RAF-kinase pathway inhibitors in the treatment of metastatic melanoma: when compliance doesn’t match with tolerance

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 DataTypes were collected from Candido Cancer Institute FPO IRCCS prescribing software and from medical records of patients from January 2019 to May 2022.

Results

36 patients were considered for the analysis. Dabrafenib + trametinib were prescribed firstly to 33 patients. Only 7 of them (21 %) had no serious adverse events. The adverse events of the remaining 26 patients (79%) were different:

- pyrexia (40%)
- cutaneous disorders (25%)
- gastrointestinal disorders (12,5%)
- fatigue (8%).

9 patients (27%) were forced to stop therapy because of progressive disease (PD).

The analysis considered the two most prescribed oral therapies for unresectable or metastatic MM with a BRAF V600 mutation in Candido Cancer Institute FPO IRCCS, Piemonte, Italy:

- dabrafenib + trametinib
- encorafenib + binimetinib

The aim of this study is to compare the two combination therapies, describing their use and patient tolerability using real life data.

Materials and methods

Data were collected from January 2019 to May 2022 show that the most prescribed therapy was dabrafenib + trametinib (approved by EMA almost four years earlier than encorafenib + binimetinib). This therapy is characterised by better patient compliance because of the simpler posology; however serious adverse events were more frequent than in the other therapy described.

On the other hand encorafenib + binimetinib combination therapy is the best tolerated treatment, despite a complex therapeutic scheme with possible issues of patient compliance. Therefore encorafenib + binimetinib may provide continuity of care and better clinical outcome.

Moreover for the Regional Health System the therapy with encorafenib + binimetinib is more cost saving, because its cost is 19% lower than the other combination therapy considered in this study.

1: Melanoma & Other Skin Cancers Essentials for Clinicians, ESMO, 2021
2: Raccomandazioni 2019 per l’implementazione dell’analisi mutazionale e la gestione del paziente con melanoma maligno, Associazione Italiana di Oncologia Medica
3: SCR Piemonte, gara 096-2021, III Aa

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