

Trastuzumab Deruxtecan and Pertuzumab in HER2-Positive Advanced Breast Cancer

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Introduction

The results of the HER2-Positive Advanced Breast Cancer trial presented by Dr. Sara M. Tolaney at the ASCO Annual Meeting 2025, shows a promising new treatment for metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer. The study found that using T-DXd with pertuzumab nearly doubles how long patients can control their disease compared to the standard treatment, THP.¹

Clinical Outcomes and Treatment Response

This trial reported some exciting improvements, such as an overall response rate of 85.1% with T-DXd plus pertuzumab compared to 78.6% with THP, and patients had a longer median duration of response which was 39.2 months versus 26.4 months.² However, no new safety issues appeared with this combination therapy, and the safety was similar to THP, although side effects like nausea, vomiting, and constipation were more common with T-DXd.³

Safety Concerns and ILD Risk

One significantly important concern is the risk of interstitial lung disease (ILD). This occurred in 12.1% of patients taking T-DXd, while only 1.0% had ILD with THP. Most ILD cases were minor, but it is important to note that 2% patients tragically died from ILD.⁴

Clinical Recommendations and Future Considerations

To help doctors use T-DXd plus pertuzumab safely, it is important for the authors to provide clear guidelines on how to monitor for ILD, when to stop treatment if problems arise, and how to choose the right patients for this therapy. Addressing these questions will help doctors make better treatment decisions and ensure the best care for their patients.

Keywords: Oncology, Pertuzumab, T-DXd, Interstitial lung disease, Nausea

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