Best of SABCS 2020

Marija Balic

Accepted: 26 July 2021
 © Springer-Verlag GmbH Austria, part of Springer Nature 2021

In this issue of the *Magazine of European Medical Oncology* (MEMO), the most relevant presentations and studies presented at SABCS 2020 are summarized.

Dr. Bartsch summarizes and discusses presentations on triple-negative and HER2-positive breast cancer and emphasizes results on immunotherapy with pembrolizumab in triple-negative breast cancer with respect to chemotherapy backbone in the KEYNOTE 355 and quality of life data from the IMPassion031 study. Furthermore, whereas the addition of ipatasertib to paclitaxel did not add benefit for this subgroup of aggressive disease, the biomarker analyses from the ASCENT study showed promising benefit from sacitucumab govitecan regardless of Trop-2 and BRCA status [1]. In HER2-positive disease analyses of three studies added value to the current knowledge, including PRECIOUS and rechallenge of pertuzumab and trastuzumab dual inhibition in the later line of treatment and update of the PERTAIN study with >6 years of median follow-up emphasizing the role of the chemotherapy-free option for selected patients [1].

Dr. Suppan focuses on the treatment of hormone-receptor (HR)-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer. One of the caveats of the SOLAR 1 study was a low proportion of patients pretreated with CDK 4/6 inhibitors, and the combinational partner restricted to fulvestrant. Both these issues were addressed in the cohort B of the BYLieve study. MONALEESA studies evaluated clinical benefit of the addition of ribociclib to the endocrine treatment and at the SABCS2020, a biomarker analyses was per-

formed and benefit across intrinsic subtypes with no benefit demonstrated in the basal like subtype. Finally, the role of circulating tumor cells both for prognostic but also predictive value was confirmed in a retrospective pooled analyses, but nevertheless, the clinical value of circulating tumor cells (CTC) detection remains questionable [2].

Dr. Kacarovsky-Strobl summarized novel findings on surgical topics from three trials. In the Sinodar One trial, the benefit of axillary lymph node dissection in patients with clinically negative axilla with macrometastasis in sentinel biopsy in favor of omitting the axillary dissection and minimizing the surgery of axilla. Another study evaluated the role of sentinel lymph node biopsy in older patients. Implicating that prognosis of older women with estrogen receptor(ER)-positive disease undergoing endocrine treatment was irrespective of sentinel lymph node status. Finally, the RISAS trial evaluated the application of radioactive seed prior to neoadjuvant systemic treatment and the impact on detection and targeted sentinel node removal after the systemic treatment with impressive identification rate and very low false-negative rate [3].

Dr. Gampenrieder and colleagues report on selected studies regarding early hormone receptor (HR)-positive breast cancer. The PenelopeB did not show any benefit of adding palbociclib in addition to endocrine treatment in high-risk patients. In RxPONDER trial patients with 1–3 positive nodes and Recurrence Score <26 based on the Oncotype DX were sufficiently treated with endocrine treatment. Finally, from the ADAPT umbrella trial a cohort of HR+HER2-negative patients was treated shortly with endocrine treatment and based on Ki 67 response after 3 weeks of treatment to <10%; no adjuvant chemotherapy was administered. This was irrespective of the menopausal status [4].

Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Balic (✉)
 Division of Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine,
 Medical University Graz, Auebruggerplatz 15, 8036 Graz,
 Austria
marija.balic@medunigraz.at

In summary, SABCS 2020 was a virtual meeting with a number of highly interesting and at least to some extent practice-changing data. In all intrinsic subtypes and at all stages, there is still room for improvement in the treatment of breast cancer patients. With a high prevalence of breast cancer in the female population these results have great potential; particularly the improvements in the most aggressive subtypes are promising.

Conflict of interest M. Balic has received honoraria for lectures, consultation or advisory board participation from the following for-profit companies: Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly, Merck Sharp & Dome, Novartis, Pfizer, Samsung, Seagen.

References

1. Bartsch R. SABCS 2020: update on triple-negative and metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer. *memo* 2021;14(3). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00722-4>.
2. Suppan C. Post San Antonio update—my top 3 abstracts! *memo*. 2021;14(3). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00718-0>.
3. Kacarovsky-Strobl S. San Antonio 2020 update—the top 3 surgical abstracts. *memo* 2021;14(3). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00732-2>.
4. Gampenrieder SP, Rinnerthaler G, Greil R. Top 3 abstracts concerning hormone-receptor-positive early breast cancer. Post San Antonio 2020 Update. *memo* 2021;14(3). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12254-021-00726-0>.

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

► For latest news from international oncology congresses see: <http://www.springermedizin.at/memo-inoncology>