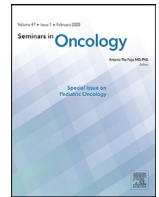




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Advances in Care of the Breast Cancer Patient

Breast cancer is a very common malignancy with over 268,000 cases diagnosed in the United States in 2019,¹ thus representing a large portion of the patients seen by practicing oncologists. Despite the frequency with which oncologists treat these patients, management of this disease can be challenging given an ever-evolving landscape of therapeutic options. In the last year, several practice changing studies have been reported including the KATHERINE study² which revolutionized the care of patients with early stage HER2 positive breast cancer treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy/HER2-targeted therapy, the KEYNOTE-522 study³ which is likely to bring immunotherapy into the routine neoadjuvant care of patients with hormone receptor negative/HER2-negative breast cancer, as well as the SOLAR-1⁴ study which lead to approval of alpelisib, a novel α -specific PI3K inhibitor, for treatment of PIK3CA-mutated HER-positive, HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer. In addition, since December 2019, there have been four new FDA approvals⁵ for the treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer including fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki (Enhertu, Daiichi Sankyo), neratinib (Nerlynx, Puma Biotechnology, Inc.), tucatinib (Tukysa, Seattle Genetics, Inc) for patients with refractory metastatic HER2-positive tumors and sacituzumab govitecan-hziy (Trodelvy, Immunomedics, Inc.) for refractory hormone receptor negative/HER2-negative breast cancer. These changes represent an opportunity for more efficacious, tolerable, and personalized care for our patients while also forcing those who care for these patients to continually challenge our traditional treatment paradigms.

This special edition of *Seminars in Oncology* aims to summarize recent changes in the treatment recommendations of patients with a diagnosis of breast cancer and highlight future directions for research in this space. Reviews regarding contemporary approaches to breast cancer screening, genetic testing & counseling, radiation therapy and reconstructive surgery are also included and highlight the importance of multi-disciplinary care of patients with breast cancer.

Megan Kruse, MD
Jame Abraham, MD (Guest Editors)

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