Final Results and Efficacy of Bevacizumab Combined with Paclitaxel/Carboplatin in the First-line Treatment of Advanced Non-small Cell Lung Cancer: Thai Experience from Avastin Lung Cancer Programme for THai PATients (ALPHA) project


On behalf of the Thai Society of Clinical Oncology

Background:
The ALPHA project is a cohort of case experiences in Thai advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients in setting of non-trial clinical practice. Thai Society of Clinical Oncology is a sponsor of this project. The aim of this project is to evaluate efficacy and safety of bevacizumab in combination with standard chemotherapy in advanced NSCLC patients.

Patients Eligibility:
Patients aged above 18 year-old with stage IIIB/IV non-squamous NSCLC, no prior systemic chemotherapy, with good performance status and sufficient haematology and biochemistry profile were eligible. Treatment included paclitaxel and carboplatin every 21 days up to 6 cycles with bevacizumab at 15 mg/kg(High dose, HD) or 7.5 mg/kg(low dose, LD) every 21 days until disease progress.

Results:
Thirty patients were enrolled from hospitals throughout Thailand from August 2008 to June 2009. Eight (26.7%) patients were treated with BV-HD and 22(73.3%) patients with BV-LD, 13 males and 17 females with median age of 56 year-old. There were 27(90%) patients in stage IV and 3(10%) in IIIB. Updated data as of 30 May 2012 showed 27(90%) patients with progressive disease, 1(3%) with ongoing bevacizumab monotherapy, and 2(7%) loss to follow up. Median PFS was 8.55 months, median OS was 17.4 months, with a 1-year and 2-year survival rates of 73.0% and 41.2% respectively. There were no statistical differences in efficacy based on HD and LD. The safety profiles for BV were consistent with existing data and no new safety signals were observed.

Conclusion:
Bevacinumab combination with standard chemotherapy is highly effective and well tolerated regimen in first line Thai advance NSCLC. Reported efficacy in Thai patients is consistent with Asian populations; SAiL (Chinese) 8.3 months, AVAiL (Asian) 8.5 months1 which is better than the Caucasian lung cancer patients.

Reference
1. Yilong WU, Bevacizumab plus platinum-based chemotherapy as 1st line treatment for NSCLC patients in Asia. Poster presented at RAOF 2009