

## **Pracinostat with Azacitidine in Elderly Patients**

### **Guillermo Garcia-Manero, MD**

Professor

Chief, Section of Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Deputy Chair, Translational Research

Department of Leukemia

Division of Cancer Medicine

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston, Texas

Welcome to *Managing AML*. I am Dr. Garcia-Manero. I am a professor in the Department of Leukemia at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. I am live at the ASH Annual Meeting here in Atlanta, Georgia. I would like to spend just a few minutes with you reviewing the phase 2 study of pracinostat plus azacitidine in elderly acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). This is abstract 1358.

Pracinostat is a histone deacetylase inhibitor that we at MD Anderson and other centers have developed from the phase 1 trial, now all the way to phase 3 studies in MDS, and now AML. As you know, there has been a long history of combining hypomethylating agents with histone deacetylase inhibitors. This particular agent, pracinostat, in a study of 50 patients with AML, gave us really remarkable results. The study showed a complete remission rate of over 40% and, more importantly, we saw a median survival of over 19 months that, in a group of patients with a median age of 75 years, I think is quite substantial. We are very excited about this data. Based on this, there is a phase 3 randomized, multicenter, multicountry trial that is already accruing patients. We are going to test the hypothesis that adding pracinostat to the azacitidine improves survival and response in patients with AML. This is an oral presentation that we gave at ASH last year, and now this is a poster where we were evaluating the relationship between dose exposure, or treatment exposure, and outcomes. It turns out in this analysis that those patients that received more prolonged therapy had significant improvement in survival and outcomes on this therapy. I think it is very nice to see these results and it gives a very significant basis for the phase 3 trial that is already going on. It is a very large ambitious trial, but it is multicenter in multiple countries around the world, and I am very optimistic about the results of this trial.

Thank you for this opportunity.

### **Reference:**

Atallah E, Medeiros BC, Khaled S, et al. Evaluation of the Correlation between Response and Duration of Treatment in a Phase 2 Study of Pracinostat Plus Azacitidine in Elderly Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). *ASH 2017*. Abstract 1358.