Trial Results Evaluating the Addition of Bevacizumab to Paclitaxel/Carboplatin Chemotherapy Support Further Investigation of Anti-angiogenesis Targeting Agents in Endometrial Cancer

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Chicago, Ill., June 1, 2015—The Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG), now conducting research as NRG Oncology, carried out a three-arm, phase II randomized trial evaluating initial treatment for advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer with paclitaxel and/or carboplatin chemotherapy that incorporated one of three novel agents: bevacizumab, temsirolimus, or ixabepilone. Initial results of the GOG 86P trial were reported today at the 2015 American Society for Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting. Lead investigator and presenter Carol Aghajanian, MD, PhD, chair of the NRG Oncology Developmental Therapeutics Committee and chief of the Gynecologic Medical Oncology Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, reported that, when compared with the paclitaxel/carboplatin arm of the GOG 209 study serving as the historical control reference, no significant difference in progression-free survival was found in any of the three arms (Arm 1: paclitaxel, carboplatin, and bevacizumab; Arm 2: paclitaxel, carboplatin, and temsirolimus; and Arm 3: carboplatin, ixabepilone, and bevacizumab). However, at the 36-month follow-up, investigators observed a statistically significant increase in overall survival in Arm 1 relative only to the historical control.

“The three agents evaluated in this study have all shown promise in the treatment of endometrial cancer; however, their role in combination with the paclitaxel/carboplatin chemotherapy in the initial treatment of endometrial cancer has been unknown,” says Aghajanian. “These results support further evaluation of anti-angiogenesis targeting in endometrial cancer. Specifically, the true meaning of the survival benefit in this study needs to be evaluated in trials with a concurrent control arm.”

In the United States, endometrial cancer is the most common gynecologic cancer and the fourth most common cancer in women, with an estimated 40,000 cases diagnosed each year. Approximately 15 percent of patients have advanced-stage disease at the time of diagnosis and are considered to be at high risk (>25 percent) for recurrence.

“Over the past several decades, GOG—and now NRG Oncology—has pursued a rational evaluation of both multiple sequential single agents and combinations of chemotherapy regimens in the treatment of patients with advanced-stage and recurrent disease,” says Robert Mannel, MD, chair of the NRG Oncology Gynecologic Cancer Committee and the director of the Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. “These results contribute important information as we continue to investigate combination therapy utilizing both chemotherapy and novel agents to capitalize on synergistic treatment effects that might be more beneficial than those associated with any one treatment modality alone.”

Clinical trial information: NCT00977574
NRG Oncology conducts practice-changing, multi-institutional clinical and translational research to improve the lives of patients with cancer. Founded in 2012, NRG Oncology is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit corporation that integrates the research strengths of the National Adjuvant Breast and Bowel Project, the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group and the Gynecologic Oncology Group. The research organization seeks to carry clinical trials with emphases on gender-specific malignancies including gynecologic, breast, and prostate cancers and on localized or locally advanced cancers of all types. NRG Oncology’s extensive research organization is comprised of multidisciplinary investigators including medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, physicists, pathologists, and statisticians and encompasses more than 1300 research sites located worldwide with predominance in the United States and Canada. NRG Oncology is supported primarily through grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and is one of five research groups in the NCI’s National Clinical Trials Network.