

Transcript Details

This is a transcript of an educational program. Details about the program and additional media formats for the program are accessible by visiting: <https://reachmd.com/programs/closing-gaps-nscl/breaking-down-the-keynote-189-protocol-for-nscl/11348/>

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Breaking Down the KEYNOTE-189 Protocol for NSCLC

Announcer:

Welcome to *Closing the Gaps in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer* on ReachMD, sponsored by Lilly.

On today's program, we'll hear from Dr. Michael Shafique, who's an Assistant Professor of Thoracic Oncology at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Shafique joins us to give a breakdown of the KEYNOTE-189 Protocol for non-small cell lung cancer and the impacts it has in practice. Let's hear from him now.

Dr. Shafique:

So, KEYNOTE-189 was a phase III randomized trial that primarily looked to see if the addition of pembrolizumab to standard of care platinum-based chemotherapy would provide some survival benefit to patients with non-small cell, nonsquamous lung cancer. So the trial randomized patients 2:1, and there were about 600 patients in this trial, and the patients were randomized to either receive carboplatin plus pemetrexed and pembrolizumab or the control arm received carboplatin pembrolizumab. The patients received 4 cycles of this treatment before they continued on the maintenance portion of treatment, which either consisted of pemetrexed and pembrolizumab versus pemetrexed alone, and then patients could continue this therapy for up to 2 years if it was well-tolerated and effective.

This was a very practice-changing clinical trial. The main outcomes favored the addition of pembrolizumab, to the standard of care chemotherapy combination. We saw improvements in median overall survival, and at the last update that we had, the median overall survival was nearly double in the group that received pembrolizumab in combination with chemotherapy. We also saw much better response rates with the addition of immunotherapy to the chemotherapy, and these benefits were seen even though a significant portion of patients crossed over from the control arm to the therapeutic arm or if they went on to receive subsequent immunotherapy upon progression.

I think for most patients now with nonsquamous, non-small cell lung cancer, which includes adenocarcinomas, large cell, sometimes poorly differentiated carcinomas, these patients are all receiving the combination of chemotherapy plus immunotherapy in the front-line setting. Important exceptions to this recommendation are patients with active autoimmune disease or patients who have a molecular mutation that is driving their adenocarcinoma. For example, these would be patients with EGFR-mutated lung cancer or patients with ROS1 or ALK rearrangements.

Announcer:

That was Dr. Michael Shafique giving us a breakdown of the KEYNOTE-189 protocol. To revisit any part of this discussion and to access other episodes in this series, visit ReachMD.com/NSCLC, where you can Be Part of the Knowledge. Thanks for listening!