Summary of Results for Laypersons

Astellas is grateful to the patients who took part in this clinical study. Thank you.

What was the Study Called?

A Phase 1b Study of Erlotinib in Combination with Gemcitabine and Nab-Paclitaxel in Patients with Previously Untreated Advanced Pancreatic Cancer.

Why was this Study Needed?

Pancreatic cancer forms from cells in the tissue of the pancreas. The pancreas is a large gland behind the stomach. It makes juices that help break down food. Gemcitabine is a prescription medicine for patients whose pancreatic cancer has spread from the pancreas to nearby tissue, lymph nodes or other places in the body (advanced pancreatic cancer). Gemcitabine by itself may not work well enough in some patients. Therefore, there was a need to study medicines that could be used together with gemcitabine. Erlotinib (also known as OSI-774, and Tarceva) is an experimental medicine for pancreatic cancer. Nab-paclitaxel also is an experimental medicine for pancreatic cancer.

This study was done in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer who had not been treated. Patients took erlotinib. Plus they received nab-paclitaxel and gemcitabine. The study looked at different dose combinations of these 3 medicines. The question this study helped answer was what is the highest dose of combined study medicines that patients could tolerate. It was also important to find out what unwanted effects these patients had from the study medicines.

The study started in February 2010 and ended in January 2012. When the study ended, the sponsor of this study (Astellas) reviewed all the study information and created a report of the results. This is a summary of that report.

What Kind of Study was this and Who Took Part in It?

This was an "open-label" study. This means that each patient and the study doctors knew which combination of the study medicines that patient took.

This study included women and men aged 18 years or older. These patients had pancreatic cancer that was untreated. And it had locally advanced (cancer that has spread from the pancreas to nearby tissue or lymph nodes) but could not be removed. Or it had spread from the pancreas to other places in the body. These patients were active or they could perform light daily activities. And they were expected to live 12 weeks or more.

During the study, the study doctor did a check-up of the patients at several study visits. At the first visit, patients were checked to see if they could be in the study.

If they could be in the study they received one of 4 different dose combinations of the 3 medicines. The study doctor looked for intolerable unwanted effects with each dose combination. If patients had intolerable unwanted effects with medicines in the first dose combination, they could be moved to a lower dose combination. And the next patient could be started at a lower dose level.

The treatment was in 28 day cycles. Patients took erlotinib tablets by mouth once daily for 28 days. And on days 1, 8 and 15 in the cycle, the patients also received (by IV injection) nab-paclitaxel plus gemcitabine. IV means it is injected through a needle or tube that is inserted into a vein. The dose of erlotinib was in milligrams (mg) of medicine. The doses of nab-paclitaxel and gemcitabine were in mg of medicine for every square meter of body surface ($mg/m^{2)}$. The dose level combinations were:

- erlotinib 100 mg + nab-paclitaxel 125 mg/m^2 + 1000 mg/m^2 gemcitabine
- erlotinib 100 mg + nab-paclitaxel 100 mg/m^2 + 1000 mg/m^2 gemcitabine
- erlotinib 100 mg + nab-paclitaxel 75 mg/m^2 + 1000 mg/m^2 gemcitabine
- erlotinib 75 mg + nab-paclitaxel 75 mg/m^2 + 1000 mg/m^2 gemcitabine

The patients could take the combination of study medicines until their cancer got worse, they had unwanted effects they could not tolerate or they asked to stop treatment.

This study took place at 5 clinics in the United States. 19 patients were in this study.

	Number of Patients
Age Group	
Aged less than 65 years	11
Aged 65 years or older	8
Sex	
Men	9
Women	10

What Were the Study Results?

This study was done in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer who had not been treated. The question this study helped answer was what is the highest dose of combined study medicines (erlotinib, nab-paclitaxel plus gemcitabine) that patients can tolerate.

In this study, the highest dose of the 3 medicines taken together that patients could tolerate was 75 mg erlotinib plus 75 mg/m^2 nab-paclitaxel plus 1000 mg/m^2 gemcitabine. These doses of erlotinib and nab-paclitaxel are less than the amount of medicine needed to treat cancer.

What Adverse Reactions did Patients Have?

A lot of research is needed to know whether a medicine causes a medical problem. So when new medicines are being studied researchers keep track of all medical problems that patients have while they are in the study. These medical problems are called “adverse events” and are recorded whether or not they might be caused by the treatment taken. An “adverse reaction” is any medical problem or “adverse event” that is judged by the study doctor to be possibly caused by a medicine or treatment used in the study.

The table below shows the most common adverse reactions for the combination of the 3 study medicines in this study.

Adverse Reaction	erlotinib+ nab-paclitaxel + gemcitabine (out of 19 patients)
Any adverse reaction	18 (94.7%)
Number of white bloods cells called neutrophils is abnormally low	10 (52.6%)
Low white blood cell count	4 (21.1%)
Dehydration (when your body does not have as much water and fluid as it should)	3 (15.8%)
Reduction in blood platelets, which increases risk of bleeding or bruising	3 (15.8%)

An adverse reaction is considered "serious" when it is life-threatening, causes lasting problems or needs hospital care.

7 patients (36.8% or 7 out of 19 patients) had serious adverse events in this study.

4 of the patients were in the 100/125/1000 dose level group; 1 patient was in the 100/75/1000 dose level group; 2 of the patients were in the 100/100/1000 dose level group.

One patient died during the study. The patient did not die because of the study medicines.

Where Can I Learn More About This Study?

This document is a short summary of the main results from this study and reflects the information available as of February 2014. You can find this summary and more information about this study online at http://www.astellasclinicalstudyresults.com.

Please remember that researchers look at the results of many studies to find out how well medicines work and which adverse reactions they might cause. This summary only shows the results of this 1 study. Your doctor may help you understand more about the results of this study.

Sponsor contact details:

Astellas Pharma Global Development, Inc
1 Astellas Way
Northbrook IL 60062
USA