This study examines the relationship between SNAI2/SLUG in metastatic lung NSCLC cancer with hormone ESR receptor expression as well with MMP involving clinical outcome of patients enrolled in a randomized first-line chemotherapy trial.

Their findings show significant correlation between SNAI2/SLUG expression and worse outcome involving a poorer overall survival which was 5.7 months in patients with high versus versus 11.6 months for patients with low SNAI2/SLUG expression. It did not show correlation with MMP which is fine.

Inversely, patient with high ESR1 expression had an improved median OS with 10.9 months vs. 5.0 months in the low expression group.

In multivariate analysis, they show that SNAI2/SLUG2 and ESR1 separately were independent prognostic factors for survival.

The data lung NSCLC seem to replicate data obtained in breast cancers.

Their conclusion that SNAI2/SLUG is prognostic of patients’ outcome is sound. The strong inverse correlation with ESR1 may indicate a strong impact of estrogen receptor pathway on metastasis. These data may have implication for further evaluation of antihormonal treatment in a patients with ESR1 high lung cancers.

The study is short but sound and would benefit from testing their hypothesis in cell lines in vitro to evaluate the relationship between ESR1 and Slug or Snail.

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Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

Not applicable