

UniversitätsKlinikum Heidelberg

Handling targeted therapies in clinical practice – challenges for pharmacists

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Potential conflicts of interest

- Consultant

 Amgen GmbH, Bristol-Myers Sqibb, Sanofi GmbH
- Speakers honorarium
 - -Berner International GmbH, Celgene GmbH
 - -No other conflicts of interest to declare



Agenda

- What makes targeted therapies different in terms of their handling in clinical practice?
- · Which challenges do pharmacists face
 - Access to new therapies
 - Off-label use and reimbursement
 - Finding suitable formulations for administration
 - Pharmaceutical care:
 - Dosage, interactions
 - · Patient information and advice

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Targeted therapies

- Innovative approaches with different mechanisms and toxicities
- Mostly oral application
 - Generally high risk for interactions
 - Very different recommendations for administration schedules depending on food intake
 - Patient self-management (adherence, toxicities, supportive care measures) necessary
 - Dose splits and applicable formulations in childhood cancer treatment



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Access to new therapies

- Compassionate use programs before market access
 - Via pharmaceutical manufacturer
- · Bulk substance for individual therapy approaches
 - Contract works
 - Analytical conformity tests
 - Labelling
 - Compounding
 - Efforts and strategies to avoid mix-ups with study drug



- Import after market approval in other countries (USA, Japan, Switzerland,...)
 - Search for importer companies which may have access
 - Patient registration programs
 - Management of high amounts of various patientdedicated drugs
 - Storage space, inventory management, communication with clinical departements
 - Reimbursement issues

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Off-/No-Label-Use

- All drugs which have no national approval or which should be used outside their approved indications
 - Issues which have to be faced before order and treatment
 - Exclusion that other therapy alternatives are available (trials etc)
 - Patient information and consent
 - Reimbursement application at patient's health care insurance or consent of the patient to pay expenses

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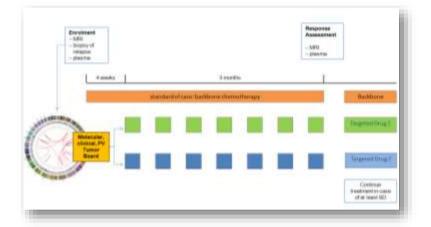


INFORM – INdividualized Therapy FOrRelapsed Malignancies in Childhood



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INFORM: Approach to practical solutions

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Pharmaceutical Care

Patient: 32 y, male Diagnosis: de novo AML M3 (promyelocytic leukaemia) Therapy regime: All-tans-retinoic acid (ATRA) 22,5 mg/m² 1-0-1 Arsenic trioxide 0,15 mg/kg 1-0-0

Clinical issue: Elevation of liver enzymes. Are dose reductions necessary?



Important informations

- Full medication plan
- Actual laboratory results
- To which extent both drugs cause liver toxicities ?
 - ATO: very common, grade 3: common
 - ATRA: very common
- Pharmakokinetics?
 - ATO
 Liver insufficiency likely has no effect on elimination of ATO and metabolites
 - No information about necessity of dose reductions
 - ATRA
 - About 30% of dose are eliminated biliary
 - Weak database about experiences in kidney or liver insufficiency
 Metabolism via Cytochrome P 3A4 enzymes

Manufacturers recommendation

ATO: pause, reduce or cancel treatment in case of any grade 3-adverse events **ATRA**: Because of limited availabile information about patients with kidney or liver insufficiency, dose should be reduced by 25%.

Concomitant medication

Ciprofloxacin 500 1-0-1 Aciclovir 400 1-0-1 Posaconazol 1-1-1 - CYP 3A4 inhibitor

- Laboratory results: hyperleucocytosis present
- În clinical trails hyperleucocytosis in 75% present, but sometimes associated with a retinoic acid syndrome (RAS)
- Characteristic RAS symptomes: fever, dyspnea, acute lung infiltrations, pleura and pericardial effusions, hypotension, edema, kidney-, liver-, multiorgan failure
- > Check on signs

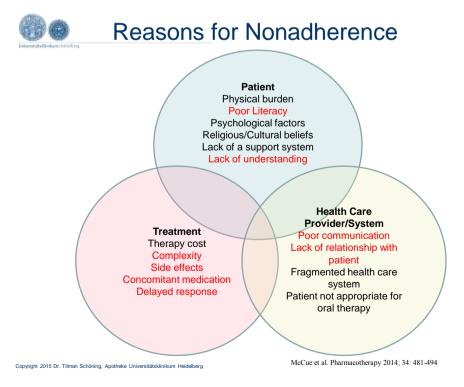
Solution

- CYP3A4 interactions present ? yes
- Is hyperleucocytosis associated with typical symptomes of an upcoming RAS-syndrome? no, at this stage hyperleucocytosis normal sign of differentiation

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Recommendation:

Drug-associated adverse event. Pause therapy and start again after normalization of laboratory results in reduced dose. Stop posaconazole!





Adherence management

- · A single intervention is not likely to be successful
- It is recommended to follow a bundle of interventions
 - trustful relationship between patient and HCP
 - Transparent communication skills
 - Information should be adapted to patient's background and personality
 - · Keep medication regimes as simple as possible

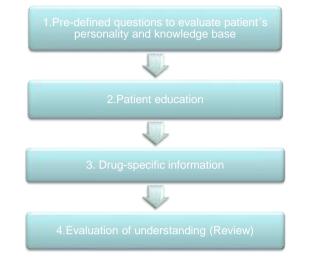
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· Relatives should be present

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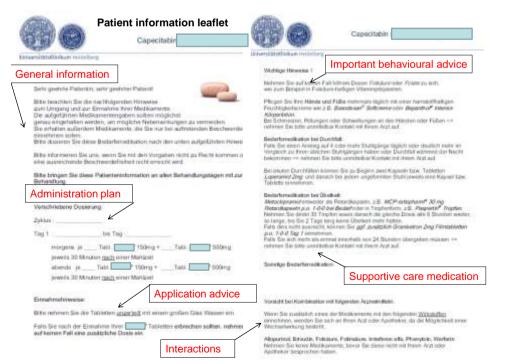
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Rittenberg CN. European Oncology & Haematology, 2012;8(2):97-100



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Conclusion

- The pharmacist faces multiple challenges in handling targeted therapies
- Traditional responsibilities (e.g. logistics) are added by financial and clinical as well as patient safety aspects
- Clinical studies will increasingly demand pharmaceutical know-how
- Targeted therapies demand intensive co-operation between HCPs

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