
A S C O N E W S

• **Cell Therapeutics Inc.**, of Seattle, presented interim Phase I data from 21 patients in a study of escalating doses of Xyotax in combination with standard-dose cisplatin. Among 17 patients evaluable for response, Xyotax resulted in partial remissions in 30 percent of the patients studied. Disease control was observed in 82 percent of patients. Four of the five major responses were reported in tumors that were resistant to prior taxane and/or cisplatin therapy or in tumor types that were intrinsically resistant to taxanes, including patients with refractory ovarian cancer and patients with mesothelioma and malignant schwannoma. Separately, it said it reported the results of a case study review of seven refractory multiple myeloma patients treated with a combination of Trisenox, vitamin C and melphalan demonstrated that all patients achieved an objective response, ranging from 29 percent to 85 percent reduction in M-protein, with four of seven patients remaining free of cancer progression for a median of 34 weeks.

• **GenOdyssee SA**, of Les Ulis, France, presented preclinical data on its natural functional variants of interferon alpha. IFN α is a naturally occurring protein. The company presented data on the in vitro and in vivo antiviral, antiproliferative and immunomodulatory activities of its IFN α variants compared to IFN $\alpha 2\beta$. In the in vivo studies in both mouse and primate models, GenOdyssee's GEA009.2 demonstrated higher antitumor activity and lower toxicity, it said.

• **Genomic Health Inc.**, of Redwood, City, Calif., reported preliminary data in clinical trials in which RNA analysis of thin sections of standard tumor biopsies were used to evaluate panels of genes that might predict breast cancer recurrence and response to chemotherapy as well as response to EGFR inhibitor therapy in lung cancer. Genomic Health has begun large-scale trials that will examine prospectively defined endpoints in breast cancer recurrence and plans to conduct similar large-scale trials looking at response to chemotherapy and EGFR inhibitor therapy, it said.

• **GlycoGenesys Inc.**, of Boston, reported preclinical data that demonstrated in vitro that GlycoGenesys' GCS-100 killed both a chemotherapy-resistant human lymphoma cell line that overexpressed the Bcl-2 protein and an identical non-Bcl-2-overexpressing human lymphoma cell line. GCS-100 produced similar results in other human lymphoma cancer cell lines, it said.

• **GPC Biotech AG**, of Martinsried, Germany, reported satraplatin study results demonstrating statistical significance ($p=0.023$) in time to disease progression, doubling progression-free survival. The study involved 50 randomized patients and evaluated the use of satraplatin plus prednisone vs. prednisone alone for use as a first-line

chemotherapy treatment in hormone-refractory prostate cancer. Satraplatin is a member of the platinum family of compounds.

• **IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corp.**, of San Diego, presented updated results of four studies of Zevalin (ibrutinomab tiuxetan). The results showed Zevalin produced complete and enduring responses in a subset of patients with low-grade, follicular and transformed B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The data also indicated that Zevalin is associated with higher response rates and longer durations of response when used before multiple courses of chemotherapy, the company said. The drug was approved by the FDA in February 2002. (See *BioWorld Today*, Feb. 21, 2002.)

• **Igeneon**, of Vienna, Austria, presented Phase II data on its cancer vaccine, IGNI01, an antibody-based product directed against epithelial cancers. The study tested IGNI01 with chemotherapy treatment. The data showed that the vaccine retained an immune response (95 percent seroconversion rate) despite concomitant chemotherapies.

• **Immunomedics Inc.**, of Morris Plains, N.J., reported data on the use of two therapeutic monoclonal antibodies, which bind to the CD20 and CD74 receptors, respectively. Immunomedics also reported therapeutic results with a CD74-binding humanized antibody. And it reported preclinical results of its humanized antibody against carcinoembryonic antigen, labetuzumab. Preliminary results showed that labetuzumab could significantly increase the chemosensitivity of human colon and breast cancer cells in vitro to several anticancer drugs. Also, animals with disseminated human colon cancer were found to show improved survival rates when the naked labetuzumab was given in combination with irinotecan.

• **Introgen Therapeutics Inc.**, of Austin, Texas, reported data from a Phase I trial that showed direct intra-bronchial instillation of its p53 drug, Advexin, is safe and showed evidence of therapeutic activity in cancer patients with bronchoalveolar lung carcinoma. It also reported that two abstracts describing an early stage Phase I/II study in esophageal cancer indicated Advexin therapy was well tolerated by patients and appeared to slow the advancement of the disease. Also, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center made available preliminary data from a Phase II study in locally advanced breast cancer that indicated Advexin can be combined with a two-drug standard chemotherapy regimen and that 90 percent of the patients responded to the therapy.

• **Lorus Therapeutics Inc.**, of Toronto, said data on its two lead drugs, GTI-2040 and Virulizin, were presented. The presentation provided an overview of the safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetics from a Phase I trial conducted in a variety of tumor types. The data were used to design a Phase II trial of GTI-2040 for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma, which is currently in progress.

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