Chemotherapy for Metastatic Disease

Clinical trials of chemotherapeutic agents and regimens in the metastatic setting not only better define clinical care but also provide important clues to future adjuvant therapy strategies. A series of recent studies have resulted in encouraging results with new combinations, including docetaxel/doxorubicin, capecitabine/paclitaxel, and gemcitabine/paclitaxel. However, most breast cancer clinical research leaders support nonprotocol therapy with sequential single-agent chemotherapy in the metastatic setting, and the choice of agents is mainly based on prior patient treatment and toxicity considerations.

**Phase III Trials Comparing Single-Agent and Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Single-Agent or Combination</th>
<th>Progression-free Survival</th>
<th>Median Survival</th>
<th>Overall Response Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doxorubicin</td>
<td>Single-Agent</td>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>18 months</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paclitaxel</td>
<td>Single-Agent</td>
<td>16 months</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capecitabine/paclitaxel</td>
<td>Combination</td>
<td>10 months</td>
<td>20 months</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Multidrug Phase I Study of Capecitabine Plus Paclitaxel, as First-Line Therapy (Hut) (120)**

- **Efficacy and Toxicity**
  - **Efficacy:**
    - **Progression-free Survival:** 12 months
    - **Overall Survival:** 24 months
  - **Toxicity:**
    - **Hand-foot syndrome:** 10%
    - **Fatigue:** 5%

**Phase III Trial of Capecitabine Plus Paclitaxel Versus Paclitaxel As First-Line Treatment in Patients with Anthracycline Precluded Metastatic Breast Cancer: Interim Survival Report**

- **Overall Survival:**
  - **Capecitabine/Paclitaxel:** 22 months
  - **Paclitaxel:** 18 months

**Active Phase III Trials of Combination Chemotherapy Regimens in Metastatic Breast Cancer**

- **Capecitabine and Paclitaxel as First-Line Treatment**
  - **Overall Survival:**
    - **Capecitabine/Paclitaxel:** 22 months
    - **Paclitaxel:** 18 months
  - **Overall Response Rate:**
    - **Capecitabine/Paclitaxel:** 50%
    - **Paclitaxel:** 30%

**SELECT PUBLICATIONS**


**CAPEITABINE/DOCETAXEL VERSUS DOCETAXEL IN PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC BREAST CANCER: EFFICACY AND TOXICITY**

- **Efficacy:**
  - **Overall Survival:**
    - **Capecitabine/Docetaxel:** 22 months
    - **Docetaxel:** 18 months
  - **Overall Response Rate:**
    - **Capecitabine/Docetaxel:** 50%
    - **Docetaxel:** 30%

**REFERENCES**

- **Joanne L. Blum, MD, PhD**
  - **Poster 5053. San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, 2004.**