

Boehringer Ingelheim Moves into Phase III for its Head and Neck Cancer Trial Programme for Afatinib*

Boehringer Ingelheim

Ingelheim, Germany, 26 January 2012 - Boehringer Ingelheim announced today the initiation of two phase III clinical trials, LUX-Head & Neck 1 and LUX-Head & Neck 2. These trials evaluate afatinib* in patients with metastatic and recurrent head and neck cancer, and in patients with locally advanced disease, respectively.

Afatinib* is an irreversible ErbB Family Blocker which inhibits signal transduction of all kinase receptors from the ErbB Family, and is known to play a critical role in the growth and spread of the most pervasive cancers and cancers associated with high mortality (lung, breast, and head & neck cancers). Over-expression of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR, also referred to as ErbB1) ¹ is found in at least 90% of head and neck cancers and strongly correlates with poor prognosis and overall survival. ²

Positive results from a recently presented phase II study show that afatinib* is the first targeted therapy with at least comparable anti-tumour activity to cetuximab in patients with metastatic head and neck cancer whose cancer has returned (recurrent disease) after treatment with platinum-based chemotherapy. ³

[SOURCE](#) [1]

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<http://www.chem.info/news/2012/01/boehringer-ingelheim-moves-phase-iii-its-head-and-neck-cancer-trial-programme-afatinib>

Links:

[1] http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/news/news_releases/press_releases/2012/26_january_2012_oncology.html