

# Phase III trial shows crizotinib superior to single-agent chemotherapy for ALK-positive lung cancer

September 30 2012

---

The results of a new phase III trial show that crizotinib, a targeted therapy, is a more effective treatment than standard chemotherapy for patients with advanced, ALK-positive lung cancer, researchers said at the ESMO 2012 Congress of the European Society for Medical Oncology in Vienna.

Rearrangements of the [anaplastic lymphoma](#) kinase (ALK) gene are found in about 5% of all lung cancers. In previous uncontrolled studies, crizotinib has been shown to induce significant clinical responses in patients with advanced ALK-positive lung cancer.

"This study is the first head-to-head comparison of crizotinib with standard chemotherapy in this patient group," said lead study author Dr Alice Shaw from Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center in Boston, USA. "In ALK-positive patients who have been previously treated with first-line, platinum-based chemotherapy, crizotinib is superior to standard single-agent chemotherapy in terms of response, progression-free survival and quality of life. These results establish crizotinib as the standard of care for patients with advanced, previously treated, ALK-positive lung cancer."

The current global randomized [phase III](#) study compared the efficacy and safety of crizotinib with standard chemotherapy with [pemetrexed](#) or [docetaxel](#), in 347 patients with ALK-positive lung cancer who had

already been treated with chemotherapy.

The study showed that crizotinib prolonged progression-free survival to a median of 7.7 months compared to 3.0 months among those patients who received the chemotherapy (HR 0.49; 95% CI 0.37-0.64 ; P

Citation: Phase III trial shows crizotinib superior to single-agent chemotherapy for ALK-positive lung cancer (2012, September 30) retrieved 19 November 2023 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-09-phase-iii-trial-crizotinib-superior.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.