

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Corresponding author:
Junling Li

lijunling@cicams.ac.cn

Author Affiliation:
Cancer Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100021, China

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Front-line Therapy in Brain Metastases and Non-Brain Metastases in Advanced EGFR-mutant Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Network Meta-analysis

Zhu, YX¹; Liu, CC²; Xu, ZY³; Zou, ZH⁴; Xie, TJ⁵; Xing, PY⁶; Wang, L⁷; Li, JL⁸.

Review question / Objective: Patient: Patients with non-small cell lung cancer(NSCLC) harboring epidermal growth factor receptor(EGFR) mutation; Intervention: Tyrosine kinase inhibitors(TKIs) with or without anti-VEGFR; Comparison: TKIs or chemotherapy; Outcomes: OS, PFS; Study design: Randomized controlled trial.

Condition being studied: Non-small cell lung cancer(NSCLC) is one of the most common malignancies with poor prognosis and low 5-year survival rate. Recently, epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitors(EGFR-TKIs) has improved the clinical prognosis of NSCLC patients, especially lung adenocarcinoma patients with EGFR mutation. There are a wide variety of EGFR-TKIs currently in common use, and studies of these drugs have included populations with many different baseline characteristics, including brain metastasis status. Therefore, this network meta-analysis will analyze which kind of EGFR-TKIs can achieve the optimal prognosis in patients with or without brain metastasis, respectively.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 06 October 2020 and was last updated on 06 October 2020 (registration number INPLASY2020100018).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Participant or population: Patients with non-small cell lung cancer(NSCLC) harboring epidermal growth factor receptor(EGFR) mutation.

Intervention: Tyrosine kinase inhibitors(TKIs) with or without anti-VEGFR.

Comparator: Tyrosine kinase inhibitors(TKIs) or chemotherapy.

Study designs to be included: Any randomized controlled trials(RCTs) involving OS, PFS of TKIs for treating EGFR positive NSCLC will be included.

Eligibility criteria: Eligibility criteria: 1. The searching language is English; 2. All included studies were RCTs and had clinical outcomes, such as OS, PFS; 3. All included studies had clear baseline characteristics of patients and EGFR mutation status; 4. All included studies included subgroup-analysis data required for meta-analysis.

Information sources: Pubmed, Embase, Cochrane Library, ASCO.org, ESMO.org.

Main outcome(s): OS, PFS.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: We assessed the methodological quality of the included studies by using the Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias. R(ver. 3.6.3) and STATA(ver16.0) were used to assess the quality of studies.

Strategy of data synthesis: We synthesized all direct and indirect evidence to compare the efficacy of different treatments, reported as hazard ratios for survival outcomes (progression free survival and overall survival) along with corresponding 95% confidential intervals. The primary outcome was progression free survival. Secondary outcomes were overall survival. We generated network plots for different outcomes of different targeted patients to illustrate the geometries, to clarify which treatments were compared directly or indirectly in the included studies. We did frequentist, fixed effects, pairwise meta-analysis on head-to-head comparisons based on two or more trials. We assessed heterogeneity between studies using the Q test and I² statistic within a visual forest plot. Statistical significance was set at a P value of 0.05. Heterogeneity was considered low, moderate, or high for estimated I² values under 25%, between 25% and 50%, and over 50%, respectively.

Subgroup analysis: We will consider subgroups such as study design.

Sensibility analysis: If significant heterogeneity exists, sensitivity analysis will be performed.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: NSCLC; TKIs; Network meta-analysis; Brain metastasis.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Yixiang Zhu.

Author 2 - Chengcheng Liu.

Author 3 - Ziyi Xu.

Author 4 - Zihua Zou.

Author 5 - Tongji Xie.

Author 6 - Puyuan Xing.

Author 7 - Le Wang.

Author 8 - Junling Li.