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Summary

Molecular subgroups in pancreatic cancer for treatment selection

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Pancreatic cancer can be simplified into classical and basal-like molecular subtypes with different biology and treatment responses, but subtype-directed therapy is not yet clinical routine because we lack evidence that different therapies benefit these subtypes differently.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker stated that pancreatic cancer molecular subtypes can be reduced from multiple classifications to two broad groups: classical and basal-like, which have different biology and different responses to chemotherapy.
- Classical subtype patients respond better to therapy and have better prognosis, while the majority of basal-like subtype patients do not respond to conventional chemotherapy.
- Chemotherapy causes a problematic switch from classical to more aggressive basal-like subtype by selecting for resistant cancer cell populations.
- Sampling error from biopsies is a key problem because the two subtypes often coexist in the same tumor, making it difficult to determine their proportions before treatment.
- KRAS inhibitors including approved G12C inhibitors represent a new era of molecular targeted therapy, but the speaker anticipates that selection for mutant clones will be a key challenge requiring combination therapy strategies.

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