Best of ASCO 2021

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In the current issue of the *Magazine of European Medical Oncology (MEMO)*, we provide a series of articles summarizing the most relevant presentations delivered at ASCO 2021 on central nervous system tumors, upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancers, triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), nasopharyngeal carcinoma, early stage non-small cell lung cancer, advanced ovarian cancer, bladder cancer, and metastatic colorectal cancer.

Drs. Berghoff and Mair discuss recent advances in central nervous system tumors. The data presented show interesting aspects of molecular platform diagnostics and promising results on targeted therapies [1].

Dr. Ilhan-Mutlu highlights the most important contributions in gastric and esophageal cancer. Immunotherapy has changed the current practice in localized esophageal cancer as well as in the first-line palliative treatment in esophageal and gastric cancer. Furthermore promising results investigating the anti-FGFR2b monoclonal antibody bemarituzumab are reported [2].

Dr. Singer presents the results of adjuvant olaparib after (neo)adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with germline BRCA1/2 mutations and high-risk HER2-negative early breast cancer as well as encouraging results from a phase II trial investigating the use of a PD-L1 antibody in neoadjuvant treatment of TNBC [3].

Dr. Füreder summarizes the presentations on nasopharyngeal carcinoma. New first-line standards and aspects of adjuvant treatment including treatment intensification are presented [4].

Drs. Absenger and Pircher highlight their non-small cell lung cancer favorites. First data on adjuvant atezolizumab show promising results. In addition two trials in resected EGFR-mutated patients elucidating the effect of neo/adjuvant treatment with gefitinib or erlotinib are reported [5].

Drs. Schöche and Strasser-Weippl present the therapeutic medical landscape in advanced ovarian cancer and several interesting studies that might have a clinical impact in the future [6].

Drs. Mayrhofer, K. and Niedersüß-Beke review the papers on bladder cancer. Three phase II trials address the incorporation of immunotherapy in interdisciplinary treatment. Furthermore mature first-line monotherapy results confirm the efficacy of pembrolizumab in patients with a CPS score ≥ 10 [7].

Dr. Weiss provides an overview on metastatic colorectal cancer. Data on immunotherapy in microsatellite instable colorectal cancer and on the antibody–drug conjugate trastuzumab deruxtecan in HER2-positive colorectal cancer are updated. Interesting results of how to integrate circulating tumor cells in clinical practice are discussed [8].

In summary, very promising data, some of them practice-changing, were presented at ASCO 2021. The integration of immunotherapies in treatment algorithms and the definition of molecular subgroups are the main topics of this year's meeting.

Conflict of interest E. Wöll: Honoraria for lectures, consultation or advisory board participation: Amgen, Astra Zeneca, BMS, Celgen, Ebewe, Eli Lilly, Eisai, Janssen Cilag, Merck, MSD, Pierre Fabre, Pfizer, Ratiopharm, Roche, Sanofi Aventis.

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