

#### **BREAST CANCER PATHWAYS**

## Biology of HER2 Cell Signaling and Anti-HER2 Agents

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### Disclosures for Jenny C Chang, MD

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#### **Optimal Targeted Therapy**

- Identify key pathway(s)
- Block this pathway completely
- Anticipate escape (resistance) mechanisms and block them
- Combination therapy

#### Pathway Activation – HER Ligands



#### Pathway Inhibition



#### Mechanisms for Resistance to Trastuzumab

- Activation of the pathway downstream
  - PI3K mutations
  - pTEN loss
  - Cyclin E amplification
- Loss of the HER2 ext binding domain
  - p95
- Increased expression of HER ligands

## Mechanisms for Resistance to Trastuzumab (continued)

• Redundant survival pathway

– IGF, ER

- Activation by other kinases
  - Src, MET, integrins, stress kinases
- Upregulation of HER1 or HER3
- Incomplete blockade of the HER receptor layer













#### Trials of Trastuzumab Adjuvant Therapy

	Hazard Rate	
Trial	DFS	OS
B31/N9831	0.67	0.86
HERA	0.76	0.85
$\begin{array}{cc} BCIRG & AC \to TH \\ & TCH \end{array}$	0.64 0.75	0.63 0.77
FinHer	0.42	0.41

#### **Clinical Trials of Lapatinib**

- Activity post trastuzumab in metastatic disease
- Similar activity to trastuzumab in previously untreated HER2+ patients
- Adds to capecitabine
- Rash and diarrhea

#### Apoptosis



With permission, Migliaccio I et al. SABCS 2008; Abstract 34.

#### Proliferation: Ki67



With permission, Migliaccio I et al. SABCS 2008; Abstract 34.





With permission, Migliaccio I et al. SABCS 2008; Abstract 34.





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#### Low PTEN/PI3KCA-mut

	Trastuzumab (N) %	Lapatanib (N) %
PCR	18% (4/22)	87% (13/15)
Non-pCR	82% (18/22)	13% (2/15)

Logistic regression between low PTEN/PI3KCA-mut and treatment response, p = 0.0016

#### Summary of Results: Trastuzumab vs Lapatinib

#### Trastuzumab:

- Induces apoptosis likely through PI3/AKT
- No effect on proliferation (Ki67 or p-MAPK)
  Lapatinib:
- Decrease Ki67
- Decreases p-MAPK
- No effect on apoptosis

#### Adjuvant Lapatinib and/or Trastuzumab Treatment Optimization (ALTTO) Trial

Protocol ID: BIG 2-06; Target Accrual: 8,000



#### Eligibility

HER2-positive breast cancer

In Design 1, patients will complete all (neo)adjuvant chemotherapy prior to administration of targeted therapy.

In Design 2, patients will receive weekly paclitaxel concurrently for 12 weeks with targeted therapy after any anthracycline-based (neo)adjuvant chemotherapy.

## **Other HER Targeting Agents**

### Inhibition of HER Family Signaling

Drug	Block
Gefitinib, Erlotinib, Cetuximab	1-1, 1-2, 1-3
Trastuzumab/T-DM1	2-2, HER2/Src
Pertuzumab	1-2, 2-3
Lapatinib	1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 2-3
Neratinib	1-1, 1-2, 1-4, 2-4

#### HER Targeted Therapies



#### Trastuzumab DM1

# DM1 is highly potent antimicrotubule agent

T-DM1 undergoes receptor-mediated internalization

## Free DM1 is released within the cell







With permission, Mackey J et al. ASCO 2009;Breast Metastatic Poster discussion.

# Trastuzumab and Pertuzumab Bind to Different Regions on HER2



With permission from Cortés J. ASCO 2009; Abstract 1022.

#### Neratinib (HKI-272) Mechanism of Action

- Potent, low molecular weight, orally administered irreversible pan-ErbB receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor (ErbB-1/2/4)
- Binds covalently to the intracellular TK domain to inhibit auto-phosphorylation and subsequent downstream signaling



#### Summary

- The HER signaling pathway is a complex, redundant, robust and adaptable network.
- Inhibiting the network is very effective in patients with HER2 over-expressing tumors.
- *De novo* and acquired resistance occur and there are many potential mechanisms.
- Incomplete blockade of the receptor layer is one such mechanism that explains resistance in some xenograft models.

#### Summary (continued)

- Combined receptor inhibitors or receptor inhibitors combined with downstream/alternative signaling inhibitors deserve clinical evaluation.
- Predicting the mechanism of resistance in the primary tumor will be critical.

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