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**Patients Receiving First-line Ceritinib Experienced a 45 Percent Risk Reduction of Disease Progression Compared to Chemotherapy, According to Results from ASCEND-4 Trial**

Vienna, Austria—December 6, 2016—Patients who received first-line ceritinib experienced a 45-percent risk reduction for advanced anaplastic lymphoma kinase and non-small cell lung cancer compared to a control group that received chemotherapy, according to research presented at the **IASLC 17th World Conference on Lung Cancer** in Vienna, Austria.

Ceritinib is an anaplastic lymphoma kinase inhibitor that was approved in 2014 by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of ALK-positive metastatic non-small cell lung cancer following treatment with the anti-cancer drug crizotinib. ALK gene rearrangement is found in about 2 percent to 7 percent of patients with NSCLC, which makes up about 85 percent of all lung cancer.

Dr. Gilberto De Castro Jr., of the Instituto do Cancer do Estado de Sao Paulo, Brazil and his co-researchers established a clinical trial and randomized 376 patients with advanced, non-squamous NSCLC patients to ceritinib or chemotherapy. Patients in the trial were treated for a median 66 weeks on ceritinib and 29 weeks for chemotherapy.

The study met its primary objective, with ceritinib demonstrating statistically significant improvement in progression-free survival of more than 16 months compared to 8 months in the chemotherapy arm and overall objective response to the drug was significantly higher in the ceritinib group (72.5 percent) compared to the chemotherapy group (26.7 percent)."

Fewer patients (5.3 percent) in the ceritinib arm discontinued treatment due to adverse events compared to the chemotherapy-treated patients (11.4 percent).

"In addition to the risk reduction in terms of disease-progression, these patients experienced, ceritinib achieved high and durable systemic responses and high overall intracranial responses in patients with measurable brain metastases," said Dr. De Castro.

**About the WCLC:**

The WCLC is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, attracting more than 6,000 researchers, physicians, and specialists from more than 100 countries. The goal is to increase awareness, collaboration, and understanding of lung cancer, and to help participants implement the latest



developments across the globe. Organized under the theme of “Together Against Lung Cancer,” the conference will cover a wide range of disciplines and unveil several research studies and clinical trial results. For more information, visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/>.

**About the IASLC:**

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) is the only global organization dedicated to the study of lung cancer. Founded in 1974, the association's membership includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries. Visit [www.iaslc.org](http://www.iaslc.org) for more information.

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