

## A REVIEW: STATUS OF GENETIC MODULATED NONSMALL CELL LUNG CANCER TARGETS AND TREATMENT (CURRENT UPDATES IN DRUGS FOR NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER TREATMENT)

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### ABSTRACT

Genetic modifications or mutations has been a bottleneck for the treatment of cancer; it is widely known to play a vital role in the progression of metastatic level/stage within the nonsmall cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The NSCLC of cancer is responsible for lung cancer lawsuits. In the various genetic mutations related study has been concluded with the various genes findings, which are named as the epidermal growth factor receptor, anaplastic lymphoma kinase, Kristen rat sarcoma virus, ROS proto-oncogene 1, human epidermal growth factor, B-RAF proto-oncogene, rearranged during Transfection, MET, Phosphatidyl 3-kinases CA, IGF-1R, NTRK1, FGFR1, and DDR2. The various research data supported this study. The involvement of the gene in the NSCLC patients made a paradigm shift in the drug discovery. The presence of one mutation in connection with some other could have an impact on NSCLC remedy. Utilizing this genotype-directed therapy for an advanced NSCLC has to turn out to be an appealing and efficacious treatment strategy. Here in the advancement of research, related genetic modulated targets and treatment have been discussed, particular genetic mutations help to find new updated interventions or medicinal drugs for the treatment of NSCLC. In there view, we have comprehensively arranged the mutation type and treatment with the status of NSCLC.

**Keywords:** Non-small lung cancer, Cancer, Mutation, Gene, Lung cancer.

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### INTRODUCTION

#### Introduction: Lung cancer

Lung cancer is the categorically found in lung tissues, mainly in the air passages of cells lining. Lung cancer conventionally categorized into two types as follows: (1) Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and (2) non-SCLC (NSCLC) [1]. Among the all lung cancers, approximately 85% are recognized as nonsmall cell, and approximately 75% of these are metastatic, or advanced, at diagnosis level [2,3]; however, SCLC, also known as oat cell cancer and approximately (10-15%) of all lung cancers. The major difference in between SCLC and NSCLC can be identified under easily by the simple microscopy technique. The SCLC cells appear small and originally packed with the nucleus (cell control center) [4]. NSCLC is further categorized in adenocarcinoma, large cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, which are grouped collectively due to the fact they behave in a similar manner and respond to remedy in a similar way [4-6]. Common signs and symptoms in NSCLC including chest pain, hoarseness, weight loss, cough, shortness of breath, bone ache, yellowing of skin and eyes, and lumps close to the surface of the body [4].

In the last year (2017) report about lung cancer gave the surprising result about the case of lung cancer, it revealed that the number of new cases 222,500 of lung cancer and 155,870 deaths from lung cancer predicted by the American Cancer Society in the United States [3,4]. Lung cancer is the leading cause of most cancers loss of life among all type of cancers. Among the all types of genetically define people affected from lung cancer is more than other type named as colon, breast, and prostate cancers [4,7]. Survival rate varies by gender and cancer stage at the time of diagnosis. From the report of the surveillance, epidemiology, and results program, the relative survival rate of 5 years is 15% for men and 21% for women and the 5-year survival rate of NSCLC patients in different stages, stage IA (49%), stage IB (45%), stage IIA (30%), stage IIB (31%), stage IIIA (14%), stage IIIB (5%), and metastatic or stage IV (1%) [4] at different tumor stages, the mechanism of NSCLC progression may be different [8] and specific. The genetic mutation

helps to identify better target drug treatment for NSCLC patients [5,8]. In almost all the cases of malignancy, these genetic modifications are acquired during a person's lifetime and are available in specific cells in the lung. These mutations, can be referred as somatic mutations, which are not inherited. Somatic mutations in lots of unique genes have been located in lung malignancy cells. Cancer occurs due to the genetic mutations in vital genes, specifically those that manipulate cell development and division or DNA damage repair. These modifications/mutations enable cells to develop and divide widely to form a tumor [9].

#### Genetic modifications in NSCLC

Lung cancer is a major type among other many distinct subsets of cancer that can classify by way of numerous factors, including histology and the molecular make-up of a tumor [2,10]. Genetic changes in lung cancer disease caused by certain changes to genes that decide that how our cells grow and divide. The genetic changes include DNA mutations, which affect the genetic functions or molecular mechanisms known as molecular abnormalities. The molecular abnormalities are associated with growth-promoting and genetic alterations or growth-promoting genes [11,12].

#### Genes, chromosomes, and DNA

Smoking is the major cause of lung cancer among the other risk factors. However, 25% of lung cancer patients are nonsmokers. Various reported a study of different molecular signature, etiology, histology, and location of NSCLC for smokers and nonsmokers [10]. Adenocarcinoma was found prevalent in nonsmoker NSCLC patients. There are certain genes and chromosomes that have a connection with an increased risk of lung cancer at the molecular level. Carriers of TP53 germline sequence variations which also prone for a smoker than three times more likely to develop lung cancer than nonsmokers. There are several reports for a marker on chromosome 15 associated with lung cancer. Our genes made up by DNA, which controls cells functions mostly the cell division process. However, DNA also can influence the risk for the development of certain diseases, such as different type of cancers. The DNA change appears in

the people who inherit a particular chromosome (chromosome 6) are more likely to develop lung cancer [5], but some genes such as *oncogenes*, which control cell growth, including division of new cells, are thought to be important in the development of NSCLC [4,13]. The identification and increased understanding of molecular abnormalities in lung cancer research is mainly involve in identifying of molecular targets including HER family of receptors, anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK), phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K)/RAC-alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase (AKT)/mTOR, epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), Kristen rat sarcoma virus (KRAS), IGF-1R, MET, and ROS [2,12]. The frequency of genetic alterations in NSCLC such as the oncogene KRAS mutated in approximately 30% of lung cancer cases; FGFR-1 amplification (20%); ALK rearrangement (3–7%); AKT1 mutation (1%); DDR2 mutation (approximately 4%); human epidermal growth factor (HER2) mutation (2–4%); KRAS mutation (12–25%); MEK1 mutation (1%); NRAS mutation (1%); Phosphatidyl 3-kinases (PIK3) CA mutation (1–3%); PTEN mutation (4–8%); ROS proto-oncogene 1 (ROS1) rearrangement (1%); MYC (2.5–10%); Cyclin D1 (5%); EGFR mutation (10–35%); rearranged during transfection (RET) rearrangement (1%); and C-erbB2 (Her-2/neu) or BCL2 overexpression involved in approximately 25% of cases; MET amplification and B-RAF proto-oncogene (BRAF) mutations present in about 1–3% of NSCLC [11,14]. This information was utilized to develop targeted therapies [2,10] for the treatment of NSCLC. Molecular mechanism of oncogenes including EGFR, AKT1, BRAF, HER2, KRAS, MEK1, MET, NRAS, PIK3CA, RET, and ROS1 are currently available targets, and the updation of drugs and the clinical trials status has been discussed.

### EGFR

EGFR belongs to receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) [10,15] family that includes EGFR/ERBB1, HER2/ERBB2/NEU, HER3/ERBB3, and HER4/ERBB4. The binding of growth factors or ligands, such as EGF, trigger a conformational change that facilitates homodimer or heterodimer receptor formation, thus resulting in activation of EGFR tyrosine kinase activity. Activated EGFR phosphorylates and its substrates, resulted in multiple downstream pathways activation within the cell. The activation process involve the cell proliferation process by PI3K-AKT-mTOR, RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK or MAPK and the PI3K-AKT-mTOR pathways, which involved in cell proliferation (Fig. 1) [16,17].

### EGFR role in lung cancer

EGFR deregulation (62%) observed in NSCLC (~50% of non-smokers and 5–15% smokers). EGFR mutations is most commonly found in various cancers subtypes including NSCLC in which it occur within its 4 exons (18–21), which encodes a portion of the Tyrosine kinase domain (Fig 2). Heterozygous mutations most prominent in EGFR, with the mutant allele, showing gene amplification and these point mutations occurred as exon 19 deletions or exon 21 L858R point mutations accountable for 44% and 41% EGFR-TK mutations, respectively. These mutations increase EGFR activity, leading to hyperactivity of downstream signalling pathways [18].

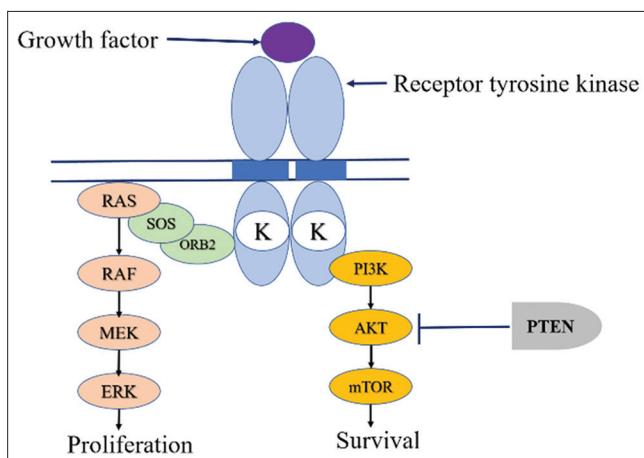
### EGFR inhibitors used in NSCLC with EGFR gene mutations

Since EGFR dysregulation most common in NSCLC, small molecule Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors, Erlotinib (Tarceva®, Roche); Gefitinib (Iressa®, AstraZeneca) and monoclonal antibodies (mAb) - Cetuximab (Erbitux®, Merck) [19] target the EGFR-TK activity and used in the treatment of EGFR mutation [17]. Erlotinib (Tarceva); afatinib (Gilotrif); gefitinib (Iressa), D761 and T854A can be used as a first-line treatment for advanced NSCLCs with EGFR gene mutations [17]. Osimertinib (Tagrisso) targets T790 mutation (methionine substitution for threonine) in exon 20 of EGFR gene which hinder the interaction of inhibitor with receptor [5,20]. Cetuximab and necitumumab (Portrazza), monoclonal antibodies that also target EGFR.

### Treatments available for EGFR mutations

#### *First generations EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors*

The mechanism of action for EGFR-TKIs (first-generation): Blockage of the downstream signaling activation induced by EGFR through ATP-binding sites binding [15,21,22].



**Fig. 1:** Schematic diagram of EGFR signaling pathway [16]. Growth factor binding to EGFR results in activation of the MAPK signaling pathway (RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK) and the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway (PI3K-AKT-mTOR). The letter "K" within the schema denotes the tyrosine kinase domain

Erlotinib (Tarceva®, Roche); Gefitinib (Iressa®, AstraZeneca); Cetuximab (Erbitux®, Merck) [19,23].

**Erlotinib (Tarceva®, Roche):** Erlotinib is reversibly EGFR-TKI and approved by Federal agency FDA as a first-line treatment for EGFR mutation in NSCLC patients mutation in 2013 [15,21].

**Gefitinib (Iressa®, AstraZeneca):** Gefitinib is taken into account as an oral first-generation EGFR TKI and approval by FDA as a first-line treatment for NSCLC patients with EGFR mutations in 2015 [15,21,24].

**Cetuximab (Erbitux®, Merck):** Cetuximab is a chimeric monoclonal antibody that is directly acts on the EGFR mutation in NSCLC [15,20,25,26].

**Icotinib:** Icotinib a Chinese drug and approved as selective EGFR-TKI in NSCLC [15].

#### *Second generation EGFR TK inhibitors*

The mechanism of action for EGFR TKIs (second-generation) is for the alteration of the non-heritable resistance that comes from the failure of first-generation EGFR TKIs. Therefore, the operating mechanisms of second-generation EGFR TKIs do not seem to be precisely like first-generation EGFR TKIs [15], for example, Afatinib (Giotrif®, Boehringer Ingelheim); Dacomitinib (PF-0299804, Pfizer); Neratinib (HKI-272, Pfizer); Pelitinib (EKB-569, Wyeth/Pfizer); Canertinib (CI-1033, Pfizer) [19].

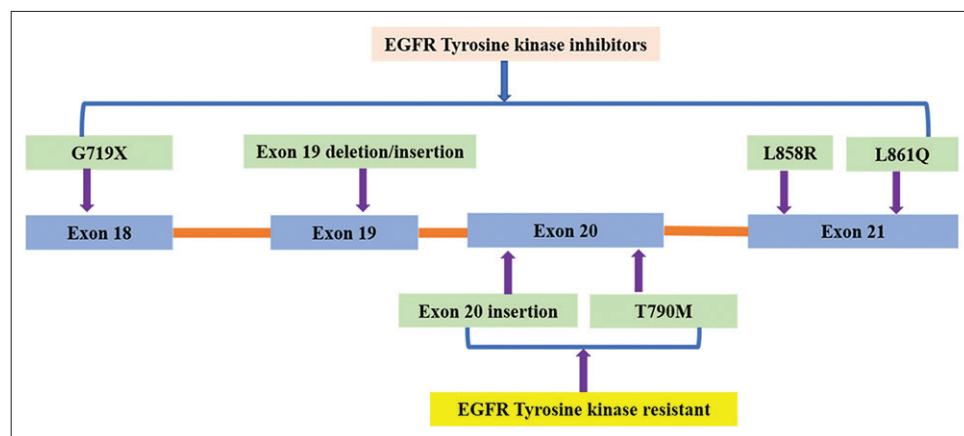
**Afatinib (Giotrif®, Boehringer Ingelheim):** Afatinib is an aniline-quinazoline derivative with a reactive acrylamide group which can modify the catalytic domains of EGFR, HER2, and ErbB-4, with orally bioavailable irreversible EGFR inhibitor and afatinib action may longer than reversible EGFR TKIs [15,27].

**Dacomitinib (PF-0299804, Pfizer):** Dacomitinib is EGFR-TKI in NSCLC by targeting ErbB2 and ErbB4 kinase [15].

**Neratinib (HKI-272, Pfizer):** Neratinib is an irreversible pan-ErbB inhibitors and found with positive response in NSCLC patients with G719X mutations in EGFR [28].

**Pelitinib (EKB-569, Wyeth/Pfizer):** Pelitinib is a potent irreversible EGFR-TKI and currently in clinical trials for the NSCLC treatment [28].

**Canertinib (CI-1033, Pfizer):** Canertinib is 3-chloro,4-fluoro,4-anilinoquinazoline and an irreversible inhibitor for TKI domain of the erbB receptors [29].



**Fig. 2: Schematic representation of EGFR genetic mutations [10,16]. Exons 18–21 of the EGFR kinase domain are depicted. Mutations above the schematic are associated with sensitivity to EGFR TKIs. Mutations listed below the schematic are associated with EGFR TKI resistance.**

### Third generations EGFR TK inhibitors

Nowadays, many EGFR TKIs used in the treatment of NSCLC patients. Unfortunately, all patients treated with gefitinib, erlotinib, or afatinib produces resistance. To an outsized extent, either non-inheritable or intrinsic resistance reduced the effectiveness of EGFR TKIs. These reported mechanisms embody the event of T790M mutation, CMET amplification, HER2 amplification, microscopic anatomy transformation to small-cell microscopic anatomy. Among them, the foremost vital mechanism of non-inheritable resistance is the EGFR T790M mutation. It had been according that prevalence frequency of T790M mutation was from 49% to 63% when rebiopsies. To beat this new issue, completely difference third-generation EGFR-mutant-selective TKIs, similar to osimertinib, rociletinib, and olmutinib, appeared. These agents square measure specifically designed to inhibit EGFR T790M while not wild-type EGFR, that structurally completely different from first-generation and second-generation inhibitors [15,30-32].

Osimertinib (tagrisso, AZD9291): Osimertinib is an irreversible and selective inhibitor for both T790M mutation-positive EGFR and sensitizing EGFR mutation in NSCLC [15].

CO1686 (rociletinib): CO1686 is also third-generation irreversible EGFR-TKI in NSCLC [15].

AC0010: AC0010 is an irreversible inhibitor of EGFR mutants in NSCLC and based on pyrrolopyrimidine [15].

HM61713 (olmutinib): HM61713 is a selective inhibitor for T790M EGFR mutants except EGFR wild-type in NSCLC [15].

### Fourth-generation EGFR TKI's

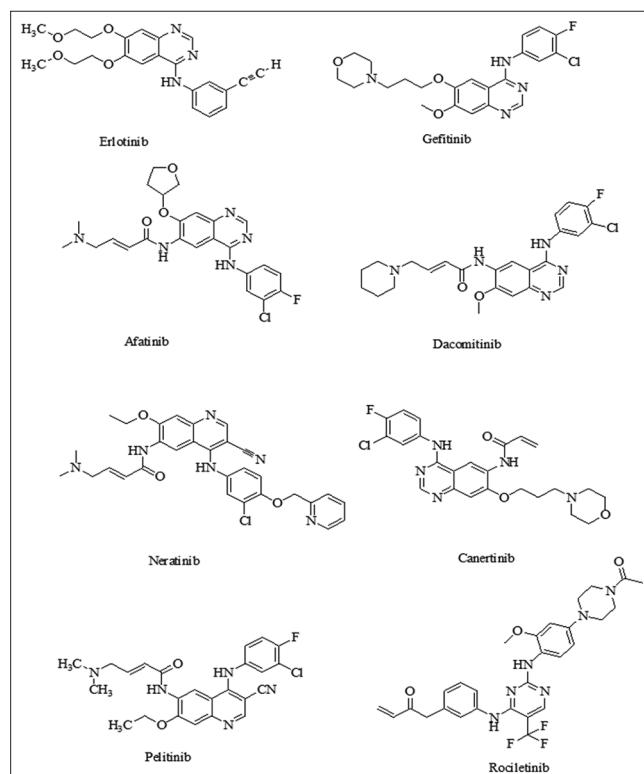
In 32% of patients, the new EGFR C797S mutation occurring. Hence, the fourth-generation EGFR-TKIs appeared to overcome this mutation [15,31,33]. for example, EAI045.

EAI045: EAI045 only works in the combination with cetuximab and targets T790M and C797S EGFR mutations [15].

### Clinical trials on EGFR in NSCLC

In the USA, 93 clinical trials including Phase-I (NCT02639091; NCT02637531; NCT02608385; NCT02595866; NCT02520778; NCT02563548; NCT02496663; NCT02475213; NCT02409108; NCT02381314; NCT02365662; NCT02364609; NCT02327468; NCT02309892 NCT02309177; NCT02157792; NCT02143466; NCT02113813; NCT00889954; NCT02298153; NCT02071862; NCT02013219; NCT01999985), Phase II (NCT02132598; NCT02045446; NCT02323126; NCT02314364; NCT02312622; NCT02045446;

NCT01857271; NCT01854034; NCT01829217; NCT01702844; NCT01746251; NCT01620190; NCT01573702; NCT01553942; NCT01248247); Phase II and III (NCT02438722); Phase III (NCT02409342; NCT02193282); and no phase specified phases (NCT01294280; NCT02299141; NCT02194738; NCT02450591) and 33 clinical trials going on in Phase I (NCT02358473; NCT01998126; NCT01967095; NCT01966445; NCT02088112; NCT01839955; NCT02206763; NCT02192541; NCT02191891); Phase I and II (NCT02155465; NCT02580708); Phase II (NCT02485652; NCT02454842; NCT02448303; NCT02318368; NCT01532089; NCT01336634; NCT01935947; NCT01928160; NCT01877083; NCT02119650; NCT02289833; NCT02271906; NCT01306045); Phase III (NCT02453282; NCT02352948; NCT02322281; NCT02296125; NCT02066636; NCT02134015); Phase IV (NCT02151149); no specified phase (NCT01416688; NCT00900328) at unknown locations for EGFR in NSCLC as a target is mentioned in Tables 1 and 2 [16].



**Table 1: Clinical trials on EGFR in NSCLC in the USA as mentioned below [16]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	BAY 94-9343, pemetrexed and cisplatin	NCT02639091	Recruiting
	IP1-549 and nivolumab	NCT02637531	Recruiting
	Stereotactic body radiation therapy+pembrolizumab	NCT02608385	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab	NCT02595866	Recruiting
	Osimertinib and navitoclax	NCT02520778	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab with PEDPH-20	NCT02563548	Recruiting
	Necitumumab with EGFR inhibitor AZD9291	NCT02496663	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab+enoblituzumab (MGA271)	NCT02475213	Recruiting
	Exotherm total-body hyperthermia	NCT02409108	Recruiting
	Enoblituzumab (MGA271)+ipilimumab	NCT02381314	Recruiting
	ABBV-221	NCT02365662	Active, not recruiting
	Pembrolizumab and afatinib dimaleate	NCT02364609	Recruiting
	INO-1400 vaccine+INO-9012	NCT02327468	Recruiting
	I-DOS47	NCT02309892	Recruiting
	Nab-paclitaxel/carboplatin	NCT02309177	Active, not recruiting
	VX-970	NCT02157792	Active, not recruiting
	AZD9291+ascending doses of novel therapeutics	NCT02143466	Recruiting
	ASP8273	NCT02113813	Active, not recruiting
	Autologous cytotoxic t-lymphocytes	NCT00889954	Active, not recruiting
	Atezolizumab (MPDL280A)+epacadostat (INCB024360)	NCT02298153	Terminated
	Glutaminase inhibitor cb-839	NCT02071862	Recruiting
	Atezolizumab+erlotinib or alectinib	NCT02013219	Active, not recruiting
	Afatinib dimaleate and dasatinib	NCT01999985	Active, not recruiting
Phase II	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT02132598	Recruiting
	Nivolumab+EGF816 and nivolumab+INC280	NCT02323126	Recruiting
	Stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02314364	Recruiting
	Pegylated irinotecan NKTR-102	NCT02312622	Recruiting
	Maintenance chemotherapy with or without stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02045446	Active, not recruiting
	Erlotinib hydrochloride before surgery	NCT01857271	Recruiting
	HSP90 inhibitor AUY922	NCT01854034	Completed
	Sunitinib malate	NCT01829217	Active, not recruiting
	Paclitaxel albumin-stabilized formulation	NCT01702844	Active, not recruiting
	Afatinib dimaleate	NCT01746251	Active, not recruiting
	Paclitaxel albumin-stabilized nanoparticle formulation	NCT01620190	Active, not recruiting
	Stereotactic radiosurgery and Erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01573702	Active, not recruiting
Phase II, Phase III	Afatinib dimaleate, combination chemotherapy, and radiation therapy	NCT01553942	Recruiting
	Erlotinib hydrochloride, AKT inhibitor MK2206, selumetinib, or sorafenib tosylate	NCT01248247	Active, not recruiting
Phase III	Afatinib dimaleate with or without cetuximab	NCT02438722	Recruiting
	Atezolizumab (MPDL3280A) compared with cisplatin or carboplatin+pemetrexed or gemcitabine	NCT02409342	Recruiting
No phase specified	Erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT02193282	Recruiting
	Adjuvant chemotherapy	NCT01294280	Recruiting
	Nintedanib	NCT02299141	Recruiting
	Surgery	NCT02194738	Recruiting
	Local therapy and erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT02450591	Completed

NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer, AKT1: RAC alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase, HSP90: Heat shock protein-90

**Table 2: Clinical trials going on at unknown locations for EGFR in NSCLC as mentioned below [16]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Mogamulizumab+docetaxel	NCT02358473	Completed
	Immune checkpoint inhibitor and erlotinib hydrochloride or crizotinib	NCT01998126	Active, not recruiting
	Low- and high-dose erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01967095	Active, not recruiting
	GSK2849330	NCT01966445	Completed
	MEDI4736 (anti pd-l1)+gefitinib	NCT02088112	Active, not recruiting
	Erlotinib hydrochloride and quinacrine dihydrochloride	NCT01839955	Completed
	Erlotinib and momelotinib	NCT02206763	Terminated
	Ganetespib and ZIV-afibercept	NCT02192541	Terminated
	BI 836845 plus afatinib	NCT02191891	Active, not recruiting
	Ruxolitinib phosphate and erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT02155465	Completed
Phase I, Phase II Phase II	Rociletinib+trametinib	NCT02580708	Completed
	HM61713	NCT02485652	Active, not recruiting
	Pembrolizumab and acalabrutinib	NCT02448303	Active, not recruiting
	Ficlatuzumab plus erlotinib versus placebo plus erlotinib	NCT02318368	Terminated
	Erlotinib hydrochloride with or without bevacizumab	NCT01532089	Active, not recruiting
Dabrafenib monotherapy+dabrafenib and trametinib	Dabrafenib monotherapy+dabrafenib and trametinib	NCT01336634	Active, not recruiting

(Contd...)

Table 2: (Continued)

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase III	Azacitidine and entinostat	NCT01935947	Terminated
	Pemetrexed disodium and carboplatin or cisplatin±erlotinib hydrochloride or gefitinib	NCT01928160	Withdrawn
	Lenvatinib (E7080)	NCT01877083	Active, not recruiting
	Ruxolitinib+pemetrexed/cisplatin	NCT02119650	Terminated
	Trastuzumab emtansine	NCT02289833	Active, not recruiting
	Afatinib dimaleate BIBW 2992	NCT02271906	Terminated
	AZD6244, MK-2206, lapatinib	NCT01306045	Recruiting
	MEDI-4736±tremelimumab, paclitaxel+carboplatin	NCT02453282	Active, not recruiting
	MEDI-4736+tremelimumab and vinorelbine+gemcitabine	NCT02352948	Active, not recruiting
	Rociletinib (CO-1686), rociletinib, pemetrexed or gemcitabine or paclitaxel or docetaxel	NCT02322281	Active, not recruiting
Phase IV	AZD9291 versus gefitinib or erlotinib	NCT02296125	Active, not recruiting
	Nivolumab	NCT02066636	Active, not recruiting
	Patritumab, erlotinib, placebo	NCT02134015	Terminated
No phase specified	Abraxane+carboplatin	NCT02151149	Completed
	Cetuximab, panitumumab, or erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01416688	Active, not recruiting
Laboratory biomarker analysis		NCT00900328	Completed

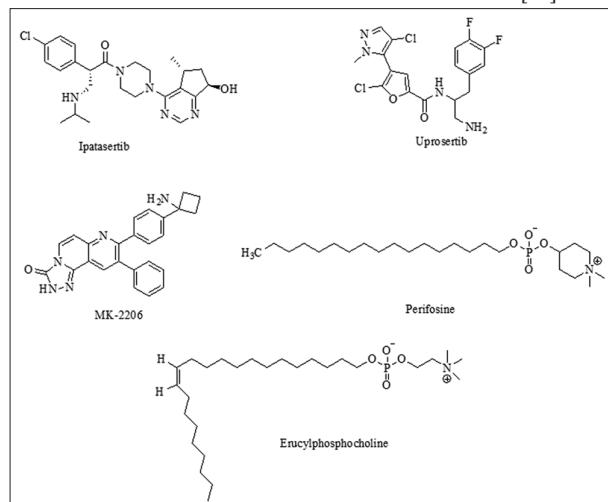
EGFR: Epidermal growth factor receptor; NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer

### AKT1

AKT1 oncogenic mutations are non-overlapping with other mutations which found in NSCLC. AKT1 is related to the serine-threonine protein kinases family which also includes subtypes AKT2 and AKT3. AKT1 plays a key role in cell growth, angiogenesis, proliferation, and survival. The distinct roles of the AKT isoforms in NSCLC are largely unknown, but AKT1 also downregulates PI3K pathway (Fig. 1) [33-37].

#### Treatments available for AKT1 mutations

- Ipatasertib (GDC 0068), which targets all three isoforms of AKT [38,39].
- Uprosertib (GSK 2141795), also another inhibitor of all AKT isoforms, and in combination with oral MEK1/2 inhibitor, it is showed better results in the trials, still it is unclear the role of drug for lung cancer patients [38].
- MK2206, an another allosteric AKT inhibitor, which potentiate erlotinib activity in NSCLC cell lines as well as resensitized cells which developed erlotinib resistance through the HGF-MET axis. In a Phase II trial, MK2206 with erlotinib for patients with advanced NSCLC progressed after previous response to erlotinib (NCT01294306). In Phase-I trial, MK2206 and gefitinib in NSCLC patients also active (NCT01147211) [38]. MK-2206 in combination with erlotinib in NSCLC cell lines showed synergistic growth inhibition [40].
- Perifosine, is a phospholipid derivative of alkylphosphocholine; in Phase I/II trials an oral AKT inhibitor studied for NSCLC (NCT00399789). Perifosine and radiation also recommended in NSCLC [40].



- RX-0201 (Archexin), is a nano-polymer Akt antisense oligonucleotideanticancer drug [40].
- Erucylphosphocholine, is structurally related to perifosine appears to inhibit Akt [40].
- PBI-05204, a derivative of *Nerium oleander* and an inhibitor of Akt [40].
- GSK690693, appeared to delay tumor growth irrespective of Akt activation status [40].
- XL-184, a dual inhibitor of Akt and p70S6K [40].

#### Clinical trials on AKT1

In the USA, two clinical trials including Phase II (NCT02642042; NCT01248247) and some clinical trials at unknown locations in Phase II (NCT02271906; NCT01306045) are going on AKT1 as a target mentioned in Tables 3 and 4 [35].

### BRAF

BRAF belongs to a family of serine-threonine protein kinases that includes A-Raf Proto-Oncogene and C-Raf Proto-Oncogene. RAF kinases are significant mediators in the MAP kinase signaling cascade and exert their impact predominantly via phosphorylation and MEK activation. This occurs following the (hetero or homo) dimerization of the RAF molecules. As a part of the MAP kinase pathway, RAF is involved in many cellular approaches, along with differentiation, cell proliferation, and transcriptional regulation. BRAF mutation implicated in the pathogenesis of several cancers, including melanoma, NSCLC, colorectal cancer, papillary thyroid cancer, and ovarian cancer.BRAF mutations also observed in glioma and gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) [41]. RAF receptor contains the regulative domain, associate in nursing activation loop, and a carboxyl terminus that contains the enzyme domain. The regulative domain is found among exons 1–10 within the amino (N) terminus, whereas the enzyme domain is found among exons 11–18 at the carboxyl (C) terminus (Fig. 3) [17,42–46].

#### Treatment available for BRAF inhibition

- Vemurafenib, a selective BRAFV<sup>600</sup> inhibitor in the treatment of progressive BRAF mutant NSCLC [42,47].
- Dabrafenib, is an another a selective BRAFV<sup>600</sup> inhibitorin NSCLC and could represent a treatment option for a population of patients with limited therapeutic options [42,48].

#### Clinical trials on BRAF

In the USA, nine clinical trials in Phase I NCT02595866; Phase II (NCT01827384); Phase I, Phase II (NCT02452424; NCT02437136;

**Table 3: Clinical trial on AKT1 in NSCLC as mentioned below [48]**

Phase	Drug Candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase II	Docetaxel, laboratory biomarker analysis, trametinib Erlotinib hydrochloride, MK2206, selumetinib, or sorafenib tosylate	NCT02642042	Recruiting
		NCT01248247	Active, not recruiting

NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer, AKT1: RAC alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase

**Table 4: Clinical trial on AKT1 in unknown locations in NSCLC as mentioned below [48]**

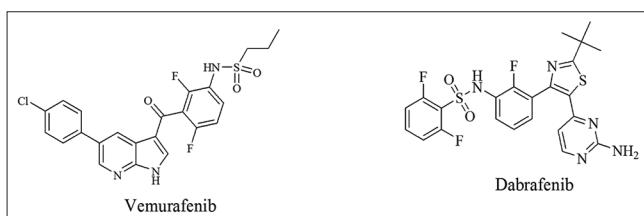
Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase II	Afatinib dimaleate before surgery BIBW 2992 Targeted enzyme inhibitor therapy (AZD6244, MK-2206, lapatinib)	NCT02271906	Terminated
		NCT01306045	Recruiting

NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer, AKT1: RAC alpha serine/threonine-protein kinase

NCT02428712; NCT02404441; NCT02327078; NCT02178722; NCT01325441) and some clinical trials at unknown locations in Phase I, Phase II (NCT01449058); Phase II (NCT01336634; NCT01306045) are going on BRAF as a target mentioned in Tables 5 and 6 [41].

### ALK

It is responsible for 3–7% of all lung cancers [5,49]. For instance, activating missense mutations within full-length ALK are found in a subset of neuroblastomas [49]. The rearrangement in EML-4-ALK is the most common ALK rearrangement seen in NSCLC patients [5]. In non-smoker lung cancer patients, EML-4 mutations are common or had been light smokers whose tumors lack both EGFR and KRAS mutations [5]. Using comparison, ALK fusions found in anaplastic large cell lymphoma (e.g., NPM-ALK, colorectal cancer, inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor). ALK fusions include the whole ALK tyrosine kinase domain. Finally, the ALK copy number and protein expression aberrations have also been found in rhabdomyosarcoma [49]. Other ALK mutations do not been found involving EML-4, including KIF5B-ALK and TFG ALK. Regarding treatment, patients suffered from EML4-ALK fusions or ALK rearrangements not benefited from EGFR-specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy in NSCLC and ovarian cancer [49-52].

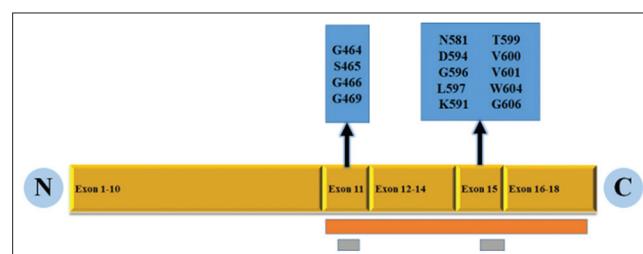


The N-terminal fusion partners (X) promote dimerization and growth factor binding potentiate ALK tyrosine kinase activity results in the cell growth, proliferation, and anti-apoptosis. Signaling downstream of ALK fusions results in the activation of cellular pathways known to be involved in cell growth and cell proliferation (Fig. 4) [49].

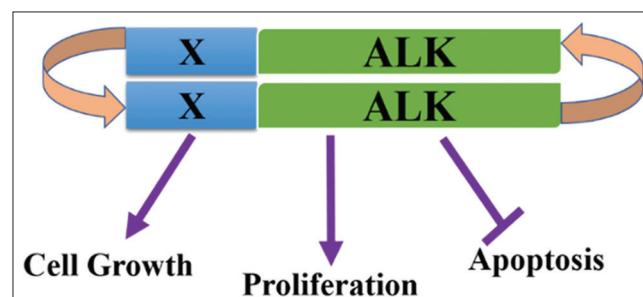
### Interventions for the treatment of ALK mutations

ALK fusion oncogene associated with advanced NSCLC is highly sensitive to ALK tyrosine kinase (TK) inhibitors [51,53].

- Crizotinib, (Xalkori®, Pfizer), is indicated as second-line therapy and targets activated RTKs that result from EML4-ALK and other ALK fusions. Previously untreated advanced non-squamous ALK-positive NSCLCs sufferers had been randomized to receive crizotinib 250 mg by mouth twice a day (n=172). Intravenous chemotherapy (pemetrexed 500 mg plus either cisplatin 75 mg or carboplatin all administered intravenously every three weeks for ≤6 cycles, n=171) [5].
- Ceritinib, is a second-generation ALK inhibitor and approximately 20 times more potent than Crizotinib [53]. FDA approved, ceritinib



**Fig. 3: BRAF mutations within the kinase domain (Red bar): In exons 11 and 15. The activation segment and conserved glycine motif (G-loop) (Grey bar): In exon 11 and in exon 15.**



**Fig. 4: Cell signaling pathway of ALK. Dimerization of the ALK fusion mediated by the fusion partner ("X"), results in constitutive activation of the ALK tyrosine kinase. ALK signaling results in pro-growth and anti-apoptosis.**

for patients who have been intolerant of crizotinib. In clinical and preclinical studies, ceritinib showed activity against cells that were either sensitive or resistant to crizotinib and including with the most common L1196M and G1269A resistance mutations [53].

- Alectinib, is another second-generation ALK inhibitor that showed activity in crizotinib-resistant lung cancer along with brain cancer. It approved by FDA for the treatment of patients with an ALK-positive mutation in NSCLC patients who have shown intolerance for crizotinib [53].
- Brigatinib, is an under investigation for ALK inhibition that yet not approved for clinical use. However, brigatinib associated with early pulmonary toxicity in a small percentage of cases [53].
- Lorlatinib, is another investigational ALK inhibitor that has shown promising activity in a phase I study. Importantly, lorlatinib has proven past time in patients whose tumors harbor the highly resistant mutation ALK G1202R. This mutation confers resistance to different next-generation ALK inhibitors, including ceritinib, alectinib, and brigatinib [53].

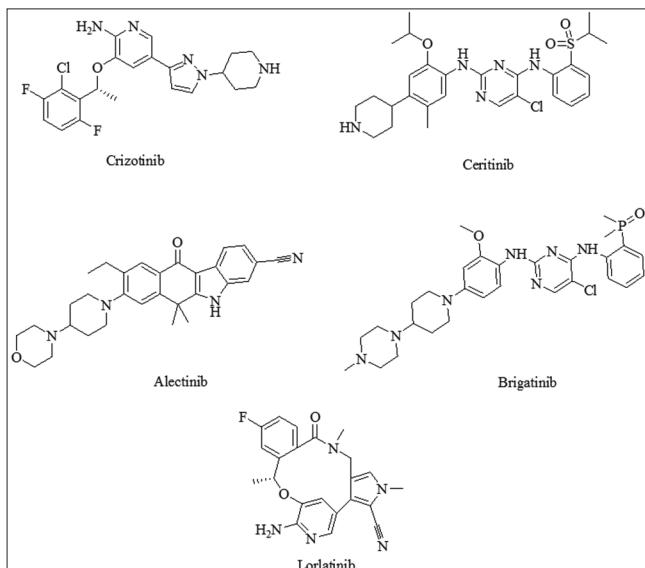
**Table 5: In USA, clinical trial on BRAF in NSCLC as mentioned below [40]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Pembrolizumab and laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02595866	Recruiting
Phase II	Molecular profiling-based targeted therapy (adavosertib, carboplatin, everolimus)	NCT01827384	Suspended
Phase I, Phase II	PLX3397+pembrolizumab	NCT02452424	Active, not recruiting
	Entinostat with pembrolizumab	NCT02437136	Recruiting
	PLX8394	NCT02428712	Recruiting
	PDR001	NCT02404441	Recruiting
	Nivolumab, epacadostat, chemotherapy	NCT02327078	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab (MK-3475)+epacadostat (INC024360)	NCT02178722	Recruiting
	BBI608, paclitaxel	NCT01325441	Recruiting

NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer

**Table 6: Some clinical trials on BRAF at unknown locations as mentioned below [40]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I, Phase II	MEK162+BYL719	NCT01449058	Completed
Phase II	Dabrafenib monotherapy+trametinib	NCT01336634	Active, not recruiting
	Targeted enzyme inhibitor therapy (AZD6244, MK-2206, Lapatinib)	NCT01306045	Recruiting



#### Clinical trials on ALK1

In the USA, 62 clinical trials including in Phase I (NCT02639091; NCT02637531; NCT02608385; NCT02595866; NCT02563548; NCT02422589; NCT02451930; NCT0251184; NCT02409108; NCT02393625; NCT02309892; NCT02321501; NCT02013219; NCT01730118; NCT01803282; NCT01772004; NCT02299505); Phase II (NCT02420314; NCT02414139; NCT02568267; NCT02513667; NCT02498613; NCT02591615; NCT02314364; NCT02312622; NCT02132598; NCT02045446; NCT01935336; NCT01928576; NCT01829217; NCT01822496; NCT01752400; NCT01228435; NCT01702844; NCT02336451; Phase I, II (NCT01970865; NCT01325441; NCT02584634; NCT02554812; NCT02523469; NCT02521051; NCT02487095; NCT02437136; NCT02408016; NCT02404441; NCT02403193; NCT02335918; NCT02327078; NCT02292550); Phase II & III (NCT02154490); Phase III (NCT02504489; NCT02595944; NCT02657434; NCT02201992; NCT02409342; NCT02193282); no specified phase (NCT02178163; NCT02194738; NCT02299141) and some clinical trials in Phase I (NCT02358473; NCT02192541; NCT01998126; NCT01839955); Phase II (NCT01336634; NCT01306045; NCT01935947; NCT01877083); Phase III (NCT01828112); no specified Phase (NCT00900328) at unknown locations are going on ALK1 as a target mentioned in Tables 7 and 8 [49].

#### ROS1

ROS1 is related to a RTK of the insulin receptor family [54] that acts as a driver oncogene in 1-2 % of NSCLC through a genetic translocation between ROS1 and other genes, the most common of which is CD74 [54] chromosomal rearrangements regarding the ROS1 gene, on chromosome 6q22, were initially described in glioblastomas (e.g., ROS1). More recently, ROS1 fusions identified as a potential "driver" oncogene in NSCLC and cholangiocarcinoma [54]. ROS1 fusions incorporate a tyrosine kinase domain. Till date, those tested biologically possess oncogenic activity. Signaling downstream of ROS1 fusions outcomes in the activation of cellular pathways recognized too concerned with cell proliferation and cell growth (Fig. 1). ROS1 fusions are related to sensitivity *in-vitro* to tyrosine kinase inhibitors that inhibit ROS1 [54,55].

#### Interventions for ROS1 inhibition

- **Crizotinib (xalkori):** Is highly active and used as first line treatment or greater in patients with the advanced ROS1 arrangement of NSCLC [56,57]. Xalkori is the first and only FDA-approved treatment for patients with ROS-1 positive NSCLC [57,58].

#### Clinical trials on ROS1

In the USA, eight clinical trials Phase I (NCT02637531; NCT02595866); Phase II (NCT02568267; NCT02426658; NCT02314364; NCT01702844; NCT01639508); Phase I, II (NCT01970865) and some clinical trials in Phase I (NCT01839955) at unknown locations are going on ROS1 as a target mentioned in Tables 9 and 10 [54].

#### HER2

It belongs to a RTKs family that includes EGFR/ERBB1, HER2/ERBB2/NEU, HER4/ERBB4, and HER3/ERBB3. The gene for HER2 is placed on chromosome 17 and found to amplify with an increased copy number of several cancers. Amplification of HER2 has been discovered to promote tumorigenesis and to be involved in the pathogenesis of several human cancers. Until now, no ligand recognized for HER2. However, HER2 appears to be the preferred dimerization associate for all members of the ERBB family. The binding of ligand followed by HER2 heterodimerization outcomes in HER2 tyrosine kinase activation for activity. Then, activated HER2 phosphorylates its substrates, which lead to multiple downstream pathway activation, include PI3K-AKT-mTOR pathway and the RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK pathway, for involvement in cell proliferation, and cell survival, respectively (Fig. 5) [59].

**Table 7: In USA, an around 62 clinical trials targeted as ALK in different phases mentioned below [48]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Anetumab ravidansine+pemetrexed and cisplatin	NCT02639091	Completed
	IPI-549 and nivolumab	NCT02637531	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab and stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02608385	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab and laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02595866	Recruiting
	PEGPEM	NCT02563548	Recruiting
	Ceritinib+warfarin and midazolam	NCT02422589	Active, not recruiting
	Necitumumab (LY3012211) and pembrolizumab (MK3475)	NCT02451930	Active, not recruiting
	Crizotinib plus pembrolizumab	NCT02511184	Recruiting
	Exatherm total-body hyperthermia	NCT02409108	Recruiting
	Ceritinib+nivolumab	NCT02393625	Recruiting
	L-DOS47	NCT02309892	Recruiting
	Ceritinib (LDK378), ceritinib (LDK378) 750 mg, everolimus	NCT02321501	Recruiting
	Atezolizumab+erlotinib or alectinib	NCT02013219	Active, not recruiting
	Autologous Ad HER2 dendritic cell vaccine	NCT01730118	Recruiting
	Andecaliximab, gemcitabine, nab-paclitaxel	NCT01803282	Active, not recruiting
	Avelumab	NCT01772004	Active, not recruiting
	Ceritinib	NCT02299505	Recruiting
Phase II	Paclitaxel, carboplatin, ascorbic acid	NCT02420314	Recruiting
	INC280 (capmatinib)	NCT02414139	Recruiting
	Entrectinib (RXDX-101)	NCT02568267	Recruiting
	Ceritinib and stereotactic ablative radiation therapy	NCT02513667	Recruiting
	Cediranib+olaparib and 18F-fluoromisonidazole, cediranib maleate, laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02498613	Recruiting
	MK-3475, carboplatin, paclitaxel, pemetrexed	NCT02591615	Recruiting
	Stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02314364	Recruiting
	Pegylated irinotecan NKTR 102 and laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02312622	Recruiting
	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT02132598	Recruiting
	Maintenance chemotherapy±stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02045446	Active, not recruiting
	Ponatinib hydrochloride	NCT01935336	Recruiting
	Azacitidine, entinostat, and nivolumab or nivolumab	NCT01928576	Recruiting
Phase I, Phase II	Sunitinib malate	NCT01829217	Active, not recruiting
	Erlotinib hydrochloride or crizotinib and chemoradiation therapy	NCT01822496	Active, not recruiting
	AUY922	NCT01752400	Active, not recruiting
	IPI-504	NCT01228435	Terminated
	Paclitaxel albumin-stabilized formulation	NCT01702844	Active, not recruiting
	LDK378	NCT02336451	Recruiting
	PF-06463922 and crizotinib	NCT01970865	Active, not recruiting
	BB1608 and paclitaxel	NCT01325441	Recruiting
	Avelumab+crizotinib or PF-06463922	NCT02584634	Recruiting
	Avelumab+other cancer immunotherapies	NCT02554812	Recruiting
	Nivolumab with ALT-803	NCT02523469	Recruiting
	Alectinib and bevacizumab	NCT02521051	Recruiting
	VX-970 and topotecan hydrochloride	NCT02487095	Recruiting
	Entinostat+pembrolizumab	NCT02437136	Recruiting
	Genetically modified t-cells	NCT02408016	Active, not recruiting
	PDR001	NCT02404441	Recruiting
	PBF-509_80 mg, PBF-509_160 mg, PBF-509_320 mg and PDR-001	NCT02403193	Recruiting
	Anti-cd27 (varilimumab) and Anti-pd-1 (nivolumab)	NCT02335918	Active, not recruiting
	Epacadostat+nivolumab	NCT02327078	Recruiting
	LEE011 and ceritinib	NCT02292550	Active, not recruiting
Phase II, Phase III Phase III	Biomarker-targeted second-line therapy	NCT02154490	Recruiting
	Docetaxel+plinabulin versus docetaxel+placebo	NCT02504489	Recruiting
	Nivolumab after surgery	NCT02595944	Recruiting
	Atezolizumab+carboplatin or cisplatin+pemetrexed vs carboplatin or cisplatin+pemetrexed	NCT02657434	Recruiting
	Clinical observation, crizotinib, laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02201992	Recruiting
	Atezolizumab (MPDL3280A) versus platinum agent (cisplatin or carboplatin)+(pemetrexed or gemcitabine)	NCT02409342	Recruiting
No phase specified	Erlotinib hydrochloride, clinical observation, laboratory biomarker analysis, placebo	NCT02193282	Recruiting
	Cytology specimen collection procedure, laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02178163	Recruiting
	Genetic testing Nintedanib	NCT02194738 NCT02299141	Recruiting Recruiting

ALK: Anaplastic lymphoma kinase

**Table 8: Some clinical trials targeted as ALK in different phases are going in an unknown location mentioned below [48]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Mogamulizumab+docetaxel	NCT02358473	Completed
	Ganetespib and ZIV-afiblercept	NCT02192541	Terminated
	Immune checkpoint inhibitor and erlotinib hydrochloride or crizotinib	NCT01998126	Active, not recruiting
	Erlotinib hydrochloride and quinacrine dihydrochloride	NCT01839955	Completed
Phase II	Dabrafenib and trametinib	NCT01336634	Completed
	Targeted enzyme inhibitor therapy	NCT01306045	Recruiting
	Azacitidine and entinostat before chemotherapy	NCT01935947	Terminated
Phase III	Lenvatinib (E7080)	NCT01877083	Active, not recruiting
	Ceritinib, pemetrexed, docetaxel	NCT01828112	Active, not recruiting
No phase specified	Laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT00900328	Completed

**Table 9: In USA, clinical trials targeted as ROS1 in different phases are going on mentioned below [53]**

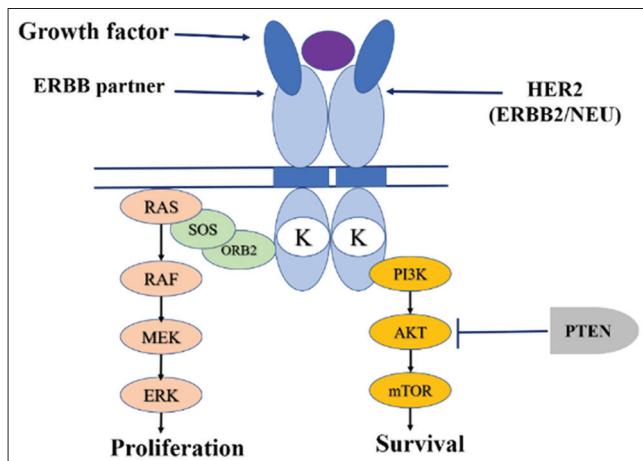
Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	IPI-549, nivolumab	NCT02637531	Recruiting
	Pembrolizumab and laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT02595866	Recruiting
Phase II	Entrectinib (RXDX-101)	NCT02568267	Recruiting
	Pemetrexed disodium	NCT02426658	Recruiting
	Stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02314364	Recruiting
	Paclitaxel	NCT01702844	Active, not recruiting
Phase I, Phase II	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT01639508	Recruiting
	PF-06463922, crizotinib	NCT01970865	Active, not recruiting

ROS1: ROS proto-oncogene 1

**Table 10: Some clinical trials targeted as ROS1 in different phases at unknown locations mentioned below [53]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Erlotinib hydrochloride and quinacrine dihydrochloride	NCT01839955	Completed

ROS1: ROS proto-oncogene 1



**Fig. 5: Cell signaling of HER2. Growth factor binding to EGFR results in activation of the MAPK signaling pathway (RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK) and the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway (PI3K-AKT-mTOR). The letter "K" within the schema denotes the tyrosine kinase domain.**

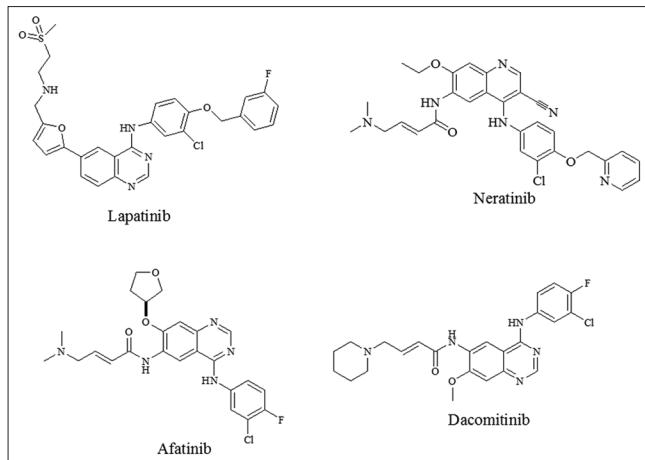
#### Interventions for HER2 mutations

- Lapatinib, tested in a phase II trial as an oral reversible dual TKI of EGFR and HER2 [60].
- Afatinib, evaluated in a phase II study, in which HER2 mutated five patients with advanced adenocarcinoma treated, 3 out of which were evaluable for response. Objective response observed in all three, even after the failure of other EGFR- and HER2-targeted treatments [60].

- Neratinib, is an irreversible pan ErbB-receptor family blocker, has been evaluated in a phase I trial in combination with temsirolimus by preclinical data suggesting synergy of HER2 inhibition and mTOR inhibition in lung cancer models [60]. It has also studied in a phase II trial with advanced NSCLC followed by erlotinib or gefitinib. Response rates in subgroups, including EGFR mutant, wild-type EGFR and EGFR TKI naive- adenocarcinoma with a light smoking history compared and results found 3.4%, 0% and 0%, respectively. Only a small subgroup of patients benefited from neratinib and based on these results; neratinib is no longer in development for NSCLC [61].
- Dacomitinib, is an irreversible pan-HER TKI, and it tested in a phase II cohort of patients with HER2-mutant or amplified lung cancers. An overall response rate in the 26 HER2-mutant patients was 13%, and no response rate in four patients with HER2 amplification or the 2 with HER2 point mutations observed with Dacomitinib treatment [60]. Preliminary data of study in the HER2-mutant cohort reveal a partial response rate and 27% of the patients have maintained stable disease to date [61].
- Trastuzumab, not exhibited significant clinical activity in a phase II trial performed by the Cancer and Leukemia Group B as a single-agent against HER2 2+ or 3+ non-small cell lung carcinoma. However, randomized phase II trial investigated the addition of trastuzumab to gemcitabine and cisplatin, in 103 previously untreated HER2-positive NSCLC patients. Trastuzumab was given both concomitantly with chemotherapy and as maintenance. Although the combination well tolerated, it failed to show a survival benefit in all HER2 IHC-positive lung cancer overall. The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, evaluated the combination of carboplatin, paclitaxel and trastuzumab in patients with HER2-positive (1+ to 3+) NSCLC in a phase II study and overall survival was found to be like historical

data using carboplatin and paclitaxel alone, while patients with 3+ HER2 expression did well in contrast to historical data [60].

- Pertuzumab, is a humanized monoclonal anti-HER2 antibody which is also first-in-class HER2 dimerization inhibitor, and that prevents HER2 dimerization and inhibits HER2 signaling. In a phase II trial, chronic NSCLC patients showed no response in 43 patients after pertuzumab monotherapy, but information on the mutational status of HER2 in these patients is lacking [60].



#### Clinical trials on HER2

In the USA, 16 clinical trials in Phase II (NCT02482311; NCT02327468; NCT02309177; NCT02157792; NCT02482311; NCT02327468; NCT02309177); Phase II (NCT02498613); Phase I, II (NCT02321540; NCT02178722; NCT02321540; NCT02403271) and some clinical trials in Phase I (NCT01862081); Phase II (NCT01306045; NCT02289833); Phase III (NCT02134015) at unknown locations are going on HER2 as a target mentioned in Tables 11 and 12 [59].

#### KRAS

RAS genes identified as of three types: (1) KRAS (homologous to the oncogene from the Kirsten rat sarcoma virus), (2) homologous to the oncogene from the Harvey rat sarcoma virus, and (3) NRAS (first isolated from a human neuroblastoma). The different RAS genes are highly homologous but functionally distinct; the degree of redundancy remains a topic of investigation. RAS proteins, small

GTPases which cycle between an active guanosine triphosphate (GTP)-bound and inactive guanosine diphosphate (GDP)-bound forms. RAS proteins are a central downstream regulator of growth factor receptor signaling and consequently are critical for cell proliferation, differentiation, and cell survival. RAS can activate several downstream pathways which include the PI3K-AKT-mTOR and the RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK pathway, which involved in cell survival and cell proliferation (Fig. 1) [62]. RAS implicated in the pathogenesis of several cancers. Activating mutations in the RAS gene activate the RAS GTPase, even in the absence of growth factor signaling [62]. KRAS mutations are especially not unusual in colon cancer, lung cancer, and pancreatic cancer [62].

#### Interventions for KRAS mutations

Lung adenocarcinomas in addition harbors activating mutations in the downstream GTPase, KRAS, and mutations in EGFR and KRAS appear to be mutually exclusive. As such, no targeted therapies are available for KRAS-mutant non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) even though it is not clear that KRAS mutational status is a predictor of efficacy [7,63].

Supporting targeted therapies against KRAS comes from several studies such as:

- Sorafenib, used as second-line or beyond and KRAS/BRAF marker group who treated with sorafenib had a disease control rate with the stability of illness in patients [64].
- Erlotinib and Gefitinib, as per study Pao *et al.*, patients with mutations in EGFR and KRAS in NSCLC screened to gefitinib or erlotinib. But, the results showed that mutations in KRAS-associated with a lack of sensitivity to either drug [65].
- Trametinib, may also have activity in NSCLC, in a phase II trial, KRAS mutant NSCLC patients randomly assigned to either trametinib or docetaxel as second-line therapy. There were no statistically significant differences between KRAS mutant and KRAS wild-type regarding progression-free survival (PFS) or overall survival (OS). In another phase II trial, patients with advanced NSCLC patients analyzed by KRAS status treated with docetaxel plus trametinib and response rates of approximately less percentage regardless of genotype. In another parallel study, treated cancer patients with pemetrexed plus trametinib also showed fewer response rates regardless of KRAS status as well [63].
- Selumetinib, is an inhibitor of MEK1/MEK2 and downstream regulator of KRAS, with preclinical evidence of synergistic activity with docetaxel in KRAS-mutant cancers [66].

**Table 11: In USA, clinical trials targeted as HER2 in different phases are going on mentioned below [58]**

Phase	Drug Candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	AZD1775	NCT02482311	Active, not recruiting
	INO-1400 vaccine±INO-9012	NCT02327468	Recruiting
	Nivolumab with nab-paclitaxel±gemcitabine	NCT02309177	Active, not recruiting
	VX-970, M6620, gemcitabine, cisplatin	NCT02157792	Active, not recruiting
	AZD1775	NCT02482311	Active, not recruiting
	INO-1400 vaccine±INO-9012	NCT02327468	Recruiting
Phase II	Nivolumab with nab-paclitaxel±gemcitabine	NCT02309177	Active, not recruiting
	Cediranib±olaparib	NCT02498613	Recruiting
Phase I, Phase II	Ibrutinib	NCT02321540	Active, not recruiting
	Pembrolizumab (MK-3475)+epacadostat (INCB024360)	NCT02178722	Recruiting
	Ibrutinib	NCT02321540	Active, not recruiting
	Ibrutinib+MEDI-4736	NCT02403271	Completed

**Table 12: Some clinical trials targeted as HER2 in different phases at unknown locations are going on mentioned below [58]**

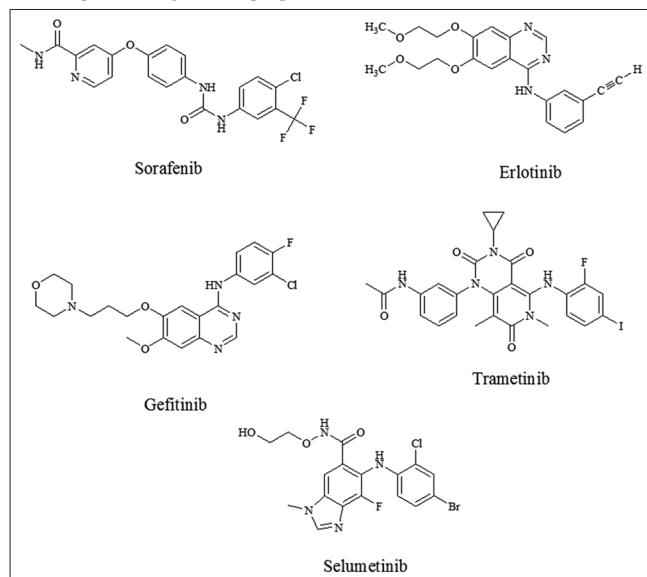
Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	GDC-0032+docetaxel or paclitaxel	NCT01862081	Completed
Phase II	Targeted enzyme inhibitor therapy	NCT01306045	Recruiting
Phase III	Trastuzumab emtansine	NCT02289833	Active, not recruiting
	Patritumab±erlotinib	NCT02134015	Terminated

### Clinical trials on KRAS

In the USA, nine clinical trials in Phase I (NCT02071862; NCT01912625; NCT01911507; NCT01859026); Phase II (NCT02047344; NCT01829217; NCT01752400; NCT02642042); Phase III (NCT02152631) and some clinical trials at unknown locations in Phase II (NCT02258607; NCT01988896); Phase II (NCT01877083; NCT01306045); no specified Phase (NCT00900328) are going on KRAS as a target mentioned in Tables 13 and 14 [62].

### MEK1 - (MAP2K1)

MEK1 is the principal mediator of the MAP kinase signaling pathway. It is a receptor serine-threonine protein kinase, and it involved in many cellular processes, including cell proliferation, differentiation, and transcriptional regulation [67].



### INTERVENTIONS FOR THE MEK1 MUTATIONS

- Selumetinib, is an oral, MEK1/MEK2 kinases selective inhibitor, and using preclinical data of KRAS mutant NSCLC xenograft models, indicated significant inhibition of tumor growth by selumetinib [68].
- Trametinib, is also an oral, MEK1/MEK2 kinases selective inhibitor, and it revealed activity in cell line and xenograft models and RAS mutant models [68].

### Clinical trials on MEK1

No clinical trials found for the MEK1 target.

### NRAS - sub-type RAS gene family

The different types are of RAS genes functionally distinct but highly homologous. It is a subtype of RAS family and first isolated from a human neuroblastoma. RAS proteins are small GTPases, which cycle between active GTP-bound and inactive GDP-bound forms. These proteins are central mediators downstream of growth factor receptor signaling and therefore are crucial to cell proliferation, differentiation and cell survival. RAS downregulate PI3K-AKT-mTOR and RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK pathway, involved in cell survival and cell proliferation (Fig. 1) [69]. NRAS mutations most commonly in melanoma, myeloid leukaemias, and thyroid carcinoma, hepatocellular carcinoma [69].

### Interventions for the NRAS mutations

- Binimetinib, showed robust activity specifically in NRAS-mutant melanoma and an allosteric MEK1/2 inhibitor [70].
- Selumetinib, is a farnesyltransferase inhibitor (FTI) which is a second-generation inhibitor of MEK1/2 and also having potent inhibition of both RAS and RAF-mutant cancers. Further clinical trials of FTIs in melanoma are not ongoing [70].
- Trametinib, is an MEK1/2 allosteric inhibitor.
- Sorafenib is an inhibitor of a multitargeted kinase and tivantinib, a MET inhibitor, also an active against NRAS-mutant melanoma [70].
- SCH772984, was efficacious in cell lines with NRAS, KRAS, and BRAF mutations as well as in models of BRAF inhibitor-resistant melanoma [70].
- Heat shock protein-90, may have a role in the single agent, or combination therapy showed promising activity in NRAS-mutant melanoma inhibition [70].
- Immune-based therapies, such as high-dose interleukin-2, ipilimumab is a monoclonal antibody to cytotoxic T lymphocyte antigen-4 (CTLA4), agents targeting programmed cell death-1 receptor and its ligand (PD-1/PDL-1) Nivolumab (BMS-936558) and pembrolizumab (MK-3475) are some other options for the treatment in NRAS mutations [70].

### Clinical trials on NRAS

Some clinical trials in Phase II (NCT01306045) at unknown locations are going on NRAS as a target is mentioned in Table 15 [69].

### PIK3CA

PI3K are a family of lipid kinases concerned in a lot of cellular processes, along with cell growth, differentiation, proliferation, motility, and survival. PI3K is a heterodimer composed of 2 subunits 110 kDa

Table 13: In USA, clinical trials targeted as KRAS in different phases mentioned below [61]

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Glutaminase inhibitor CB-839 and Pac-CB	NCT02071862	Recruiting
	Trametinib, combination chemotherapy, and radiation therapy	NCT01912625	Recruiting
	INC280 and erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01911507	Recruiting
	MEK162 and erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01859026	Recruiting
Phase II	Antroquinonol	NCT02047344	Recruiting
	Sunitinib malate	NCT01829217	Active, not recruiting
	AUY922	NCT01752400	Active, not recruiting
	Trametinib and docetaxel	NCT02642042	Recruiting
Phase III	Abemaciclib (LY2835219)	NCT02152631	Active, not recruiting

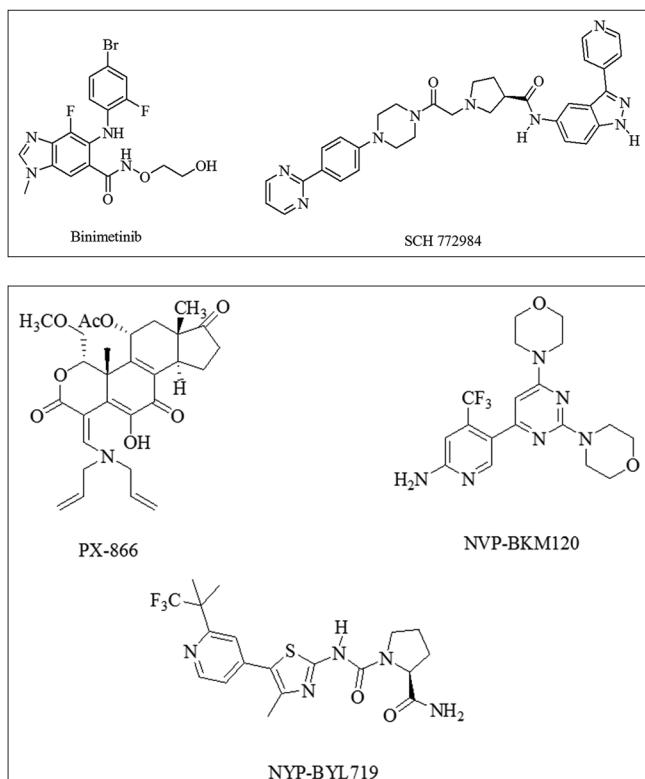
Table 14: Some clinical trials targeted as KRAS in different phases at unknown locations mentioned as follows [61]

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Momelotinib+trametinib	NCT02258607	Terminated
Phase II	Atezolizumab+cobimetinib	NCT01988896	Active, not recruiting
No phase specified	Lenvatinib (E7080)	NCT01877083	Active, not recruiting
	Targeted enzyme inhibitor	NCT01306045	Recruiting
	Laboratory biomarker analysis	NCT00900328	Completed

**Table 15: Some clinical trials targeted as NRAS in different phases at unknown locations mentioned as follows [68]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase II	Targeted enzyme inhibitor therapy (AZD6244, MK-2206, Lapatinib)	NCT01306045	Recruiting

catalytic subunit and 85 kDa regulatory subunit (p85). The PIK3CA gene also encodes p110 $\alpha$ , one of the catalytic subunits [71]. PI3K converted PI (4,5) P2 (Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate) to PI (3,4,5) P3 (Phosphatidylinositol [3,4,5]-trisphosphate) on the inner side of the cell membrane. PI (3,4,5) P3 recruits crucial downstream signaling proteins, inclusive AKT, to the cell membrane resulting in increased activity of these proteins [71]. PIK3CA mutation implicated in the pathogenesis of numerous cancers, including colon cancer, gliomas, breast cancer, gastric cancer, endometrial cancer, and lung cancer [71].



#### Interventions for the PIK3CA mutations

Currently, several inhibitors directed against PI3K are being clinically evaluated for NSCLC treatment as follows:

- PX-866, is a pan class-I PI3K inhibitor that binds PI3K irreversibly and developed from biologically stable semisynthetic viridins [72].
- NVP-BKM120, GDC-0941, XL147, are specific pan-class I PI3K inhibitors [72].
- BAY 80-6946, represents a novel, highly selective and potent pan-class I PI3K inhibitor, which has preferential activity against the p110 $\alpha$  and p110 $\delta$  isoforms, compared with p110 $\alpha$  and p110 $\gamma$  [72].
- NVP-BYL719, is an inhibitor of a p111 $\alpha$  catalytic subunit of PI3K, GSK-2636771 is a p110 $\beta$  selective inhibitor, GDC-0032 is a potent next-generation PI3K inhibitor [72].

#### Clinical trials on PIK3CA

In the USA, eight clinical trials in Phase 0 (NCT02357836); Phase I (NCT02079636; NCT01920061; NCT01859026); Phase II (NCT02642042; NCT01827384) and some clinical trials in Phase I, II (NCT02393209) at unknown locations are going on PIK3CA as a target mentioned in Tables 16 and 17 [71].

#### RET

The RET gene belongs to the RET family of RTKs and positioned on chromosome 10 and encodes a RTK. This gene plays a significant role in neural crest development. Binding of its ligands, the glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor family of extracellular signaling molecules, regulates receptor phosphorylation and activation. After phosphorylation RET-activated, then its substrates, resulting in activation of multiple downstream cellular pathways (Fig. 6) [73]. Genomic alterations in RET found in several different types of cancer. Activating point mutations in RET can give rise to the hereditary cancer syndrome, multiple endocrine neoplasias 2 (MEN2). Somatic point mutations in RET also associated with sporadic medullary thyroid cancer. Oncogenic kinase fusions involving the RET gene found in ~1% of NSCLC [73].

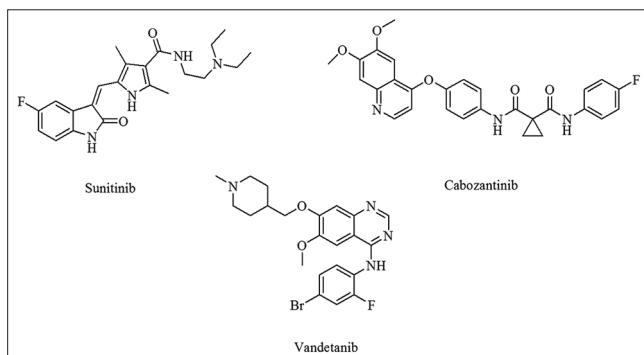
#### Interventions for the RET mutations

- Sorafenib, has potent anti-RET activity and also a multi-kinase inhibitor. Since, sorafenib did not show dramatic results, the study suggesting for testing of other RET inhibitors in the treatment of RET fusion-positive NSCLC [74].
- Sunitinib, is a RET tyrosine kinase inhibitor, and preclinical data of sunitinib suggest that it can play an important role in the clinical development of NSCLC treatment [74,75].
- Cabozantinib, in patients with RET fusion-positive NSCLC cancer, provides new drug treatment paradigm in lung cancers. Toxicities related to cabozantinib are manageable and RET fusion investigations [76].
- Vandetanib, is a RET inhibitor in NSCLC patients [77].

In unselected NSCLC patient, clinical trial conducted, but all these drugs did not show a survival benefit in RET mutations in NSCLC.

#### Clinical trials on RET

In the USA, eight clinical trials in Phase I (NCT02608385; NCT02409108); Phase II (NCT02544633; NCT02498613; NCT02426658; NCT02312622; NCT02132598; NCT02045446; NCT01935336; NCT01928576;



NCT01829217; NCT01822496; NCT01813734; NCT01702844; NCT01639508); Phase III (NCT02595944); no specified Phase (NCT02299141; NCT02194738; NCT02193152) and some clinical trials in Phase I (NCT01839955); Phase II (NCT02485652; NCT01877083; NCT01306045); Phase III (NCT02296125); Phase IV (NCT02151149) at unknown locations are going on RET as a target mentioned in Tables 18 and 19 [73].

**Table 16: In USA, clinical trials targeted as PIK3CA in different phases mentioned below [70]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase 0	Itraconazole	NCT02357836	Recruiting
Phase I	Abemaciclib (LY2835219)	NCT02079636	Recruiting
	PF-05212384+docetaxel, cisplatin, dacotinib	NCT01920061	Recruiting
	MEK-162 and erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01859026	Recruiting
Phase II	Trametinib and docetaxel	NCT02642042	Recruiting
	Molecular profiling-based targeted therapy	NCT01827384	Suspended

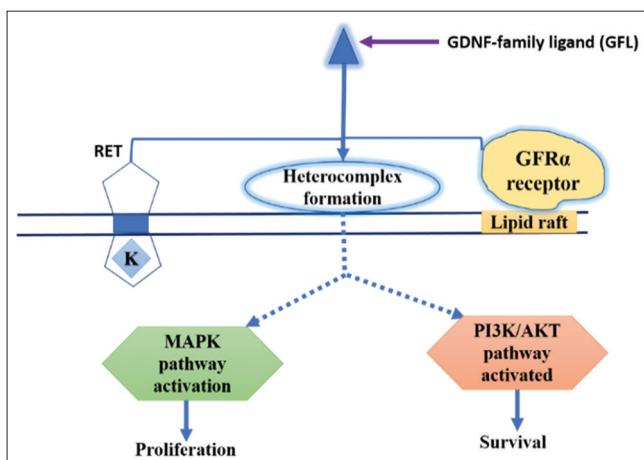
**Table 17: Some clinical trials targeted as PIK3CA in different phases at unknown places as mentioned below [70]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I, Phase II	Docetaxel±MLN1117	NCT02393209	Terminated

**Table 18: In USA, clinical trials targeted as RET in different phases mentioned below [78]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Pembrolizumab and stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02608385	Recruiting
	Exatherm total-body hyperthermia	NCT02409108	Recruiting
Phase II	MGCD265	NCT02544633	Recruiting
	Cediranib±Olaparib	NCT02498613	Recruiting
	Pemetrexed disodium	NCT02426658	Recruiting
	Pegylated irinotecan NKTR-102	NCT02312622	Recruiting
	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT02132598	Recruiting
	Maintenance chemotherapy±stereotactic body radiation therapy	NCT02045446	Active, not recruiting
	Onartuzumab	NCT01935336	Recruiting
	Azacitidine, entinostat, and nivolumab or nivolumab	NCT01928576	Recruiting
	Sunitinib malate	NCT01829217	Active, not recruiting
	Erlotinib hydrochloride or crizotinib and chemoradiation therapy	NCT01822496	Active, not recruiting
	Onartuzumab	NCT01813734	Active, not recruiting
	Paclitaxel albumin-stabilized nanoparticle formulation	NCT01702844	Active, not recruiting
	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT01639508	Recruiting
Phase III	Nivolumab after surgery+chemotherapy	NCT02595944	Recruiting
No phase specified	Nintedanib	NCT02299141	Recruiting
	Genetic testing	NCT02194738	Recruiting
	Pazopanib hydrochloride	NCT02193152	Recruiting

RET: Rearranged during transfection



**Fig. 6: Signaling pathway rearranged during transfection (RET).** RET activation involves binding of glial cell line derived neurotrophic factor-family ligands as well as interaction with GFR alpha receptors, resulting in activation of intracellular MAPK and PI3K pathways. The letter "K" within the schema denotes the tyrosine kinase domain.

#### MET

The MET gene (MNNG-HOS transforming gene) present on chromosome 7 and encodes a RTK which is belonging to the MET/RON family of

RTKs. After, binding of its ligand called as hepatocyte growth factor (HGF; also known as scatter factor), which induces a conformational change within the MET receptor that allows receptor phosphorylation as well as activation. After phosphorylation of its substrates, resulting in activation of multiple downstream pathways within the cell after MET activation, including the PI3K-AKT-mTOR pathway, which is involved in cell survival, and the RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK pathway, which is involved in cell proliferation (Fig. 7). In the context of malignancy, aberrant signaling through the MET receptor promotes pleiotropic effects, including growth, survival, invasion, migration, angiogenesis, and metastasis [78].

The MET receptor and its ligand HGF were mentioned to be aberrantly activated in many human cancers. Germline mutations in MET tyrosine kinase domain, arise in all of the hereditary papillary renal cell carcinomas, Somatic mutations in MET found in 10–15% of sporadic papillary renal cell carcinoma. Mutations in MET reported at low frequencies in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, childhood hepatocellular carcinoma, NSCLC, and SCLC. Amplification of MET reported in gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, colorectal cancer, gliomas, clear cell ovarian cancer, and NSCLC [78].

#### Interventions for the MET mutations

- Tivantinib, is dual EGFR and MET inhibitors, with erlotinib and tivantinib, respectively, tested in non-squamous NSCLC within the awful lot anticipated global phase III trial MARQUEE, after Phase II data [17].

**Table 19: Clinical trials targeted as RET in different phases at unknown locations mentioned below [78]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	Erlotinib hydrochloride and quinacrine dihydrochloride	NCT01839955	Completed
Phase II	HM61713 (BI-1482694)	NCT02485652	Active, not recruiting
	Lenvatinib (E7080)	NCT01877083	Active, not recruiting
Phase III	Targeted enzyme inhibitor therapy	NCT01306045	Recruiting
Phase IV	AZD9291 vs gefitinib or erlotinib	NCT02296125	Active, not recruiting
	Abraxane+carboplatin	NCT02151149	Completed

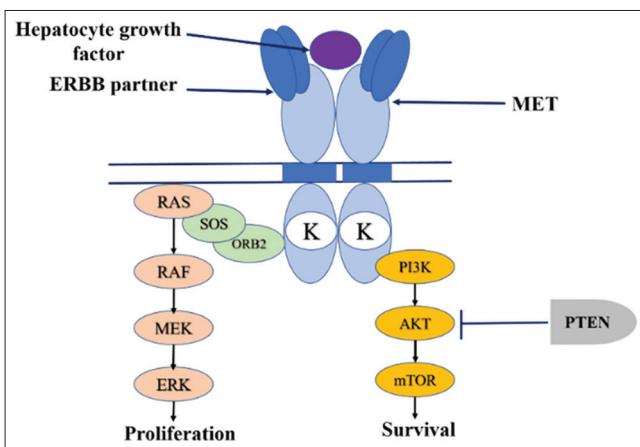
RET: Rearranged during transfection

**Table 20: In USA, clinical trials targeted as MET in different phases mentioned below [77]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase I	INC280+erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01911507	Recruiting
Phase II	MGCD265	NCT02544633	Recruiting
	Chemotherapy and radiation therapy±metformin hydrochloride	NCT02186847	Active, not recruiting
	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT02132598	Recruiting
	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT01639508	Recruiting
	Cabozantinib-s-malate	NCT01588821	Active, not recruiting
	Afatinib dimaleate, combination chemotherapy, and radiation therapy	NCT01553942	Recruiting
Phase II, Phase III	Biomarker-targeted second-line therapy	NCT02154490	Recruiting

**Table 21: Some clinical trials targeted as MET in different phases at unknown locations as mentioned below [77]**

Phase	Drug candidate	Protocol id	Current status
Phase II	Pemetrexed disodium and carboplatin or cisplatin±erlotinib hydrochloride	NCT01928160	Withdrawn
No phase specified	Pilot study of c-MET and p53 expression	NCT00900328	Completed

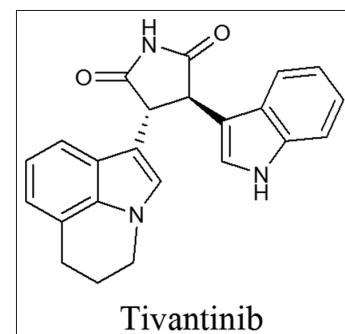


**Fig. 7: Cell signaling pathway for MET. Growth factor binding to MET results in activation of the MAPK signaling pathway (RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK) and the phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway (PI3K-AKT-mTOR). The letter "K" within the schema denotes the tyrosine kinase domain.**

- Onartuzumab, is a monoclonal antibody against MET showed treatment in a Phase II trial [17].

#### Clinical trials on MET

In the USA, eight clinical trials in Phase I (NCT01911507); Phase II (NCT02544633; NCT02186847; NCT02132598; NCT01639508; NCT01588821; NCT01553942); Phase II, III (NCT02154490) and some clinical trials Phase II (NCT01928160); no specified Phase (NCT00900328) at unknown locations are going on MET as a target mentioned in Tables 20 and Table 21 [78].



#### CONCLUSION

The aim of this review is to analyze the current trends in the targets due to the genetic modulation with in the current updates of interventions and clinical trials. The treatment of genetic modulated NSCLC and the current scenario of drug discovery have been touched in a comprehensive way. In future, it will be an important discussion point among the all drug scientist. It is also evident that the intervention of NSCLC just in regard to the changes in genes or genetic mutations that is varied and continues to be studied and analyzed to most benefit treatment of NSCLC patients and society as a whole.

#### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors have participated in (a) conception and design; (b) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and (c) approval of the final version.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no affiliation with any organization with a direct or indirect financial interest in the subject matter discussed in the manuscript.

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