

WHEN SHOULD TRASTUZUMAB BE STOPPED AFTER ACHIEVING COMPLETE RESPONSE IN HER2-POSITIVE METASTATIC BREAST CANCER PATIENTS?

Manuela Beda, Umberto Basso, Cristina Ghiotto, and Silvio Monfardini

Department of Medical Oncology, Istituto Oncologico Veneto-IOV, Padua, Italy

We report the case of a woman with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer who achieved prolonged complete remission of multiple liver metastases after treatment with weekly trastuzumab plus paclitaxel but relapsed in the brain soon after stopping trastuzumab maintenance therapy which had

been prosecuted for almost three years. In the absence of randomized trials, the optimal duration of trastuzumab administration after achieving complete remission of metastatic breast cancer remains questionable.

Key words: brain metastasis, breast cancer, duration of treatment, HER2, trastuzumab.