

Targeted therapies Advanced oesophagogastric cancers

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Travel expenses: Bayer





Incidence and mortality of OGCs worldwide

Eastern Asia

Southern Africa

Eastern Africa

Northern Europe

Western Europe

Eastern Europe

Northern America

South America

Melanesia

Australia/New Zealand

Micronesia/Polynesia

South-Eastern Asia

Southern Europe

Middle Africa

Western Asia

Northern Africa

Central America

Western Africa

Caribbean

South Central Asia

- Oesophageal cancer
 - 7th most common cancer
 - 6th cause of cancer-related death
- Gastric cancer
 - 5th most common cancer
 - 3rd cause of cancer-related death





Trends in 5-year relative survival for OGCs in the US



Oesophageal cancer





+22%





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Type of drugs approved by FDA for main GI cancers



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Evolution of understanding the biology of OGCs



Integrated genomic characterisation of OGCs





The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2014; The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2017

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Rationale for using/investigating targeted therapies in OGCs









The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2014; The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2017

Treatment algorithm for advanced gastric cancer



HER-2





Truncating mut. Missense mut. (recurrent or in COSMIC) Missense mut. (all other) Amplification Hom. deletion



The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2014; The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2017



Successful inhibition of HER-2 in OGCs



Addition of trastuzumab to CF/X [↑] RR, PFS and OS

mOS 13.8 m vs. 11.1 m HR 0.74 (95% CI: 0.60 – 0.91) p=0.0046





Unsuccessful trials of HER-2 inhibitors in OGCs



VEGF





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The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2014; The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2017

Successful trials of anti-angiogenic therapy in OGCs

Trial	Patients	Comparison	Endpoint	Outcomes	HR / p value
REGARD*	2nd line advanced GC/GEJ	Ramucirumab BSC	OS	5.2 m 3.8 m	HR 0.776 p=0.047
RAINBOW°	2nd line advanced GC/GEJ	Paclitaxel + Ramucirumab Paclitaxel	OS	9.6 m 7.4 m	HR 0.807 p=0.017
APATINIB [^] (China)	≥3rd line advanced GC/GEJ	Apatinib BSC	OS	6.5 m 4.7 m	HR 0.709 p=0.0149

* Also statistically significant improvement in PFS

° Also statistically significant improvement in RR and PFS

^ Also statistically significant improvement in DCR and PFS





Fuchs, Lancet 2014; Wilke, Lancet Oncol 2014; Li, J Clin Oncol 2016

Unsuccessful trials of anti-angiogenic therapy in OGCs



EGFR





Truncating mut. Missense mut. (recurrent or in COSMIC) Missense mut. (all other) Amplification Hom. deletion



The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2014; The Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network, Nature 2017

Prognostic and predictive role of EGFR in OGCs



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Unsuccessful trials of anti-EGFR agents in OGCs



HER-2, EGFR and VEFG: still useful therapeutic target?

"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results"



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Mind the intratumour HER-2 heterogeneity in OGCs

And the impact that this may have in terms of treatment outcomes



HER2 % of positive cells in IHC 3+ patients from TOGA trial							
% cells	<10%	10-30%	31-79%	≥80%			
% patients	3%	27%	31%	39%			

Survival outcome according to HER-2 heterogeneity in TOGA trial

	Chemo	Chemo + T		
% stained cells IHC 2+	mOS	mOS	HR	95 % CI
0 % to ≤30 %	11.7	11.4	0.83	0.50–1.41
>30 % to 100 %	9.2	12.5	0.66	0.36–1.18
IHC 3+				
0 % to ≤30 %	13.6	18.0	0.71	0.40–1.25
>30 % to 100 %	12.3	17.9	0.55	0.37–0.81



Van Cutsem, Gastric Cancer 2015

HER-2 is not a static biomarker

Something to consider when investigating anti-HER-2 strategies beyond progression

 HER-2 status changes post trastuzumab therapy (up to 32% of HER-2 positive tumours become HER-2 negative following anti-HER-2 treatment, more common in IHC2+ vs IHC3+)



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 Non-HER-2 biomarkers become important when HER-2 changes





Pietrantonio, Int J Cancer 2016; Janjigian, Cancer Discov 2017; Seo, Gastric Cancer 2019

Bypassing HER-2 heterogeneity: trastuzumab deruxtecan









Bypassing HER-2 heterogeneity: trastuzumab deruxtecan

- Dose expansion phase I trial (n=44)
- OGJ/Gastric cancer, HER-2 3+ or 2+/ISH+
- Median number of prior therapy 3 (2-5)
- 100% prior trastuzumab
- 55% prior irinotecan

Randomised phase II trial ongoing (DESTINY-GASTRIC01) ≥3rd line trastuzumab deruxtecan vs investigator's choice







Shitara, Lancet Oncol 2019









	AZD	4547	Pacli	taxel
Best response	FISH L-amp	FISH H- amp	FISH L-amp	FISH H-amp
CR (%)	0	0	0	0
PR (%)	0	0	1 (10%)	2 (40%)
SD (%)	1 (11%)	2 (25%)	3 (30%)	2 (40%)
PD (%)	8 (89%)	6 (75%)	6 (60%)	1 (20%)



Van Cutsem, Ann Oncol 2017



- RMH FGFR trial (n=9)
- Refractory, FGFR2 amplified OGC patients treated with AZD4547
- Objective response in 3/9 patients









Mean duration of response 6 months



RMH FGFR Trial 12/135 (9%) amplified		500um		100µm	Long Long			
% amplified cells	14%	27%	28%	37%	44%	94%	99 %	99 %
AZ SHINE Trial				о _µ т 100µ		Imm	500µm)	100µm
% amplified cells	10%	169	6 10	6%	24%	52%	59 %	70%



Images courtesy of Neil R Smith

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Anti-EGFRs in OGCs: missing out on a good opportunity Subgroup analysis of the EXPAND trial







Lordick, Lancet Oncol 2013

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Anti-EGFRs in OGCs: missing out on a good opportunity Subgroup analysis of the COG trial









Beyond HER-2, VEGF and EGFR





Other randomised phase III trials of targeted therapies in OGCs

Trial	Patients	Setting	Comparison	1° endpoint	Outcome	HR – p value
RILOMET-1	609 (100% MET pos)	1 st line	ECX + Rilotumumab ECX	PFS	8.8 10.7	HR 1.34 p=0.003
METGastric	562 (100% MET pos)	1 st line	FOLFOX + Onartuzumab FOLFOX	OS	11.0 11.3	HR 0.82 p=0.24
GAMMA-1	432	1 st line	FOLFOX + Andecaliximab FOLFOX	OS	12.5 11.8	HR 0.93 p=0.56
GOLD	643 (15% ATM neg)	2 nd line	Paclitaxel + Olaparib Paclitaxel	OS	8.8 6.9	HR 0.79 p=0.026
BRIGHTER	714	2 nd line	Paclitaxel + Napabucasin Paclitaxel	OS	6.9 7.4	HR 1.01 p=0.86
GRANITE	656	≥2 nd line	Everolimus Placebo	OS	5.4 4.3	HR 0.90 P=0.124



Catenacci, Lancet Oncol 2017; Shah, JAMA Oncol 2017; Shah, ASCO 2018; Bang, Lancet Oncol 2017; Shah, GI ASCO 2019; Ohtsu, J Clin Oncol 2013



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Randomised phase II trials of targeted therapies in oGCs: anything promising?

Trial	Patients	Setting	Comparison	1° endpoint	Outcome	HR – p value
STARGATE	195	1 st line	CX + Sorafenib CX	PFS	5.6 5.3	HR 0.92 p=0.609
FAST	161 (100% CLDN18.2)	1 st line	EOX + Zolbetuximab EOX	PFS	7.5 5.3	HR 0.44 p<0.0005
NCT00982592	124	1 st line	FOLFOX + Vismodegib FOLFOX	PFS	7.3 8.0	HR na p=0.64
PaFLO	87	1 st line	FLO + Pazopanib FLO	6m PFS	31.4% 25.9%	HR 0.93 p=NS
ZAMEGA	64	1 st line	FOLFOX + Aflibercept FOLFOX	6m PFS	60.5% 57.1%	HR 1.11 p=0.72
NCT01238055	107	2 nd line	Docetaxel + Sunitinib Docetaxel	TTP	3.9 2.6	HR 0.77 p=0.206
SHINE	71 (FGFR2 amplified)	2 nd line	AZD4547 Paclitaxel	PFS	1.8 3.5	HR 1.57 p=NS
INTEGRATE	152	2 nd /3° line	Regorafenib Placebo	PFS	2.6 0.9	HR 0.40 p<0.001
	Kang, ESMO 2014;	Sahin, GI ASCO 2	019; Cohen, ASCO 2013; Thuss-Patienc	e, ASCO 2015; Clea	ry, Cancer 2019;	III.B

Yi, Br J Cancer 2012; Van Cutsem, Ann Oncol 2017; Pavlakis, J Clin Oncol 2016

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Yi, Br J Cancer 2012; Van Cutsem, Ann Oncol 2017; Pavlakis, J Clin Oncol 2016

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CLDN18.2: a potential new therapeutic target





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Immunotherapy





Rationale for using/investigating immunotherapy in OGCs





Alexandrov, Nature 2013; Salem, Mol Cancer Res 2018



Summary of phase III trials of immunotherapy in OGCs

Trial	Setting	Patients	Comparison	Endpoint	Outcome
KEYNOTE-062	1 st line	OGJ & gastric (CPS≥1)	Pembro Pembro + CF/X CF/X	PFS/OS	Pembro non inferior to CF/X Pembro non superior to CF/X (CPS≥10) Pembro + CF/X non superior to CF/X
KEYNOTE-061	2 nd line	OGJ & gastric (CPS≥1)	Pembro Paclitaxel	PFS/OS	Pembro non superior to Paclitaxel
ATTRACTION-3	2 nd line	Oesophageal SCC (PD-L1 unselected)	Nivolumab Paclitaxel/Docetaxel	OS	Nivo superior to Paclitaxel/Docetaxel
KEYNOTE-181	2 nd line	Oesophageal & OGJ (PD-L1 unselected)	Pembro Investigator's choice CT	OS	Pembro superior to CT in CPS≥10) Pembro non superior to CT in SCC Pembro non superior to CT in all pts
JAVELIN GASTRIC 300	≥3 rd line	OGJ and gastric (PD-L1 unselected)	Avelumab Paclitaxel/Irinotecan	OS	Avelumab non superior to Paclitaxel/Irinotecan
ATTRACTION-2	≥3 rd line	OGJ and gastric (PD-L1 unselected)	Nivolumab Placebo	OS	Nivo superior to Placebo





PD-L1 expression and benefit from immunotherapy in OGCs

Trial	Setting	Patients	Comparison	HR Any/CPS<1/ PD-L1<1%	HR CPS≥1/ PD-L1 ≥1%	HR CPS≥10/ PD-L1 ≥10%
KEYNOTE-062	1 st line	OGJ & gastric (CPS≥1)	Pembro vs CT Pembro + CT vs CT	-	0,91 0.85	0,69 0.85
KEYNOTE-061	2 nd line	OGJ & gastric	Pembro vs CT	1.20	0.82	0.64
ATTRACTION-3	2 nd line	Oesophageal SCC (PD-L1 unselected)	Nivolumab vs CT	0.84	0.69	0.69
KEYNOTE-181	2 nd line	Oesophageal & OGJ (PD-L1 unselected)	Pembro vs CT	0.85	-	0.67
JAVELIN GASTRIC 300	≥3 rd line	OGJ and gastric (PD-L1 unselected)	Avelumab vs CT	1.22	0.94	-
ATTRACTION-2	≥3 rd line	OGJ and gastric (PD-L1 unselected)	Nivolumab vs BSC	0.72	0.51	-





PD-L1 expression and benefit from immunotherapy in OGCs

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KEYNOTE-062	1 st line	OGJ & gastric (CPS≥1)	Pembro vs CT Pembro + CT vs CT	-	0,91 0.85	0,69 0.85
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Better biomarkers for immunotherapy in OGCs



Combination treatment: anti-angiogenic + anti-PD-1 agents

Potentially extending the benefit of immunotherapy to MSS tumours

REGONIVO/EPOC 1603 trial

- Phase I trial in Japan (n=50)
- Gastric and colorectal cancer
- 98% MSS
- Median prior therapies: 3 (2-8)
- 98% had prior anti-angiogenic therapy

Fukuoka, ASCO 2019

 14% had prior PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors





The ideal scenario

Biomarker screening and molecularly matched therapies



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Inter-tumoral lesions genomic heterogeneity

A cautionary note and useful insight for future drug development and trial designs





Pectasides, Cancer Discov 2017

Inter-tumoral lesions genomic heterogeneity

Genomic profiling of ctDNA may help to address inter-tumoral lesion heterogeneity



MS: mass spectometry FISH: fluorescent in situ hybridization

IHC: immunohistochemistry

The genomic complexity of OGCs

Another cautionary note and useful insight for future drug development and trial designs



Co-amplification of RTKs and/or downstream mitogenic activation is almost ubiquitous!

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Secrier, Nat Genet 2016



Conclusions

- Targeted therapies are an important component of the therapeutic algorithm of advanced OGCs and will possibly shape the treatment paradigm of early stage tumours
- Lack of optimal, biomarker-driven patient selection, intratumour heterogeneity and genomic complexity of OGCs are likely responsible for the failure of unsuccessful trials and should be kept in mind when designing future studies
- ctDNA-based genomic profiling and combination target treatment may represent successful strategies to pursue in future clinical trials







