ASCN Issues New Guideline on Use of Biomarkers to Guide Early Breast Cancer Therapy Decisions

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) today issued a new clinical practice guideline for women with early-stage invasive breast cancer and known hormone receptor and human epidermal growth factor 2 (HER2) receptor status. The guideline includes evidence-based recommendations on the appropriate use of breast tumor biomarker tests to guide decisions on adjuvant systemic therapy.

"In the era of precision medicine, the role of biomarkers in guiding clinical care is greater than in the past. An extensive number of new tests have come out in the last 5-10 years, but not all have sufficient evidence of clinical utility," said Lyndsay N. Harris, MD, co-chair of the ASCO expert panel that developed the guideline. "These latest recommendations truly inform physicians about which tests need to be performed. But this is not all that goes into patient care? doctors need to continue discussions with patients to develop individualized treatment plans."

The guideline recommendations were developed by a multidisciplinary expert panel, with expertise in medical oncology, radiation oncology, community oncology, statistics, and health outcome researchers. In addition, a cancer survivor was included to provide a patient perspective. The panel conducted a systematic review of literature published from January 2006 through September 2015 and identified 50 relevant studies.

Key guideline recommendations:

- The following biomarker tests may be used to guide decisions on adjuvant systemic therapy for certain patients with breast cancer: estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, HER2 receptor, Oncotype DX, EndoPredict, PAM50, Breast Cancer Index, and urokinase plasminogen activator and plasminogen activator inhibitor type 1.
- No biomarker test, except for estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, and HER2 receptor should be used to guide choices of specific drugs or treatment regimens.
Treatment decisions should also consider disease stage, comorbidities and patient preferences.

The guideline, *Use of Biomarkers to Guide Decisions on Adjuvant Systemic Therapy for Women with Early-Stage Invasive Breast Cancer: American Society of Clinical Practice Guideline*, was published today in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Information providing insight on these recommendations for patients is available at [www.cancer.net/recommendations](http://www.cancer.net/recommendations). The guideline will be available at [http://www.asco.org/guidelines/adjuvantbreastmarkers](http://www.asco.org/guidelines/adjuvantbreastmarkers), along with supplementary materials.

Related ASCO guidelines include:

- Use of Biomarkers to Guide Decisions on Systemic Therapy for Women With Metastatic Breast Cancer: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline
- ASCO-CAP Guideline Recommendations for Immunohistochemical Testing of Estrogen and Progesterone Receptors in Breast Cancer

ASCO encourages feedback on its guidelines from oncologists, practitioners and patients through the ASCO Guidelines Wiki at [www.asco.org/guidelineswiki](http://www.asco.org/guidelineswiki).

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**About ASCO:**

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world’s leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With nearly 40,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. ASCO is supported by its affiliate organization, the Conquer Cancer Foundation, which funds ground-breaking research and programs that make a tangible difference in the lives of people with cancer. For ASCO information and resources, visit [www.asco.org](http://www.asco.org). Patient-oriented cancer information is available at [www.cancer.net](http://www.cancer.net).