

Sherry Shen, MD
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Bio:

Dr. Shen is a medical oncologist and clinical investigator at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where she serves as the Co-Director of the Lobular Breast Cancer Program. Her research focuses on developing new treatments for estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) metastatic breast cancer (MBC), such as the combination of lenvatinib, fulvestrant, and pembrolizumab being tested in this project. Immunotherapy has transformed cancer treatment by activating the body's own immune system to fight cancer cells. However, in ER+ MBC, immunotherapy has shown limited success. This is because ER+ tumors often have low levels of immune cells and minimal expression of proteins that are necessary for immunotherapy to work effectively. As a result, the immune system has a harder time recognizing and attacking the cancer cells. Dr. Shen is leading a phase Ib/II clinical trial to test a new treatment combination that could make ER+ MBC more responsive to immunotherapy. Lenvatinib is a medication that targets specific pathways tumors use to grow and suppress the immune system, which can alter the tumor environment to make it more “visible” to the immune system. Fulvestrant is a hormone therapy that blocks estrogen receptors and can also influence the tumor immune environment. Pembrolizumab is an immunotherapy drug that helps the immune system recognize and attack cancer cells. The goal of Dr. Shen’s project is to test the effectiveness of lenvatinib, fulvestrant, and pembrolizumab in achieving tumor shrinkage and disease control in patients with ER+ MBC. Additionally, she plans to identify factors that predict which patients are most likely to benefit, which can lead to more personalized care. Ultimately, Dr. Shen hopes to identify new treatments that are effective and improve quality of life for patients with ER+ MBC.