EPROPA (European Program for ROutine testing of Patients with Advanced lung cancer)

2022

Issue 1

# Newsletter 1 | 2022

## EPROPA: an update

**EPROPA** (**E**uropean **P**rogram for **RO**utine testing of **P**atients with **A**dvanced lung cancer), launched in December 2020, is a program addressed at European patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (**NSCLC**).
It represents an effective diagnostic and therapeutic opportunity that allows patients to have a broad and complete molecular characterization with the optimization of the management of the biopsy material and the time required for the outcome of the molecular analysis.


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WALCE

HQ based at Thoracic Oncology Unit (San Luigi Hospital)

Regione Gonzole, 10

10043 Orbassano (TO) (Italy)

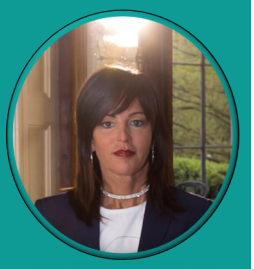
Ph. +39 011 9026980

info@womenagainstlungcancer.eu

www.womenagainstlungcancer.org

## Team EPROPA


## Welcome to the "Faculty Hospital", Trencin - Slovakia



*"A year has already gone since the launch of the EPROPA program and we are pleased to close 2021, announcing a new center has obtained the Ethics Committee approval and will therefore be part of this network together. So* ***Slovakia*** *is joining* ***Italy, Greece, Romania and Slovenia****, where several centers are already active and offer this opportunity to their patients. As always, many patients have contacted us, always involving the centers of reference and we are pleased to have been of support in the diagnostic and therapeutic approach. During this year we have been able to identify target molecular alterations in many of the samples examined and the number of patients benefiting from EPROPA, by accessing a clinical trial available in another center, on the basis of the analyzes carried out, has increased and at the moment we have 6 people."* (***Prof. Silvia Novello*** - President WALCE and Head of Thoracic Oncology Unit - San Luigi Hospital Orbassano / Turin – Italy)

## What is the EPROPA reference center?

**WALCE** is located at the San Luigi Hospital in Orbassano (Turin-Italy), near the Molecular Biology Laboratory of the SCDU of Pathological Anatomy of the Department of Oncology of the University of Turin, where the analyzes will be carried out. WALCE together with the Reference Center will guarantee the quality and timely execution of the analyzes.

# *The patient's Voice:*


*"I have stage 4 mucinous adenocarcinoma of the lung.*

*These words may be enough to describe my situation. If today I am still here I owe it to the competence and the humanity of my oncologist for having promptly offered me the possibility of carrying out a test for the identification of molecular alterations through a program developed by WALCE.*

*The results of the molecular tests came after an exhausting third cycle of chemotherapy and found a genetic mutation "treatable" with an experimental molecular therapy.*

*From May 2021, every 15 days with my daughter, I go to Milan supported by the Association and there I undergo molecular the treatment without incurring any financial expense.*

*I am happy to have had the opportunity to do these tests and to continue receiving assistance."*

(***Felicina***, 66 years old - Turin - Italy)

## *The asbtract submitted to the ESMO 2021 Congress was accepted as a POSTER*

### #3669 EPROPA: European Program for ROutine testing of Patients with Advanced lung cancer

F. Passiglia[1], F. Tabbò[1], L. Righi[1], P. Bironzo[1], M.L. Reale[1], A. Listì[1], C. Sini[2], S. Vallone[3], F. Arizio[4], N. Secen [5], L. Paz-Ares[6], E. Felip[7], A. Araújo[8], H.Linardou[9], K. Mohorcic[10], L. Mazilu[11], E. Szmytke[12], A. Comanescu[13], G. Scagliotti[1]; S. Novello[1]

[1]Oncology Dept., University of Torino, Italy, [2]Medical Oncology and CPDO, Giovanni Paolo II Hospital, Olbia, Italy, [3]WALCE, Orbassano, Italy, [4]Oncology Dept., San Luigi Gonzaga Hospital, Orbassano, Italy, [5]Dept of Diagnostic and Treatment of Lung Cancer, Institute of Pulmonary Diseases of Vojvodina, Serbia, [6] Medical Oncology Dept, University Hospital 12 De Octubre, Madrid, Spain, [7]Medical Oncology Dept, Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain, [8]Dept of Medical Oncology, Centro Hospitalar Universitário do Porto, Portugal, [9]Fourth Oncology Dept, Metropolitan Hospital, Athens, Greece, [10]Medical Oncology Dept., University Clinic of Respiratory and Allergic Diseases Golnik, Slovenia, [11]Medical Oncology, Clinical Emergency Hospital Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania, [12]Lung Cancer Europe, Bern, Switzerland, [13]Community Health Association, Romania

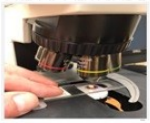
#### BACKGROUND

International guidelines recommend the routine use of next generation sequencing (NGS) as the standard approach to profile advanced lung adenocarcinoma samples (1), with the aim of identifying targetable driver mutations that allow patients' access to targeted drugs available in daily practice or in the context of clinical trials. However, only a small proportion of advanced NSCLC patients currently undergo a complete molecular testing, because of high cost, reimbursement issues, as well as limited access to NGS-platforms across the different countries. At the same time, inequalities in access to new drugs and clinical trials in Europe is something that must be addressed and solved.
To fill the gap affecting the relevant heterogeneity of molecular testing and cancer care across Europe, the Women Against Lung Cancer in Europe (WALCE) Association promoted the European Program for Routine testing of Patients with Advanced lung cancer (EPROPA ).

#### THE PROJECT

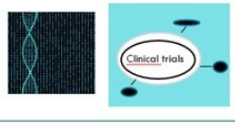
EPROPA provides a molecular screening platform for NSCLC samples characterization in order to increase the detection of both common and rare oncogenic drivers and optimizing patients' access to clinical trials. Centers that join EPROPA may share anonymized clinical-pathological data and ship tissue samples to the molecular pathology laboratory of the Reference Center (University of Turin), in order to perform molecular testing and assessing patients' eligibility for personalized therapies and/or clinical trials. For patients candidates to clinical trials and a caregiver, logistic support will be provided during the different phases of the diagnostic and therapeutic processes.
*All patients over 18-years old; with histological/cytological diagnosis of NSCLC; stage IIIB/C-IV (8th TNM Staging System); with formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue sample* availability for molecular analysis may benefit from EPROPA. With this program, WALCE aims to reduce the inequality of lung cancer patients' access to molecular testing, targeted drugs and clinical trials in Europe.

PRE-ANALITICAL EVALUATION



NGS ANALYSIS WORKFLOW

MOLECULAR TUMOR BOARD




#### REFERENCES

1. Mosele F, et al. Ann Oncol 2020 Nov;31(11):1491-1505.

**Program sponsored by:** *Merck, MSD, Pfizer, Roche, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Lilly, Novartis, Amgen, Incyte e Blueprint Medicines.*
**** Correspondence to: silvia.novello@unito.it***

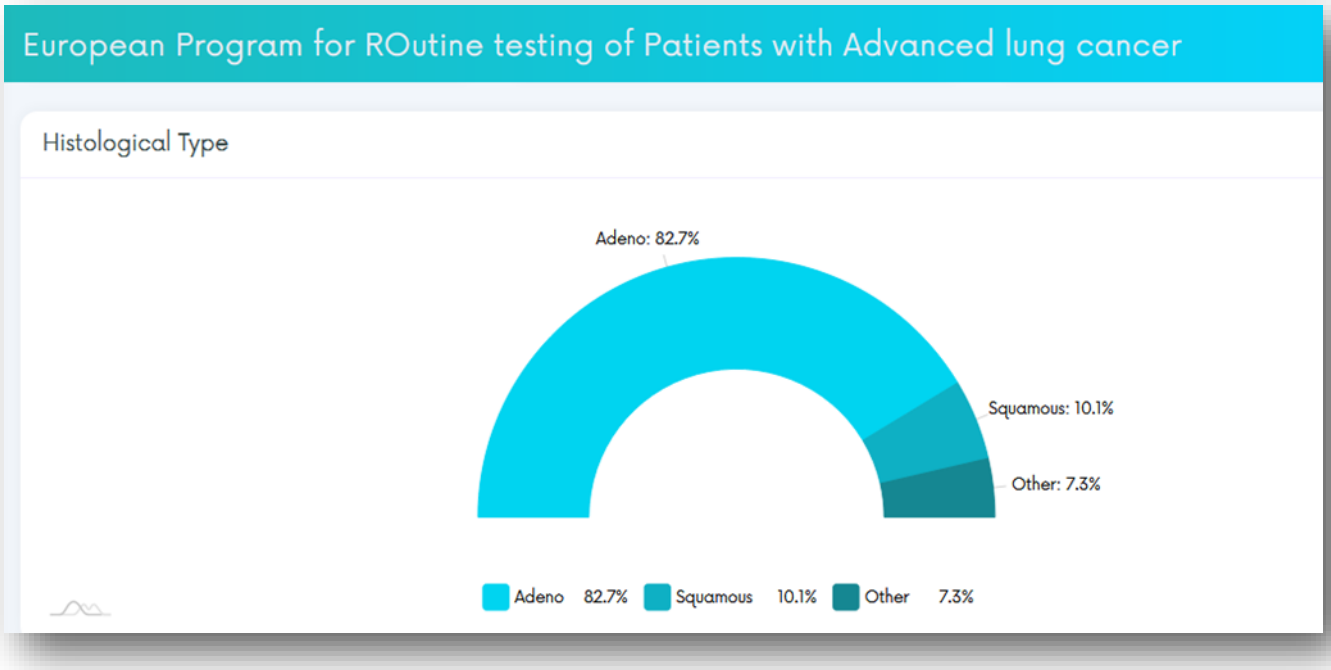
*Thanks to all the authors who collaborated for writing and revising.*

*Thanks to all of you and your teams for dedication and continued efforts.*

In **January 2022** the following numbers were reached:

**Number of patients registered: 189**

**Number of centres registered: 24**




Molecular Tests in progress: 58

Molecular Analysis performed: 167

Clinical Trial Enrollment: 7

We examined SNVs, CNVs, gene fusions, and indels from 161 unique genes to help inform drug discovery research and clinical trial research programs. We performed library construction of DNA and RNA from formalin-fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) tumour samples. We support patients' enrolment within biomarker-driven clinical trials available in Europe.

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*Ph. +39 011 9026980*
*info@womenagainstlungcancer.eu*
*Facebook | Twitter*

Fighting Lung Cancer Together.

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*About WALCE*

***WALCE** (Women Against Lung Cancer in Europe) is a non-profit Organisation based in Italy and networking at European level, founded in 2006 with the primary aim to increase women's awareness about the significant incidence and mortality of lung cancer in female population and to support patients affected by this disease (and their families).*

*WALCE currently provides accurate and updated information about lung cancer in terms of prevention, diagnosis and treatment, and it wants to promote communication strategies aim to aware public opinion and decision makers on damages of smoking. WALCE is mainly involved in: information and education dedicated to patients and their families, patient support programs and primary prevention.*

EPROPA

# *More infos*

## How can you get any information?

Check the website: https://www.epropa.eu/en/

Here you can find information about:

***- participating procedures;***

***- tumour sample shipment instructions;***

***- molecular analysis and clinical trials.***

## How can you enter in EPROPA platform?

1) Access to https://www.epropa.eu/en

2) Download the form and e-mail to: stefania.vallone@womenagainstlungcancer.eu

3) You will receive an email to finalize the process registering to the website platform: www.epropa.eu/portal

**Biological Material:** the samples for analysis must be preferably FFPE blocks of tumor tissue available (which will be returned at the end of the analysis) or 20 blank sections of the same and a paper copy of the report must be added. We provide to evaluate the material: in case of its inadequacy, the analysis will not be carried out. In case of its insufficiency, if possible, a further sending will be requested.

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