New Developments in the Treatment of Colorectal Cancer

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Personalized Medicine

- Currently already part of oncology:
 - What are the risks and benefits for taking chemotherapy based on pathology and the patient's health
 - Modify doses based on side effects
 - Modify treatment based on the response



Precision Medicine

- Predictive markers who will or will NOT respond to treatment
- Spare patients side effects/cost
- Examples: KRAS for EGFR therapy
 - A mutation in KRAS determines that the cancer would not respond to treatment



The Changing Face of Oncology



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Sequencing Costs are Dropping Dramatically!



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Current Biomarkers in Colorectal Cancer



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Loree et al,. Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology. (2017)



Personalized OncoGenomics (POG) Program



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Personalized oncogenomics: "POG"

- Patients with metastatic (incurable) cancers
- Look at the genome of each person's cancer
- Identify aberrant pathways that drive that cancer
- Identify drugs that might block those pathways

Genomic Alterations in Cancer



What does this entail?

- Whole genome sequencing = 6 billion bits of information
- Compare cancer to normal cells
- Patterns of RNA expression
- Analyze abnormalities and search for their function in databases
- Sift through scientific literature for evidence to link pathways to specific drugs



52 yo M with lung cancer

1. SDC4::NRG1 fusion uncovered from whole genome and transcriptome data



Canonical SDC4::NRG1 structure found



NRG1 (Transcript NRG1-004 ENST00000287842)

2. Fusion highly expressed in the tumour based on mRNA expression



3. Activation of ERBB pathways expected from literature evidence, and supported by pathway analysis based on expression data

4. Afatinib was suggested for ERBB-family targeted inhibition based on integrative analysis and literature evidence

5. Patient responded to recommended therapy







+8 weeks with Afatinib

Baseline prior to therapy

"Liquid Biopsies"



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Batth et al., Annals of Oncology. (2017)

Genomic Landscape of Cell-Free DNA in Patients with Colorectal Cancer 🛯 🎴

John H. Strickler¹, Jonathan M. Loree², Leanne G. Ahronian³, Aparna R. Parikh³, Donna Niedzwiecki¹, Allan Andresson Lima Pereira², Matthew McKinney¹, W. Michael Korn^{4,5}, Chloe E. Atreya⁴, Kimberly C. Banks⁶, Rebecca J. Nagy⁶, Funda Meric-Bernstam², Richard B. Lanman⁶, AmirAli Talasaz⁶, Igor F. Tsigelny^{7,8}, Ryan B. Corcoran³, and Scott Kopetz²



What does this mean for patients?

- Opportunity to participate in world class research that can directly affect patient care
- Opens the door to possibilities beyond "standard of care"
- Gain a better understanding of what causes and drives cancers





Immuno-Oncology



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Evolution of Cancer Therapy: Treatment Modalities



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Hallmarks of cancer



For Immuno-Oncology therapies (I-O therapies) to work, they generally incorporate an understanding of the mechanisms of tumor escape.^{2,3}

I-O therapies seek to modulate the immune system to *promote antitumor activity*, and counteract this hallmark.⁴



1. Hanahan D, Weinberg RA. Cell. 2011; 144(5) 646-674. 2. Pardoll DM. Nat Rev Cancer. 2012;12:252-264 3. Kirkwood JM, et al. CA Cancer J Clin. 2012; 62:309-335

Provincial Health Services Authority 4. Mellman I, et al. Nature. 2011;480:480-489

Introduction to the immune system

In order to protect an individual, the immune system:

- 1. detects the presence of an infection or malignant cells,¹
- 2. carries out effector functions to contain or to eliminate the affected cells,¹
- 3. performs self-regulation to minimize collateral damage to healthy cells in the body,¹ and
- 4. generates immunological memory so that subsequent exposures to the same antigen are dealt with efficiently.¹



T-Cell Checkpoint Regulation



- T-cell responses are regulated though a complex balance of inhibitory ("checkpoint") and activating signals
- Tumors can dysregulate checkpoint and activating pathways, and consequently the immune response
- Targeting checkpoint and activating pathways is an evolving approach to cancer therapy, designed to promote an immune response

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Who should we treat with immunotherapy?

How is a trial created?

- Idea!
- Pharmaceutical compound
- Develop a protocol
- Obtain funding
- Approval from Health Canada
- Approval from Research Ethics Board
- Trial is offered to patients



Who funds these?

- Little or no institutional or government support
- Investigator Initiated Trials
- Non-profit groups
 - National Cancer Institute of Canada
 - Easter Cooperative Oncology Group
 - South Western Oncology Group, etc.
- Pharmaceutical company
 - Funds for staffing the study (nurses, data collection) and provide the drug



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Where does the money go?

- Not a money-making venture
- Costs:
 - Nurse
 - Clerks
 - Booking
 - Data collection
 - No physician compensation
- Biological or special testing expensive and complex



How to decide whether to participate?

- Opportunity
- Always voluntary
- Detailed discussion with doctor, nurses, friends and family
- It takes time to decide
- Advantages and disadvantages







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2014

Precision Medicine is Here!

2017



Precision Medicine is Here!

2018

