Dynamic monitoring HER2 amplification of circulating DNA in metastatic colorectal cancer patients treated with cetuximab

Rujiao Liu, Zhiyu Chen, Weijian Guo, Xiaodong Zhu, Xiaoying Zhao, Lixin Qiu, Xiaowei Zhang, Mingzhu Huang, Wen Zhang, Zhe Zhang, Wenhua Li
Department of Medical Oncology, Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center, Shanghai
Disclosure of interest

• No conflicts of interest
Background & Methods

➢ Cetuximab & Colorectal cancer

➢ HER2 amplification & Cetuximab resistance

➢ HER2 amplification in circulating DNA
  ➢ 8 week interval
  ➢ droplet digital polymerase chain reaction (ddPCR)
  ➢ 36 RAS and BRAF wt patients, who progressed after failure of cetuximab containing regimens
Results

13.8% (5/36) of patients exhibited dynamic fluctuations of HER2 amplification in plasma, one of whom were found to be positive for HER2 amplification in matched tumor specimens using FISH. All 5 primary sites were left side, 4 rectums and 1 descending colon. 3 patients received cetuximab as first line therapy, whereas 2 patients in the 2nd line setting.
Case 2 patient’s tumor sample showed HER2 protein overexpression (A, IHC3+) and HER2 amplification (B).
Two patients had HER2 and c-MET co-amplification. The dynamic fluctuations of copy numbers were observed with tumor response or progression over time during the treatment course.
Among these 5 patients, changes in ctDNA levels showed good agreement with changes in tumor volume. Furthermore, quantifications of HER2 amplification showed obvious increase with an average lead time of 2 months compared with CT documented progress. But interestingly, there was no difference in PFS between these 5 patients and the others without HER2 amplification (HR=0.89, 95%CI: 0.34-2.37, p=0.820).
Conclusions

Plasma HER2 amplification detected by ddPCR was showed dynamic changing over time and would predict resistance to cetuximab containing treatment. Average 2 months lead time was observed and need to validate in the further study.