Case Report: Successful Immunotherapy Improved the Prognosis of the Unfavorable Subset of Cancer of Unknown Primary

Jie Mei, Hao Wang, Honghong Fan, Junli Ding* and Junying Xu*

Department of Oncology, The Affiliated Wuxi People’s Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Wuxi, China

Background: Cancer of unknown primary (CUP) is heterogeneous and has a wide variety of clinical presentations and a poor prognosis in most patients, with a median overall survival of only 6 months. The development of molecular profiling contributes to precision therapy, and targeted drugs and immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) greatly promote individualized treatment.

Case presentation: Here, we reported a case of an unfavorable subset of CUP who had a long time of survival after the immunotherapy-prominent comprehensive treatment. A 48-year-old man presented with back pain and a cough. A diagnostic work-up showed bone marrow, multiple bones, and lymph node metastasis. Lymph node pathology implies metastatic poorly differentiated cancer. Next-generation sequencing (NGS) showed no special targets, but the tumor proportion score (TPS) of programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) was 80% and the tumor mutation burden (TMB) was 16.7 per million bases. After two cycles of pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 plus nanoparticle albumin-bound (nab)-paclitaxel 200 mg D1&8 (q3w), PET-CT and bone marrow aspiration cytology showed a complete response (CR). Subsequently, pembrolizumab alone was used for three months. The left inguinal lymph nodes showed new metastasis. After two cycles of the combination treatment of pembrolizumab and (nab)-paclitaxel, a partial response (PR) was achieved. After seven months, retroperitoneal lymph nodes showed new metastasis, and the sequential treatment with radiotherapy and pembrolizumab exhibited encouraging efficacy. To date, the patient has survived nearly 40 months with the combination therapy.

Conclusions: The ICI-prominent comprehensive treatment provided clinical benefit for the reported case of CUP. Thus, CUP patients with markers of benefiting from immunotherapy should be actively treated with immunotherapy to improve their prognosis.

Keywords: cancers of unknown primary, immunotherapy, PD-L1, molecular profiling, combinational therapy, case report
INTRODUCTION

Cancer of unknown primary (CUP) is defined as a histologically confirmed metastatic tumor whose primary site cannot be identified during standard pretreatment evaluation (1). These heterogeneous tumors account for 2 to 5% of all diagnosed cancers and have a wide variety of clinical presentations (2). Early dissemination, aggressiveness, and unpredictability of metastatic patterns are characteristic of these tumors (3). Given this background, the treatment of CUP is problematic and has not been well developed. More than 80% of patients with CUP have a poor prognosis with a median survival of only 6 months (4). However, patients diagnosed with CUP with colorectal, lung, and renal profiles seem to belong to the good prognostic subsets of CUP. Based on the available data, the treatment of these patients, similar to the correspondent primary tumors, seems promising. However, the absence of defining/validated diagnostic criteria for CUP with lung and renal profiles limits the interpretation of the treatment outcomes (5).

Here, we report a CUP patient who fell into an unfavorable subset with bone marrow metastasis and multiple bone and lymph node metastases, who has survived nearly 40 months to date. The treatment plans were made according to molecular profiling and immunohistochemistry (IHC) analysis. The immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI)-prominent comprehensive treatment conferred a survival benefit on the patient.

CASE PRESENTATION

On 29 October 2018, a 48-year-old man sought medical advice because of back pain and a cough for forty days. He had been examined in the Department of Respiration at our hospital and Shanghai Tumor Hospital, but the diagnosis was unclear. A physical examination exhibited an enlarged lymph node palpable on the left supraclavicular with tenderness, and other physical examinations showed no obvious abnormalities. His Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status (ECOG-PS) score was 2. Chest CT showed multiple enlarged lymph nodes in the mediastinum with some nodules in both lung fields (Figure 1A, upper). PET-CT showed that FDG uptake significantly increased in multiple enlarged lymph nodes (bilateral clavicle area, left armpit, and mediastinum) and multiple bones (thoracic spine, lumbar spine, sacral spine, pelvis, scapula, sternum, and ribs), implying extensive lymph node metastases and bone destruction (Figure 1B, upper). On 28 November 2018, the biopsy of the right scapula soft tissue under ultrasound guidance was performed at the Shanghai Tumor Hospital. Unfortunately, only skeletal muscle, fibrous tissue, and individual epithelioid cells were shown. On 19 December 2018, the patient was admitted to the Department of Oncology. Bone marrow aspiration cell smear showed scattered and clustered metastatic cancer cells. A bone marrow biopsy showed diffusely proliferative malignant tumor cells of epithelial origin (Figure 1C, left). Some enlarged lymph nodes are touched by the bilateral clavicle through physical examination. A left supraclavicular lymphadenectomy biopsy and a bone marrow biopsy were performed. Lymph node pathology implied metastatic poorly differentiated cancer (Figure 1D) and a large series of IHC markers (AE1/AE3+, EMA+, CK7−, CK5/6−, CK20−, HMB45−, S-100−, CD138−, CD38−, CD20−, CD3−, P40−, NapsinA−, TTF1−, PAX8−, CD30−, EBER−, CDX2−, Syn−, CgA−, CD56−, Ki-67: 80%+) were unable to identify the tissue source. Additionally, the primary site could not be indicated in spite of consultation at Shanghai Tumor Hospital as well. Then, next-generation sequencing (NGS) of the lymph node tissue and peripheral blood was adopted. No special targets were found (Table 1). Fortunately, the tumor proportion score (TPS) of programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) (Figure 1E) and tumor mutation burden (TMB) was 16.7 per million bases. The patient never smoked or drank alcohol and had no family history of cancer. Additionally, the basic thyroid function of the patient, myocardial zymogram, brain natriuretic peptide, cortisol, adrenocorticotropic hormone, and sex hormone were within normal limits, except for type 2 diabetes and chronic hepatitis B. Insulin and entecavir were used to control blood sugar and virus replication in the normal range.

On 29 December 2018, “docetaxel 140 mg D1 plus carboplatin 600 mg D2 (q3w)” chemotherapy regimens were adopted, which resulted in grade four myelosuppression. The patient recovered after treatment with granulocyte colony-stimulating factor and a transfusion of red blood cells and platelets. Therefore, chemotherapy was difficult to implement. Given the PD-L1 TPS was 80%, pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 (q3w) was applied on 11 January 2019. After only one pembrolizumab treatment, the physical strength of the patient improved, and the pain in the back and waist decreased significantly. Morphine was reduced from 60 mg q12 h to 30 mg q12 h. According to the coordination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy, nanoparticle albumin-bound (nab)-paclitaxel, free of dexamethasone, pretreatment was adopted. Then, two cycles of pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 plus nab-paclitaxel, 200 mg D1&8 (q3w) were carried out. Fortunately, the ECOG-PS score was 0 and morphine was discontinued. Chest CT was used and showed no obvious lesions (Figure 1A, lower). In order to fully evaluate the therapeutic effect, PET-CT was used again after the agreement of the patient. Amazingly, the original FDG metabolism increased focus completely disappeared and enlarged lymph nodes disappeared (Figure 1B, lower). A bone marrow biopsy showed no proliferative malignant tumor cells (Figure 1C, right). The efficacy evaluation was complete response (CR), and pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 (q3w) was used as maintenance therapy.

After three cycles of pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 (q3w) treatment, on 8 July 2019, the patient found lumps in the left inguinal. A color doppler ultrasound showed an enlarged lymph node (Figure S1A) and a biopsy with a coarse needle was applied. The pathological result was still metastatic poorly differentiated carcinoma (Figure S1B). Meanwhile, enhanced CT of the chest and abdomen and spinal MRI showed no relapse. At this point, the patient was diagnosed with progressive disease (PD). Then, from 10 July 2019, pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 plus...
nab-paclitaxel 200 mg D1&8 (q3w) were re-applied. It was encouraging to see that the enlarged lymph nodes in the left inguinal were reduced after two cycles, reaching a partial response (PR), and the ECOG-PS score was still 0. The efficacy was reconfirmed four weeks later. From 31 July 2020, pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 (q3w) was used as maintenance therapy. However, on 5 April 2021, retroperitoneal lymph nodes showed new metastasis, and the sequential treatment with radiotherapy (dose unknown outside our hospital) and pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 (q3w) exhibited encouraging efficacy, and efficacy evaluation reached PR (Figure S2). Then, pembrolizumab 200 mg D1 (q3w) was used as

**FIGURE 1 |** Imaging and pathological data of the patient at diagnosis and after initial immuno-chemotherapy. (A) Representative chest CT before (upper) and after treatment (lower): abnormal lymph node in supraclavicular and mediastinum disappeared after two cycles of immuno-chemotherapy. (B) Representative PET-CT before (upper) and after treatment (lower): lesions with increased FDG uptake completely disappeared, and new bone generated after two cycles of immuno-chemotherapy. (C) Representative images of bone marrow aspiration cell smear: diffusely proliferative malignant tumor cells completely disappeared after two cycles of immuno-chemotherapy. (D) Pathological analysis (HE staining) of resected left supraclavicular lumps. (E) The protein expression of PD-L1 analyzed by IHC test (antibody clone number: 22C3).
maintenance therapy. To date (1 March 2022), the patient has survived nearly 40 months with the combination therapy. The treatment process is shown in Figure 2. Additionally, we also summarized the changes of several significant blood test results, including NLR and tumor markers (CEA, AFP, CA199, CA125, NSE, and CYFRA21-1), but no significant clinical importance was observed (Figure 3). The patient chose outpatient treatment in most cases and worked for the company.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

CUP is heterogeneous and has a wide variety of clinical presentations and a poor prognosis in most patients (6). As for treatment, it is paramount to identify patients who fall into one of the defined “favorable” (20% of CUP) or “unfavorable” subset categories (7). The percentage of unfavorable patients who do not fit into the previously historically defined favorable subsets is substantially smaller than several years ago, and the favorable subset group is becoming larger (8). Therefore, the diagnosis is very significant. A diagnosis includes a thorough patient history, gender, clinical examination, a basic lab draw with the most relevant tumor markers, and contrast-enhanced chest/abdominal/pelvic CT. PET/CT may be warranted in some situations, especially when considering local or regional therapy or in the cervical lymph nodes suggestive of head and neck cancer (9, 10). IHC analysis plays an important role in the diagnostic work-up in CUP, characterization of the tumor type. Nowadays, molecular techniques including mutational testing with next-generation sequencing and tissue of origin predicting with gene expression profiling with a 92-gene assay have strongly aided diagnostics (11, 12). Additionally, the EPICUP and other platforms based on gene or microRNA expression have begun to be implemented, in conjunction with current diagnostic strategies, in routine clinical practice. The application of these diagnostic tools in clinical settings represents an advance in the classification of CUP. The prediction of the tissue of origin can

---

**TABLE 1 | Summary of gene mutations concluded from NGS analysis.**

| Gene | Variation type | cDNA variation | Abundance |
|------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| ARID1A | Alternative splicing | c.3198+1G>T | 7.04% |
| ARID1A | Missense | c.1928C>G | 4.96% |
| ARID2 | Nonsense | c.2666C>G | 21.38% |
| ARID2 | Nonsense | c.1991C>G | 5.95% |
| DNMT3A | Missense | c.1222G>A | 11.26% |
| FANCA | Rearrangement | LINC01572-FANCA | 33.79% |
| GALNT12 | Missense | c.845G>A | 12.23% |
| HIST1H2BD | Missense | c.41G>T | 12.81% |
| IKZF1 | Missense | c.154G>T | 6.94% |
| KIT | Amplification | -- | CN0.36 |
| KIT | Rearrangement | EPHA5-KIT | 37.78% |
| LRP1B | Missense | c.9793C>T | 7.32% |
| NF1 | Alternative splicing | c.6757-1G>A | 15.01% |
| NOTCH3 | Missense | c.1136G>C | 18.07% |
| PDGFRα | Amplification | -- | CN0.49 |
| RB1 | Missense | c.1183C>G | 12.11% |
| ROS1 | Missense | c.4906C>T | 15.03% |
| TERT | Missense | c.3376G>T | 3.97% |
| TPS3 | Missense | c.733G>T | 11.78% |

---

**FIGURE 2 | The timeline of the treatment process for the patient. The patient has experienced immunotherapy, the combination of immunotherapy and chemotherapy, and the combination of immunotherapy and radiotherapy. At initial treatment and after two recurrences, the patient achieved clinical benefits.**
respectively) (16). In a recent comprehensive study of 200 CUP specimens, the use of a hybrid-capture-based NGS assay enabled the identification of at least 1 potentially targetable genomic alteration in 85% of the CUP specimens (12). But the clinical benefit of the targeted treatment of CUP based on molecular studies remains controversial (17). Thus, pathologists and oncologists must collaborate on the judicious use of these modalities on a case-by-case basis with the best possible individualized patient outcome in mind.

For our patient, before the NGS assay result was known, palliative treatment with empirical chemotherapy was adopted, but severe myelosuppression occurred because of bone marrow metastasis. Fortunately, the high expression of PD-L1 implied the efficacy of immunotherapy. For advanced cancer therapy, a dramatic improvement in survival has been achieved with ICIs (18). Various malignancies, including non-small cell lung cancer, gastroesophageal cancer, genitourinary cancer, and head and neck cancer, postmortem analysis and gene expression profiling have identified these cancer types as common occult origins of CUP (19), suggesting that ICIs also prove effective for treating CUP. Haratani et al. have proved that the immune profiling of CUP is similar to that of malignancies responsive to ICIs (20), and thus ICIs might be a potential option for CUP treatment. Additionally, ICIs seem to be the most reasonable approach for patients with melanoma of unknown primary (MUP), considering the vigorous immune anti-melanoma response at baseline. However, BRAF/MEK inhibitors also appear to induce immune responses by affecting the tumor microenvironment and immune surveillance. MUP patients on immunotherapy probably display better outcomes compared to those with melanoma of the known primary subset (21). For our patient, who had only once used pembrolizumab, the limb pain was obviously relieved. Morphine was reduced by half. Additionally, the present patient harbored an NF1 mutation, which has been indicated as a favorable biomarker for anti-PD-1 immunotherapy (22). Indeed, several trials evaluating the efficacy of ICIs in CUP patients are currently in progress, including phase II trials of pembrolizumab (NCT03391973 and NCT03752333). Additionally, the open-label phase II trial on the efficacy of nivolumab in CUP has been reported and demonstrates a clinical benefit of nivolumab for patients with CUP (23).

ICI combination strategies with curative potential have been focused on in the field of cancer therapy. Antiangiogenesis agents, cytotoxic chemotherapeutic drugs, and radiotherapy are
the most commonly used combination therapies (24). The disseminated disease in the patient required chemotherapy. Paclitaxel is the base regimen for CUP, but high-dose dexamethasone pretreatment is prohibited in ICI therapy. More importantly, Nab-paclitaxel, free of dexamethasone, more importantly, has significantly improved overall survival in several refractory malignancies as the first-line treatment, such as pancreatic cancer, triple-negative breast cancer, and advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (25–27). The high efficiency and low toxicity of nab-Paclitaxel might take advantage of enhanced concentration of free taxon, active transportation through endothelial cells, and penetration into tumor tissue by albumin binding to secreted protein acidic and rich in cysteine receptor. A recent study has shown that SPARC plays an important role in tumor uptake of nab-paclitaxel (28). Furthermore, a phase 3 trial showed that nab-paclitaxel may enhance the anticancer activity of atezolizumab, a PD-L1 antibody, in untreated metastatic triple-negative breast cancer (29). Therefore, nab-paclitaxel might be a good combination drug with immunotherapy. Additionally, radiotherapy could positively modulate the landscape of the immune microenvironment and systemic response and enhance the anticancer activity of immunotherapy (30). For this patient, the sequential treatment with radiotherapy and pembrolizumab successfully repressed the progression of retroperitoneal lymph node metastases.

In conclusion, the pembrolizumab-prominent comprehensive treatment provided clinical benefits for the reported case of CUP. Molecular profiling and IHC analysis provided a precise, individualized guide. Overall, we believe that CUP patients with markers of benefiting from immunotherapy should be actively treated with immunotherapy to improve their prognosis.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material. Further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

REFERENCES

1. Varadhachary GR, Raber MN. Carcinoma of Unknown Primary Site. New Engl J Med (2014) 371(21):2040. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc1411384
2. Fizazi K, Greco FA, Pavlidis N, Daugaard G, Oien K, Pentheroudakis G, et al. Cancers of Unknown Primary Site: Esmo Clinical Practice Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment and Follow-Up. Ann Oncol (2015) 26 Suppl 5:v133–8. doi: 10.1093/annonc/mdv305
3. Pavlidis N, Pentheroudakis G. Cancer of Unknown Primary Site. Lancet (2012) 379(9824):1428–35. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(11)61778-1
4. Losa F, Soler G, Casado A, Estival A, Fernandez I, Gimenez S, et al. Seom Clinical Guideline on Unknown Primary Cancer (2017). Clin Trans Oncol Off Publ Fed Spanish Oncol Societies Natl Cancer Institute Mexico (2018) 20 (1):99–96. doi: 10.1007/s12284-017-1807-y
5. Rassy E, Parent P, Lefort F, Boussios S, Baciarello G, Pavlidis N. New Rising Entities in Cancer of Unknown Primary: Is There a Real Therapeutic Benefit? Crit Rev Oncol Hematol (2020) 147:102882. doi: 10.1016/j.critrevonc.2020.102882
6. Rassy E, Pavlidis N. Progress in Refining the Clinical Management of Cancer of Unknown Primary in the Molecular Era. Nat Rev Clin Oncol (2020) 17 (9):541–54. doi: 10.1038/s41571-020-0359-1
7. Economopoulou P, Pentheroudakis G. Cancer of Unknown Primary: Time to Put the Pieces of the Puzzle Together? Lancet Oncol (2016) 17(10):1339–40. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30377-1
8. Rassy E, Labaki C, Chebel R, Boussios S, Smith-Gagen J, Greco FA, et al. Systematic Review of the Cup Trials Characteristics and Perspectives for Next-Generation Studies. Cancer Treat Rev (2022) 107:102807. doi: 10.1016/j.ctrv.2022.102407
9. Delgado-Bolton RC, Fernandez-Perez C, Gonzalez-Mate A, Carreras JL. Meta-Analysis of the Performance of 18F-Fdg Pet in Primary Tumor Detection in Unknown Primary Tumors. J Nucl Med Off Publication Soc Nucl Med (2003) 44(8):1301–14.
10. Prowse SJ, Shaw R, Ganeshan D, Prowse PM, Hanlon R, Lewis-Jones H, et al. The Added Value of 18F-Fluorodeoxyglucose Positron Emission Tomography Computed Tomography in Patients With Neck Lymph Node Metastases From an Unknown Primary Malignancy. J Laryngol Otolgy (2013) 127 (8):780–7. doi: 10.1017/S00222151300162X

ETHICS STATEMENT

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee, The Affiliated Wuxi People’s Hospital of Nanjing Medical University. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study. Written informed consent was obtained from the individual(s) for the publication of any potentially identifiable images or data included in this article.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

JX, JD, and JM contributed to conception and design. JM and HF performed clinical investigations and interpretation of results. HW, JD, and JX were the clinicians in charge of patient care and management. JM and HF wrote the initial manuscript draft. JX and JD reviewed the manuscript and contributed to the final draft. All authors listed have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.

FUNDING

This work was supported by the Wuxi Municipal Health Commission Fund (No. M202108) and the Wuxi Science and Technology Bureau Fund (No. N20202018).

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2022.900119/full#supplementary-material
11. Ma XJ, Patel R, Wang X, Salunga R, Murage J, Desai R, et al. Molecular Classification of Human Cancers Using a 92-Gene Real-Time Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction Assay. Arch Pathol Lab Med (2006) 130(4):465–73. doi: 10.1097/00130445-200604000-00011

12. Ross JS, Wang K, Gay L, Otto GA, White E, Iwanik K, et al. Comprehensive Genomic Profiling of Carcinoma of Unknown Primary Site: New Routes to Targeted Therapies. JAMA Oncol (2015) 1(4):40–9. doi: 10.1001/jamaoncol.2014.216

13. Moran S, Martinez-Cardus A, Boussios S, Esteller M. Precision Medicine Based on Epigenomics: The Paradigm of Carcinoma of Unknown Primary. Nat Rev Clin Oncol (2017) 14(11):682–94. doi: 10.1038/nrclinonc.2017.97

14. Handorf CR, Kulkarni A, Grenert JP, Weiss LM, Rogers WM, Kim OS, et al. A Multicenter Study Directly Comparing the Diagnostic Accuracy of Gene Expression Profiling and Immunohistochemistry for Primary Site Identification in Metastatic Tumors. Am J Surg Pathol (2013) 37(7):1067–75. doi: 10.1097/PAS.0b013e31828309c4

15. Hainsworth JD, Greco FA. Gene Expression Profiling in Patients With Carcinoma of Unknown Primary Site: From Translational Research to Standard of Care. Virchows Archiv An Int J Pathol (2014) 464(4):393–402. doi: 10.1007/s00428-014-1545-2

16. Economopoulos P, Mountzios G, Pavlidis N, Pentheroudakis G. Cancer of Unknown Primary Origin in the Genomic Era: Elucidating the Dark Box of Cancer. Cancer Treat Rev (2015) 41(7):598–604. doi: 10.1016/j.ctrv.2015.05.010

17. Gatalica Z, Millis SZ, Vranic S, Bender R, Basu GD, Voss A, et al. Comprehensive Tumor Profiling Identifies Numerous Biomarkers of Drug Resistance in Cancers of Unknown Primary Site: Analysis of 1806 Cases. Oncotarget (2014) 5(23):2440–7. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.2574

18. Ribas A, Wolchok JD. Cancer Immunotherapy Using Checkpoint Blockade. Science (2018) 359(6382):1350–5. doi: 10.1126/science.aar4060

19. Pentheroudakis G, Golfinopoulos V, Pavlidis N. Switching Benchmarks in Cancer of Unknown Primary: From Autopsy to Microarray. Eur J Cancer (2007) 43(14):2026–36. doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2007.06.023

20. Haratani K, Hayashi H, Takahama T, Nakamura Y, Tomida S, Yoshida T, et al. Clinical and Immune Profiling for Cancer of Unknown Primary Site. J Immunother Cancer (2019) 7(1):251. doi: 10.1186/s40425-019-0720-z

21. Boussios S, Rassy E, Samartzis E, Moschetta M, Sheriff M, Perez-Fidalgo JA, et al. Melanoma of Unknown Primary: New Perspectives for an Old Story. Crit Rev Oncol Hematol (2021) 158:103208. doi: 10.1016/j.critrevonc.2020.103208

22. Larson K, Russ A, Arif-Tiwari H, Mahadevan D, Elliott A, Bhattacharyya A, et al. Pembrolizumab Achieves a Complete Response in an NF-1 Mutated, Pd-L1 Positive Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumor: A Case Report and Review of the Benchmarks. J Immunother (2022) 45(4):222–6. doi: 10.1097/CJL.0000000000001410

23. Tanizaki J, Yonemori K, Akiyoshi K, Minami H, Ueda H, Takiguchi Y, et al. Open-Label Phase II Study of the Efficacy of Nivolumab for Cancer of Unknown Primary. Ann Oncol (2022) 33(2):216–26. doi: 10.1016/j.annonc.2021.11.009

24. Wu M, Huang Q, Xie Y, Wu X, Ma H, Zhang Y, et al. Improvement of the Anticancer Efficacy of Pd-1/Pd-L1 Blockade Via Combination Therapy and Pd-L1 Regulation. J Hematol Oncol (2022) 15(1):24. doi: 10.1186/s13045-022-01242-2

25. Von Hoff DD, Ervin T, Arena FP, Chioroan EG, Infante J, Moore M, et al. Increased Survival in Pancreatic Cancer With Nab-Paclitaxel Plus Gemcitabine. New Engl J Med (2013) 369(18):1691–703. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1304369

26. Schettini F, Giuliano M, De Placido S, Arpino G. Nab-Paclitaxel for the Treatment of Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: Rationale, Clinical Data and Future Perspectives. Cancer Treat Rev (2016) 50:129–41. doi: 10.1016/j.ctrv.2016.09.004

27. Sociinski MA, Bondarenko I, Karaseva NA, Makhson AM, Vynnchenko I, Okamoto I, et al. Weekly Nab-Paclitaxel in Combination With Carboplatin Versus Solvent-Based Paclitaxel Plus Carboplatin as First-Line Therapy in Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: Final Results of a Phase III Trial. J Clin Oncol Off J Am Soc Clin Oncol (2012) 30(17):2055–62. doi: 10.1200/JCO.2011.39.5848

28. Pascual-Pasto G, Castillo-Ecija H, Unceta N, Ascherio R, Resa-Pares C, Gomez-Caballero A, et al. Sparc-Mediated Long-Term Retention of Nab-Paclitaxel in Pediatric Sarcomas. J Control Release Off J Control Release Soc (2022) 342:81–92. doi: 10.1016/j.jconrel.2021.12.035

29. Schmid P, Rugo HS, Adams S, Schneeweiss A, Barrios CH, Iwata H, et al. Atezolizumab Plus Nab-Paclitaxel as First-Line Treatment for Unresectable, Locally Advanced or Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (Impassion130): Updated Efficacy Results From a Randomised, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Phase 3 Trial. Lancet Oncol (2020) 21(1):44–59. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(19)30689-8

30. Meng L, Xu J, Ye Y, Wang Y, Luo S, Gong X. The Combination of Radiotherapy With Immunotherapy and Potential Predictive Biomarkers for Treatment of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients. Front Immunol (2021) 12:723609. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2021.723609

Conflict of Interest: The NGS and IHC analyses were performed by Burning Rock Biotech.

The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher’s Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Copyright © 2022 Mei, Wang, Fan, Ding and Xu. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.