

Clinical Cancer Research: Practical Solutions for India and the World

Dr. Vanita Noronha*

This talk presents a body of clinical research spearheaded at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, India, aimed at developing biologically informed, pragmatic, and scalable cancer treatment strategies with relevance for India and the global oncology community. Key topics include genomic characterization of lung cancer in Indian patients and its therapeutic implications, and clinical evidence demonstrating improved survival with the combination of chemotherapy and gefitinib compared with gefitinib alone in EGFR-mutant disease. The development of oral metronomic chemotherapy is discussed as a well-tolerated and affordable systemic treatment approach.

The talk further highlights the introduction of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for borderline resectable oral cavity cancers, subsequent randomized trials, and the evolution of this platform toward integration with low-dose immunotherapy. Emerging data on low-dose immune checkpoint inhibitors in relapsed solid tumors and in first-line palliative treatment of advanced head and neck cancer are reviewed, along with the use of docetaxel as a radiosensitizer in cisplatin-ineligible head and neck cancer. Together, these studies illustrate how context-driven innovation can deliver effective and sustainable cancer care globally.

My biographical description is as follows:

Dr. Vanita Noronha is a leading medical oncologist and researcher with extensive expertise in the management of head-and-neck, thoracic, genitourinary cancers, precision medicine, and geriatric oncology. She currently serves as Professor in the Department of Medical Oncology at Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. Her academic work spans clinical trials, translational research, and the development of cost-effective cancer treatment protocols tailored to resource-constrained settings. She also serves as the Editor-in-Chief of Cancer Research, Statistics and Treatment (CRST), with which she brings a strong commitment to scientific rigor, transparency, and global collaboration. She has published over 300 peer-reviewed articles and is recognized for her leadership in advancing oncology research and mentoring the next generation of clinician-scientists.

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