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Evaluation of *keytruda* for metastatic non-small cell lung cancer**Dewilka Simons**

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Keytruda (Pembrolizumab) is the only anti-PD-1 treatment approved for first-line combination with pemetrexed and carboplatin and/or as monotherapy for the treatment of metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (mNSCLC) in appropriate patients. Lung cancer is the second most common form of cancer in both men and women and NSCLC accounts for 80%- 85% of all lung cancers. The 5-year survival rate for metastatic lung cancer is <18.1%. Cancer immunotherapy works by enhancing or allowing the immune system to recognize and destroy cancer cells. Clinical responses targeting the programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) pathway have shown promise in improving survival while maintaining a relatively tolerable toxicity profile. Combination therapy with pemetrexed and carboplatin received accelerated approval based on tumor response rate and progression-free survival in clinical trials. In combination therapy, the use of *Keytruda* is irrespective of PD-L1 status. The use of *Keytruda* in the first-line monotherapy setting requires to have high expressions of PD-L1 with a tumor proportion score (TPS) $\geq 50\%$ in which the TPS must be determined by an FDA-approved test. The monotherapy indication received approval based on overall survival and progression-free survival data in clinical trials.

Biography

Dewilka Simons is currently a third-year Pharmacy student at Temple University School of Pharmacy in Philadelphia. She has received her BS in Life Science from the Pennsylvania State University in 2014 with an emphasis in cultural studies. Her interests are transplant therapy, critical care and infectious disease in immunocompromised patients and patient education. She is the Vice President of the Interdisciplinary Health Advocacy (IDHA) a student run organization that promotes interprofessional patient outreach. She hopes to pursue PGY-1 and PGY-2 residency in solid organ transplant upon graduation.

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