In this podcast, new, practice-changing research in gastrointestinal (GI) cancer is considered. Clinical trials focusing on immunotherapies presented at the recent American Society of Clinical Oncology Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium in San Francisco are discussed. Highlights included reports of the ONO-4538 study, in which pretreated patients with gastric cancer were randomised to receive either nivolumab or best supportive care, and of the CheckMate 040 study, in which pretreated patients with hepatocellular carcinoma received nivolumab. Nivolumab was also assessed in the CheckMate 142, which considered patients with DNA mismatch repair deficient/microsatellite instability high metastatic colorectal cancer. Other new treatment options and combinations with immunotherapy are briefly considered, but the author suggests that it is too early to draw conclusions from these preliminary data. Emergent side effects from immunotherapy trials in GI cancer are also discussed. In closing, the author considers developments in immunotherapy of GI cancers in the adjuvant setting but notes that trial results are still awaited.

Competing interests None declared.

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