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A Case of *De Novo* Metastatic Breast Cancer With Equivocal HER-2 Status

Disclosures

No conflicts of interest to disclose

Part 1: Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis

Patient

36 yo woman, no comorbidities
No family history of breast or other cancer

Presentation

Persistent lumbar pain
Detection of lump in the left breast at self-examination

Breast Exam

Clinical exam: Lesion of 25 mm in the left upper-intern quadrant
Breast Ultrasound + Mammography: confirmed lesion of 32 mm

Work-up

Whole body PET-scan and Vertebral Column MRI: Multiple supra-clavicular, axillary, and mediastinal lymph nodes; Bone metastases in C6, L3, sternum

US-guided Breast Biopsy

Invasive Ductal Carcinoma
Estrogen Receptor + (90%)
Progesteron Receptor + (50%)
HER-2 IHC score 2+, FISH equivocal

FISH Equivocal

HER2 copy number/cell= 4.97
HER2/CEP17 ratio= 1.55

Genetic Testing

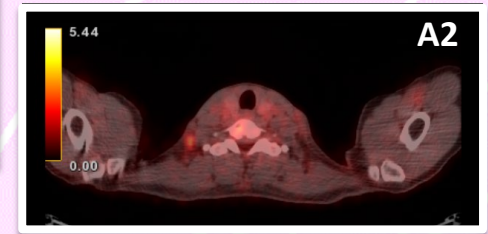
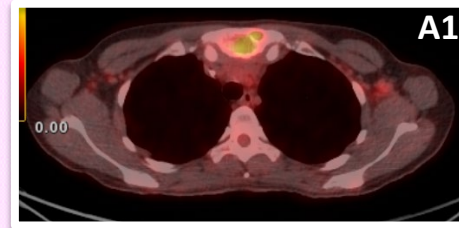
No mutations linked to hereditary breast cancer (BRCA1, BRCA2)

Part 2: Choice of First Line treatment and Follow-up

First Line

Taxol 80 mg/m² weekly
Trastuzumab 8/6 mg/Kg 3-weekly
Pertuzumab 840/420 mg 3-weekly
for 6 cycles
+ Denosumab*

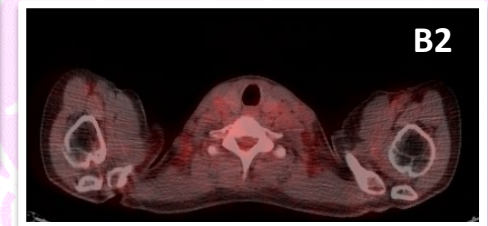
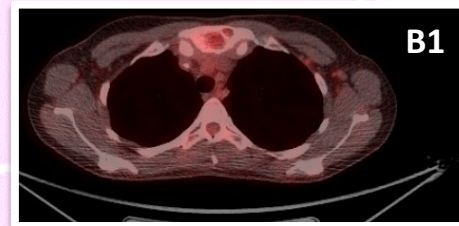
PET-scan (after 6 cycles): Partial Response (A1, A2)
(shrinkage of breast nodule and of nodal mets)



Maintenance

Trastuzumab 3-weekly
Pertuzumab 3-weekly
Tamoxifen 20 mg daily
for 3 cycles

PET-scan (after 3 cycles): confirmed Partial Response (B1, B2)



Breast Local Treatment

Radical Left Mastectomy
(strongly pursued by patient)

Pathology Report: Invasive ductal carcinoma
ø 4 mm with substantial fibrosis,
almost Pathologic Complete Response
ypT1a ypNx

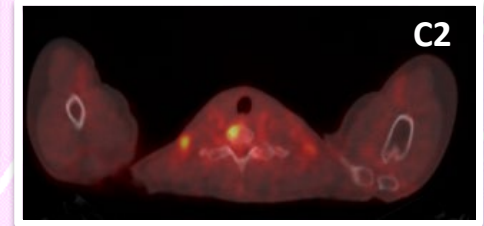
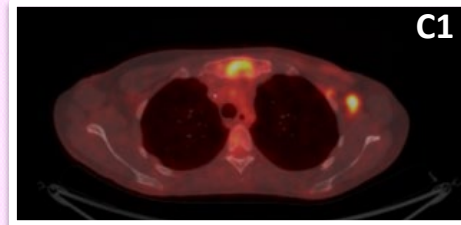
*Patient was continuously kept on Denosumab

Part 3: Treatment upon Progression

Maintenance

Trastuzumab 3-weekly
 Pertuzumab 3-weekly
 Tamoxifen 20 mg daily
for 3 cycles

PET-scan (after 3 cycles): Progressive Disease (C1, C2)
 bone and lymph nodes progression (palpable)



**Re-biopsy of palpable metastatic
 left axillary lymph nodes**

Pathology Report:
 Adenocarcinoma
 Estrogen Receptor + (100%)
 Progesteron Receptor + (90%)
 HER-2 IHC score 2+; FISH -

FISH Negative

HER2 copy number/cell= 2.79
 HER2/CEP17 ratio= 1.37

Second line

Eribuline 1.23 mg/m² (d1-8) 3 weekly
for 6 cycles

PET-scan (after 3 and 6 cycles): Partial Response
 But discontinued for neurotoxicity

Ongoing therapy (for 5 months)*

Ovarian Suppression (Oophorectomy)
 Letrozole 2.5 mg daily
 Palbociclib 125 mg 3 wks on/1 wk off

Re-staging PET-scan: partial response
 Overall patient is doing well

**Patient was continuously kept on Denosumab*

A Case of *De Novo* Metastatic Breast Cancer With Equivocal HER-2 Status: Key-Points for Discussion

Part 1: Clinical Presentation and Diagnosis

- When should we be content with an equivocal HER-2 result?
- When should we pursue re-biopsy before initiating any treatment?

Part 2: Choice of First Line Treatment and Follow-up

- Which first-line treatment for HER-2 equivocal tumors?
[Cleopatra vs. Paloma]
- What is the best endocrine maintenance treatment? [Tam vs. AI]
- Any role for breast local treatment? [Mastectomy vs. BCS]
Best candidates? Best timing? Which objectives?

Part 3: Treatment upon Progression

- Re-biopsy of accessible metastatic disease?
- Which treatment upon progression?
- Chemo vs. Endocrine backbone? Type of agent?



Thank you for your attention