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IN THE CLINIC

Beyondspring Pharmaceuticals Inc., of New York, said data from the phase II study of small-molecule candidate plinabulin in non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) selected for presentation at the ASCO-SITC Clinical Immuno-Oncology Symposium in Orlando, Fla., showed that in patients with a measurable lung lesion, the combination of plinabulin and docetaxel increased median overall survival by 4.6 months vs. docetaxel alone. The addition of plinabulin to docetaxel also showed a statistically significant improvement in duration of response, which the company said is indicative of plinabulin's immune effects, vs. docetaxel alone ($p < 0.05$). The addition of plinabulin also mitigated the known docetaxel-related safety concerns, such as neutropenia, without increasing immune-related adverse events. A phase III study in NSCLC is underway.