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Research Advances Presented at 2009 Breast Cancer Symposium
Additional Studies Identify Significant Findings in Treatment Planning for People Living with Breast Cancer

SAN FRANCISCO – Five additional studies on the early detection, treatment and evaluation of breast cancer were highlighted today by the co-sponsoring organizations of the 2009 Breast Cancer Symposium. The symposium, occurring this year during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is being held October 8-10, 2009, at the San Francisco Marriott.

The additional studies being highlighted feature a short summary and perspective from Lori Pierce, MD, professor of radiation oncology at the University of Michigan School of Medicine, and chair of the symposium news planning team.

Abstract 228

Poster Discussion: Systemic Mgmt.
Thursday, October 8, 2009
6:00-7:00 PM PST

Lead Author: Heather L. McArthur, MD, MPH
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

Women with small node-negative HER2+ breast tumors appear to benefit from adjuvant trastuzumab (Herceptin) treatment: Based on a review of approximately 500 records of patients treated between Jan. 2002 and Dec. 2008, researchers found that women with small (2 cm or less) HER2-positive breast cancers that had not spread to lymph nodes who received trastuzumab-based treatment after surgery had significantly better outcomes than a comparable population of women treated before trastuzumab was available (Jan. 2002 through May 15, 2004). In the trastuzumab-treated group, there was only one death and no recurrences. In the trastuzumab-naive group, there were ten locoregional recurrences, nine distant recurrences and six deaths. In the U.S., adjuvant trastuzumab is FDA-approved in combination with chemotherapy for the treatment of node-positive or high-risk, node-negative, HER2-positive breast cancer; however, whether women with lower risk, HER2-positive breast cancer derive benefit from trastuzumab has not been established.

“This is a provocative analysis suggesting a significant benefit in disease-free survival for patients with Stage I breast cancer who received trastuzumab,” said Lori Pierce, MD, Professor, Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan School of Medicine. “It will be important to test this hypothesis prospectively to be sure the potential benefit of trastuzumab is not over-estimated in this low-risk patient population.”

Abstract 223

Poster Discussion: Local-Regional Management
Friday, October 9, 2009
6:00-7:00 PM PST

Lead Author: Todd A. Swanson, MD, PhD
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, MI

Use of deep-inspiration breath hold (DIBH) technique reduces heart and lung exposure to radiation: Researchers from William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan report that using a technique called DIBH, with an Active Breathing Control (ABC), during left breast irradiation is effective for reducing radiation exposure to the heart and lungs, when compared to free breathing. During DIBH, radiation is periodically delivered while the patient holds her breath for several seconds. This approach allows radiation to be delivered when the chest is still, rather than during the normal motion associated with free breathing. Eighty-seven women were included in this analysis, and researchers found that the radiation doses to the heart and lungs were significantly lower when treatment was delivered using DIBH (2.54 Gy for the heart and 7.86 Gy for the left lung) than with free breathing (4.23 Gy and 9.08 Gy, respectively).

“This treatment planning study illustrates a technique that can be used to decrease radiation exposure to the heart and lungs,” said Lori Pierce, MD, Professor, Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan School of Medicine. “It highlights an example of individualized treatment planning that can be implemented for our patients to further improve the risk benefit ratio for the safe delivery of radiation.”

Abstract 33

Poster Discussion: Systemic Management
Thursday, October 8, 2009
6:00-7:00 PM PST

Lead Author: Matthew J. Ellis, MD, PhD
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

PAM50 (50-gene qRT-PCR classifier) gene assay is highly prognostic for estrogen receptor (ER) positive, tamoxifen-treated breast cancer: The PAM50 gene assay classifies breast cancers into intrinsic subtypes (Luminal A/B, HER2, basal and normal) and provides a score that estimates a patient’s risk of cancer recurrence. In this study, researchers performed the PAM50 assay on 786 tumor samples from women with ER positive breast cancer who had been treated with tamoxifen to assess risk of recurrence in this group based on intrinsic breast cancer subtype, and then they compared these results with patient outcomes. They found the assay is highly prognostic and superior to other immunohistochemical and conventional pathological tests in this patient setting.

“We are constantly looking for prognostic markers that can reproducibly select patients who have such an excellent prognosis that they will derive little to no additional benefit from chemotherapy,” said Lori Pierce, MD, Professor, Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan School of Medicine. “These data suggest that the 50-gene qRT-PCR classifier may be highly prognostic. It will be important to validate these findings in an independent data set.”

Abstract 210

**General Session V: Maximizing Local Control
Friday, October 9, 2009
8:15-10:30 AM PST**

**Lead Author: Peter Y. Chen, MD
William Beaumont Hospital
Royal Oak, MI**

Three forms of accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) produce similar outcomes:

APBI is a form of irradiation delivered directly to the breast tissue using a shorter course of more targeted treatment given over 5 days compared with traditional whole breast radiation therapy delivered in 6 to 6.5 weeks. This study compared three methods of APBI-interstitial brachytherapy, 3-D conformal external beam therapy and MammoSite – in 373 women with early-stage breast cancer from 1993 to 2006. Researchers found all three methods to be comparably effective in terms of local control, survival and cosmetic outcomes after a minimum 5-year follow-up. Partial breast irradiation is considered investigational and additional randomized trials are ongoing to more fully assess its effectiveness, compared with traditional irradiation.

“This analysis compares rates of breast cancer recurrence in the breast following the three most commonly used techniques of accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) in the U.S. The results from a single institution demonstrate low rates of tumor recurrence in the breast and at distant sites with excellent cosmesis in the majority of patients,” said Lori Pierce, MD, Professor, Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan School of Medicine. “Prospective multi-institution studies are in progress to validate these results and to compare rates of tumor recurrence following APBI with those achieved using the standard of care, whole breast irradiation.”

Abstract 211

**Poster Discussion: Systemic Management
Thursday, October 8, 2009
6:00-7:00 PM PST**

**Lead Author: Luke J. Peppone, PhD
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY**

Vitamin D deficiency prevalent in women being treated for breast cancer; high-dose supplementation can increase vitamin D blood levels: Vitamin D (VID) deficiency is linked to decreased bone mineral density (BMD), increased breast cancer incidence, recurrence, and mortality; breast cancer treatment, and specifically some forms of hormone therapy (HT), further reduces BMD and increases bone fracture risk. An analysis of vitamin D levels in 166 women undergoing treatment (HT, radiation, and/or chemotherapy) for non-metastatic breast cancer found that 69 percent had VID, and that VID was more common among those who were non-Caucasian and those with later-stage breast cancer. They also found that weekly high-dose vitamin D (50,000 IU or more) supplementation resulted in a greater increase in blood vitamin D levels than conventional low-dose vitamin D supplementation. Further research is needed to assess the impact of vitamin D supplementation on breast cancer outcomes.

“In this series of breast patients with non-metastatic disease, 69% were identified as having deficient serum 25-OH Vitamin D levels, with the lowest levels observed in women with advanced stage disease,” said Lori Pierce, MD, Professor, Radiation Oncology, University of Michigan School of Medicine. “Whether Vitamin D levels and Vitamin D supplementation correlate with outcome is an area of active study and results

thus far have not been consistent. Randomized trials are currently in progress that will help to answer these important questions.”

Breast cancer is diagnosed in approximately 194,000 people in the United States every year. This year's symposium will focus on a range of issues in breast cancer, including advances in targeted therapies, translational science, new diagnostic technology, and management of high-risk patients.

The third annual Breast Cancer Symposium is co-sponsored by the American Society of Breast Disease, The American Society of Breast Surgeons, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the American Society for Radiation Oncology, the National Consortium of Breast Centers and The Society of Surgical Oncology. *Susan G. Komen for the Cure*[®], the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and advocates, is the primary supporter of the symposium.

Disclosures for 2009 Breast Cancer Symposium News Planning Team

Lori J. Pierce, MD: Research funding from the National Institutes of Health and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation; **Deanna J. Attai, MD:** Uncompensated consultant for Cianna Medical; **Don S. Dizon, MD:** Consultant for Amgen, Johnson and Johnson, Genentech, and Bristol-Myers Squibb; Honoraria from Genentech; Expert testimony for Ortho Biotech; **Suzanne V. Klimberg, MD:** Stock ownership in Angio-Dynamics

ATTRIBUTION TO THE 2009 BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM IS REQUESTED IN ALL NEWS COVERAGE

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Information for Media: www.asco.org/BCSpreskit09

Relevant Links on ASCO's Cancer.Net:

- [Cancer.Net Guide to Breast Cancer](#)
- [Breast Cancer Advances: News for Patients from the 2009 Breast Cancer Symposium](#)
- [Cancer.Net Podcast: Highlights from 2009 Breast Cancer Symposium, Dr. Lori Pierce](#)
- [Cancer.Net Feature: Breast Cancer: Questions to Ask Your Doctor](#)
- [Cancer.Net Feature: Frequently Asked Questions About Radiation Therapy](#)
- [ASCO Expert Corner: Race and Breast Cancer](#)
- [ASCO Expert Corner: Health Disparities in Cancer](#)
- [What to Know: ASCO's Guideline on HER2 Testing for Breast Cancer](#)
- [Cancer.Net Feature: Mammography – What to Expect](#)
- [Expert Perspective from ASCO on MRI Breast Cancer Screening](#)