Satellite Symposium

uPA inhibitors – first clinical experience in solid tumours

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European Breast Cancer Conference
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Most cancer deaths are not caused by the primary tumour, but rather result from metastasis. Although the underlying biochemical processes for metastasis are still not fully understood, a large body of research has shown that the urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) system plays a major role in this process.

A high level of uPA in the tumour tissue of patients with, for example, breast, ovarian, pancreatic and gastric cancer, is associated with an unfavourable course of the disease, whereas a low level of uPA tends to correlate with a more favourable prognosis. Patients with a high level of uPA have a significantly lower disease-free survival period as well as a shorter overall survival than patients with low uPA levels. According to the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), uPA is a significant prognostics factor of survival of patients with breast cancer. Recently, ASCO has recommended measuring uPA-system related parameters in clinical trials.

This symposium will review the latest developments in uPA research from both scientific and clinical perspectives.