

ESMO Annual Meeting 2012
Vienna/Austria, 1st October, 2012

Controversy Session:

***Can neo-adjuvant breast cancer therapy
data be used to accelerate
drug approval?***

Chairperson:

Professor Dr. med. Hans-Jörg Senn

Scientific Director, Tumor- and Breast-Center ZeTuP, and
St.Gallen Oncology Conferences (SONK) St.Gallen/Switzerland

ESMO Annual Congress 2012: Controversy

PRO-Speaker:

Professor

José Baselga, MD, PhD

Boston, MD, USA

CONTRA-Speaker:

Professor

Ian Tannock, MD, PhD

Toronto, ONT, Canada

ARBITER:

All of You in the Audience !

Importance of the Problem, highlighted by the present „Controversy“

- The problem is not new – but seems to increase in the present environment of intensified translational research and of accelerating therapeutic progress.
- It takes years, and generally too long for many in the present scientific and legal framework, until interesting new, potentially more effective and interesting drugs for (breast) cancer treatment are finally „approved“!
- This also involves monetary consequences, as this slow and complicated process of drug approval induces increasing costs for industry and health insurance.
- On the other hand, this complicated, slow multi-step approval-procedure is also regarded by many as a safe-guard for patient-treatment-security.

How to manage the Controversy Session

Voting Procedure I

- You should vote either „**Yes**“, „**No**“ or „**Don't know**“ to the questions of the „**Controversy**“:
- A first time, **before** the contradictory presentations of the 2 speakers, and then
- A second time, **after** their presentations,
- Thereafter, we will **review** and **discuss** the essence of the question and of the voting results as well as **eventual disagreements** between the voting figures before and after the pro- and contra-presentations!

How to manage the Controversy-Session

Voting Procedure II

- And now, lets have a „**Test-Vote**“ to see how you handle the voting system:
- **Test Question:**
„Is Vienna/Austria the nicest convention city of Europe?“
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Don't know

Controversy Question I

(prior to the presentations by the 2 speakers)

- Should neo-adjuvant breast cancer therapy response data be used to accelerate drug approval?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know