Reasons for patients’ preferences for subcutaneous or intravenous trastuzumab in the PrefHer study

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Background

- Subcutaneous (SC) trastuzumab (Herceptin® SC, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland) provides a valid alternative to intravenous (IV) infusion for treating HER2-positive breast cancer.
- SC trastuzumab is administered as a 600 mg fixed dose by hand-held syringe or single-use injection device (SID; Figure 1).
  - The Herceptin study showed that the SC formulation delivered by hand-held syringe has non-inferior efficacy and a comparable pharmacokinetic and safety profile to the IV formulation.1,2
  - The SID may also allow self-administration by patients.4
  - The PrefHer trial assessed patients’ preferences for SC trastuzumab via SID (Cohort 1) and IV administration (Cohort 2), compared with traditional IV infusion using standardized telephone patient interviews (PNI).1

Results

When asked “What are the two main reasons for your preference?”

- The primary reasons for SC preference were shown in Table 1. The majority of reasons were categorised under time saving, less pain/discomfort and convenience.

Table 1: Main reasons for SC preference in Cohort 1 of PrefHer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>n*</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time saving</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>“It saved me being there so many hours.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less pain/discomfort</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>“The SC method was a lot less painful to me and my bruises healed faster than in the case of the intravenous method.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convenience to patient</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>“Busy mum with four young children – want to get on with life.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of administration</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>“Nurses can take care of many patients at the same time.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems with IV</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>“No veins to be found as my arms are collapsing.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less stress/irritation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>“It reminds me of chemo and isn’t very pleasant for the head.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>“Sailor – less risk of infections.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- In PrefHer, patients very strongly preferred SC trastuzumab using the SID, mainly because it saved time, caused less pain/discomfort and was more convenient than IV administration.6
- The Phase II HannaH study has shown non-inferior efficacy and a comparable pharmacokinetic and safety profile to the IV formulation.3
- Together, these studies indicate that SC trastuzumab offers an efficacious and preferred alternative to IV infusion for the treatment of patients with HER2-positive breast cancer.

References

6. European Society for Medical Oncology Conference 2012; Poster 470P.

Acknowledgements

Funding for the PrefHer study was provided by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. We are grateful to the healthcare professionals who contributed to the design of the study, the healthcare professionals, the nurses, the interviewers and the investigators who participated in this study. Support for the learning management system in this paper was provided by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd.

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