**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*

**Manuscript NO:** 52234

**Manuscript Type:** ORIGINAL ARTICLE

***Retrospective study***

**Efficacy, patterns of use and cost of Pertuzumab in the treatment of HER2+ metastatic breast cancer in Singapore: the National Cancer Centre Singapore experience**

Rahardja S *et al*. Pertuzumab in metastatic breast cancer

Sylwan Rahardja, Ryan Ying Cong Tan, Rehena Sultana, Fun Loon Leong, Elaine Hsuen Lim

**Sylwan Rahardja**, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, Singapore 119228, Singapore

**Ryan Ying Cong Tan, Fun Loon Leong, Elaine Hsuen Lim**, National Cancer Centre Singapore, Singapore 169610, Singapore

**Rehena Sultana,** Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore 169857, Singapore

**Author contributions:** Rahardja S, Tan RYC and Lim EH designed the research; Rahardja S, Tan RYC, Sultana R and Leong FL performed the research; Rahardja S, Tan RYC, and Sultana R analyzed the data; Rahardja S, Tan RYC, and Lim EH wrote the paper.

**Corresponding author: Sylwan Rahardja,** Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore, 1E Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119228, Singapore. sylwanrahardja@u.nus.edu

**Received:** November 1, 2019

**Revised:** February 4, 2020

**Accepted:** February 23, 2020

**Published online:** March 24, 2020

**Abstract**

Background

Pertuzumab is a humanized anti-human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) monoclonal antibody found in a Phase III clinical trial to significantly improve median survival in HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer (MBC) when used in combination with a taxane and Trastuzumab, and its clinical efficacy has transformed the therapeutic landscape of HER2-positive breast cancer. There are currently few reports on the pattern of use and value of Pertuzumab in real world settings. Our study describes the clinical efficacy and treatment costs of Pertuzumab in HER2-positive MBC treated in a tertiary cancer centre in Singapore in a predominantly Asian population.

Aim

To investigate the clinical efficacy and treatment costs of Pertuzumab in HER2-positive MBC in an Asian population in Singapore.

Methods

A retrospective study of 304 HER2-positive MBC patients seen at National Cancer Centre Singapore between 2011-2017 was conducted. Demographic and clinical data

were extracted from electronic medical records. Clinical characteristics and billing data of patients who received Pertuzumab were compared with those who did not.

Results

Thirty-one (62.0%) of the fifty (16.4%) patients who received Pertuzumab as first-line therapy. With a median follow-up of 21.5 mo, there was a statistically significant difference in the median overall survival between Pertuzumab and non-Pertuzumab groups [51.5 (95%CI: 35.8–60.0) *vs* 32.9 (95%CI: 28.1–37.5) mo; *p =* 0.0128]. Two (4.88%) patients in the Pertuzumab group experienced grade 3 (G3) cardiotoxicity. The median treatment cost incurred for total chemotherapy for the Pertuzumab group was Singapore Dollars 130456 compared to Singapore Dollars 34523 for the non-Pertuzumab group. The median percentage of total chemotherapy costs per patient in the Pertuzumab group spent on Pertuzumab was 50.3%.

Conclusion

This study shows that Pertuzumab use in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer is associated with a significantly better survival and a low incidence of serious cardiotoxicity. However, the proportionate cost of Pertuzumab therapy remains high and further cost-effectiveness studies should be conducted.

**Key words:** Pertuzumab; Chemotherapy; metastatic breast cancer; Treatment cost

**Citation:** Rahardja S, Tan RYC, Sultana R, Leong FL, Lim EH. Efficacy, patterns of use and cost of Pertuzumab in the treatment of HER2+ metastatic breast cancer in Singapore: the National Cancer Centre Singapore experience. *World J Clin Oncol* 2020; 11(3): 143-151

URL: <https://www.wjgnet.com/2218-4333/full/v11/i3/143.htm>

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.5306/wjco.v11.i3.143>

**Core tip**: Pertuzumab is a humanized anti-human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) monoclonal antibody found in a Phase III clinical trial to significantly improve median survival in HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer when used in combination with a taxane and Trastuzumab, and its clinical efficacy has transformed the therapeutic landscape of HER2-positive breast cancer. In our study, there was a statistically significant difference in the median overall survival between Pertuzumab and non-Pertuzumab groups [51.5 (95%CI: 35.8–60.0) *vs* 32.9 (95%CI: 28.1–37.5) mo; *p =* 0.0128] while the rate of grade 3 cardiotoxicity was low (4.88%). However, costs remain high.

**Introduction**

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, and has recently taken over cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death in developed countries[1]. Majority of adults are concerned about contracting cancer, especially the biopsychosocial aspects that accompany the diagnosis[2]. According to the Singapore Cancer Registry, breast cancer is the most common female malignancy, accounting for 29.1% of all female cancers with an age-standardized incidence rate that has increased threefold since the 1970s. A national government-subsidized breast cancer screening program (BreastScreen Singapore) estimates 7% of new breast cancer cases in Singapore are metastatic at presentation. Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) remains a lethal disease with a historical 5-year survival rate of 22% or lower. However, median survival improved over the past 25 years[3] now ranging from 33[3] to 37 mo[4]. Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) overexpression is seen in 20% of breast cancers and follows a clinically aggressive course with poorer prognosis[5]. Pertuzumab is a humanized anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody found in a Phase III clinical trial to significantly improve median survival in HER2 positive MBC when used in combination with a taxane and Trastuzumab[6], and its clinical efficacy has transformed the therapeutic landscape of HER2-positive breast cancer[7].Given its mortality benefit when added to a trastuzumab-based regimen as first-line therapy[8], it was approved by Singapore’s health authority (Health Sciences Authority) in 2014. Despite its prevalence, the mortality and morbidity of cancer has improved dramatically with the advent of novel therapeutic options. Thus, our study aims to describe the clinical use, efficacy and costs of Pertuzumab in HER2 positive MBC treated in a tertiary cancer centre in Singapore.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

***Patient selection***

We retrieved electronic medical records of 1185 consecutive patients with newly diagnosed MBC referred to the Division of Medical Oncology of National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) from 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2017 from the Joint Breast Cancer Registry. The study was reviewed and approved by the SingHealth Centralised Institutional Review Board Reference: 2018/2400.

Patients with histologically-proven breast cancer, radiological evidence of metastatic disease, and HER2 positivity on immunohistochemistry (IHC) or fluorescence *in situ* hybridization were selected. HER2 positivity was defined as a score of 3+ on IHC or an IHC score of 2+ and a HER2/CEP17 ratio ≥ 2.0 for samples after 1 January 2014 and HER2/CEP17 ratio ≥ 2.2 for samples before 1 January 2014 on fluorescence *in situ* hybridization testing.

After exclusion of 855 patients with HER2 negative and unknown HER2 status, clinical and treatment data were collected for 329 HER2 positive MBC patients. Patients with unknown Pertuzumab usage were then excluded, and data analysis was conducted for all 304 HER2 positive MBC patients. For further cost analyses, patients with incomplete billing data were excluded.

***Source of data***

Clinical data was retrieved in stages. In the first stage, patient demographics, diagnosis, date of death and clinical variables were retrieved electronically from the Department of Cancer Informatics of NCCS. Clinical variables included: estrogen receptor (ER) status, progesterone receptor (PR) status, HER2 status, histological grade and subtype, diagnosis date, age of patient at diagnosis, TNM staging and site of metastases. Presence of visceral metastases was defined as metastases in the liver, lung or brain.

In the second stage, detailed treatment histories of each p­­atient were constructed using the electronic medical records, supplemented by data from the NCCS MOSAIQ chemotherapy prescription database and pharmacy billing records in the SingHealth Electronic Health Intelligence System (eHINTS).

Data on the duration of treatment and date of progression was collected for every line of treatment. Duration of treatment was determined by the patients’ dates of registered visits to the outpatient chemotherapy unit as well as from the outpatient records. The date of progression was obtained based on the date of radiological findings of progressive disease.

In patients who received Pertuzumab, treatment outcomes and order of line of therapy were also noted. This included documenting best response clinically or radiologically, as well as the presence of cardiotoxic side effects. Cardiotoxic side effects was defined as Grade 3 Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction by the presence of resting ejection fraction of 40%–50% or 10%–19% drop from baseline on two-dimensional echocardiography based on the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events Version 4.03. Echocardiography and multiple-gated acquisition results of patients were systematically reviewed to asses for cardiotoxicity consistent with Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events Grade 3 Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction. Patients with no echocardiography, multiple-gated acquisition scan of the heart or clinical documentation were excluded from this analysis.

In the last stage, costs incurred by patients were retrieved based on inpatient and outpatient bills, including total treatment cost for chemotherapy and total treatment cost of Pertuzumab. Patients who had Pertuzumab treatment but did not have any corresponding bills were excluded from this analysis.

***Statistical analysis***

All the patients were categorized as “yes” or “no” based on status of Pertuzumab use. All demographic, clinical and histological data were summarized based on Pertuzumab use. Continuous and categorical variables were summarized as mean [standard deviation (SD), range] or median (inter-quartile range, range), whichever applicable, and frequency (percentage) respectively. Difference between statuses of Pertuzumab group was tested using 2-sample independent *t*-test or Mann-Whitney *U*–test, whichever applicable, and fisher’s exact test for continuous and categorical data respectively.

We also plotted Kaplan-Meier curve to find a difference in overall survival (OS) between statuses of Pertuzumab use. We defined OS as duration between date of diagnosis to date of death or date of last follow up, whichever was later. Difference between Pertuzumab and non-Pertuzumab group was assessed using log-rank test and median survival time. Univariate and multivariable Cox proportional hazard regression model was used to find associated risk factors of OS this population. Quantitative association from Cox regression was expressed as hazard ratio (HR) with its corresponding 95%CI. All the tests used in this study were two sided and *p* – values < 0.05 was considered as statistical significance. All statistical analyses were carried out using SAS Institute Inc 2013. SAS/ACCESS® 9.4. Cary, NC: SAS Institute Inc.

**Results**

***Patient characteristics***

The patient and disease characteristics of the study population are shown in Table 1. The mean ± SD age at MBC diagnosis was 58.1 (11.7) years. The majority of the patients were of Chinese ethnicity (64.5%). The median (interquartile range) duration of follow-up was 21.5 (27.8) mo.

The majority of patients had invasive ductal carcinoma (88.2%) while other histological subtypes comprised the remaining 11.8%. Most breast cancers were histological grade 3 (70.7%). Among the 304 patients, 297 (97.7%) were de novo metastatic cancers. The most common site of metastasis was to the bone, seen in 167 (54.9%) patients.

***Descriptive statistics of study population***

In this study population, 50 (16.4%) patients received Pertuzumab. Of these 50 patients, 31 (62.0%) patients had first-line Pertuzumab therapy. Patients who received Pertuzumab were significantly younger (54.5 years *vs* 58.9 years, *p =* 0.0133). There was also a significant difference in ethnic distribution with more patients of Indian and other ethnicities in the Pertuzumab group (*p =* 0.0003). There was no significant difference between hormone receptor status, grade, histology subtype and site of metastases.

***Survival analysis***

The Kaplan-Meier curve (Figure 1) showed statistically significant increase in OS among the patients who received Pertuzumab (*p =* 0.0128). The median OS of the Pertuzumab and non-Pertuzumab group were 51.5 (95%CI: 35.8–60.0) and 32.9 (95%CI: 28.1–37.5) mo respectively.

All the variables were analysed to find associated risk factors of overall survival (Table 2). Univariate regression analyses revealed that Pertuzumab usage (HR = 0.515, 95%CI: 0.303–0.877, *p =* 0.0145) and positive ER status (HR = 0.722, 95%CI: 0.531–0.981, *p =* 0.0374) were significantly associated with increased survival, while presence of liver (HR = 1.900, 95%CI: 1.395–2.590, *p* < 0.0001), lung (HR = 1.393, 95%CI: 1.023–1.897, *p =* 0.0352), and brain metastases (HR = 2.953, 95%CI: 1.844–4.730, *p* < 0.0001), were significantly associated with decreased survival. Although age and race of the subpopulations were different, they did not significantly affect survival.

Multivariate analysis was conducted to elucidate associations between Pertuzumab use, ER and PR status, and presence of brain, lung and liver metastases. It revealed that site of metastases (brain, liver, lung, bone) and Pertuzumab usage continued to be significantly associated with survival differences, while ER and PR difference did not result in statistically different survival outcomes.

***Pertuzumab response and side effects***

Two (4.88%) of the 41 patients who received Pertuzumab experienced grade 3 cardiotoxicity. Nine patients had unknown side effect status. Thirty-three (66.0%) patients achieved either complete or partial remission as best response to Pertuzumab therapy. Seven (14.0%) patients had unknown response status, while 5 (10%) patients had stable disease and 5 (10.0%) had progressive disease.

***Treatment costs***

For the study population, treatment costs of the chemotherapy were extracted in Singapore Dollars (SGD) and reviewed. The median cost on chemotherapy of the subgroup with Pertuzumab was higher at a median of SGD 130456 compared to SGD 34523 in the subgroup without Pertuzumab. Similarly, the median cost on all services incurred in NCCS of the subgroup with Pertuzumab was higher at a median of SGD 170875 compared to SGD 63741 in the subgroup without Pertuzumab. The median percentage of total chemotherapy costs and total services spent on Pertuzumab is 50.3% and 37.3%, respectively.

**Discussion**

Current guidelines recommend the use of Pertuzumab, Trastuzumab and taxanes for the treatment of metastatic HER2 positive breast cancer. Dual HER2 blockade by adding Pertuzumab to Trastuzumab and a taxane backbone has significantly improved disease control, improved overall survival, duration to progression of disease and improved tumor response to therapy[9,10]. Usage of Pertuzumab as first line therapy was consistent with clinical guidelines, and has demonstrated reproducible safety and efficacy[11]. To further assess real-world efficacy of adding Pertuzumab to Trastuzumab and taxanes, we compared our study population with that of the CLEOPATRA[6] study in terms of clinical efficacy, side effects and cost effectiveness.

***Comparison with CLEOPATRA trial***

Clinical characteristics of this study was compared to the CLEOPATRA trial. The mean age of diagnoses was 58.1 for our study compared to 54 in the CLEOPATRA study. 55.3% of this study has ER and/or PR positive disease compared to 48.0% in the CLEOPATRA study. 68.4% of this study has visceral metastases compared to 78.0% in the CLEOPATRA study.

Notably, 96.4% of our study population were of Asian ethnicity compared with 32% in the CLEOPATRA study. Despite having a slightly inferior overall survival than the CLEOPATRA trial, we are able to conclude that Pertuzumab does significantly prolong overall survival in study with a predominantly Asian population. The cross-study comparison of complete or partial response was also remarkably similar (66% in our study *vs* 68.4% in CLEOPATRA).

The slight difference in overall survival could be explained by medical comorbidities of the different studies, difference in age, and also follow up duration. In addition, the CLEOPATRA study had a longer median follow-up duration of 50 mo compared to 21.5 mo in this study, and a younger population age of 54 compared to 58.1 in this study.

***Prognostic factors***

Consistent with previous studies, presence of visceral metastases (brain, liver and lung) had the strongest association with poorer prognosis[12]. Although ER and PR positivity have been reported to be associated with a better prognosis[13] and higher histologic grade is a poor prognostic factor[14], our univariate and multivariate analyses only demonstrated statistically insignificant trends. This could be attributed to insufficient power of our sample size as well as the possibility that HER2 positivity may contribute significantly more to the prognosis of this subpopulation of breast cancer patients as opposed to the aforementioned factors.

***Serious adverse effects of dual HER2 therapy***

One major adverse effect of HER2 therapy is cardiotoxicity. Studies on Pertuzumab have shown cardiotoxicities to be mainly asymptomatic left ventricular systolic dysfunction or symptomatic heart failure[15].

In our study population, 4.88% of patients who had undergone Pertuzumab treatment experienced significant cardiotoxic side effects. These findings in the real-world setting corroborate with rates in the CLEOPATRA trial and the JACOB[16] trial which reported 6.1% and 5.0% incidence of cardiotoxicity, respectively.

***Cost effectiveness***

Given that many guidelines recommend the use of Pertuzumab due to its efficacy, it would also be prudent to consider literature on value-based and cost effectiveness studies. The United Kingdom National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines concluded that the Incremental Cost-Effective Ratio (ICER) of Pertuzumab exceeds the limit for cost-effective use of United Kingdom’s National Health Service resources, without special considerations as life-extending treatment for patients with incurable disease. This is based on a maximum acceptable ICER of Great Britain Pound (GBP) 30000 per Quality-adjusted Life Years (QALY) gained in treating metastatic breast cancer. Similarly, the American Society of Clinical Oncology published a cost-effectiveness study of addition of Pertuzumab to docetaxel and trastuzumab for HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer. Although median survival was 56.9 mo with Pertuzumab and 39.4 mo without, it concluded that Pertuzumab in addition to Docetaxel and Trastuzumab is unlikely to be cost-effective, with 0% probability of cost-effectiveness at United States Dollar 100000 per QALY gained[17]. Lastly, a cost-effectiveness study of addition of Pertuzumab in combination with Trastuzumab and Docetaxel for HER2 positive metastatic breast cancer in Japan demonstrated that, at a higher limit of GBP 50000, it is still not cost effective as the ICER of Pertuzumab addition is approximately GBP 90000 per QALY[18].

Given the above conclusions and the finding that Pertuzumab accounted for a median of 50.3% of total chemotherapy costs or a median cost of SGD 170875 over 21.5 mo in our study group, policymakers should conduct further cost-effectiveness studies to review the costs and funding models for Pertuzumab, and weigh the costs against the survival benefit. Further quality of life studies would also be helpful to assess the value of Pertuzumab for HER2-positive MBC.

***Limitations***

This retrospective study is subjected to limitations of studies based on electronic health records, which may contain incomplete information. However, efforts to corroborate information with multiple data sources from the Joint Breast Cancer Registry (JBCR) to databases containing chemotherapy prescriptions as well as billing data helped to minimize missing or discrepant data. In addition, this study was conducted at a single tertiary care cancer centre which may limit the extrapolation of data to other healthcare settings.

***Conclusion***

This study shows that Pertuzumab use in the treatment of metastatic breast cancer is associated with a significant improvement in survival benefit, without significant serious adverse effects associated with anti-HER2 agents. However, the proportionate cost of Pertuzumab therapy remains high and further cost-effectiveness studies should be conducted.

**Article Highlights**

***Research background***

Pertuzumab is an anti-HER2 agent that has demonstrated promising clinical efficacy in Phase III trials such as the CLEOPATRA trial. Given the incidence of breast cancer and the proportion of Stage IV breast cancers at diagnosis in an Asian population, there is a need to evaluate its efficacy in an Asian population, and review its costs.

***Research motivation***

We aim to study the use of Pertuzumab in National Cancer Centre Singapore in a predominantly Asian population.

***Research objectives***

We attempted to elucidate the clinical efficacy of Peruzumab in HER2-positive Metastatic breast cancer, evaluate the incidence of Grade 3 cardiotoxicity, and the costs of treatment. In so doing, we hope to guide policy makers on the use of Pertuzumab as an important arm of therapy for metastatic HER2-positive breast cancer.

***Research methods***

We systematically selected the patients based on inclusion criteria further described in the manuscript, and retrieved relevant clinical variables such as billing records, treatment history, patient demographics, response and side effects. Statistical analyses were conducted using SAS Institute Inc 2013.

***Research results***

This study demonstrated statistically significant difference in median overall survival favouring the Pertuzumab group, with low incidence of Grade 3 Cardiotoxicity. However, costs in the pertuzumab group remain significantly higher than the non-Pertuzumab group.

***Research conclusions***

We found that Pertuzumab had statistically significant survival benefit in an Asian population in Singapore. This study proposes that Pertuzumab should be adopted as first line therapy for HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. To summarize the current knowledge, it supports the findings of CLEOPATRA trial, in an Asian population in Singapore. No similar study has been done in an Asian population in Singapore. The implications of this study is that further cost-effectiveness studies should be conducted on the usage of pertuzumab.

***Research perspective***

This study demonstrated the clinical efficacy of Pertuzumab in an Asian population in Singapore, and serves as an impetus for future research on costs.

**References**

1 **Yusuf S**, Joseph P, Rangarajan S, Islam S, Mente A, Hystad P, Brauer M, Kutty VR, Gupta R, Wielgosz A, AlHabib KF, Dans A, Lopez-Jaramillo P, Avezum A, Lanas F, Oguz A, Kruger IM, Diaz R, Yusoff K, Mony P, Chifamba J, Yeates K, Kelishadi R, Yusufali A, Khatib R, Rahman O, Zatonska K, Iqbal R, Wei L, Bo H, Rosengren A, Kaur M, Mohan V, Lear SA, Teo KK, Leong D, O'Donnell M, McKee M, Dagenais G. Modifiable risk factors, cardiovascular disease, and mortality in 155 722 individuals from 21 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries (PURE): a prospective cohort study. *Lancet* 2019 [PMID: 31492503 DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32008-2]

2 **Murphy PJ**, Marlow LAV, Waller J, Vrinten C. What is it about a cancer diagnosis that would worry people? A population-based survey of adults in England. *BMC Cancer* 2018; **18**: 86 [PMID: 29361912 DOI: 10.1186/s12885-017-3963-4]

3 **Sundquist M**, Brudin L, Tejler G. Improved survival in metastatic breast cancer 1985-2016. *Breast* 2017; **31**: 46-50 [PMID: 27810699 DOI: 10.1016/j.breast.2016.10.005]

4 **Gobbini E**, Ezzalfani M, Dieras V, Bachelot T, Brain E, Debled M, Jacot W, Mouret-Reynier MA, Goncalves A, Dalenc F, Patsouris A, Ferrero JM, Levy C, Lorgis V, Vanlemmens L, Lefeuvre-Plesse C, Mathoulin-Pelissier S, Petit T, Uwer L, Jouannaud C, Leheurteur M, Lacroix-Triki M, Cleaud AL, Robain M, Courtinard C, Cailliot C, Perol D, Delaloge S. Time trends of overall survival among metastatic breast cancer patients in the real-life ESME cohort. *Eur J Cancer* 2018; **96**: 17-24 [PMID: 29660596 DOI: 10.1016/j.ejca.2018.03.015]

5 **Arteaga CL**, Sliwkowski MX, Osborne CK, Perez EA, Puglisi F, Gianni L. Treatment of HER2-positive breast cancer: current status and future perspectives. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2011; **9**: 16-32 [PMID: 22124364 DOI: 10.1038/nrclinonc.2011.177]

6 **Swain SM**, Baselga J, Kim SB, Ro J, Semiglazov V, Campone M, Ciruelos E, Ferrero JM, Schneeweiss A, Heeson S, Clark E, Ross G, Benyunes MC, Cortés J; CLEOPATRA Study Group. Pertuzumab, trastuzumab, and docetaxel in HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2015; **372**: 724-734 [PMID: 25693012 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1413513]

7 **Slamon DJ**, Leyland-Jones B, Shak S, Fuchs H, Paton V, Bajamonde A, Fleming T, Eiermann W, Wolter J, Pegram M, Baselga J, Norton L. Use of chemotherapy plus a monoclonal antibody against HER2 for metastatic breast cancer that overexpresses HER2. *N Engl J Med* 2001; **344**: 783-792 [PMID: 11248153 DOI: 10.1056/NEJM200103153441101]

8 **Dawood S**, Sirohi B. Pertuzumab: a new anti-HER2 drug in the management of women with breast cancer. *Future Oncol* 2015; **11**: 923-931 [PMID: 25760974 DOI: 10.2217/fon.15.7]

9 **Gradishar WJ**. Taxanes for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. *Breast Cancer (Auckl)* 2012; **6**: 159-171 [PMID: 23133315 DOI: 10.4137/BCBCR.S8205]

10 **Gleeson JP**, Keegan NM, Morris PG. Adding Pertuzumab to Trastuzumab and Taxanes in HER2 positive breast cancer. *Expert Opin Biol Ther* 2018; **18**: 251-262 [PMID: 29183167 DOI: 10.1080/14712598.2018.1410132]

11 **Bachelot T**, Ciruelos E, Schneeweiss A, Puglisi F, Peretz-Yablonski T, Bondarenko I, Paluch-Shimon S, Wardley A, Merot JL, du Toit Y, Easton V, Lindegger N, Miles D; PERUSE investigators. Preliminary safety and efficacy of first-line pertuzumab combined with trastuzumab and taxane therapy for HER2-positive locally recurrent or metastatic breast cancer (PERUSE). *Ann Oncol* 2019; **30**: 766-773 [PMID: 30796821]

12 **Chen MT**, Sun HF, Zhao Y, Fu WY, Yang LP, Gao SP, Li LD, Jiang HL, Jin W. Comparison of patterns and prognosis among distant metastatic breast cancer patients by age groups: a SEER population-based analysis. *Sci Rep* 2017; **7**: 9254 [PMID: 28835702 DOI: 10.1038/s41598-017-10166-8]

13 **Dunnwald LK**, Rossing MA, Li CI. Hormone receptor status, tumor characteristics, and prognosis: a prospective cohort of breast cancer patients. *Breast Cancer Res* 2007; **9**: R6 [PMID: 17239243 DOI: 10.1186/bcr1639]

14 **Rakha EA**, El-Sayed ME, Lee AH, Elston CW, Grainge MJ, Hodi Z, Blamey RW, Ellis IO. Prognostic significance of Nottingham histologic grade in invasive breast carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2008; **26**: 3153-3158 [PMID: 18490649 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2007.15.5986]

15 **Lenihan D**, Suter T, Brammer M, Neate C, Ross G, Baselga J. Pooled analysis of cardiac safety in patients with cancer treated with pertuzumab. *Ann Oncol* 2012; **23**: 791-800 [PMID: 21665955 DOI: 10.1093/annonc/mdr294]

16 **Tabernero J**, Hoff PM, Shen L, Ohtsu A, Shah MA, Cheng K, Song C, Wu H, Eng-Wong J, Kim K, Kang YK. Pertuzumab plus trastuzumab and chemotherapy for HER2-positive metastatic gastric or gastro-oesophageal junction cancer (JACOB): final analysis of a double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled phase 3 study. *Lancet Oncol* 2018; **19**: 1372-1384 [PMID: 30217672 DOI: 10.1016/S1470-2045(18)30481-9]

17 **Durkee BY**, Qian Y, Pollom EL, King MT, Dudley SA, Shaffer JL, Chang DT, Gibbs IC, Goldhaber-Fiebert JD, Horst KC. Cost-Effectiveness of Pertuzumab in Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2-Positive Metastatic Breast Cancer. *J Clin Oncol* 2016; **34**: 902-909 [PMID: 26351332 DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2015.62.9105]

18 **Tange C,** Kunisawa S, Maeda S, Shimozuma K. Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Of Pertuzumab For Metastatic Her2-Positive Breast Cancer In Japan. *Value Health* 2015; **18**: A456-457 [DOI: 10.1016/j.jval.2015.09.1169]

**Footnotes**

**Institutional review board statement:** The study was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board at SingHealth CIRB B.

**Informed consent statement:** Institutional review board has granted waiver of informed consent based on ethical considerations.

**Conflict-of-interest statement:** There is no conflict of interest associated with any of the senior author or other coauthors who have contributed their effort in the manuscript. All the authors have no conflict of interest related to the manuscript.

**Open-Access:** This article is an open-access article that was selected by an in-house editor and fully peer-reviewed by external reviewers. It is distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial (CC BY-NC 4.0) license, which permits others to distribute, remix, adapt, build upon this work non-commercially, and license their derivative works on different terms, provided the original work is properly cited and the use is non-commercial. See: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

**Manuscript source:** Invited Manuscript

**Peer-review started:** November 1, 2019

**First decision:** November 21, 2019

**Article in press:** February 23, 2020

**Specialty type:** Oncology

**Country of origin:** Singapore

**Peer-review report classification**

Grade A (Excellent): 0

Grade B (Very good): B

Grade C (Good): C

Grade D (Fair): 0

Grade E (Poor): 0

**P-Reviewer:** Kupeli S, Todorovic-Rakovic N **S-Editor:** Ma YJ **L-Editor:** A **E-Editor: Liu MY**

**Figure Legends**

# **Table 1 Patient and disease characteristics**

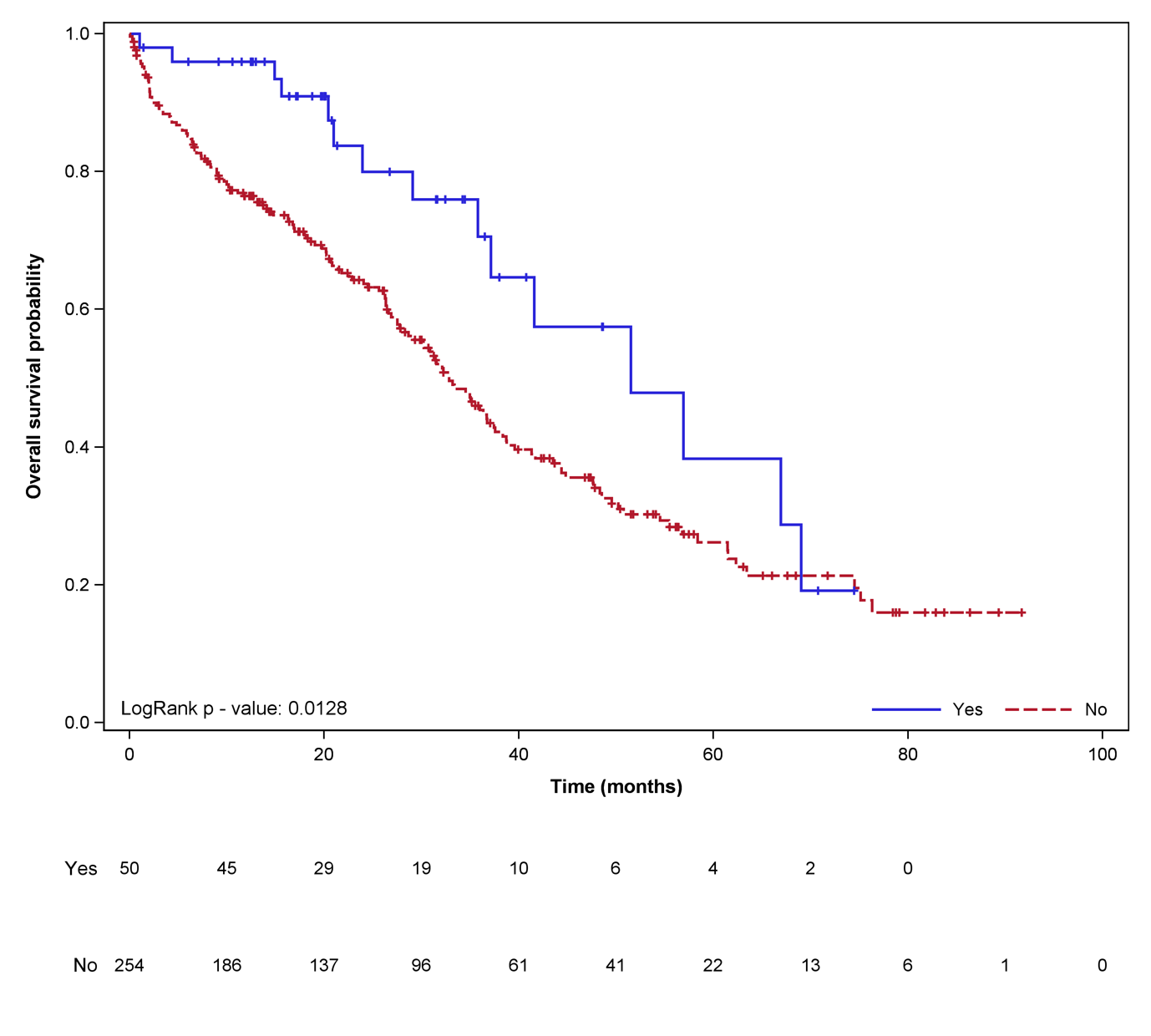
|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **Pertuzumab usage** | | **Total (*n* = 304)** | ***p* value** |
| **Yes (*n* = 50)** | **No (*n* = 254)** |
| **Age at MBC diagnosis** |  |  |  | 0.0133 |
| mean ± SD | 54.5 ± 11.64 | 58.9 ± 11.53 | 58.1 ± 11.65 |  |
| Range | 32–79 | 23–95 | 23–95 |  |
| **Race, *n* (%)** |  |  |  | 0.0003 |
| Chinese | 29 (58.0) | 167 (65.7) | 196 (64.5) |  |
| Malay | 4 (8.00) | 57 (22.4) | 61 (9.21) |  |
| Indian | 5 (10.0) | 14 (5.51) | 19 (6.25) |  |
| Others | 12 (24.0) | 16 (6.30) | 28 (20.1) |  |
| **Hormone receptor status, *n* (%)** |  |  |  |  |
| ER positive | 32 (64.0) | 125 (49.2) | 157 (51.6) | 0.0638 |
| PR positive | 18 (36.0) | 82 (32.2) | 102 (33.6) | 0.3264 |
| **Grade, *n* (%)** |  |  |  | 0.8160 |
| Grade 1 | 0 (0.00) | 3 (1.83) | 3 (1.515) |  |
| Grade 2 | 8 (23.53) | 47 (28.7) | 55 (27.8) |  |
| Grade 3 | 26 (76.5) | 114 (69.5) | 140 (70.7) |  |
| **Histology, *n* (%)** |  |  |  | 0.0899 |
| Invasive ductal carcinoma | 48 (96.0) | 220 (86.6) | 268 (88.2) |  |
| Others | 2 (4.00) | 34 (13.4) | 36 (11.8) |  |
| **Site of metastases, *n* (%)** |  |  |  |  |
| Brain | 6 (12.0) | 17 (6.69) | 23 (7.57) | 0.2369 |
| Lung | 18 (36.0) | 115 (45.3) | 133 (43.8) | 0.2754 |
| Liver | 22 (44.0 | 98 (38.6) | 120 (39.5) | 0.5276 |
| Bone | 30 (60.0) | 137 (53.9) | 167 (54.9) | 0.4425 |
| Other | 16 (32.0) | 94 (37.0) | 110 (36.2) | 0.5249 |
| **Follow-up duration (yr)** |  |  |  | 0.8511 |
| Median (IQR) | 20.6 (21.6) | 22.5 (29.5) | 21.5 (27.8) |  |
| Range | 1–74 | 0–92 | 0–92 |  |

MBC:metastatic breast cancer;ER: Estrogen receptor; PR: Progesterone receptor; IQR: interquartile range.

**Table 2 Univariate and multivariate COX regression**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristics** | **Univariate analysis** | | | **Multivariable analysis** | | |
| **HR** | **95%CI** | ***P* value** | **HR** | **95%CI** | ***P* value** |
| Age | 1.010 | 0.997 – 1.023 | 0.1330 |  |  |  |
| Pertuzumab use | 0.515 | 0.303 – 0.877 | 0.0145 | 0.468 | 0.271 – 0.809 | 0.0066 |
| Positive ER status | 0.722 | 0.531 – 0.981 | 0.0374 | 0.875 | 0.601 – 1.274 | 0.4871 |
| Positive PR status | 0.744 | 0.534 – 1.037 | 0.0806 | 0.770 | 0.511 – 1.161 | 0.2136 |
| Presence of Metastases |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brain | 2.953 | 1.844 – 4.730 | < 0.0001 | 3.620 | 2.229 – 5.879 | < 0.0001 |
| Lung | 1.393 | 1.023 – 1.897 | 0.0352 | 1.520 | 1.107 – 2.086 | 0.0097 |
| Liver | 1.900 | 1.395 – 2.590 | < 0.0001 | 2.051 | 1.495 – 2.815 | < 0.0001 |
| Bone | 1.321 | 0.966 – 1.804 | 0.0808 |  |  |  |
| Other sites | 1.231 | 0.895 – 1.693 | 0.2007 |  |  |  |
| Grade  (Reference: Grade 1) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grade 2 | 3.616 | 0.494 – 26.463 | 0.2056 |  |  |  |
| Grade 3 | 2.799 | 0.388 – 20.202 | 0.3075 |  |  |  |
| Race  (Reference: Chinese) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Indian | 1.184 | 0.636 – 2.204 | 0.5952 |  |  |  |
| Malay | 1.350 | 0.931 – 1.957 | 0.1135 |  |  |  |
| Others | 0.620 | 0.313 – 1.227 | 0.1701 |  |  |  |

Six variables were used for multivariate analyses based on the sample size. They are estrogen receptor status, progesterone receptor status, Pertuzumab use, presence of brain, lung and liver metastases. ER: Estrogen receptor; PR: Progesterone receptor.



*n* = 304

Pertuzumab = 51.5 mo

(95% CI 35.8 – 60.0)

No Pertuzumab = 32.9 mo (95%CI: 28.1–37.5)

# **Figure 1 Kaplan-Meier survival curve comparing median overall survival between patients who had Pertuzumab treatment and who did not have Pertuzumab treatment.**