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Novartis reveals advanced breast cancer breakthrough

Novartis Global has announced statistically significant overall survival (OS) results for ribociclib in combination with endocrine therapy at the 55th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). The results offer women with advanced breast cancer a lifeline and hope for a longer life.

"The results announced by Novartis have received great media attention globally, which is a true testament to their significance," said Mohsen Mokhtar, professor of oncology at the Al-Qasr Al-Eini.

"When the world's biggest international news outlets, including NBCNews.com, the New York Times, Reuters, and Forbes, broadcast these results a few hours after their announcement, that is a clear indication that these channels consider this to be one of the scientific developments



that will be highly appreciated by their respective audiences," he pointed out.

"The study, which involved more than 600 cases of advanced premenopausal breast cancer under the age of 59, revealed that patients who received a combined treatment of a daily ribociclib pill and hormone therapy increased their life expectancy after diagnosis compared to women who only received the hormone therapy," Mokhtar said.

He added that, "combined therapy works to reduce the growth of cancer

cells and slow the progression of the disease. It may not lead to full recovery but offers hope for a longer life."

"Overall survival represents the length of time patients remain alive, following either their initial diagnosis or the commencement of treatment. It is also one of the ways scientists can determine how effective a new medication or treatment protocol is when tested in clinical trials," Mokhtar explained.

"The MONALEESA-7 trial evaluated ribociclib plus endocrine therapy (goserelin plus either an aromatase

inhibitor or tamoxifen) as initial treatment compared to endocrine therapy alone in pre- and perimenopausal women with hormone receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 negative (HR+/HER2-) advanced or metastatic breast cancer. The results have been published in The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)," he noted.

Advanced breast cancer in premenopausal women is an aggressive disease and is the leading cause of cancer-related death in women aged 20 to 59 years. In Egypt, 50% of new breast cancer cases are diagnosed in premenopausal women.

The median age of women diagnosed with breast cancer in the Middle East and North Africa region stands at 48, almost ten years below the median age for breast cancer patients in Western countries.