Convergence of Liquid Biopsy and Precision Oncology in the management of NSCLC



Jonathan W. Riess MD MS Professor of Medicine Medical Director Thoracic Oncology UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center







From Empiric Treatment Decision-Making → Precision Oncology (Personalized Therapy)

٠

٠

٠



All patients in this category are the same. They can all be treated the same way



Each patient in this category is an individual & should be treated as such

Liquid Biopsy is uniquely suited to fulfill this role

NSCLC is Genomically & Immunologically Complex

- Genomically complex cancers with a multitude of potential oncogenes known to drive tumor growth
- Quantitatively & Qualitatively well suited for biomarker-driven checkpoint immunotherapy
- Improving the biomarker selection process in individual patients and individualizing therapy is now possible
- Newer technologies (Next Gen Sequencing/NGS) now in the clinic for both tissue & blood-based assays



Adapted from Kandoth et al Nature 2013

Liquid Biopsy as a Path to Precision Oncology



Malapelle, Gandara, Rolfo et al. Exp Rev Mol Diagnostics, 2021

Liquid biopsy Across the Cancer Care Continuum in Individual Patients (Precision Oncology)



Strategies for the successful implementation of plasma-based NSCLC genotyping in clinical practice

Charu Aggarwal[®], Christian D. Rolfo[®], Geoffrey R. Oxnard, Jhanelle E. Gray, Lynette M. Sholl and David R. Gandara

Table 1 | Differences between tumour tissue genotyping and plasma ctDNA genotyping

Feature	Tumour tissue genotyping	Plasma ctDNA genotyping			
Convenience	Inconvenient if tissue is not immediately available or is inadequate	Highly convenient with widespread availability of commonly used tube types (such as EDTA and Streck tubes)	√ Plasma	Recommended:	
Speed	Usually slower, particularly if tissue must first be requested from elsewhere or if a new biopsy sample is required	Usually faster, facilitated by the ease of collection and shipping	√ Plasma	actionable oncogene targets,	
Sensitivity	Sensitivity is excellent as all specimens undergo review such that genotyping is limited to specimens deemed adequate for analysis	Sensitivity is lower because there is no adequacy review, such that ctDNA may not be detectable, particularly in samples with limited ctDNA shedding	√ Plasma	Similar recommendations	
Specificity	Specificity is excellent except that germline variants can sometimes be reported as somatic	Specificity is excellent for targetable driver mutations but false positives can emerge for certain genes (especially at low allelic fractions) owing to clonal haematopoiesis	√ Tissue	from IASLC, NCCN, ESMO, ASCO, ISLB	
Cost	Variable, increased by the potential need for repeat biopsy sampling to obtain a tissue specimen	Variable, increased by the potential need for subsequent tumour tissue genotyping if plasma ctDNA analysis is negative	✓ Plasma (if factor in re-biopsy costs)		

IASLC Consensus Statement on Liquid Biopsy in NSCLC



Rolfo, Gandara et al. JTO 2021

Plasma NGS vs. SOC tissue genotyping: The NILE study

- Methods: 89 patients with newly diagnosed non-squamous mNSCLC, undergoing physician discretion SOC tissue genotyping were prospectively recruited from 28 North American centers
- Patients underwent ctDNA testing utilizing a validated clinically available assay



- For tissue-based SOC testing only 18% had complete genotyping for all 8 guidelinerecommended biomarkers
- If the first genomic testing was ctDNA, 87% had a NCCN biomarker identified vs 67% with SOC tissue testing (p<0.0001)
- cfDNA testing had a faster turn-around time (TRT): median 9 days (cfDNA) vs 15 days (SOC tissue testing) p<0.0001



Percentage of Guideline-Recommended Biomarker Positive Patients Identified by Tissue versus cfDNA First



Leighl et al. CCR 2019.

Figure 2. Analysis of Mutation Detection by Type of Test and Disease Stage



A, Fifty-five patients had concurrent plasma and tissue next-generation sequencing (NGS) with a therapeutically targetable mutation detected. This subset included 4 patients with outside hospital testing for whom no allele fraction (AF) was reported. For the remaining 51 patients, a comparison of the AFs of therapeutically targetable mutations is shown. The horizontal black line indicates median AF for each group. For the 27 patients who had the mutation AF reported for plasma and tissue, the upper horizontal line corresponds to the

median for the tissue AFs, and the lower horizontal line corresponds to the median for the plasma AFs. B, To assess the effect of disease location on detection of therapeutically targetable mutations in plasma and tissue, plasma and tissue testing results were compared for 55 patients with concurrent testing. Included are 13 with disease limited to the thoracic cavity (M1a) and 42 with extrathoracic metastases (M1b) as determined by imaging.

Among the 128 patients with concurrent plasma and tissue NGS testing, 8 had a therapeutically targetable mutation detected in plasma for which the tissue test result was wild-type, with plasma testing thus increasing mutation detection from 36.7% (47 of 128 patients) to 43.0% (55 of 128 patients).

C. Aggarwal et al. JAMA Onc 2018.

Liquid biopsy Across the Cancer Care Continuum in Individual Patients (Precision Oncology)



Evolution & Expanding List of Guideline Recommendations for Genomic Testing in Advanced Stage NSCLC

"The NCCN NSCLC Guidelines Panel strongly endorses **broader molecular profiling** with the goal of identifying rare driver mutations for which effective drugs may already be available, or to appropriately counsel patients regarding the availability of clinical trials. **Broad molecular profiling** is a key component of the improvement of care of patients with NSCLC)."

Genomic Alteration (i.e. driver event)KKR	Available targeted agents with activity against driver event in		
	NSCLC		
EGFR mutations	osimertinib, erlotinib, gefitinib, afatinib, dacomitinib		
ALK rearrangements	crizotinib, alectinib, brigatinib, ceritinib, lorlatinib		
ROS1 rearrangements	crizotinib, ceritinib, entrectinib, lorlatinib		
BRAF V600E mutations	dabrafenib + trametinib, vemurafenib		
HER2 mutations (emerging)	ado-trastuzumab emtansine, afatinib		
MET mutation/amplification (emerging)	crizotinib, capmatinib, tepotinib		
RET rearrangements (emerging)	cabozantinib, vandetanib, selpercatinib, pralsetinib		
NTRK rearrangements (emerging)	entrectinib, larotrectinib,		
EGFR Ex20ins	amivantamab, mobocertinib		
KRAS G12C	sotorasib, adagrasib		



High Circulating Tumor (ct)DNA Detection Rate across Multiple Cancer Types (N=21,807)



Guardant360 plasma NGS assay for detection of somatic alterations in 21,807 cancer patients 85% detection rate across all cancers 93% SCLC **87% NSCLC** Median VAF: 0.41% (range 0.03-97.6) 4 (n = 21,807 patients; 25,578 samples) Percentage of total variants ო Min: 0.03% Median: 0.41% Mean: 3.67% 2 Max: 97.62% 0 20 40 60 0 80 100

VAF for reported variants (cfDNA %)

Zill, Mack, Gandara, Landman et al, CCR 2018

PENN2 Study: Response to Targeted Therapy is Independent of Plasma Mutation Allelic Fraction



Aggarwal et al: JAMA Oncol 2018

Immune Phenotype as potential Predictive Biomarkers for benefit from Checkpoint Immunotherapy (Detection in Liquid Biopsy)





Analytical & Clinical Validation of PROphet Assay



PROhet Positive vs PD-L1

PROhet Negative vs PD-L1



Trials evaluating blood TMB

Study	Analysis	Approach	NGS assay	Panel si	Cohort ze size	Tumor type	Disease stage	Trial ID	Treatment	TMB cut
Gandara <i>et al</i> , 2018 ⁶⁰	Retrospective	Targeted NGS	Custom NGS assay (bait set version T7, Integrated DNA Technology, >300 genes)	1.1 Mb	n=259	NSCLC	Advanced/metastatic	POPLAR (NCT01903993); OAK (NCT02008227)	Atezolizumab vs docetaxel	16 Muta
Wang <i>et al</i> , 2019 ¹⁴⁶	Retrospective	Targeted NGS	Custom assay (NCC-GP150, 150 genes)	Not reported	n=48 cohort 1; n=50 cohort 2	NSCLC	Advanced/metastatic	N/A	Anti-PD-1/PD-L1	6 Mutat
Si et al, 2021 ⁶³	Retrospective	Targeted NGS	Guardant OMNI (500 genes)	2 Mb	n=1001	NSCLC	Metastatic	MYSTIC (NCT02453282)	Durvalumab and tremelimumab vs chemotherapy	20 Muta
de Castro Jr <i>et al</i> , 2022 ⁶⁵	Prospective	Targeted NGS	Guardant OMNI (500 genes)	2 Mb	n=512	NSCLC	Metastatic	NEPTUNE (NCT02542293)	Durvalumab and tremelimumab versus chemotherapy	20 Muta
Kim e <i>t al</i> , 2022 ⁶⁶	Prospective	Targeted NGS	Foundation Medicine (>300 genes)	1.1 Mb	n=152	NSCLC	Locally advanced/ metastatic	B-F1RST (NCT02848651)	Atezolizumab	16 Muta
Peters <i>et al</i> , 2022 ⁶⁸	Prospective	Targeted NGS	Foundation Medicine (>300 genes)	1.1 Mb	n=472	NSCLC	Advanced/metastatic	BFAST (NCT03178552)	Atezolizumab versus chemotherapy	16 Muta
He et al, 2022 ⁶⁹ ; Schenker et al, 2022 ⁷⁰	Prospective	Targeted NGS	Foundation Medicine (>300 genes)	1.1 Mb	n=212	Pan- cancer	Advanced/metastatic	CheckMate 848 (NCT03668119)	Nivolumab+ipilimumabvs nivolumab monotherapy	10 Muta

BFAST, Blood First Assay Screening Trial; bTMB, blood tumor mutation burden; N/A, not available; NGS, next-generation sequencing; NSCLC, Non-small cell lung cancer; VUS, variants of unknown significance

Adapted from Sivapalan et al. JITC 2023

Phase III BFAST Trial: Atezolizumab vs Platinum Chemotherapy in bTMB high (≥16)

Initial PFS "KM Gap" as seen in prior IO monotherapy trials. Although progression rates were initially greater in the atezolizumab vs chemotherapy arm, PFS benefit was seen with atezolizumab after 4 months.

Confirmed ORR for bTMB ≥16 was 25.5% (95% CI: 18.7, 33.4) for atezolizumab vs 17.8% (95% CI: 12.0, 25.0) for chemotherapy **OS:** median 13.3 mos for ≥ bTMB 16 (6.6-18.4) and 10.3 mos (8.5-13.8) for bTMB low.

MYSTIC: Durvalumab +/- Tremelimumab vs Platinum Chemotherapy in 1st line Advanced NSCLC

OS by bTMB ≥20 mut/Mb vs <20 mut/Mb

Peters et al. AACR 2019.

Liquid biopsy Across the Cancer Care Continuum in Individual Patients (Precision Oncology)

Despite initial response development of Acquired Resistance to Targeted TKIs in Oncogene-driven NSCLC is almost universal

	Target	Prevalence	Drug	Response Rate	
EGFR		15%-60%	Osimertinib	70%	
ALK		5%-10%	Alectinib, Brigatinib	70%	
ROS1		1%-2%	Crizotinib, Entrectinib	72%	
BRAF V600E		1%-2%	Vemurafenib Dabrafenib	42% 33%	
MET exon 14 mutations		3%	Capmatinib, Crizotinib ¹	44-67%	
High MET amplification		3%-4%	Crizotinib ²	66%	
HER2		1.7%	Afatinib ³ TDM1 ⁴ TDX-d	100% 44% 62%	
RET		1%-2%	Selpercatinib (LOXO-292) ⁵ Pralsetinib (BLU-667) ⁶	80% 58%	
NTRK1/2/3		3%	Entrectinib, Larotrectinib	80%	

• Despite these high response rates, essentially no patients are cured

• All patients develop acquired resistance, either secondary resistance mutations or Bypass mechanisms

1. Drilon AE et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2016;34(suppl 15):108. 2. Camidge et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2014;32(suppl 15):8001. 3. Mazières J et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2013;31:1997-2003. 4. Li et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2018;36:2532. 5. Drilon AE et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33(suppl 15):8007. 6. Gainor J et al. ASCO 2019. Abstract 9008.

FLAURA: Acquired Resistance Mechanisms after Osimertinib 1st-line therapy (n=91)^a

- No cases of acquired EGFR T790M
- The most common resistance mechanisms were *MET* amplification (15%) and *EGFR* C797X mutation (10%)
 - Other mechanisms included HER2 amplification/mutation (3%), *PIK3CA(7%), RAS/RAF* mutations and ALK transformation

Treatable Bypass Mechanisms of Resistance after EGFR TKIs:

- MET amplification/mutation
- Her -2 amplification/mutation
- BRAF mutation
- ALK translocation

Progressive Disease (PD) after 1st line TKI Therapy in Oncogene-driven Advanced NSCLC (EGFR, ALK, etc)

Cooper AS, et al, Nat Rev Clin Oncol 2022

Adapted from Melosky, Popat, Gandara. Clin Lung Cancer. 2017

Treatment Strategies for EGFR-mutated NSCLC with progressive disease after 1st-line Osimertinib

Liquid Biopsy (ctDNA) plays a major role in determining these mechanisms of resistance

adapted from Lim SM, et al. Cancer Disc 2022

Mechanism of Resistance (2nd ALK mutation vs Bypass) affects Lorlatinib Activity in ALK+ NSCLC pre-treated with 2nd Generation ALK Inhibitors

 Worthwhile to re-biopsy or use ctDNA to determine next line of therapy rather than using an Empiric approach

Liquid biopsy Across the Cancer Care Continuum in Individual Patients (Precision Oncology)

ctDNA in Advanced Stage NSCLC Response Monitoring: Oncogene driver, Checkpoint Immunotherapy & Chemotherapy

Clinical Trial Design evaluating "Biomarker Switch Therapy": EGFR-mutated NSCLC treated with Osimertinib

FLAURA2

Primary Endpoint: PFS

- Osimertinib given at a dose of 80 mg QD during induction and maintenance
- The osimertinib dose can be reduced to 40 mg QD for management of AEs; chemotherapy dose interruption/reduction is to be prioritised over reduction/interruption of osimertinib
- Randomisation will be stratified by race, WHO PS (0 vs 1), and tissue EGFR mutation test at enrolment
- Planned to involve approximately 248 sites in 27 countries

Liquid biopsy Across the Cancer Care Continuum in Individual Patients (Precision Oncology)

MRD detection post-surgery confers a Poor Prognosis in a pan-cancer fashion

NSCLC (Chaudhuri et al., Cancer Discov, 2017)

Bladder ca (Chirsitensen, JCO, 2019)

Courtesy of T. Mitsudomi. IASLC LiqBx Workshop 10-2020

Liquid Biopsy Approaches to MRD

Parameter	Tissue-naive	Tissue-informed
Adequacy of Tumor Tissue Sample	Not required	Practical limitation
Sensitivity	MRD-specific assays improve	Lower LOD
Specificity	CHIP requires filtering algorithm; Improved by baseline ctDNA	Tumor specific
Emergent Variants	Detects	Unable to assess
Resistance Variants	Detects	Unable to assess
Turn Around Time	Much shorter	Longer

Molding (Diehn) Cancer Discov 2021; Pellini et al. JCO 2022

Two landmark trials in the adjuvant NSCLC space ADAURA & IMpower010: Can plasma ctDNA analysis for MRD define who benefits and who does not?

- Is MRD detection by plasma ctDNA only prognostic in these trials? (poor outcome regardless of therapeutic intervention)
- Is MRD detection by plasma ctDNA predictive for outcome with therapeutic intervention?
 - Do only patients with positive MRD after surgery benefit from these therapies?

Wu et al. N Engl J Med 2020; . Felip et al. Lancet 2021.

Impower 010: DFS in Stage II-IIIA ctDNA+ vs ctDNA- populations (PD-L1 TC ≥1%)

MRD-related Prospective Clinical Trial Designs

Pellini (Chaudhuri). JCO 2022

MRD detection by ctDNA to escalate or de-escalate post-operative adjuvant therapy in stage II and stage III Colorectal Cancer

Guardant REVEAL: MRD assay integrating genomic & epigenomic analysis

NCT04068103, NCT03803553, NCT04259944

International Society of Liquid Biopsy (ISLB) Annual Congress Madrid, November 19-21, 2023

SAVE THE DATE

Join Us for ISLB 2023 from 19 - 21 November 2023 in Madrid, Spain

Check Out the Congress Website 2023.islb.info

