SPECIAL EDITION: ASCO 2021
Ensuring Health Equity in Cancer Care

“Equity: Every Patient. Every Day. Everywhere.” That was the theme for this year’s American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting. And, indeed, the theme of health equity ran through the meetings tracks and presentations right from the start.
New Research Unlocks Promise for Treating Small Cell Lung Cancer

Patients with small cell lung cancer (SCLC) receive one-size-fits-all treatment because of limited knowledge about the biology of the disease. There are currently no actionable biomarkers for SCLC; thus immunotherapy and chemotherapy in combination mark the standard of care. There are, however, exciting new developments in the SCLC biomarker space.
Adding New Drugs to Treatment for Early Stage Lung Cancer

Surgery has been the primary treatment for early stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Unfortunately, many people have seen their cancer come back after surgery. Now researchers are exploring whether adding therapies currently used to treat advanced lung cancer can improve outcomes in the early stages.
Chemotherapy has been the standard treatment option for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) without actionable biomarkers. Recently, immunotherapy treatments have been added into the treatment mix. Several studies presented at ASCO offer further good news about the effectiveness of current FDA-approved immunotherapy treatments for advanced cancer.
New Targeted Therapies in the Biomarker Space

Until recently, the KRAS mutation was considered un-targetable in most types of cancer, including lung cancer. May 2021 marked the approval of the first KRAS targeted therapy for one of the most common KRAS mutations, G12C - sotorasib (Lumakras). New data shows further promise. Researchers at ASCO also highlighted several studies of drugs with targets not currently addressed by FDA-approved treatments.
Revisiting EGFR

A number of studies presented at ASCO related to the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with an EGFR mutation. Tagrisso remains an important and effective standard of care option for NSCLC with an EGFR mutation. However, many patients eventually develop resistance. As a result, a number of clinical trials are focused on identifying new options for post-Tagrisso treatment.
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