A phase II study of weekly irinotecan in patients with locally advanced or metastatic HER2-negative breast cancer and increased copy numbers of the topoisomerase 1 (TOP1) gene

a study protocol

Kümler, Iben; Balslev, Eva; Stenvang, Jan; Brünner, Nils; Nielsen, Dorte

Published in:
B M C Cancer

DOI:
10.1186/s12885-015-1072-9

Publication date:
2015

Document version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (APA):
Kümler, I., Balslev, E., Stenvang, J., Brünner, N., & Nielsen, D. (2015). A phase II study of weekly irinotecan in patients with locally advanced or metastatic HER2-negative breast cancer and increased copy numbers of the topoisomerase 1 (TOP1) gene: a study protocol. B M C Cancer, 15, [78]. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12885-015-1072-9
A phase II study of weekly irinotecan in patients with locally advanced or metastatic HER2-negative breast cancer and increased copy numbers of the topoisomerase 1 (TOP1) gene: a study protocol

Iben Kümler1*, Eva Balslev2, Jan Stenvang3, Nils Brünner3 and Dorte Nielsen1

Abstract

Background: About 20% of patients with primary breast cancer develop metastatic disease during the course of the disease. At this point the disease is considered incurable and thus treatment is aimed at palliation and life prolongation. As many patients will have received both an anthracycline and a taxane in the adjuvant setting, treatment options for metastatic breast cancer are limited. Furthermore response rates for the most commonly used drugs range from around 30% to 12%. Thus new treatment options are needed and preferably coupled to biomarkers predictive of response. Irinotecan is a topoisomerase 1 inhibitor used for decades for the treatment of colorectal cancer. Four studies have investigated the efficacy of irinotecan monotherapy in breast cancer and all have included non-biomarker selected patients. In these studies response rates for irinotecan ranged from 5%-23% and are thus comparable to response rates obtained with drugs commonly used in the metastatic setting. If a predictive biomarker could be identified for irinotecan, response rates might be even higher.

Methods/Design: This multi-centre phase II single arm trial was designed to investigate if patients with metastatic breast cancer and increased expression of the topoisomerase 1 gene have a high likelihood of obtaining a clinical benefit from treatment with irinotecan. Trial recruitment is two-staged as 19 patients are planned to participate in the first part. If less than 7 patients have clinical benefit the trial stops, if more than 7 patients have clinical benefit a total of 40 patients will be included.

Discussion: This ongoing trial is the first to prospectively test copy number of the topoisomerase I gene as a predictive biomarker of response to irinotecan.

Trial registration: EudraCT number 2012-002348-26.
been exposed to both anthracyclines and taxanes at the time of recurrence. In these cases or following relapse on either treatment capecitabine or vinorelbine will often be considered as rational treatment options. Although no specific recommendations are given in international guidelines regarding the choice of drug for second- or third line treatment, unanimously guidelines recommend sequential monotherapy [10,11]. Capecitabine has shown RRs in the range 20% to 30% as first-line treatment [12-15] and vinorelbine has showed RRs of 15%-25% when given as second- or third line treatment [16-18]. Eribulin a new microtubule inhibitor has shown RRs of 12% in heavily pre-treated patients whereas the old drug gemcitabine is effective in 20% to 37% of patients depending on line of treatment [19-22]. From these figures it is evident that the majority of patients are deriving no benefit from treatment with these agents but nevertheless suffer the associated side effects. New individualized treatment options are needed for these patients. In order to improve the therapeutic index, preferably all drugs should be coupled to biomarkers predictable of response to the treatment. This is already in use with anti-ER and anti-HER2 treatments but for the cytotoxic chemotherapeutics no such biomarkers are developed to a stage where they can be implemented in daily clinical breast cancer management.

**Irinotecan**

Irinotecan is a topoisomerase 1 (Top 1) inhibitor acting as a pro-drug and is enzymatically converted to the active metabolite SN-38 [23]. Like other Top 1 inhibitors it exerts its mechanism of action through binding to the Top 1-DNA complex during replication and transcription and thereby maintaining single-strand DNA breaks, ultimately resulting in the formation of double-stranded DNA breaks, which causes cell death [24]. Irinotecan has been used in the treatment of colorectal cancer (CRC) for decades. Several studies have tried to establish a correlation between expression of the TOP1 gene or protein and response to irinotecan. Results have been conflicting and study methods have varied significantly making comparisons of the various studies quite difficult. Today no standardized methods for detecting Top 1 protein expression have been established and no validated scoring systems exists for neither gene nor protein expressions. Nevertheless, some studies have found a correlation between TOP1 gene as well as protein expressions and response to irinotecan [25,26]. From our laboratory, we have published a significant correlation between TOP1 gene copy number and sensitivity to SN38 in 10 human CRC cell lines [27] and very recently we published on the association between TOP1 gene copy number and benefit from irinotecan treatment in metastatic CRC [28]. These studies suggest that TOP1 gene copy number determinations can be used as predictive biomarker for irinotecan treatment in CRC patients. However, additional clinical studies are need to establish TOP1 gene copy number as an irinotecan predictive biomarker in CRC patients and further as a predictive biomarker for irinotecan treatment of BC patients.

**Irinotecan in BC**

Few studies on irinotecan in BC have been published. A systematic review identified 19 trials [29]. No phase III or randomized phase II trials have been published except for trials randomizing between different dosing schedules of irinotecan monotherapy [30,31] and only one study included more than 100 patients [30]. All trials included unselected patients and prior treatment with an anthracycline and/or a taxane was required in all but one study. Four studies investigated irinotecan as monotherapy. Treatment schedules varied among the studies as three studies investigated intravenous irinotecan given either weekly for 4 weeks followed by two weeks break, given every other week or given every third week [30,32,33]. The last study investigated oral irinotecan [31]. RRs ranged from 5% to 23% with the higher response rate found in a study by Perez et al. in which two different schedules of irinotecan were compared [29]. One hundred and three women were included and a maximum of two prior treatment regimens for mBC was allowed. Patients received either weekly irinotecan for four weeks followed by two weeks break (q 42d) or irinotecan every 3 weeks (q 21d). RR in the q 42d arm was 23% (CI 13%-37%) compared to 14% (CI 6-26%) in the q 21d arm. Median response duration was 4.9 months for patients in the q 42d arm compared to 4.2 in the q 21d arm and median OS was 9.7 months (CI 8.0-14.2 months) and 8.6 (CI 7.0-12.3 months), respectively [30]. The two remaining studies on intravenously irinotecan both showed RR of approximately 6% [32,33]. However, one study was a retrospective study of 20 patients previously treated with both an anthracycline and docetaxel [33] while the other study included 18 patients of which 72% had received both an anthracycline and/or a taxane was required in all but one study. Four studies investigated irinotecan as monotherapy. Treatment schedules varied among the studies as three studies investigated intravenous irinotecan given either weekly for 4 weeks followed by two weeks break, given every other week or given every third week [30,32,33]. The last study investigated oral irinotecan [31]. RRs ranged from 5% to 23% with the higher response rate found in a study by Perez et al. in which two different schedules of irinotecan were compared [29]. One hundred and three women were included and a maximum of two prior treatment regimens for mBC was allowed. Patients received either weekly irinotecan for four weeks followed by two weeks break (q 42d) or irinotecan every 3 weeks (q 21d). RR in the q 42d arm was 23% (CI 13%-37%) compared to 14% (CI 6-26%) in the q 21d arm. Median response duration was 4.9 months for patients in the q 42d arm compared to 4.2 in the q 21d arm and median OS was 9.7 months (CI 8.0-14.2 months) and 8.6 (CI 7.0-12.3 months), respectively [30]. The two remaining studies on intravenously irinotecan both showed RR of approximately 6% [32,33]. However, one study was a retrospective study of 20 patients previously treated with both an anthracycline and docetaxel [33] while the other study included 18 patients of which 72% had received three or more chemotherapy regimens for metastatic disease [32]. The last study was on oral irinotecan [31]. A more recent study investigated the new polymer conjugate of irinotecan; etirinotecan (NKTR-102). A total of 70 patients were included with a maximum of two prior treatment regimens for metastatic disease. Etitinotecan was administered every 14 days (q14d) or every 21 days (q21d). Progression free survival (PFS) was 3.5 months in the q14d arm and 5.3 months in the q21d arm and overall survival (OS) was 8.8 months and 13.1 months, respectively. However, the RR of 32% was superior in the q14d arm compared to the RR of 26% in the q21d arm [34]. Thus RRs for irinotecan are comparable to those found for taxanes used in second-line and to vinorelbine, gemcitabine and eribulin used in second- or later lines of...
The study is a prospective non-randomized phase II trial of weekly irinotecan in patients with locally advanced or metastatic HER2-negative BC and increased copy numbers of the \( \text{TOP1} \) gene in their cancer cells. The aim of the below presented clinical study is to investigate if patients with mBC and increased expression of \( \text{TOP1} \) protein in their cancer cells have a high likelihood of obtaining a clinical benefit when treated with irinotecan.

### Methods/Design

#### Design

This study is a prospective non-randomized phase II trial of weekly irinotecan in patients with locally advanced or metastatic HER2-negative BC and increased copy numbers of the \( \text{TOP1} \) gene in their cancer cells.

#### Participants

The study is a multi-centre trial including 7 oncologic centres in Denmark. To be eligible for inclusion patients must provide written informed consent before any study related procedures. All patients must be above the age of 18, have performance status 0–2 according to the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) and a life expectancy of \( \geq 3 \) months. Furthermore, patients should have HER2-negative mBC and measurable disease according to RECIST 1.1 and with a maximum of 4 prior chemotherapy regimens for metastatic disease; all previous endocrine treatment is allowed. A neutrophil count of \( \geq 1.5 \times 10^9 \) and platelets \( \geq 100 \times 10^9 \) are required as well as adequate liver function. Finally, patients should have increased copy number of the \( \text{TOP1} \) gene in either their primary or metastatic lesion

Defined as \( \geq 4 \) gene copy numbers or a \( \text{TOP1}/\text{CEN-20} \) ratio of \( \geq 2 \).

Exclusion criteria include current or previous other malignant diseases except basal cell carcinoma of the skin and carcinoma in situ cervix uteri, cytotoxic or experimental therapy within 14 days before enrolment and evidence of active CNS metastases. Furthermore, patients who are pregnant, breastfeeding or of childbearing potential and not using adequate non-hormonal contraception will be excluded as well patients with active infections or other severe concomitant medical conditions that may hinder the patient’s opportunity of receiving treatment according to the protocol.

#### Treatment

Patients are treated with irinotecan 75 mg/m\(^2\) weekly for three weeks followed by two weeks break. CT scans are performed prior to initiation of treatment and then every 6 weeks. Treatment is continued until progression or unacceptable toxicity. Toxicity is assessed prior to every treatment according to the common terminology criteria for adverse events (CTCAE, version 4.0).

#### Ethics

The trial was approved by the Ethical Committee of Region Hovedstaden (H-1-2012-066) as well as by the Danish Medical Authority (EudraCT number 2012-002348-26) and the Danish Data Protection Agency (2007-58-0015 /HEH.750.24-64).

#### Study objectives

The primary end point of this study is clinical benefit rate (CBR) defined as the fraction of patients receiving clinical benefit (CB) in the form of complete or partial response or stable disease \( \geq 4 \) months according to RECIST 1.1. Secondary endpoints include PFS, OS and toxicity.

#### Statistics

Number of patients in the study is based on Simon’s two-stage minimax design. Intention-to-treat analysis will be performed. By using a significance level of 0.05 \( (\alpha = 0.05) \) and a power of 80% \( (\beta = 0.20) \) 19 patients should be included in the first step in order to find a CBR of at least 30%. Further inclusion ceases if less than 7/19 patients show CB. If 7 or more show CB another 20 patients will be included. If more than a total of 16 patients achieve CB the hypothesis is satisfied.

PFS and OS will be estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method and compared with a log-rank test. Categorical variables are indicated by a median followed by the span. A significance level of 5% will be used. PFS and OS will be assessed in the evaluable population.
Methods

**TOP1 gene copy assessment**

Prior to inclusion tissue samples from primary and/or metastatic lesions are investigated for TOP1 and CEN20 gene copy numbers. Whenever possible, tissue microarrays (TMA) are constructed, using Advanced Tissue Arrayer, ATA-100 (Chemicon International, Temecula, CA, USA). Four 1 mm cores cut at 3 μm are obtained from each biopsy. Samples containing small amounts of tumor tissue or otherwise not suited for TMA construction have full sections made. FISH using a TOP1/Centromere-20 (CEN-20) probe [27,36] is used to evaluate the TOP1/CEN-20 ratio as well as the absolute number of TOP1 gene copies per cell.

A total of 60 signals are counted per tissue sample. If a TOP1/CEN-20 ratio ≥2 or an absolute gene copy number of ≥4 is found the patient is eligible for inclusion.

Discussion

Facing patients with mBC, clinicians today possess a limited number of treatment options. As many patients will have received both an anthracycline and a taxane during adjuvant treatment only four or five drug options remain. RRs for these, range from approximately 35% to as low as 12% depending on line of treatment. New and non-cross resistant treatment options are required and importantly biomarkers predictive of response to treatments are desperately needed. Despite intensive research the identification of such biomarkers has failed so far. Attempts have been made and earlier studies seemed to indicate that amplification and possible deletion of the TOP2a gene, the target of anthracyclines was predictive of response to epirubicin in the adjuvant setting. However, a recent review concluded that results are conflicting and the role of TOP2a as a biomarker for response to anthracyclines is still debated [37]. Irinotecan has shown RRs at least comparable to other drugs when given as second- or third-line treatment to unselected patients with mBC. If a suitable biomarker for response could be identified RRs could possibly increase and thereby increase the therapeutic index of irinotecan treatment.

Based on published data from CRC patients and CRC cell lines [25-27] we hypothesize that increased copy number of the TOP1 gene is predictive of efficacy to irinotecan in mBC patients. As no studies have shown a direct relation between TOP1 gene number and protein expression in BC this hypothesis should ideally be tested by assessing protein expression using IHC. Unfortunately, suitable and validated antibodies as well as standardized protocols for quantification of Top1 IHC are lacking and moreover, a recent publication has emphasized some of the problems related to the use of commercially available TOP1 antibodies for IHC [38]. Thus, we decided to use TOP1 FISH as a proxy for Top1 IHC. TOP1 FISH allows for a direct evaluation of gene copy numbers in individual cells. Furthermore, FISH is widely used and a well-established technique in most Pathology Departments.

No prior studies have prospectively used TOP1 gene copy numbers to predict response to irinotecan and so the threshold for likelihood of response is unknown. In need of specific TOP1 gene copy number recommendations the cut-off point of either increased copy number defined as ≥4 gene copy numbers or a TOP1/CEN-20 ratio of ≥2 was chosen.

The aim of our clinical study is to take a further step towards individualized mBC treatment. If irinotecan is effective in patients with increased TOP1 gene copy number this would lead to a novel individualized treatment option for a sup-group of patients with mBC and it will also spare a large number of patients for unnecessarily drug induced site effects.

Trial status

A total of 227 patients have been screened for TOP1 expression and we have found 50 patients (22%) to be overexpressing TOP1 in either primary tumor, a metastatic lesion or both.

To date 10 patients have been included.

Initially patients were treated with irinotecan 100 mg/m² but this regimen proved too toxic as two patients withdrew due to severe diarrhoea prior to their first CT evaluation. Accordingly the protocol was amended and following the dose reduction to 75 mg/m² no severe toxicities have been observed.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions

NB and DN designed the study; IK, EB, JS, NB and DN wrote the protocol; IK and DN handled ethics approval; IK, EB and DN are trial coordinators, responsible for evaluating FISH data and the daily running of the trial; IK wrote the first paper draft and EB, JS, NB and DN revised it critically. All authors contributed to and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the support from the Danish Cancer Society through a three-year grant (grant R56-A3090-12-S2), The IMK foundation, Danish Center for Translational Breast Cancer Research (OCTB) and the Danish National Research Foundation.

Author details

1Department of Oncology, Herlev University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark.

2Department of Pathology, Herlev University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark.

3Department of Veterinary Disease Biology, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Received: 28 January 2015 Accepted: 5 February 2015

Published online: 21 February 2015

References

1. Brewster AM, Hortobagyi GN, Broglio KR, Kau SW, Santa-Maria CA, Arun B, et al. Residual risk of breast cancer recurrence 5 years after adjuvant therapy. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2008;100(16):1179–83.
2. Nielsen D, Dombreowsky P, Larsen SK, Hansen OP, Skovsgaard T. Epirubicin or epirubicin and cisplatin as first-line therapy in advanced breast cancer. A phase III study. Cancer Chemother Pharmacol. 2000;46(6):459–66.

3. Perez DJ, Harvey VI, Robinson BA, Atkinson CH, Dady PJ, Kirk AR, et al. A randomized comparison of single-agent doxorubicin and epirubicin as first-line cytotoxic therapy in advanced breast cancer. J Clin Oncol. 1991;9(12):2148–52.

4. Fountzilas G, Athanassiades A, Giannakakis T, Briasoulis E, Bafaloukos D, Kalogera-Fountzila A, et al. A randomized study of epirubicin monotherapy every four or every two weeks in advanced breast cancer. A Hellenic Cooperative Oncology Group study. Ann Oncol. 1997;8(12):1215–20.

5. Michieli A, Venturini M, Tibaldi C, Bengala C, Gallo L, Camino F, et al. Single agent epirubicin as first line chemotherapy for metastatic breast cancer patients. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2000;59(2):133–9.

6. O’Brien ME, Wigler N, Inbar M, Rosso R, Grischke E, Santoro A, et al. Reduced cardiotoxicity and comparable efficacy in a phase III trial of pegylated liposomal doxorubicin HCl (CAELYX/Doxil) versus conventional doxorubicin for first-line treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Ann Oncol. 2004;15(3):440–9.

7. Bergh J, Bondarenko IM, Lichtenstrer MR, Liljegren A, Greil R, Voytko NL, et al. First-line treatment of advanced breast cancer with sunsitibin in combination with docetaxel versus docetaxel alone: results of a prospective, randomized phase III study. J Clin Oncol. 2012;30(9):921–9.

8. Katsumata N, Watanabe T, Minami H, Aogi K, Tabei T, Sano M, et al. Phase III trial of doxorubicin plus cyclophosphamide (AC), docetaxel, and alternating AC and docetaxel as front-line chemotherapy for metastatic breast cancer: Japan Clinical Oncology Group trial (JCOG9802). Ann Oncol. 2009;20(7):1210–5.

9. Belfiglio M, Fanizza C, Tinari N, Ficorella C, Iacobelli S, Natoi C. Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale per la B-O: Meta-analysis of phase III trials of docetaxel alone or in combination with chemotherapy in metastatic breast cancer. J Cancer Res Clin Oncol. 2012;138(22):221–9.

10. Cardoso F, Costa A, Norton L, Senkus E, Aapro M, Andre F, et al. ESO-ESMO 2nd international consensus guidelines for advanced breast cancer (ABC2). Breast. 2014;23(3):489–502.

11. Partridge AH, Rember RB, Carey LA, Come SE, Davidson NE, Di Leo A, et al. Chemotherapy and targeted therapy for women with epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative (or unknown) advanced breast cancer: American society of clinical oncology clinical practice guideline. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32(9):3207–29.

12. O’Shaughnessy JA, Blum J, Moiseyenko V, Jones SE, Miles D, Bell D, et al. Randomized, open-label, phase II trial of oral capcitabine (Xeloda) vs a reference arm of intravenous CMF (cyclophosphamide, methotrexate and 5-fluorouracil) as first-line therapy for advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Ann Oncol. 2001;12(9):1247–54.

13. Kusama M, Nomizu T, Aogi K, Yoshimoto M, Horikoshi N, Tabei T, et al. Clinical effect of capcitabine monotherapy in advanced/metastatic breast cancer. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2000;62(1):2

14. Wang JC. Cellular roles of DNA topoisomerases: a molecular perspective. Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol. 2002;3(6):430–.

15. Zelek L, Barthes A, Roffo M, Fizazi K, Riwe O, Delord JP, et al. Weekly vinorelbine is an effective palliative regimen after failure with anthracyclines and taxanes in metastatic breast carcinoma. Cancer. 2001;92(9):2267–72.

16. Blackstein M, Vogel CL, Ambinder R, Cowan J, Iglesias J, Meleda M. Eribulin as first-line therapy in patients with metastatic breast cancer: a phase II trial. Oncology. 2002;62(12):1–8.

17. Rha SY, Moon YH, Jeung HC, Kim YT, Sohn JH, Yang WI, et al. Eribulin monotherapy as salvage chemotherapy in heavily pretreated metastatic breast cancer. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2005;93(3):215–21.

18. Cortes J, O'Shaughnessy J, Loesch D, Blum JL, Vahdat LT, Petrakova K, et al. Eribulin monotherapy versus treatment of physician's choice in patients with metastatic breast cancer (EMBRACE): a phase 3 open-label randomised study. Lancet. 2011;377(9769):914–23.

19. Thomas E, Taberner J, Fornier M, Conte P, Fumoleau P, Lluch A, et al. Phase II clinical trial of ixabepilone (BMS-247550), an epothilone B analog, in patients with taxane-resistant metastatic breast cancer. J Clin Oncol. 2002;20(23):3990–406.

20. Wang JC. Cellular roles of DNA topoisomerases: a molecular perspective. Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol. 2002;3(6):430–.

21. Pizzolato JF, Saltz LB. The camptothecins. Lancet. 2003;361(9376):2235–42.

22. Braun MS, Richman SD, Quirk P, Daly C, Adlard JW, Elliott F, et al. Predictive biomarkers of chemotherapeutic efficacy in colorectal cancer: results from the UK MRC FOCUS trial. J Clin Oncol. 2008;26(16):2690–8.

23. Horisberger K, Erben P, Muesse B, Woensmee C, Stroebel P, Kaehler G, et al. Topoisomerase I expression correlates to response to neoadjuvant irinotecan-based chemoradiation in rectal cancer. Anticancer Drugs. 2009;20(6):519–24.

24. Romer MU, Jansen NF, Nielsen SL, Muller S, Nielsen KJ, Nielsen HJ, et al. TOP1 gene copy numbers in colorectal cancer samples and cell lines and their association to in vitro drug sensitivity. Scand J Gastroenterol. 2012;47(11):68–79.

25. Nygard SB, Christensen IJ, Nielsen SL, Nielsen HJ, Brunner N, Spindler KL. Assessment of the topoisomerase I gene copy number as a predictive biomarker of objective response to irinotecan in metastatic colorectal cancer. Scand J Gastroenterol. 2014;49(1):84–91.

26. Kummer I, Brunner N, Stenvang J, Ballek E, Nielsen DL. A systematic review on topoisomerase I inhibition in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2013;138(2):347–58.

27. Perez EA, Hillman DW, Maillard JA, Ingle JN, Ryan JM, Fitch TR, et al. Randomized phase II study of two irinotecan schedules for patients with metastatic breast cancer refractory to an anthracycline, a taxane, or both. J Clin Oncol. 2004;22(14):2849–55.

28. Vukelja S, O'Shaughnessy J, Campos L, Vahdat L, Blum J, Yarldy P, et al. Activity of oral irinotecan in metastatic breast cancer patients after prior anthracycline, taxane and capecitabine: phase 2 study results. J Clin Oncol (Meeting Abstracts). 2005;23(16, Suppl):S562.

29. Hayashi H, Tsurutani J, Satch T, Masuda N, Okamoto W, Morinaga R, et al. Phase II study of bi-weekly irinotecan for patients with previously treated HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer. JMOG0610B Breast Cancer. 2013;20(2):131–6.

30. Shigeoka Y, Itoh K, Igarashi T, Ishizawa K, Saeki T, Fuji H, et al. Clinical effect of irinotecan in advanced and metastatic breast cancer patients previously treated with doxorubicin- and docetaxel-containing regimens. Jpn J Clin Oncol. 2001;31(9):370–4.

31. Garcia AA, Awada A, Chan S, Jerusalem G, Coleman RE, Huizing MT, et al. Final results of NKTR-102, a topoisomerase inhibitor-polymer conjugate in patients with pretreated metastatic breast cancer demonstrating significant antitumor activity. J Clin Oncol. 2011;29(27):abstract 269.

32. Lynch BJ, Bronstein B, Holden JA. Elevations of DNA topoisomerase I in invasive carcinoma of the breast. Breast. 2001;7(3):176–80.

33. Smith DH, Christensen JJ, Jensen NF, Markussen B, Romer MU, Nygard SB, et al. Mechanisms of topoisomerase I (TOP1) gene copy number increase in a stage III colorectal cancer patient cohort. PLoS One. 2013;8(4):e60613.

34. Romero A, Caldes T, Diaz-Rubio E, Martin M, Topoisomerase 2 alpha: a real predictor of anthracycline efficacy? Clin Transl Oncol. 2012;14(3):163–8.

35. Maughan TS, Meade AM, Adams RA, Richman SD, Butler R, Fisher D, et al. A feasibility study testing four hypotheses with phase II outcomes in advanced colorectal cancer (MRC FOCUS3): a model for randomised controlled trials in the era of personalised medicine? Br J Cancer. 2014;110(9):2178–86.