



Targeted Therapies in Breast Cancer (Oxford American Pocket Notes)

Harold Burstein

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The development of monoclonal antibodies and other inhibitors of specific molecules, fully utilizing the insights learned from molecular techniques such as comparative microarrays and protein expression patterns, has led to the development and FDA approval of several agents for the treatment of breast cancer, such as trastuzumab (Herceptin, targeting HER-2 positive tumors) and lapatinib (Tykerb, targeting tumors with mutated/overexpressed EGFR 1 and 2). Other agents specifically targeting the estrogen receptor, the aromatase pathway and microtubule dynamics, fulvestrant (Faslodex, targeting the ER specifically in breast cancer cells), and letrozole (Femara, targeting the aromatase pathway), raloxifene (Evista, a selective estrogen receptor modulator), ixabepilone (Ixempra, a β -tubulin inhibitor) have also been approved for various stages and specific settings in breast cancer treatment. The current challenges in the field include further targeting of these agents as part of specific strategies for each patient (biomarker testing, pharmacogenetics, etc.), as well as follow-up and management of adverse events.

Part of the Oxford American Pocket Notes series, this volume provides clinicians with the ultra-concise, evidence-based, current information and insight on implementing the latest treatment strategies, including targeted agents, into clinical practice. This portable volume is intended to provide quick, easily accessible guidance for the practicing oncologist, oncology care staff (including nurses and PAs) as well as the primary care practitioner, on the mechanism of action, dosing and administration and adverse effects of the approved targeted agents.

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