

Alectinib

Alectinib (marketed as **Alecensa**) is an oral drug that blocks the activity of anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK)^{[1][1][2]} and is used to treat non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). It was developed by Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Japan, which is part of the Hoffmann-La Roche group.

1 Approvals and indications

Approved in Japan in July 2014^[3] for the treatment of ALK fusion-gene positive, unresectable, advanced or recurrent non-small cell lung cancer.^[2]

Alecensa was approved by the US FDA in December 2015 to treat patients with advanced ALK-positive NSCLC whose disease worsened after, or who could not tolerate, treatment with crizotinib (Xalkori).^[1]

2 Clinical trials

In a Japanese trial, after approximately 2 years, 19.6% of patients had achieved a complete response, and the 2-year progression-free survival rate is 76%.^[2]

In Feb 2016 the J-ALEX phase III study comparing alectinib with crizotinib was terminated early because an interim analysis showed that progression-free survival was longer with alectinib.^[4]

3 References

- [1] New Oral Therapy To Treat ALK-Positive Lung Cancer. Dec 2015
- [2] McKeage, Kate (2014). "Alectinib: A Review of Its Use in Advanced ALK-Rearranged Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer". *Drugs*. **75** (1): 75–82. doi:10.1007/s40265-014-0329-y. ISSN 0012-6667.
- [3] Japan becomes first country to approve Roche's alectinib for people with a specific form of advanced lung cancer
- [4] Chugai's ALK Inhibitor "Alecensa®" Trial Stopped Early for Benefit. Feb 2016

4 External links

- Alectinib UK Medicines Information

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