Characteristics of BAT responders

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Johns Hopkins retrospectively identified genomic characteristics of the best responders to Bipolar Androgen Therapy. They identified 22 men across all their trials (19% of 114 men across several trials) in mCRPC men who responded very well (≥ 70% PSA reduction). They were able to get somatic genomic tests of tissue samples from 15 of them. All 15 "deep responders" harbored a pathogenic mutation in TP53 (a tumor suppressor gene) and/or a homologous recombination DNA repair (HRD) gene. In such patients, their cancer didn't progress for almost a year. As we've seen, that increase in progression-free survival doesn't translate into overall survival.

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The next step would be to prospectively select patients with such mutations and treat them with BAT. We saw last week that response to BAT+PARP treatment did NOT depend on DNA repair defect status, so it is not at all certain that these are the (so far) elusive biomarkers for BAT success. Also, I hope they will do a similar analysis of the worst responders.

Written by