with healthy controls  
Titers can be helpful to assess need for revaccination

**CANCER – VACCINES- COVID-19**  
With targeted therapy

Considerations for patients:  
treated with targeted therapy: such as erlotinib, sunitinib, and imatinib or monoclonal antibodies such as trastuzumab

Targeted therapy should not directly cause immunosuppression but may have unintended inhibitory effects on antigen presenting cell function, T cell activation and B cell signaling (Kersh AE. J Clin Pharmacol 2017; de Lavallade H. Blood 2013).

Cancer Therapy Clinical

Cancer Patients Treated with Sunitinib or Sorafenib Have Sufficient Antibody and Cellular Immune Responses to Warrant Influenza Vaccination

Sung H, Baidya S, Jarama F, Jarama J, Kersh AE, Okeke ND, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2017;35(15):1611-1618.

**CANCER – VACCINES- COVID-19**  
With cytotoxic chemotherapy

Considerations for patients:  
treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy

Meta-analysis of trials on vaccination against influenza in immunocompromised patients

Reduction symptomatic disease

**CANCER – VACCINES- COVID-19**  
With targeted therapy

Considerations for patients:  
treated with targeted therapy: such as erlotinib, sunitinib, and imatinib or monoclonal antibodies such as trastuzumab

Cancer Therapy Clinical

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**CANCER – VACCINES- COVID-19**  
With targeted therapy

Considerations for patients:  
treated with targeted therapy: such as erlotinib, sunitinib, and imatinib or monoclonal antibodies such as trastuzumab

Influenza vaccination in breast cancer patients during adjuvant trastuzumab in adjuvant setting

No difference in seroprotection against influenza in patients treated with trastuzumab

Study	Type of patients	Vaccination status	Stability	P-value
Randomized at 4 weeks	10	10 (100%)	28 (100%)	0.998
Randomized at 8 weeks	10	10 (100%)	28 (100%)	0.998
Randomized at 12 weeks	10	10 (100%)	28 (100%)	0.998
Randomized at 16 weeks	10	10 (100%)	28 (100%)	0.998
Randomized at 20 weeks	10	10 (100%)	28 (100%)	0.998



### Experience in using oncology drugs in patients with COVID-19

Paolo A. Ascierto

*Istituto Nazionale Tumori IRCCS Fondazione Pascale. Napoli, Italy*

In relation to the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), oncologists need to face some difficult situations; first of all, safety considerations about cancer patients during this pandemic. To keep safe both patients and healthy workers is the most important rule. In our daily practice we adopted a specific policy about the conduct of our clinical managements of melanoma patients, in order to minimise the risk of any potential exposure. We are prioritizing patients, according to the kind of treatment and the stage of disease. In order to avoid any gathering condition which could increase the risk of infection for patients, we are optimizing access about adjuvant treatment, considering of high priority the higher risk patients, privileging longer infusion schedule of treatment for immunotherapy and/or selecting patients with BRAF mutation for starting target therapy. Metastatic patients have the highest priority, and nothing changed in their daily management except for preferring, when possible, the longer schedule of treatment in order to reduce the access in the hospital. The enrolment in clinical trials is on hold and the patients still in treatment inside clinical study are managed in the respect of GCPs as well as possible.

Some additional issues are side effects in patients on treatment with target therapy and immunotherapy. About target therapy (especially dabrafenib and trametinib), patients who develop fever higher than 37.5 without resolving after discontinuation, should perform COVID test before to restart the treatment. Patients on treatment with immunotherapy who show pneumonitis at CT scan (even without fever), should perform COVID test before start steroids.

Immuno-oncologists have an important experience in the management of immuno-related adverse events. The hyperactivation of immune system due to the immunotherapy strategies can develop some conditions which need of immuno-suppressive drugs to reduce the harmful immune reaction. Since the acute respiratory stress syndrome COVID-19 related seems to occur from an excess of cytokine production, we focused our attention on the cytokines storm which probably lead to ARDS by COVID-19 and how to prevent or treat it. We know very well the cytokine release syndrome (CRS), one of the most prominent and well described toxicity from chimeric antigen receptor T cell therapy (CAR-T), as well as from some bi-specific antibodies. In particular, we know the key role played by

IL-6 in the pathogenesis of these kinds of hyperinflammation syndromes.

Considering elevated serum concentration of IL-6 and CPR in patients admitted in ICUs department, we started to use monoclonal antibodies against IL6, above all tocilizumab. In Italy we started on March, 19th a phase II

study (NCT04317092) which enrolled 330 patients in 24 hours, with the ability of tocilizumab to reduce the one-month mortality rate as main endpoint which was met. Other drugs active in reducing the CRS are at moment in clinical trial or expanded access program like JAK inhibitors, complement inhibitors, toll like receptor inhibitors and others.

NOTE

