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Target Therapy and Immunotherapy in Advanced Thyroid Cancer

Salivary gland cancers and thyroid cancers, though relatively rare, present significant challenges for patients and clinicians. These malignancies often have complex pathologies, varied presentations, and can be difficult to treat effectively. However, the emergence of precision medicine strategies has enabled significant progress in the development of systemic treatment approaches that can improve outcomes for patients.

Salivary gland cancers are characterized by diverse histological subtypes and can be particularly aggressive, especially in advanced stages. Fortunately, the systemic treatment landscape has expanded in recent years, in part due to the identification of a number of targetable molecular alterations in salivary gland cancers. These include HER2 upregulation, androgen receptor overexpression, Notch receptor activation, NTRK gene fusions, and RET alterations, which have dramatically improved treatment outcomes by enabling the use of targeted therapies tailored to individual patient's tumor profiles.

Similarly, in thyroid cancers, certain aggressive subtypes such as RAI-refractory thyroid cancer, anaplastic and medullary thyroid carcinomas can pose formidable challenges. Systemic therapies, including targeted drugs and immunotherapies, have become increasingly important components of comprehensive management approaches. Advancements in genomic testing have enabled the identification of driver mutations and molecular alterations that can be targeted with precision medicine strategies.

This talk will provide an overview of the evolving systemic treatment landscape for salivary gland and thyroid cancers, highlighting the impact of precision medicine and novel treatment.