Efficacy and toxicity of vemurafenib and cobimetinib in relation to plasma concentrations, after administration via feeding tube in patients with BRAF-mutated thyroid cancer: a case series and review of literature

J. M. van Berge Henegouwen1 · H. van der Wijngaart2 · L. J. Zeverijn3 · L. R. Hoes3 · M. Meertens4 · A. D. R. Huitema4,5,6 · L. A. Devriese7 · M. Labots2 · H. M. W. Verheul8 · E. E. Voest3 · H. Gelderblom1

Received: 11 January 2022 / Accepted: 15 April 2022 / Published online: 22 May 2022
© The Author(s) 2022

Abstract

Introduction The combination of vemurafenib, a proto-oncogene B-Raf inhibitor (BRAFi) and cobimetinib, an inhibitor of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase (MEKi) has shown to improve survival in patients with BRAF V600-mutated melanoma. BRAF mutations are also frequently detected driver mutations in other tumor types, including thyroid carcinoma. Since thyroid carcinoma is not a labeled indication for BRAF/MEKi, a cohort for patients with BRAF V600-mutated thyroid carcinoma was opened within the Drug Rediscovery Protocol (DRUP), a national ongoing pan-cancer multi-drug trial, in which patients receive off-label treatment with approved drugs based on their molecular tumor profile.

Results Here, we present two patients with BRAF-mutated thyroid carcinoma, who were successfully treated with vemurafenib/cobimetinib administered via a feeding tube. Plasma concentrations of vemurafenib and cobimetinib were determined. A partial response was observed in both patients, but they experienced significant toxicity.

Conclusion Our cases show that vemurafenib/cobimetinib treatment is effective in BRAF V600-mutated thyroid carcinoma, also when administered via a feeding tube. Although serious side effects occurred in both patients, we hypothesize that this was not attributable to the administration route. Therefore, administration of vemurafenib/cobimetinib by feeding tube is feasible and effective.

Trial registration Clinical trial identification: NCT02925234.

Keywords Vemurafenib · Cobimetinib · Thyroid carcinoma · Feeding tube · Plasma concentrations · Case series
Introduction

The development of a large number of targeted- and immunotherapies, targeting specific molecular alterations and aberrant signaling pathways in tumor cells, has dramatically changed the treatment paradigm in oncology in the past decade [1]. Coming from a histology-centered approach in systemic treatment of patients with cancer, focus has now shifted to a patient-centered biomarker-driven approach [1]. Many targeted- and immunotherapies have already received FDA/EMA approval and are available for patients with multiple well-defined tumor types, harboring a specific molecular feature that predicts drug sensitivity [2–6].

However, due to histology-specific registrations of these drugs, a significant number of patients with other tumor types harboring similar qualifying genomic aberrations do not have access to these potentially active therapies. In the Drug Rediscovery Protocol (DRUP) [7], a national ongoing pan-cancer multi-drug basket/umbrella trial, patients are treated off-label with registered drugs based on their tumor molecular profile. The innovative design allows for an infinite number of cohorts, testing multiple hypotheses in parallel. The DRUP facilitates access to potentially effective drugs for patients with a tumor with a specific molecular profile, while systematically collecting clinical data on efficacy and safety of these drugs when used off-label. As part of the trial, whole-genome sequencing is performed on fresh tumor biopsies at baseline for biomarker analysis [7].

The combination of vemurafenib, an inhibitor of proto-oncogene B-Raf (BRAF), and cobimetinib, an inhibitor of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase (MEK) is one of the available treatment options in DRUP. BRAF and MEK inhibitor combinations (BRAF/MEKi) have impressively improved the survival of patients with stage IV melanoma harboring a BRAF V600 mutation [6]. BRAF mutations are also frequent driver mutations in other tumor types, such as colorectal cancer (13.1%) and non-small cell lung cancer (5.6%) [8]. Moreover, BRAF mutations are the most common genetic alteration in thyroid cancer, occurring in 60% of patients with papillary thyroid cancer and in 29% of patients with anaplastic thyroid cancer (ATC) [9–13]. Since thyroid cancer is not a labeled indication for BRAF/MEKi, a cohort for patients with BRAF V600-mutated thyroid cancer was opened in DRUP.

Two patients in this cohort had difficulties swallowing the tablets due to the localization of the tumor and prior local treatment. These patients were, by exception to the protocol, allowed to take their medication by feeding tube. Remarkably, both patients experienced toxicity upon treatment, for which a relationship with the administration route could not fully be ruled out. Here, we present these two cases, including plasma concentrations of both drugs, as a learning opportunity for other physicians and pharmacists involved in the individualized treatment of patients with targeted therapies.

Case presentation

Patient 1

A 71-year-old female patient presented with difficulties swallowing, stridor, and progressive shortness of breath. A thyroid tumor, compressing the trachea, was detected. Tumor histopathology revealed the presence of a double tumor; a BRAF V600-mutated T4aN1bM0 papillary thyroid carcinoma and a squamous cell carcinoma of yet unknown primary origin, both located in the thyroid gland. Because of its locally advanced nature with the airway, (emergency) tracheostomy was performed, followed by radiotherapy of the neck area and I-131 treatment. Due to dysphagia, as a consequence of the extensive surgery and radiation, a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube was inserted for intake. After completion of standard I-131 treatment for the papillary thyroid carcinoma, follow-up PET-CT scan was performed, which revealed multiple FDG positive lung metastases. Molecular evaluation of the lung metastases showed the presence of the same BRAF V600 mutation, indicating clonal relationship with the thyroid tumor. Therefore, the diagnosis was pulmonary metastases of a primary BRAF V600-mutated squamous cell thyroid carcinoma.

The patient was thereafter included in the DRUP trial and received vemurafenib/cobimetinib combination treatment, targeting the BRAF mutation. Because of the dysphagia, medication had to be administered via the feeding tube. After consultation with the trial pharmacist and with agreement of the study team, vemurafenib and cobimetinib tablets were disintegrated in 30 mL water (~35 °C) in a 50 mL syringe, and administered via the feeding tube, which was flushed with 20 mL of water before and after administration. Furthermore, trough concentrations (C_{min}) were monitored to make dose adjustments if necessary. Although the patient benefited from omeprazole for pyrosis, it was advised to discontinue proton-pump inhibition.

On 8th of March 2019, the patient started with twice-daily administration of vemurafenib 960 mg and once-daily 60 mg cobimetinib via the feeding tube. After three weeks C_{min} was measured, revealing concentrations of 269 mcg/L for cobimetinib (target C_{min} 127 mcg/L) [14] and 28.1 mg/L for vemurafenib (target C_{min} 42 mg/L) [15] (Fig. 1). Therefore, dosage of vemurafenib was increased to 1200 mg twice daily, whereas the dosage of cobimetinib remained unchanged. After two treatment cycles the first response
evaluation, using Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST v1.1), showed a partial response with a decrease of 45% in sum of target lesions.

After two months, the patient was admitted to the hospital with a gastric perforation, localized near to the tip of the feeding tube. She was treated with intravenous pantoprazole and both vemurafenib and cobimetinib were interrupted for 2 weeks. The perforation was thought to be possibly related to study treatment. However, a mechanical component of the feeding tube had also been thought to play a role in the pathogenesis. A stool antigen test for Helicobacter pylori infection was negative. $C_{\text{min}}$ measurements were performed 10 days after admission, revealing concentrations below the threshold for both treatments (vemurafenib 3.1 mg/L and cobimetinib 20 mcg/L). Since the patient clearly benefited from treatment, it was decided to restart the combination treatment without dose reduction after the patient fully recovered (on the 15th of May), together with continuation of a proton-pump inhibitor (esomeprazole granules 20 mg twice daily) and monitoring of the $C_{\text{min}}$.

Two weeks after restart of the treatment, cobimetinib concentrations were far above the threshold, while vemurafenib concentrations were still below the threshold (344 mcg/L and 27.5 mg/L, respectively). Due to multiple grade 1/2 adverse events related to MEKi (fatigue, arthralgia, rash, and edema), cobimetinib was discontinued 14 weeks after treatment initiation. Despite increasing the dosage of vemurafenib to 960 mg 3 times a day, $C_{\text{min}}$ remained below the target $C_{\text{min}}$ in the 16th week of treatment.

The second response evaluation after four cycles showed progressive disease with an increase of 68% in sum of target lesions, following definitive discontinuation of the treatment. The patient died 6 months after discontinuation due to progressive disease. The progression-free survival was 18 weeks.

**Patient 2**

A 64-year-old male, with a history of hypertension, smoking and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, presented in May 2019 with a lump in the neck and complaints of coughing, hoarseness, and a sore throat. The patient was diagnosed with a pT4bN1bM0 ATC in the left thyroid lobe. Hemithyroidectomy with radical resection of the tumor, including a selective cervical lymph node dissection was performed. Pathological examination of the resected tissue revealed a 95 mm large ATC, with vaso-invasive expansion as well.

---

**Fig. 1** Trough plasma concentrations of vemurafenib and cobimetinib for patient 1 during the course of the treatment. Dosage and treatment interruptions, co-medication and adverse events are presented below the chart. $C_{\text{min}}$ trough concentration, OD once daily, BID twice daily, TID thrice daily, PPI proton-pump inhibitor, SUSAR Suspected Unexpected Serious Adverse Reaction.
as expansion in the surrounding soft tissue. Five out of 18 resected lymph nodes showed intracapsular metastases.

The patient was treated with adjuvant chemoradiotherapy. As intake difficulties due to mucositis were anticipated, a prophylactic PEG-tube was placed for nutrition. Within one month after completing chemoradiotherapy, the patient was diagnosed with retrosternal, cutaneous, and pulmonary metastases. Panel-based next generation sequencing of a cutaneous lesion revealed a *BRAF* V600E mutation. Since no effective standard treatment options are available for metastatic ATC, the patient was referred for treatment within the DRUP study, and was allocated treatment with vemurafenib and cobimetinib, targeting *BRAF* V600E mutation.

The patient started study treatment with vemurafenib 960 mg twice daily and cobimetinib 60 mg once daily in October 2019. After one week of treatment, the patient presented with fever, upon which the study treatment was interrupted for one day. Due to swallowing difficulties of the vemurafenib tablets, the study team allowed to disintegrate the vemurafenib tablets in 30 mL water (~35 °C) in a 50 mL syringe, and to administer this solution through the feeding tube. Before and after administration, the feeding tube was flushed with 20 mL of water. Furthermore, the study team advised to monitor plasma drug concentrations (Fig. 2). On day 15, he experienced grade 1 fatigue, nausea, and dyspepsia, considered to be probably related to study medication. For these adverse events he received treatment with a proton-pump inhibitor and lorazepam. $C_{\text{min}}$ for both vemurafenib and cobimetinib were below the target $C_{\text{min}}$: 38.5 mg/L and 28.1 mcg/L, respectively. However, given the adverse events, it was decided not to increase the doses. At the end of cycle 2, at 7 weeks, he presented with dyspnea and grade 1 nausea, vomiting, folliculitis, and grade 2 fatigue. The study treatment was interrupted for five days. Two days after re-introduction of the study treatment, he presented again with grade 2 fatigue, nausea, and dyspnea, probably related to the study medication, for which the doses of both drugs were reduced to 720 mg twice daily for vemurafenib and 40 mg once daily for cobimetinib, with limited effect (Fig. 2).

The first tumor evaluation after eight weeks showed a partial response, with 50% decrease of volume of target lesions. At one week after the start of cycle 3, he experienced a fever, for which the study treatment was interrupted during five days. After re-introduction of the treatment (vemurafenib 480 mg BID, cobimetinib 60 mg OD), tolerance improved.

![Fig. 2](image-url)
During cycle 4, the treatment was interrupted for five days because of an inspiratory stridor, which was treated with dexamethasone and antibiotics. After 14 weeks of treatment, the esophageal pain decreased and was the patient able to take all study medication orally again. In response to the extremely high plasma trough level of cobimetinib (1030 mcg/L, versus population mean of 127 mcg/L), the dose of cobimetinib was reduced to 20 mg daily.

A routine check of cardiac function during cycle 5 showed a significant decrease of left ventricular ejection fraction to 39%, compared to 62% at baseline, considered to be probably related to cobimetinib. The study medication was interrupted for a week. At the end of cycle 6, the patient presented with a rash, possibly related to the study medication. Because of multiple recurring toxicities, it was decided to discontinue the treatment. Within 3 months left ventricular ejection fraction recovered and the patient experienced a good quality of life then. Two months after terminating the study therapy, multiple new metastatic lesions were discovered showing progressive disease. The progression free survival was 32 weeks.

Discussion

Our cases demonstrate that a combination of the BRAFi vemurafenib and the MEKi cobimetinib is feasible when administered via feeding tube. For both patients included in the current paper a significant decrease in tumor volume was reached. However, both patients experienced significant toxicity upon treatment.

Our efficacy findings are in line with previous reports on oral treatment with BRAFi inhibitors in BRAF V600-mutated anaplastic and papillary thyroid cancer, in which efficacy of treatment was reported. For instance, Brose et al. observed a partial response in 16 of 48 patients (33%) with metastatic radioactive iodine refractory BRAF V600 papillary thyroid cancer treated with vemurafenib monotherapy [17]. In an open-label phase II trial, a response rate of 69% was achieved in BRAF V600-mutated ATC patients treated with dabrafenib (BRAFi) and trametinib (MEKi) [18].

In other types of cancer, several reports have been published on the efficacy of different oral targeted anti-cancer agents, including tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), when administered via a feeding tube. However, the majority of the available data on alternative administration routes comprises single case reports [19–22]. Moreover, only a few prospective studies focused on the bioavailability of these compounds when administered via a nasogastric or PEG tube. Using this administration route, Cantarini et al. described the pharmacokinetic patterns of the EGFR TKI gefitinib in healthy volunteers, and Chiu et al. studied the pharmacokinetics of dacomitinib (pan-HER TKI) in patients with locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma [23, 24]. Although Cantarini et al. observed no differences in systemic exposure between oral administration or nasogastric feeding tube administration in healthy participants, Ciu et al. observed a 34% reduction in Cmax in patients who were treated via the feeding tube, which could imply that only a subset of developed agents could be administered in an efficient way using a nasogastric- or PEG tube.

Over the past decade, only a few reports of alternative administration of vemurafenib were published. Khimani et al. were one of the first who described successful vemurafenib treatment via feeding tube in a patient with BRAF V600-mutated melanoma [25]. Interestingly, this is the first case description of alternative administration of cobimetinib. Moreover, this report is the first report collecting therapeutic drug monitoring data during alternative administration of both drugs. In our two cases, trough plasma concentrations of vemurafenib either did not reach or hardly reached the target Cmin, while cobimetinib trough concentrations were relatively high. For patient 2, we have observed a high variability of cobimetinib plasma concentrations. The first measurement was performed during the prescribed cobimetinib treatment break of 7 days, explaining the concentration below the target Cmin. However, the extreme concentration of 1030 mcg/L of the second measurement remained unexplained. Therefore, interpatient variability of drug concentration and sensitivity should also be taken into account when interpreting Cmin.

Cobimetinib is a Biopharmaceutical Classification System (BCS) class I compound indicating both good water solubility and permeability. Therefore, alternative methods of administration, e.g., using feeding tubes, are not expected to highly influence absorption, which is in accordance with our observations in these two patients. Vemurafenib is a BCS class IV compound characterized by both low solubility and low permeability. To increase bioavailability, vemurafenib is formulated as a solid dispersion tablet with favorable dissolution characteristics [26]. By crushing the tablets (disintegration) prior to administration, the solid dispersion is damaged which may have major impact on the solubility at the site of absorption and consequently on bioavailability. Here, we show that despite these unfavorable characteristics, it is still possible to achieve relevant systemic exposure in patients. Although target Cmin for vemurafenib and cobimetinib in thyroid cancer remains unknown, it is expected that these targets are within the same range as for melanoma [16]. Notably, vemurafenib exposure of case 2 seemed to be comparable during administration via feeding tube and oral administration (38.5 and 20.3 vs. 36.1 mg/L), suggesting only marginal effect of the administration route on plasma drug concentrations. Still, therapeutic drug monitoring to
manage administration of vemurafenib via feeding tube could be useful to optimize treatment.

Of importance, both patients experienced serious side effects during treatment. Patient 1 was admitted to the hospital because of a gastric perforation, occurring after 2 months of treatment. The administration route of medication might have contributed to this event. Additionally, the low solubility of vemurafenib may have played a role in either developing or worsening gastrointestinal toxicity, as undissolved particles could deposit on the gastrointestinal mucosa. On the other hand, gastrointestinal perforations have been described during MEKi therapy [27]. In case 2, a considerable decrease in left ventricular function was observed after 4 months of treatment, which is a known adverse event from BRAF/MEKi treatment (Risk Ratio: 2.79; 95% CI 1.36–5.73) [28]. Interestingly, this patient only received vemurafenib via the feeding tube and the administration route could thus not have contributed to the degree of toxicity. Nevertheless, the extremely high concentration of cobimetinib might have worsened the extent of the toxicity (Fig. 2).

Taken together, this case series demonstrates the challenges that patients and practitioners face when using alternative administration routes of novel anti-cancer drugs. Up to now, only a few systematic prospective studies have been carried out studying the bioavailability of new anti-cancer drugs when administered via feeding tube. However, in a significant subset of cancer patients, especially patients with cancer in the head and neck region, a nasogastric or PEG-tube is essential for sufficient enteral nutrition. Both of our patients showed clinical benefit with a partial response, but experienced clinically significant toxicity. Since similar side effects have been observed in patients who received the included treatments orally, it is not likely that the observed toxicity was completely attributable to the administration route. However, a causal relationship cannot be ruled out. Nonetheless, we do believe that vemurafenib/cobimetinib administration via feeding tube can successfully be performed, if no other alternatives are available. Our findings indicate that therapeutic drug monitoring should be part of patient management when these drugs are administered via feeding tubes, given the intra-individual variability in drug exposure and clinical impact.

**Declarations**

**Conflict of interest** All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

**Ethics approval** This study was conducted in accordance with good clinical practice guidelines and the Declaration of Helsinki’s ethical principles for medical research. Approval was granted by the Medical Ethical Committee of the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam. Written informed consent was obtained from all study subjects.

**Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article’s Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article’s Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.

**References**

1. Tsimberidou AM, Fountzilas E, Nikanjam M, Kurzrock R (2020) Review of precision cancer medicine: evolution of the treatment paradigm. Cancer Treat Rev. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ctrv.2020.102019
2. Bedard PL, Hyman DM, Duids MS, Siu LLL (2020) Small molecules, big impact: 20 years of targeted therapy in oncology. Lancet 395(10229):1078–1088
3. de Bono J, Mateo J, Fizazi K, Saad F, Shore N, Sandhu S, Chi KN, Sartor O, Agarwal N, Olmos D, Thiery-Vuillemain A, Twardowski P, Mehran N, Goessl C, Kang J, Burgents J, Wu W, Kohlmann A, Adelman CA, Hussain M (2020) Olaparib for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. New Engl J Med 382(22):2091–2102. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1911440
4. Drilon A, Laetsch TW, Kummar S, DuBois SG, Lassen UN, Demetri GD, Nathenson M, Doebeler RC, Farago AF, Pappo AS, Turpin B, Dowlati A, Brose MS, Mascarenhas L, Federman N, Berlin J, El-Deiry WS, Baik C, Deeken J, Boni V, Nagasubramanian R, Taylor M, Rudzinski ER, Meric-Bernstam F, Sohal DPS, Ma PC, Raez LE, Hechtman JF, Benayed R, Ladanyi M, Tuch BB, Ebata K, Cruickshank S, Ku NC, Cox MC, Hawkins DS, Hong DS, Hyman DM (2018) Efficacy of larotrectinib in TRK fusion-positive cancers in adults and children. New Engl J Med 378(8):731–739. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1714448
5. Le DT, Kim TW, Van Cutsem E, Geva R, Jager D, Harin B, Burge M, O’Neil B, Kavan P, Yoshino T, Guimbaud R, Tai, Elez E, Al-Batran SE, Boland PM, Crocenzi T, Atreya CE, Cui Y, Dai T, Marinello P, Diaz LA, Andre T (2020) Phase II open-label study of pembrolizumab in treatment-refractory, microsatellite instability-high/mismatch repair-deficient metastatic colorectal cancer: KEYNOTE-164. J Clin Oncol 38(1):11. https://doi.org/10.1200/Jco.19.02107
6. Robert C, Grob JJ, Stroyakovskiy D, Karaszweska B, Hauschild A, Levenkho E, Chiarion Sileni V, Schachter J, Garbe C, Bondarenko I, Gogas H, Mandala M, Haenen J, Lebbé C, Mackiewicz A, Rutkowski P, Nathan PD, Ribas A, Davies MA, Flaherty KT, Burgess P, Tan M, Gasal E, Voi M, Schadendorf D, Long GV
(2019) Five-year outcomes with dabrafenib plus trametinib in metastatic melanoma. N Engl J Med 381(7):626–636. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1904059

7. van der Velden DL, Hoes LR, van der Wijngaard H, van Berge Henegouwen JM, van Werkhoven E, Roepman P, Schilsky RL, de Leng WWJ, Huijten A DMA, Nuijen B, Nederlof PM, van Herpen CML, de Groot DJA, Devriese LA, Hoeben A, de Jonge MJ, Chalabi M, Smit EF, de Langen AJ, Mehra N, Labots M, Kapiteijn E, Sleijfer S, Cuppen E, Verheul HWM, Gelderblom H, Voest EE (2019) The drug rediscovery protocol facilitates the expanded use of existing anticancer drugs. Nature 574(7767):127–131. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1603-x

8. Priestley P, Baber J, Lolkema MP, Steeghs N, de Bruijn E, Shale C, Duyvesteyn K, Haidari S, van Hoeck W, Onstenk W, Roepman P, Voda M, Bloemendal MJ, Tjan-Heijnen VCG, van Herpen CML, Labots M, Witteveen PO, Smit EF, Sleijfer S, Voest EE, Cuppen E (2019) Pan-cancer whole-genome analyses of metastatic solid tumours. Nature 575(7781):210. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1689-y

9. Agrawal N, Akhbari R, Aksoy BA, Ally A, Arachchi H, Asa SL, Auman JT, Balasundaram M, Balu S, Baylin SB, Behera M, Bernard M, Bernoukhim R, Bishop JA, Black AD, Bodenheimer T, Boice L, Bootswall MA, Bowen J, Bowly R, Bristow CA, Brookens R, Brooks D, Bryant R, Buda E, Butterfield YSN, Carling T, Carlens R, Carter SL, Carty SE, Chan TA, Chen Y, Chari A, Clermont AD, Cheung D, Chin L, Cho J, Chu A, Chuah E, Cibulskis K, Ciriello G, Clarke A, Clayman GL, Cope L, Copland JA, Covington K, Danilova L, Davidson T, Demchok JA, DiCarra D, Dhall A, Ndir H, Dookran SS, Dreesen G, Eldridge J, Eley G, El-Naggar AK, Eng S, Fagin JA, Fennell T, Ferris RL, Fisher S, Fraker S, Frick J, Gabriel SB, Ganly I, Gao JJ, Garraway LA, Gastier-Foster JM, Getz G, Gehlborn N, Ghossein R, Gibbs RA, Giordano TJ, Gomez Hernandez K, Grimson S, Gross B, Guin R, Hadjipanayis A, Harper HA, Hayes DN, Heimann DJ, Herman JG, Hoadley KA, Hofree M, Holt RA, Hoyle AP, Huang FW, Huang M, Hutter CM, Ideker T, Iype L, Jacobsen A, Jaffrey SR, Jones CD, Jones SJM, Kasarian K, Kebebew E, Khuri FR, Kim J, Kramer R, Kreisinger K, Kucherlapati R, Kwiatkowski DJ, Ladanyi M, Lai PH, Laird PW, Lander E, Lawrence MS, Lee D, Lee E, Lee S, Lee W, Leraa KM, Lichtenberg TM, Lichtenstein L, Lin P, Ling Y, Liu JZ, Liu WB, Liu YC, LiVolsi VA, Lu YL, Ma Y, Mahadehwar HS, Marra MA, Mayo M, McFadden DG, Meng SW, Meyerowitz M, Mieczkowski PA, Miller M, Mills G, Moore RA, Moses LE, Mullan SJ, Murgall AJ, Murray BA, Nikiforov YE, Noble MS, Ojesina AI, Owhonokow TK, Ozenerben BA, Pantazi A, Parfenov M, Park PJ, Parkinson JS, Paull EO, Pedamallu CS, Perou CM, Prins JF, Preprotopopov A, Ramalingam SS, Ramirez NC, Ramirez R, Raphael BJ, Rathmell WK, Ren XJ, Reynolds SM, Rheinbay E, Ringel MD, Rivera M, Roach J, Robertson AG, Rosenberg MW, Rosenthal M, Sadeghi S, Sakasena G, Sander C, Sastre-Vidal P, Schein JE, Schultz N, Schumacher SE, Seethala RR, Seidman J, Senbaebaglu Y, Seth S, Sharpe S, Shaw KR, Shim J, Shen RP, Shereman S, Sheth M, Shi Y, Shumulevich I, Sica GL, Simonis JV, Sinha R, Sipahimalani P, Smallridge RC, Sofia H, Soloway MG, Song XZ, Souogn C, Stewart C, Stojanov P, Stuart JM, Sumer SO, Sun YC, Tabak B, Tam A, Tan DH, Tang JB, Tarnuzzer R, Taylor BS, Thiessen N, Thorne L, Thorsen V, Tuttle RM, Umbricht CB, Van Den Berg DJ, Vand F, Veluvolu U, Verhaak RGW, Vinco M, Voet D, Walter V, Wang ZN, Waring S, Weinberger PM, Weinhold N, Weinstein JN, Weisengeren DJ, Wheeler D, Wilkerson MD, Wilson J, Williams M, Winer DA, Wise L, Wu JY, Xi L, Xu AW, Yang LM, Yang LX, Zach TK, Zeiger MA, Zeng D, Zenklusen JC, Zhao N, Zhang H, Zhang JH, Zhang JS, Zhang W, Zmuda E, Zou LH, Network CGAR (2014) Integrated genomic characterization of papillary thyroid carcinoma. Cell 159(3):676–690. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2014.09.050

10. Jeon MJ, Chun SM, Kim D, Kwon H, Jang EK, Kim TY, Kim WB, Shong YK, Jang SJ, Song DE, Kim WG (2016) Genomic alterations of anaplastic thyroid carcinoma detected by targeted massive parallel sequencing in a BRAF(V600E)-mutation-prevalent area. Thyroid 26(5):683–690. https://doi.org/10.1089/thy.2015.0506

11. Kunstman JW, Juhlin CC, Goh G, Brown TC, Stennan A, Healy JM, Rubinstein JC, Choi M, Kiss N, Nelson-Williams C, Mane S, Rimm DL, Prasad ML, Hoog A, Zedenius J, Larsson C, Korah R, Lifton RP, Carling T (2015) Characterization of the mutational landscape of anaplastic thyroid cancer via whole-exome sequencing. Hum Mol Genet 24(8):2318–2329. https://doi.org/10.1093/hmg/ddu749

12. Lancia I, Ibrahimipasic T, Boucai L, Sinha R, Knauf JA, Shah RH, Dogan S, Ricarte JC, Krishnamoorthy GP, Xu B, Schultz N, Berger MF, Sander C, Taylor BS, Ghossein R, Ganiy I, Fagin JA (2016) Genomic and transcriptomic hallmarks of poorly differentiated and anaplastic thyroid cancers. J Clin Invest 126(3):1052–1066. https://doi.org/10.1172/Jci85271

13. Sykorkova V, Dvorakova S, Vcelak J, Vaclavikova T, Kodetova D, Lastuvka P, Betka J, Vlcek P, Reboun M, Katra R, Bendlova B (2015) Search for new genetic biomarkers in poorly differentiated and anaplastic thyroid carcinomas using next generation sequencing. Anticancer Res 35(4):2029–2036

14. Clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmaceutics Review (2015) Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, US Food and Drug Administration. https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/nda/2015/206192orig1s000clinpahr.pdf. Accessed 3 Dec 2021

15. Kramkimel N, Thomas-Schoenmann A, Sakji L, Golmard J, Noe G, Regnier-Rosencher E, Chapuis N, Maubec E, Vidal M, Avril M, Goldwasser F, Mortier L, Dupin N, Blanchet B (2016) Vemurafenib pharmacokinetics and its correlation with efficacy and safety in outpatients with advanced BRAF-mutated melanoma. Target Oncol 11(1):59–69. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11523-015-0375-8

16. Janssen JM, Dorlo TPC, Steeghs N, Beijnen JH, van Eijckelenburg NKA, van der Lugt J, Zwaan CM, Huijten A DMA (2020) Pharmacokinetic targets for therapeutic drug monitoring of small molecule kinase inhibitors in pediatric oncology. Clin Pharmacol Ther 108(3):494–505. https://doi.org/10.1002/cpt.1808

17. Brose MS, Cubanillas ME, Cohen EE, Wirth LJ, Riehl T, Yue H, Sherman SI, Sherman JE (2016) Vemurafenib in patients with BRAF(V600E)-positive metastatic or unresectable papillary thyroid cancer refractory to radioactive iodine: a non-randomised, multicentre, open-label, phase 2 trial. Lancet Oncol 17(9):1272–1282. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30116-8

18. Subbiah V, Kreitman RJ, Wainberg ZA, Cho JY, Schellens JHM, Soria JC, Wen PY, Zielinski C, Cubanillas ME, Urbanowitz G, Mookerjee B, Wang D, Rangwala F, Keam B (2018) Dabrafenib and trametinib treatment in patients with locally advanced or metastatic BRAF V600-mutant anaplastic thyroid cancer. J Clin Oncol 36(1):7–13. https://doi.org/10.1200/jco.2017.73.6785

19. Wagner C, Adams V, Overley C (2021) Alternate dosage formulations of oral targeted anticancer agents. J Oncol Pharm Pract 27(8):1963–1981. https://doi.org/10.1177/1552253120379376

20. Spencer SH, Menard SM, Labedz MZ, Krueger CD, Sarna KV (2020) Enteral tube administration of oral chemotherapy drugs. J Oncol Pharm Pract 26(3):703–717. https://doi.org/10.1177/107855219893449

21. Tejedor-Tejada E, Nieto-Guiondo P, Tejedor-Tejada J, Martinez-Velasco E, Gomez-Sanchez A (2021) A guide for the administration of oral antineoplastic in patients with swallowing disorders. Farm Hosp 45(3):126–134. https://doi.org/10.7399/fh.11628
22. Crespo Martínez CL, Romero Jiménez RM, Vázquez-López C, Pérez-Cordón L, Vallinas Hidalgo S, Bravo José P (2022) Recommendations for using oral antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents in oncohematology by enteral tube administration. Nutr Hosp 39(1):171–201. https://doi.org/10.20960/nh.03736

23. Chiu JW, Chan K, Chen EX, Siu LL, Abdul Razak AR (2015) Pharmacokinetic assessment of dacomitinib (pan-HER tyrosine kinase inhibitor) in patients with locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (LA SCCHN) following administration through a gastrostomy feeding tube (GT). Invest New Drugs 33(4):895–900. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10637-015-0245-3

24. Cantarini MV, McFarquhar T, Smith RP, Bailey C, Marshall AL (2004) Relative bioavailability and safety profile of gefitinib administered as a tablet or as a dispersion preparation via drink or nasogastric tube: results of a randomized, open-label, three-period crossover study in healthy volunteers. Clin Ther 26(10):1630–1636. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinthera.2004.10.011

25. Khimani F, Hoban C, Williams V, Mavromatis B, Auber ML, Abraham J, Higa GM (2014) Efficacy of solubilized vemurafenib administered via nasogastric tube. Future Oncol 10(2):165–170. https://doi.org/10.2217/fon.13.187

26. Shah N, Iyer RM, Mair HJ, Choi DS, Tian H, Diodone R, Führich K, Pabst-Ravot A, Tang K, Scheubel E, Gripp JF, Moreira SA, Go Z, Mouskountakis J, Louie T, Ibrahim PN, Sandhu H, Rubia L, Chokshi H, Singhal D, Malick W (2013) Improved human bioavailability of vemurafenib, a practically insoluble drug, using an amorphous polymer-stabilized solid dispersion prepared by a solvent-controlled co-precipitation process. J Pharm Sci 102(3):967–981. https://doi.org/10.1002/jps.23425

27. Shimada Y, Sato Y, Tachikawa R, Hara S, Tomii K (2021) Gastrointestinal perforation following dabrafenib and trametinib administration in non-small cell lung carcinoma with BRAF V600E mutation: a case report and literature review. Invest New Drugs 39(6):1702–1706. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10637-021-01135-0

28. Mincu RI, Mahabadi AA, Michel L, Mrotzek SM, Schadendorf D, Rassaf T, Totzeck M (2019) Cardiovascular adverse events associated with BRAF and MEK inhibitors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. JAMA Netw Open 2(8):e198890. https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.8890

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.