Maintenance Therapy Improves Survival Outcomes in Patients with Advanced Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

Ying Wang¹ · Jin Yang¹ · You-Jin Lu¹

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To the Editor,

We read with great interest the recent article entitled “Maintenance Therapy Improves Survival Outcomes in Patients with Advanced Non-small Cell Lung Cancer: A Meta-analysis of 14 Studies” published in *Lung* by Lu et al. [1]. The article demonstrated that single agent (SA) switch maintenance therapy (MT) is associated with improved overall survival (OS) and progression-free survival (PFS) of advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients. Nevertheless, we had a few queries and would appreciate if the authors could provide further clarification.

1. We know that the quality of the study is very important for the reliability of the pooled results of meta-analysis. In this study, the authors used the GRADE protocols to evaluate the quality of included studies. However, there were no detailed scores for each trial in ‘Results’ section
2. Usually in order to compare the differences and to evaluate the sensitivity and stability of the pooled meta-analysis results, the sensitivity analysis is

conducted. However, the sensitivity analysis was not conducted in this study. Meanwhile, the authors use funnel plot to estimate the publication bias, but the funnel plot was not shown in the study.

Moreover, more scientifically designed randomized controlled trials with large samples are still needed. We believe that these remarks will further contribute for more accurate elaboration of the results presented by Lu et al. [1].

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest None.

Reference

1. Lu S, Yu Y, Chen Z et al (2015) Maintenance therapy improves survival outcomes in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer: a meta-analysis of 14 studies. *Lung*. doi:[10.1007/s00408-015-9758-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00408-015-9758-y)

✉ You-Jin Lu
luyougolden@163.com

¹ Department of Respiratory Medicine, The Second Hospital of Anhui Medical University, No. 678 Fu Rong Road, Hefei 230601, Anhui, China