MELANOMA AND MELANOCYTIC NAEVI

ORAL SMALL MOLECULES FOR MELANOMA

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About half of all melanoma patients bear oncogenic mutations in the mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) signaling pathway, in particular BRAFV600E/K. Targeting the tyrosine kinases has led to significant response rates with remarkable improvement in terms of survival in unresectable or metastatic melanoma clinical trials. However, this clinical benefit is very limited in time, because of the development of multiple mechanisms of resistance. In order to overcome this issue, BRAF inhibitors are today given in association to MEK inhibitors. This combination improved the progression-free survival and significantly decreased the toxicity profile associated to BRAF-inhibitors monotherapy.
Thanks to the high clinical activity and the low toxicity profile, targeted therapies have now been approved in the adjuvant setting.