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March 25-26, 2019 | Amsterdam, Netherlands

Sofia K et al., Arch Gen Intern Med 2019, Volume 3 | DOI: 10.4066/2591-7951-C1-023

APPLICATIONS OF BIOLOGIC DRUGS-BASED BIOSIMILARS ON NSCLC

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Biological products contain active substances and are usually large, complex proteins abundant in living cells. They are used to treat and cure many diseases, however, patient access is restricted due to their high cost. A biosimilar is a biological medicine, which is highly similar to an already existing biological product in terms of structure, purity, immunogenicity, safety and efficacy. Biosimilars aim at improving access to disease modifying therapies, reducing the cost of development and the market's price. They are a way to increase treatment options and lower healthcare costs. Only minor differences between a biologic and a biosimilar are acceptable. In order for a biosimilar to be interchangeable it must meet additional requirements, enlisted in the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act. Bevacizumab (Avastin) is an anti-angiogenic therapy that blocks a protein named Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) and is indicated for many cancer types, including Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). As all the biologic therapies it has a very high cost, thus limiting access to many patients. The first biosimilar for bevacizumab, named Mvasi, was approved in 2017 for the treatment of certain colorectal cancers, NSCLC, cervical cancer and metastatic renal cell carcinoma. In the near future, a number of bevacizumab biosimilars are expected to be available in the market, which will be authorised for most of the prototype biologic indications. The aim of this study is to investigate all the clinical trials in progress for bevacizumab's biosimilars and their proposed indications.

BIOGRAPHY

Sofia K, MSc in clinical pharmacy (UCL, UK) is currently a PhD student at the Medical School, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is a recipient of an Onassis foundation scholarship (G ZO 011-1/2018-2019) in clinical pharmacology-oncology. She has participated in various conferences worldwide. She has published five articles in peer reviewed journals and one book chapter.

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