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### **Novartis reveals new hope with overall survival benefit for HR+/HER2- advanced breast cancer patients**

Novartis Pharma SAE (Novartis Egypt) has announced final overall survival (OS) results for the Phase III MONALEESA-2 study. The study evaluated ribociclib in combination with letrozole compared to a placebo plus letrozole in postmenopausal women with hormone receptor-positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative (HR+/HER2-) advanced or metastatic breast cancer with no prior systemic treatment for advanced disease.

"Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among Egyptian women affecting up to 34%. Approximately 15 - 20% of these breast cancers are diagnosed at the metastatic stage. Metastatic breast (stage IV) cancer is a breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast to other parts of the body, such as the lungs, liver, bones, or brain," said Dr. Alaa Kandil, Professor of Clinical Oncology, Faculty of Medicine, Alexandria University.

"Overall survival is the ultimate goal that patients and oncologists seek in the treatment of advanced breast cancer. The overall survival (OS) rate is the length of time patients live after they are first diagnosed or begin treatment. It is a measure used to determine the effectiveness of new medications or therapeutic approaches. Today we discuss the overall survival results with ribociclib from the Phase III MONALEESA-2 study after a median follow-up of over six and a half years, the longest for any CDK4/6 inhibitor trial to date," added Dr. Kandil.