

Safety and Efficacy of Deferasirox Vs. Placebo in Iron-Overloaded Patients with Low- and Intermediate-1-Risk MDS

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Hello, I am Guillermo Garcia-Manero from the Department of Leukemia at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. I am here live at ASH 2018 in San Diego. I am going to summarize for you what I think is a very important presentation. This was on Saturday, one of the oral podiums describing for the first time the results of the TELESTO trial.

TELESTO was a randomized clinical trial of iron chelation in patients with lower-risk MDS with evidence of iron overload. For 15 or more years, there has been a tremendous debate in our field in MDS whether chelating patients with low-risk MDS and evidence of iron overload was of benefit or not. Most of the data was derived from single arm or retrospective type of analysis, so we did not have true prospective randomized data. The aim of TELESTO was a very aggressive goal of accruing a very large cohort of patients with lower-risk disease and evidence of iron overload that actually could not be completed to the form of its original design because basically, iron chelation had become, by then, the standard of care. I was part of this steering community of this trial and we had to with the approval of the authorities, basically decrease their size and perhaps, limit the power of the study, but I think still, the results of the study are of great importance. What Dr. Angelucci showed in his presentation clearly was that those patients that received iron chelation with deferasirox had a significantly better outcome compared to those that did not, and actually their numbers were very significant, actually close to one year of benefit depending on the type of outcome that you look at. I think that this data is important. Unfortunately, it has been now many years that we have been waiting for this type of information, but I think this is going help actually solidify our use of iron chelation in patients with low-risk MDS, something that we have been asking for a long time. With that, I want to thank you again from San Diego.

Reference: Angelucci E, Li J, Greenberg P, et al. Safety and Efficacy, Including Event-Free Survival, of Deferasirox Versus Placebo in Iron-Overloaded Patients with Low- and Int-1-Risk Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS): Outcomes from the Randomized, Double-Blind Telesto Study. ASH 2018. Abstract 234.