

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor in Neoadjuvant or Adjuvant Setting for Breast Cancer: the Paradigm Shift

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Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is an aggressive subtype characterized by the absence of ER, PR and HER2 expression. Neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapies play a crucial role in the management of early-stage TNBC (eTNBC), aiming to improve outcomes and reduce the risk of recurrence. In recent years, immunotherapy has emerged as a promising treatment option for TNBC. This presentation provides an overview of the use of immunotherapy in the neoadjuvant and adjuvant settings for eTNBC.

Keynote-522 was a landmark clinical trial that evaluated the efficacy and safety of perioperative immunotherapy in combination with chemotherapy for patients with eTNBC. The findings have significant implications for the management of TNBC, suggesting that incorporating immunotherapy in the perioperative treatment strategies lead to improved pCR and EFS. pCR is a meaningful endpoint.

While immunotherapy has shown remarkable potential in the perioperative treatment of eTNBC, challenges such as identifying optimal patient selection criteria, optimal chemotherapy backbone, still need to be addressed. Ongoing research efforts aim to refine and optimize the use of immunotherapy to further improve outcomes for patients with eTNBC.