An Update on EGFR Inhibitors

Leigh M. Boehmer, Pharm.D., BCOP
Clinical Pharmacist, Medical Oncology
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Saint Louis, Missouri

Disclosure

• Leigh M. Boehmer, Pharm.D., has no real or apparent conflicts of interest to report

Objectives

• Summarize the pharmacology of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) inhibitors
• Explain the current role of EGFR’s in the treatment of cancers
• Describe a management strategy for patients taking EGFR’s
Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

- Member of ErbB family of receptor tyrosine kinases
- Overexpressed in a variety of epithelial cancers
- Downstream signaling pathway helps regulate:
  - Differentiation
  - Proliferation
  - Tumor migration
  - Angiogenesis
  - Apoptosis


EGFR Activation

- Ligand binding
- Receptor homo-/heterodimer formation
- Stimulation of intrinsic receptor tyrosine kinase
- Autophosphorylation
- Downstream signaling pathway activation


EGFR Structure and Function

- Extracellular domain
- Intracellular domain
- EGFR tyrosine kinase
- Signaling cascade
- DNA
- ↑ Angiogenesis
- ↑ Growth factors
- ↓ Treatment sensitivity
- ↑ Proliferation
- ↑ Apoptosis
- ↑ Metastasis

Adapted from: Harari P. Endocrine-Related Cancer. 2004;11:689-708.
EGFR Overexpression and Prognosis

- Advanced stage at diagnosis
- ↑ tumor size
- ↑ rate of recurrence
- ↓ survival
- ↓ sensitivity to radiation therapy


EGFR Inhibitors

Extracellular domain

Intracellular domain

Signaling cascade

↑ Angiogenesis
↑ Growth factors
↑ Treatment sensitivity
↑ Metastasis

DNA

↑ Proliferation
↓ Apoptosis
↑ Metastasis

Adapted from: Harari P. Endocrine-Related Cancer. 2004;11:689-708.

EGFR Inhibitors

Extracellular domain

Intracellular domain

Signaling cascade

Cetuximab or Panitumumab

Erlotinib, Gefitinib, or Lapatinib

DNA

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Objectives

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- Explain the current role of EGFR inhibitors in the treatment of patients with cancer
- Describe a management strategy for patients taking EGFR inhibitors
Cetuximab (Erbitux®)

• Indications:
  – Metastatic colorectal cancer, EGFR-expressing
  – Locally advanced or metastatic head and neck cancer
• Dosing:
  – Loading dose – 400 mg/m² IV over 2 hours
  – Maintenance – 250 mg/m² IV over 1 hour weekly
• Premeds:
  – H₂ antagonist IV 30-60 mins prior to loading dose
  – Consider: H₂ antagonist IV, corticosteroid IV, and/or albuterol neb 2.5 mg

Panitumumab (Vectibix®)

• Indications:
  – Metastatic colorectal cancer, EGFR-expressing
• Dosing:
  – 6 mg/kg IV every 2 weeks over 1 hour
  – Doses >1000 mg infuse over 1.5 hours
• Premeds:
  – None recommended – fully humanized antibody

Kirsten Rat Sarcoma (KRAS) Mutations

• Signal-transducing protein in the EGFR pathway
• Mutations lead to constitutive downstream signaling without prior EGFR activation
• Mutation frequency ~40% in metastatic colorectal cancer
• Mutation frequency ~25% in NSCLC
• Mutated KRAS may lead to lack of response to EGFR inhibitors and cancer progression

NSCLC = non-small cell lung cancer

### EGFR Inhibitor Response and KRAS Mutation Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EGFR Inhibitor</th>
<th>Concurrent Therapies</th>
<th>No. (%) with KRAS Mutated</th>
<th>KRAS Mutated Response</th>
<th>KRAS Wild-type Response</th>
<th>P Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cetuximab (N=540)</td>
<td>FOLFIRI</td>
<td>192 (36)</td>
<td>PFS 7.6 mo</td>
<td>PFS 9.9 mo</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cetuximab (N=337)</td>
<td>FOLFOX</td>
<td>99 (42)</td>
<td>PFS 5.5 mo</td>
<td>PFS 7.7 mo</td>
<td>0.0009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panitumumab (N=463)</td>
<td>Best supportive care</td>
<td>199 (43)</td>
<td>Response rate 0%</td>
<td>Response rate 17% (N=21)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cetuximab (N=394)</td>
<td>Best supportive care</td>
<td>164 (42)</td>
<td>Overall survival 4.5 mo</td>
<td>Overall survival 9.5 mo</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Erlotinib (Tarceva®)

- **Indications:**
  - Locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer
  - Locally advanced, unresectable, or metastatic pancreatic cancer with gemcitabine
- **Dosing:**
  - Lung cancer – 150 mg PO daily
  - Pancreatic cancer – 100 mg PO daily
- **Dose adjustments:**
  - Current smokers – max dose of 300 mg PO daily
  - CYP3A4 inhibitors/inducers

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### Gefitinib (Iressa®)

- **Indication:**
  - Locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, continued therapy
- **Dosing:**
  - 250 mg PO daily
  - Must enroll in Iressa® Access Program
- **Notable adverse effect:**
  - Pulmonary toxicity – rare, potentially fatal interstitial lung disease
Lapatinib (Tykerb®)

- Indication:
  - Advanced or metastatic breast cancer, HER2/neu overexpressing
- Dosing:
  - With capecitabine – 1250 mg PO daily
  - With letrozole – 1500 mg PO daily
- Dose adjustments:
  - Strong CYP3A4 inhibitor – ↓ to 500 mg PO daily
  - Strong CYP3A4 inducer – ↑ to 4500-5500 mg PO daily

Objectives

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- Describe a management strategy for patients taking EGFR inhibitors
Cetuximab Infusion Reactions

- Premedications required
- Anaphylaxis treatment should be available
  - Epinephrine, hydrocortisone, diphenhydramine
- Monitor during and at least 1 hour after infusion
- 90% severe reactions occur with first dose

Dermatologic Toxicities

- Dose dependent, acneiform skin rash
- ~80% grade 1-2 reaction
- Median onset 1-2 weeks
- Found in seborrheic areas
- Studies show relationship between skin rash and improved response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Toxicity</th>
<th>Frequency/Time Course</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xerosis / dry skin</td>
<td>~35%; several weeks</td>
<td>Dry, scaly, itchy skin that can develop into fissures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paronychia</td>
<td>~15%; weeks to months</td>
<td>Painful inflammation of the nail fold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair changes</td>
<td>Progressive appearance with prolonged use</td>
<td>Long, curly eyelashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyperpigmentation</td>
<td>May be seen following acneiform eruption</td>
<td>Post-inflammatory skin discoloration; worsened with sun exposure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


General Dermatologic Measures

- Maximize skin hydration
  - Bath oils / shower gels
  - Tepid water
- Emollient creams / lotions
- Minimize direct sun exposure
  - Brimmed hats
  - Sunblock (at least SPF 15)
- Consider dermatology consult


Treatment of skin reactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signs / Symptoms</th>
<th>Emollients: Soap substitutes, Bath oils / shower gels, Moisturizers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Itching</td>
<td>Topical: Antibiotic preparations, Acne creams, Rosacea creams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry skin</td>
<td>Topical: Emollients + salicylic acid, Antibiotic preparations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild/moderate rash</td>
<td>Topical: Emollients + salicylic acid, Antibiotic preparations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fissures</td>
<td>Topical: Emollients + salicylic acid, Antibiotic preparations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paronychia</td>
<td>Topical: Emollients + salicylic acid, Antibiotic preparations</td>
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Antihistamines: Treat dry skin, if present

Same as mild/mod PLUS Systemic:
- Doxycycline 50-100 mg po Daily
- Minocycline 50-100 mg po BID


Future Directions

- Irreversible pan-ErbB tyrosine kinase inhibitors
  - Canertinib
  - Neratinib
- Suppression of EGFR T790M mutation
  - BIBW2992
- Dual-target ErbB family inhibitors
  - EGFR, HER2, VEGF
  - EGFR, HER2, HER4

VEGF = vascular endothelial growth factor

Audience Response

Erlotinib is an inhibitor of the EGFR tyrosine kinase. Inhibition of this kinase activity results in which of the following?
a. Decreased treatment sensitivity
b. Increased angiogenesis
c. Decreased cell proliferation
d. Increased metastasis
An Update on EGFR Inhibitors: Suggested Readings


Post Test Questions:

1. EN is a 64 year old male with newly diagnosed metastatic colorectal cancer. His tumor is known to be EGFR-expressing and to harbor a mutated KRAS gene. What recommendation would you give his physician about epidermal growth factor receptor-targeted therapy as part of his initial chemotherapy regimen?
   a. Panitumumab is appropriate for use given his mutated KRAS status.
   b. Lapatinib is not appropriate for use given it only targets HER2/neu.
   c. Erlotinib is appropriate for use given his tumor is EGFR-expressing.
   d. Cetuximab is not appropriate for use given his mutated KRAS status.

2. Two weeks after starting single-agent erlotinib for metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, YM comes to the clinic complaining of an acne-like rash. Upon inspection, you note a Grade 3 moderate/severe maculopapular skin rash on her face and neck. In addition to topical acne cream, which of the following regimens would you recommend?
   a. Doxycycline 100 mg po Daily
   b. Sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim 1 DS tab po BID
   c. Minocycline 50 mg po Daily
   d. Amoxicillin 500 mg po BID