

Efficacy and safety of lorlatinib in patients with ALK- and ROS1-rearranged metastatic non-small cell lung cancer treated within the compassionate use program in Spain

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Abbreviations: NGS, next-generation sequencing; FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; IHC, immunohistochemistry.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Lorlatinib, a third-generation tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI), targets both ALK and ROS1 rearrangements in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). It is approved for ALK-positive patients after progression on prior TKIs but lacks FDA or EMA approval for ROS1-positive NSCLC. This study evaluates lorlatinib's efficacy and safety in both ALK- and ROS1-positive patients through a compassionate use program in Spain.

Methods: We analyzed ALK-positive patients treated from November 2016 to February 2019 and ROS1-positive patients treated from November 2016 to March 2021. Eligible patients had Stage IV NSCLC with confirmed ALK or ROS1 rearrangements and prior TKI therapy. For ALK-positive patients, at least two prior TKIs were required if crizotinib was used first. For ROS1-positive patients, prior crizotinib was required.

Results: In 61 ALK-positive patients, 59 % had brain metastasis, and 85.2 % received at least two prior ALK TKIs. The overall response rate (ORR) was 32.8 %, with a median progression-free survival (PFS) of 11.2 months. Intracranial ORR was 47.6 %, with higher efficacy in patients with evaluable brain metastasis. In patients with 1, 2, or ≥ 3 lines of previous TKIs, we observed a median PFS of 15.1, 11.1 and 7.6 months, respectively. Among 42 ROS1-positive patients, 59 % had brain metastasis, and 61.9 % received ≥ 2 prior therapies. The confirmed ORR was 47.6 %, with 16.7 % complete responses. Median PFS was 10 months. Patients receiving crizotinib alone had a median PFS of 10 months, while those with two prior TKIs had a median PFS of 8.5 months. Intracranial response was 44.4 %, rising to 57.1 % in patients evaluable with brain metastasis. No new safety signals were observed.

Conclusion: Lorlatinib demonstrated consistent efficacy and manageable safety in both ALK- and ROS1-positive NSCLC patients treated under the compassionate use program in Spain. These real-world findings support its use as an effective treatment option in heavily pretreated patients.

MicroAbstract: We evaluated the efficacy and safety of lorlatinib in ALK- and ROS1-positive NSCLC patients within a compassionate use program in Spain. Among 61 ALK-positive patients, including 59 % with brain metastasis and 85.2 % treated with at least 2 prior ALK TKIs, lorlatinib achieved a confirmed overall response rate (ORR) of 32.8 % and a median progression-free survival (PFS) of 11.2 months. In 42 ROS1-positive patients previously treated with crizotinib, lorlatinib showed an ORR of 47.6 % and a median PFS of 10 months, confirming its clinical activity despite the lack of FDA or EMA approval for this indication.

Introduction

Rearrangements in the anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) and c-ros oncogene 1 (ROS1) genes occur in 3–5 % and 1 % of non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC), respectively, representing distinct molecular subtypes sensitive to targeted tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) [1,2]. First-line treatment for ALK-positive NSCLC includes crizotinib and second-generation ALK inhibitors like alectinib, brigatinib, and ceritinib, while crizotinib and entrectinib are approved for ROS1-positive NSCLC [3–7]. Despite initial responses, resistance often emerges due to secondary mutations (such as ALK G1202R and ROS1 G2032R) or disease progression, particularly in the central nervous system (CNS).

Lorlatinib, a third-generation ALK/ROS1 inhibitor, was designed to penetrate the blood-brain barrier and retain activity against these mutations [8]. Lorlatinib demonstrated clinical activity in a non-randomized, multi-cohort, multicenter study (study B7461001; NCT01970865). In the subgroup of 215 patients with ALK-positive metastatic NSCLC previously treated with one or more ALK TKI, lorlatinib achieved a 48 % overall response rate (ORR) with a 60 % intracranial ORR. The ORR was 39 % in those patients who received 2 or more TKIs and 31 % in those who received alectinib as the only ALK inhibitor [9,10]. More recently, lorlatinib demonstrated superiority over crizotinib in the randomized phase 3 CROWN clinical trial in treatment-naïve ALK-positive advanced NSCLC, showing a significant improvement in progression-free survival (PFS) and central nervous system (CNS) activity [11,12]. In a phase 1/2 trial of lorlatinib involving 69 patients with advanced ROS1-positive NSCLC, the ORR was 62 % in the subgroup of 21 patients who were TKI-naïve, and 35 % in the subgroup of 40 patients previously treated with crizotinib [10,13]. Based on these results, lorlatinib was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) for ALK-positive NSCLC both in the first line and subsequent lines but remains under compassionate use for ROS1-positive patients in Spain. Given the rarity of these genetic alterations and the absence of registry data, it is crucial to evaluate lorlatinib's real-world efficacy and safety in clinical practice.

We aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of lorlatinib under the compassionate use program in Spain in patients with advanced ALK+ or ROS1+ NSCLC who have received previous treatments.

Material and methods

LORLAPULM study (GECp 21/04) was an observational, non-interventional, retrospective, multicentre and nationwide study. The study included patients with metastatic NSCLC treated with lorlatinib who were included in the compassionate use program in Spain between November 2016 and February 2019 for ALK+ NSCLC and from November 2016 to March 2021 for ROS1+ NSCLC. The main inclusion/exclusion criteria to access this program were similar to B7461001 and phase 1/2 study that lead to FDA approval of lorlatinib: evidence of histologically or cytologically confirmed diagnosis of metastatic NSCLC (Stage IV, AJCC v7.0) that carried either a) an ALK rearrangement and prior treatment with at least one ALK TKI; if the prior ALK TKI was crizotinib, additional prior treatment was required with at least one second-generation ALK TKI, such as ceritinib, alectinib, or brigatinib, or b) ROS1 rearrangement with prior treatment with at least crizotinib. Patients could receive approved chemotherapy regimens or immunotherapy agents in addition to the treatment requirements with ALK/ROS1 TKIs. Adequate organ function and no recent (i.e. within previous 6 months) or active suicidal ideation or behaviour. Patients must have been treated with at least one cycle of lorlatinib. The recommended dose of lorlatinib was 100 mg taken orally once daily. Treatment with lorlatinib was recommended as long as the patient was deriving clinical benefit from therapy without unacceptable toxicity as per physician discretion. Dosing interruption or dose reduction was allowed based on individual safety and tolerability; the first dose reduction consisted of lorlatinib 75 mg taken orally once daily, and the second dose reduction was to 50 mg taken orally once daily. Lorlatinib was permanently discontinued if the patient was unable to tolerate the 50 mg dose taken orally once daily.

Main clinical-pathological variables were collected to describe the

profile of the patients under study. Tumor evaluations were performed by investigators according to Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST) v1.1. For patients with brain metastasis, intracranial tumor response was assessed using modified RECIST 1.1 criteria. Efficacy outcomes included objective tumor response, duration of the response (defined from the first documentation of tumor response to the first documentation of tumor progression or death from any cause), PFS (defined as time from the first dose of treatment to the first documentation of progression or death from any cause), time to treatment failure (TTF, defined as time from the first dose of treatment to the moment of discontinuation of treatment for any cause, including tumor progression, toxicity or death), overall survival (OS, defined as time from diagnosis of metastatic disease to death or last follow-up), and overall survival from lorlatinib (defined as time from the start of treatment until death or last follow-up). Adverse events (AEs) included in the study database were coded according to CTCAE v5.0.

Alive patients must have signed, dated an IRB/EC-approved written informed consent form in accordance with regulatory and institutional guidelines. Only deidentified and anonymized data was collected from the patients by means of electronic case report forms (e-CRFs). Personal data has been treated in accordance with all applicable regulations: according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of April 27th, 2016, on Data Protection (GDPR). In Spain, it is regulated by the Organic Law 3/2018, 5th of December, on Personal data protection and digital rights guarantee.

Sample size calculation

Based on the retrospective and observational nature of the study, all statistical analysis were descriptive, and no hypothesis definition or sample size estimation were necessary. All patients with metastatic lung cancer treated with lorlatinib who were included in the compassionate use program in Spain between November 2016 and February 2019 for *ALK*+ and from November 2016 to March 2021 for *ROS1*+ that met all eligibility criteria were included for analysis.

Statistical plan

Descriptive analyses were carried out to evaluate the objectives of the study. In order to describe the profile of the patients under study, a descriptive statistical analysis of each and every one of the variables included in the notebook was carried out for this purpose. Categorical variables are described by their absolute and relative frequency. Continuous variables are described with total n, valid n, n unavailable, means, standard deviation, median, quartiles, minimum and maximum.

Kaplan-Meier curves were utilized for survival analyses, with the median follow-up time calculated using the reverse Kaplan-Meier method. Time-to-event outcomes were determined by defining the initiation of lorlatinib treatment as the starting point for follow-up. The endpoints varied based on the specific outcome: for PFS, the endpoint was the date of first progression; for OS, it was the date of death or last follow-up; for TTF, the endpoint was the date of definitive treatment discontinuation; and for time to intracranial progression (TPP), the endpoint was the date of documented intracranial tumour progression.

All statistical analyses were performed using Stata/MP 18.0 software. Survival probabilities at specific time points, along with their corresponding confidence intervals, were calculated using the *sts list* command, which applies Greenwood's formula. This approach accounts for the variance in the survival function at designated time points, providing reliable estimates of confidence intervals.

Although a significance level of 0.05 was considered for all statistical tests, no hypothesis testing was performed due to the small sample size and low number of events. Consequently, all survival analyses are presented descriptively, and hazard ratios (HRs) were not calculated.

The safety assessment was based primarily on the frequency and severity of AE. AEs were summarized by presenting the number and

percentage of these figures in the total number of patients. The absolute and variable frequencies of each AE with respect to the total number of reported AEs were also presented.

Results

Descriptive analysis of the patient population

We included a total of 103 patients (61 *ALK*+ and 42 *ROS1*+) (Table 1). Patients were predominantly female and Caucasian, with a median age of 59.4-year-old (range 39–86) for *ALK*+ pts, and 62.7-year-old (range 40–87) for *ROS1*+ pts. A significant proportion were never-smokers, with 46 % of *ALK*+ and 67 % of *ROS1*+. For *ALK*+ patients, diagnostic methods included FISH (54.4 %), IHC (31.1 %), NGS (3 %), and other RNA/DNA sequencing methods (2.9 %). Among *ROS1*+ patients, FISH (38/32 cases) was the most frequent diagnostic method, followed by IHC (14 cases), NGS (4/42), and RNASeq/Nanostring (1 case each).

At lorlatinib initiation, only 13.1 % of *ALK*+ and 26.2 % of *ROS1*+ patients had an ECOG performance status of 0. Brain metastases were present in 59 % of *ALK*+ and 57.1 % of *ROS1*+ patients. Common sites of metastasis for *ALK*+ included bone (41 %), lung (32.8 %), and liver (19.7 %), while in *ROS1*+ patients, the lung (52.4 %) and bone (35.7 %) were predominant, with liver metastasis in 11.9 %.

Prior therapies

For *ALK*+ patients, 96.7 % had prior TKI treatment, and 85.2 % had received at least two lines of ALK TKIs, with crizotinib being the most commonly used (90.9 %). Second-generation TKIs were frequently used beyond first-line, with 41.8 % treated with alectinib, 38.2 % with brigatinib, and 36.4 % with ceritinib. Chemotherapy was used in 54.1 %, and immunotherapy in 6.6 %. Patients had received a median of 3 prior lines of systemic therapy before lorlatinib, with 31 % having received at least four lines (Table 1 and Suppl_Figure 1).

Among *ROS1*+ patients, all had been treated with crizotinib, which was preferentially used in the second line of therapy. First-line therapies included platinum-based chemotherapy (42.9 %), with 7.1 % receiving chemo-immunotherapy or immunotherapy alone. Only 7 % of *ROS1*+ patients received another TKI besides crizotinib. Chemotherapy was used in 54.8 %, and immunotherapy in 16.7 % (Table 1).

Lorlatinib outcomes and survival

For *ALK*+ patients, the confirmed ORR was 32.8 %, with a complete response (CR) in 8.2 % of patients and 34.4 % achieving stable disease (SD). The best response by number of previous lines of TKI is summarized in Table 2. The median PFS was 11.2 months (P25th – P75th: 3.3 – 35.8 months), with PFS rates of 59.0 % (95 %CI 45.7 % - 70.1 %) at 6 months, 49.2 % (95 %CI 36.2 % - 60.9 %) at 12 months, and 29.5 % (95 %CI 18.7 % - 41.1 %) at 24 months (Fig. 1A). Median PFS decreased with increasing prior lines of ALK TKIs, with 15.1 months for patients treated with 1 prior TKI, 11.1 months for 2 TKIs, and 7.6 months for ≥3 TKIs (Fig. 1E). Intracranial ORR was 47.6 %, rising to 58.8 % in patients with evaluable brain metastases. Intracranial tumor PFS was 56.5 months (P25th – P75th: 20.2 – 67.0 months), with an intracranial tumor PFS at 6, 12 and 24 months after treatment initiation of 92.8 % (95 %CI 79.0 % - 97.6 %), 86.2 % (95 %CI 69.6 % - 94.1 %) and 73.2 % (95 %CI 52.3 % - 86.1 %), respectively (Figure Sup2).

In *ALK*+ patients, progression to lorlatinib occurred at a similar rate in intrathoracic and extra-thoracic sites (SuppTable_1). Brain progression was documented in 10/30 patients (33.3 %). Only 3 patients (4.9 %) had a tumor re-biopsy at the time of progression, and in 2 patients (3.3 %) a liquid biopsy was obtained. Up to 60 % of the patients received further treatment with lorlatinib, most commonly chemotherapy (44 %), another ALK TKI (33.3 %), and chemo-immunotherapy (11 %). Detailed

Table 1

Clinical and pathological characteristics of patients with ALK and ROS1-positive NSCLC (n = 103). All results are shown as n (%), unless otherwise stated.

	ALK + N = 61	ROS1 + N = 42
Gender		
Male	23 (37.7)	15 (35.7)
Female	38 (62.3)	27 (64.3)
Race		
Caucasian	61 (100.0)	38 (90.5)
Latin	0	1 (2.4)
Asian	0	2 (4.8)
Black, African	0	1 (2.4)
Age, mean (SD)	59.4 (11.7)	62.7 (13.2)
Min. – max.	39 – 86	40 – 87
Smoking History		
<i>Smoking status</i>		
Never smoker (≤ 100 cigarettes/lifetime)	28 (45.9)	28 (66.7)
Former smoker (≥ 1 year)	22 (36.1)	9 (21.4)
Active smoker	9 (14.7)	4 (9.5)
Unknown	2 (3.3)	1 (2.4)
<i>Pack/year, median [IQR]</i>	15 [10, 25]	10 [1.8, 34]
Min. – max.	5 – 520	1.6 – 40
<i>Cigarettes/day, mean (SD)</i>	20 [10, 20]	8 [2, 15]
Min. – max.	10 – 40	2 – 20
Comorbidities		
None	27 (44.3)	13 (31.0)
Asthma	3 (4.9)	2 (4.8)
Heart disease	2 (3.3)	4 (9.5)
Mellitus diabetes	5 (8.2)	3 (7.1)
Dyslipemia	3 (4.9)	7 (16.7)
COPD	0 (0.0)	1 (2.4)
Ex-Alcoholism	2 (3.3)	0 (0.0)
Active Alcoholism	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
Hypercholesterolemia	1 (1.6)	4 (9.5)
Hypertension	10 (16.4)	11 (26.2)
Nephropathy	1 (1.6)	1 (2.4)
Obesity	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Depressive syndrome/Anxiety	4 (6.6)	4 (9.5)
Vasculopathy	0 (0.0)	1 (2.4)
Others	22 (36.1)	20 (47.6)
<i>Charlson Index Score, median [IQR]</i>	7 [6, 8]	7.5 [7, 8]
Min. – max.	0 – 8	7 – 12
<i>Previous History of Thromboembolic Disease</i>		
Thromboembolic disease	4 (6.6)	14 (33.3)
Anticoagulant treatment	4 (6.6)	12 (28.6)
Performance Status		
0	8 (13.1)	11 (26.2)
1	36 (59.0)	23 (54.8)
2	7 (11.5)	5 (11.9)
3	1 (1.6)	1 (2.4)
Unknown	9 (14.7)	2 (4.8)
Disease stage at diagnosis		
IB	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
IIA	0 (0.0)	3 (7.3)
IIIA	6 (9.8)	1 (2.4)
IIIB	7 (11.5)	4 (9.8)
IVA	16 (26.2)	16 (39.0)
IVB	31 (50.8)	17 (41.5)
Unknown	1 (1.6)	0
Histology subtype		
Adenocarcinoma	56 (91.8)	42 (100.0)
Adenosquamous	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
Squamous	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
NOS/Undifferentiated	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
Other	2 (3.3)	0 (0.0)
Histology grade		
Not specified	43 (70.5)	30 (71.4)
Well differentiated	2 (3.3)	2 (4.8)
Moderately differentiated	6 (9.8)	2 (4.8)
Poorly differentiated	8 (13.1)	6 (14.3)
Undifferentiated	1 (1.6)	2 (4.8)
Unknown	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
Brain metastasis at diagnosis		
No	36 (59.0)	31 (73.8)
Yes	21 (34.4)	9 (21.4)
Unknown	3 (4.9)	2 (4.8)

Table 1 (continued)

	ALK + N = 61	ROS1 + N = 42
Brain metastases before Lorlatinib initiation		
No	22 (36.1)	17 (40.5)
Yes	36 (59.0)	24 (57.1)
Unknown	3 (4.9)	1 (2.4)
Brain Imaging Method		
None	8 (13.1)	2 (4.8)
CT	15 (24.6)	17 (40.5)
PET	3 (4.9)	3 (7.1)
MRI	22 (36.1)	10 (23.8)
Unknown	13 (21.3)	10 (23.8)
Concomitant steroid treatment	14 (23)	12 (28.36)
Previous treatments for brain metastasis		
Surgery	5 (8.2)	1 (2.4)
Whole brain radiation	15 (24.6)	6 (14.3)
SRS/radiosurgery	9 (14.8)	5 (11.9)
Other metastasis location		
Lung	20 (32.8)	22 (52.4)
Lymphangitis	2 (3.3)	4 (9.5)
Pulmonary Lymph Nodes	18 (29.5)	14 (33.3)
Pleural Nodes	6 (9.8)	7 (16.7)
Pleural Effusion	10 (16.4)	13 (31.0)
Meningeal Carcinomatosis	1 (1.6)	0 (0.0)
Bone	25 (41.0)	15 (35.7)
Liver	12 (19.7)	5 (11.9)
Adrenal Gland	8 (13.1)	4 (9.5)
Soft Tissue	2 (3.3)	0 (0.0)
Other	11 (18.0)	9 (21.4)
Prior systemic treatment		
Chemotherapy	60 (98.4)	42 (100.0)
Immunotherapy	33 (54.1)	23 (54.8)
Radiotherapy	4 (6.6)	7 (16.7)
Oral Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor	32 (52.5)	12 (28.6)
Unknown	59 (96.7)	42 (100.0)
Previous lines of treatment before Lorlatinib		
1	4 (6.6)	16 (38.1)
2	24 (39.3)	20 (47.6)
3	11 (18.0)	3 (7.1)
4	9 (14.8)	0 (0.0)
5	10 (16.4)	3 (7.1)
Unknown	3 (4.9)	0
Previous ALK TKIs received before Lorlatinib		
1	3 (5.3)	–
2	21 (36.8)	–
3	11 (19.3)	–
≥ 4	20 (35.1)	–

information of post-progression therapies can be found in **SuppTable 2**. With a median follow-up time of 55.2 months (P25th – P75th: 48.1 - 59.2), the median OS was 13.5 months (P25th – P75th: 5.3 – 52.6 months), with 6-month, 12-month, and 24-month OS rates of 72.1 % (95 %CI 59.1 % - 81.7 %), 54.1 % (95 %CI 40.9 % - 65.6 %), and 36.1 % (95 %CI 24.3 % - 47.9 %), respectively (**Fig. 1C**). Median OS from the time of stage IV diagnosis was 45.8 months (P25th – P75th: 20.1 – 81.1). OS according to previous lines of ALK TKI therapy is shown in **Fig. 1D**.

For ROS1+ patients, the confirmed ORR was 47.6 %, with a CR in 16.7 % of patients and SD in 38.1 % (**Table 2**). Responses were seen regardless of the number of previous TKIs received, with 46.2 % ORR in the 39 patients with crizotinib as the only previous TKI versus 66.6 % ORR in the 3 patients who received 2 previous TKIs. Intracranial ORR was 44.4 %, increasing to 57.1 % in patients with evaluable brain metastases. The median PFS was 10 months (P25th – P75th: 5.2 – Not reached (NR) months), with PFS rates of 72.7 % (95 %CI 56.2 % - 83.9 %) at 6 months, 47.7 % (95 %CI 31.7 % - 62.0 %) at 12 months, and 40.1 % (95 %CI 25.1 % - 54.7 %) at 24 months (**Fig. 2A**). Patients who had only received crizotinib had a median PFS of 10 months, while those treated with 2 prior TKIs had a median PFS of 8.5 months (**Fig. 2E**).

In ROS1+ patients, progression to lorlatinib occurred preferentially intrathoracically: 47.4 % in the lung, 5.3 % as lymphangitic spread, 15.8 % in lymph nodes, and 40 % as pleural nodes/effusion (**SuppTable 1**). Brain progression was documented only in 4 patients (9.5 %, 4

Table 2

Overall response rate (ORR) of lorlatinib in ALK+ and ROS1+ patients. All results are shown as n (%), unless otherwise stated.

	ALK + N = 61	ROS1 + N = 42
Best response to the treatment	20	20
ORR (CR + PR)	(32.8)	(47.6)
CR	5 (8.2)	7 (16.7)
PR	15	13
	(24.6)	(31.0)
SD	21	16
	(34.4)	(38.1)
PD	16	3 (7.1)
	(26.2)	
Unknown	4 (6.6)	3 (7.1)
Intracranial tumour response (in patients with previous brain metastasis)		
No	7 (33.3)	3 (33.4)
Yes	10	4 (44.4)
	(47.6)	
Not documented/evaluable	4 (19.1)	2 (22.2)
Intracranial tumour response (in patients with evaluable brain metastasis)		
No	7 (41.2)	3 (42.9)
Yes	10	4 (57.1)
	(58.8)	
Best response to the treatment according to number of previous TKI therapy		
1 TKI	4 (28.6)	18
(n = 14)		(46.2)
CR	2 (14.3)	6 (15.8)
PR	2 (14.3)	12
		(31.6)
SD	7 (50.0)	15
		(39.5)
PD	3 (21.4)	3 (7.9)
Unknown	0 (0.0)	3 (7.6)
2 TKIs	12	2 (66.9)
(n = 28)	(42.9)	
CR	3 (10.7)	1 (33.3)
PR	9 (32.1)	1 (33.3)
SD	5 (17.9)	1 (33.3)
PD	8 (28.6)	0 (0.0)
Unknown	3 (10.7)	0 (0.0)
≥3 TKIs	3 (18.7)	–
(n = 16)		
CR	0 (0.0)	–
PR	3 (18.7)	–
SD	8 (50.0)	–
PD	4 (25.0)	–
Unknown	0 (0.0)	–

CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

Figure Sup2). In 61.5 % of the cases, patients received subsequent treatment after lorlatinib, including chemotherapy (87.5 %), immunotherapy (37.5 %), and ROS1 TKI (only one patient). The median OS was 38.3 months (P25th – P75th: 9.7 – NR months), with OS rates of 85.4 % (95 %CI 70.4 % - 93.2 %) at 6 months, 65.4 % (95 %CI 48.6 % - 77.8 %) at 12 months, and 57.5 % (95 %CI 40.7 % - 71.1 %) at 24 months (Fig. 2C). Patients treated with crizotinib alone had a median OS of 39.8 months, compared to 9.7 months in those who received an additional ROS1 TKI. Median OS from the time of stage IV diagnosis was 82.7 months (P25th – P75th: 39.0 – NR months). OS according to previous lines of ROS1 TKI therapy is shown in Fig. 2F.

Safety

In ALK+ patients, the median exposure to lorlatinib was 8.5 months (range 0.4–56.5 months), while for ROS1+ patients, the median was 7 months (range 1.2–41.1 months). Dose reductions occurred in 23 % of ALK+ patients (14/61) and 23.8 % of ROS1+ patients (10/42). For ALK+ patients, 6 were reduced to 75 mg/day, 7 to 50 mg/day, and 1 to

25 mg/day, with re-escalation in 7 patients (11.5 %). For ROS1+ patients, 7 were reduced to 75 mg/day, 2 to 50 mg/day, and 1 to 25 mg/day. Lorlatinib discontinuation due to adverse events occurred in 13.1 % (ALK+) and 9.5 % (ROS1+), with disease progression being the most common reason for discontinuation.

The most frequent treatment-related adverse events (TRAEs) for ALK+ patients were dyslipidemia (68 %) and edema (32.7 %), with nervous system disorders affecting 4.5 % (1 case of grade ≥3 peripheral sensory neuropathy). Psychiatric disorders were reported in 5.1 %, with two grade 3–4 cases (delirium and depression). No lorlatinib-related deaths occurred in ALK+ patients (Table 3).

For ROS1+ patients, dyslipidemia (48 %) and edema (31 %) were the most frequent TRAEs (Table 3). Hypertriglyceridemia was grade 3–4 in 4 % of cases, and hypercholesterolemia was grade 3–4 in 5 %. Nervous system disorders were reported in 29 %, mostly grade 1–2, with two grade ≥3 cognitive disturbance cases. Psychiatric disorders were observed in 7 %, including one grade 3 agitation case. No lorlatinib-related deaths were reported in ROS1+ patients.

Discussion

This study provides valuable insights into the real-world application of lorlatinib in patients with previously treated ALK+ and ROS1+ NSCLC. With 61 patients in the ALK+ cohort and 42 in the ROS1+ cohort, this series represents one of the largest collections of lorlatinib-treated NSCLC patients in Spain, offering detailed outcomes on efficacy, safety, and survival in heavily pretreated populations. The post-progression TKI setting for patients with ALK- and ROS1-rearranged NSCLC remains challenging due to limited treatment options available and the paucity of randomized clinical trials. Most of the evidence, including supporting regulatory approvals, is derived from single-arm studies, limiting direct comparisons between treatment options. Current NCCN guidelines (v3.2025) recommend lorlatinib or systemic therapy after progression on second-generation ALK TKI (alectinib, brigatinib, ceritinib, or ensartinib) in ALK-positive NSCLC. In the case of ROS1-positive NSCLC, lorlatinib (preferred), entrectinib, or repotrectinib are recommended after progression on a ROS1 TKI [14]. Overall, systemic therapy (chemotherapy or immunotherapy) offers limited efficacy in ALK/ROS1 NSCLC after TKI progression [15]. For instance, in the ALUR trial, chemotherapy for previously treated ALK+ patients demonstrated poor outcomes, with a median PFS of only 1.4 months and no CNS tumor responses in patients with measurable CNS metastases at baseline, in stark contrast to alectinib [16]. In addition, PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor monotherapy is generally ineffective in this population, irrespective of PD-L1 expression levels [14].

In the ALK+ cohort of our study, the ORR of 32.8 % and median PFS of 11.2 months align with previous results from phase 1 and phase 2 pivotal trials of lorlatinib [9,17]. Specifically, in the phase 2 trial, the ORR was 38.7 % (95 %CI, 29.6–48.5) and the PFS 6.9 months in the cohort of 111 patients who received two or more previous ALK TKIs [17]. In our study, lorlatinib also demonstrated significant intracranial efficacy, with a 47.6 % response rate, which rose to 58.8 % in patients with measurable brain metastases—a population known for poorer prognosis due to the high rate of CNS involvement (59 %) [18]. In the phase 2 trial, the intracranial activity was 54.2 % in the 48 evaluable patients included. Overall, these efficacy outcomes are consistent with other real-world studies of lorlatinib and emphasize lorlatinib's reproducibility in a more heterogeneous population [19–26].

Emerging therapies expanding options in the post-TKI setting for ALK-positive NSCLC includes NVL-655, a fourth-generation, selective, brain-penetrant ALK inhibitor with granted breakthrough therapy designation by the FDA for the treatment of patients with metastatic ROS1-NSCLC who previously received at least 2 ROS1 TKIs. NVL-655 is being evaluated in the phase 1/2, open label, single arm ALKOVE-1 trial [27]. The phase 1 part enrolled 131 patients with pretreated ALK+ NSCLC. In those patients with lorlatinib-naïve disease (n = 17), the ORR

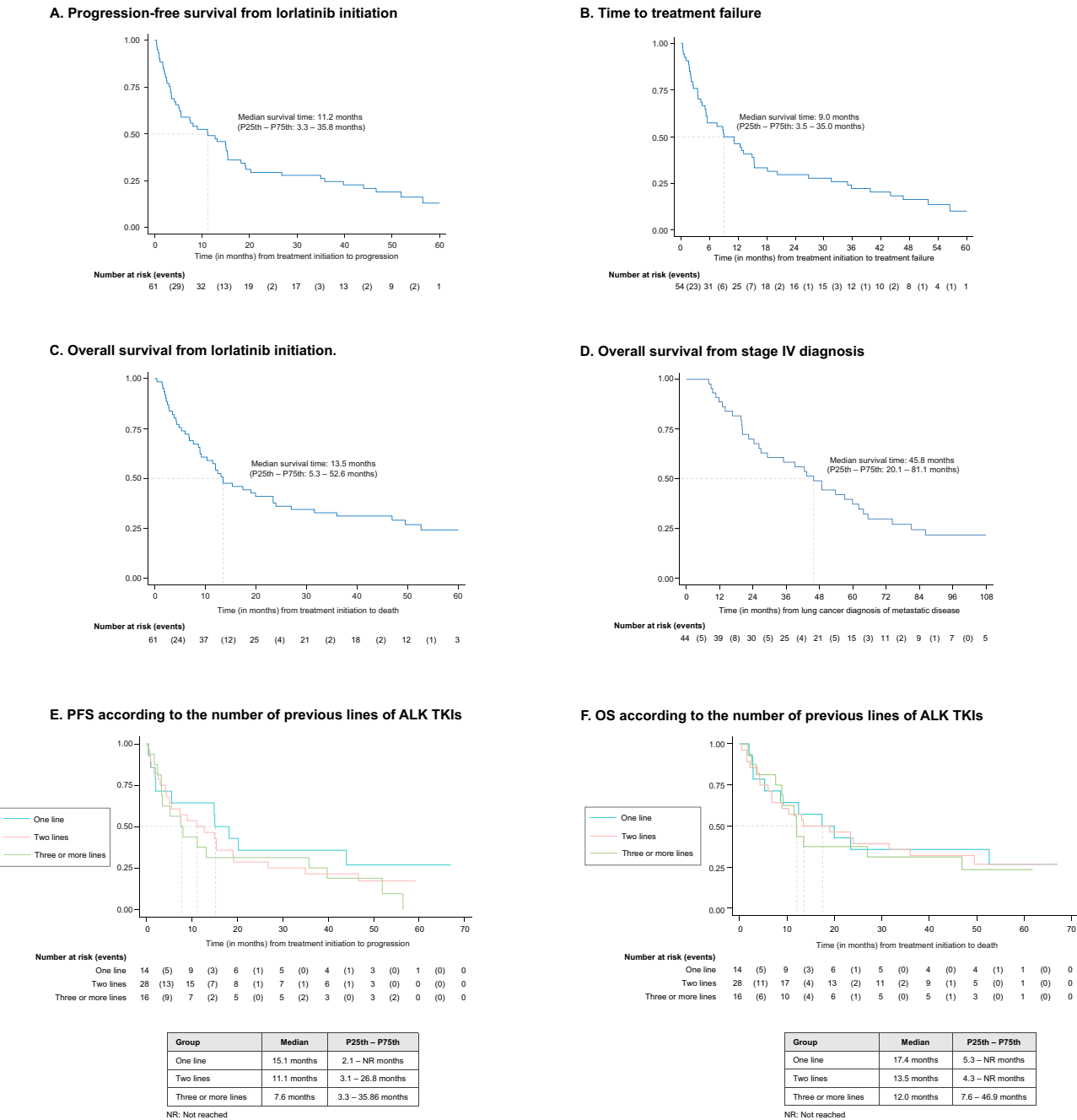


Fig. 1. Survival curves in *ALK*+ NSCLC patients treated with lorlatinib estimated by the Kaplan-Meier method. A, Progression-free survival. B, Time to treatment failure. C, Overall survival from lorlatinib initiation. D, Overall survival from stage IV diagnosis. E, Progression-free survival according to the number of previous lines of ALK TKIs. D, Overall survival from lorlatinib according to the number of previous lines of ALK TKIs.

was 53 % across all doses (9 of 17 patients), and the intracranial ORR was seen in 50 % of those who were lorlatinib naive (one out two patients) [28].

Similarly, in the *ROS1*+ cohort of our study, lorlatinib displayed remarkable efficacy, with an ORR of 48 % and median PFS of 10 months. The intracranial response rate was 57 %, particularly important given that 57 % of these patients had brain metastases at baseline. In addition, brain progression was documented only in 4 patients, with a long time to intracranial progression (Suppl Fig 2). This is consistent with previously published real-world data and pivotal trials, further establishing lorlatinib as an effective option for *ROS1*+ NSCLC, particularly in controlling CNS disease [13,19,23,25,26,29]. The median OS of 38.3 months and an extraordinary 82.7-month OS from metastatic diagnosis in *ROS1*+

patients emphasize the long-term benefit of active targeted therapies in this population [6,30,31]. However, our study reveals a significant unmet need for the access to newer-generation TKIs in *ROS1*+ patients, as very few patients in our study received another *ROS1* TKI post-lorlatinib. Increasing access to clinical trials and reducing restrictive eligibility criteria could expand treatment options and improve outcomes for this relatively small but critical patient population.

There are several new agents recently available or under investigation for *ROS1*-positive NSCLC. Repotrectinib, a next-generation *ROS1* inhibitor, was evaluated in the single arm, open-label TRIDENT-1 trial. In the cohort of patients previously treated with a *ROS1* TKI but without prior chemotherapy or immunotherapy ($n = 56$), repotrectinib achieved an ORR of 38 %, with a 38 % intracranial ORR in patients with

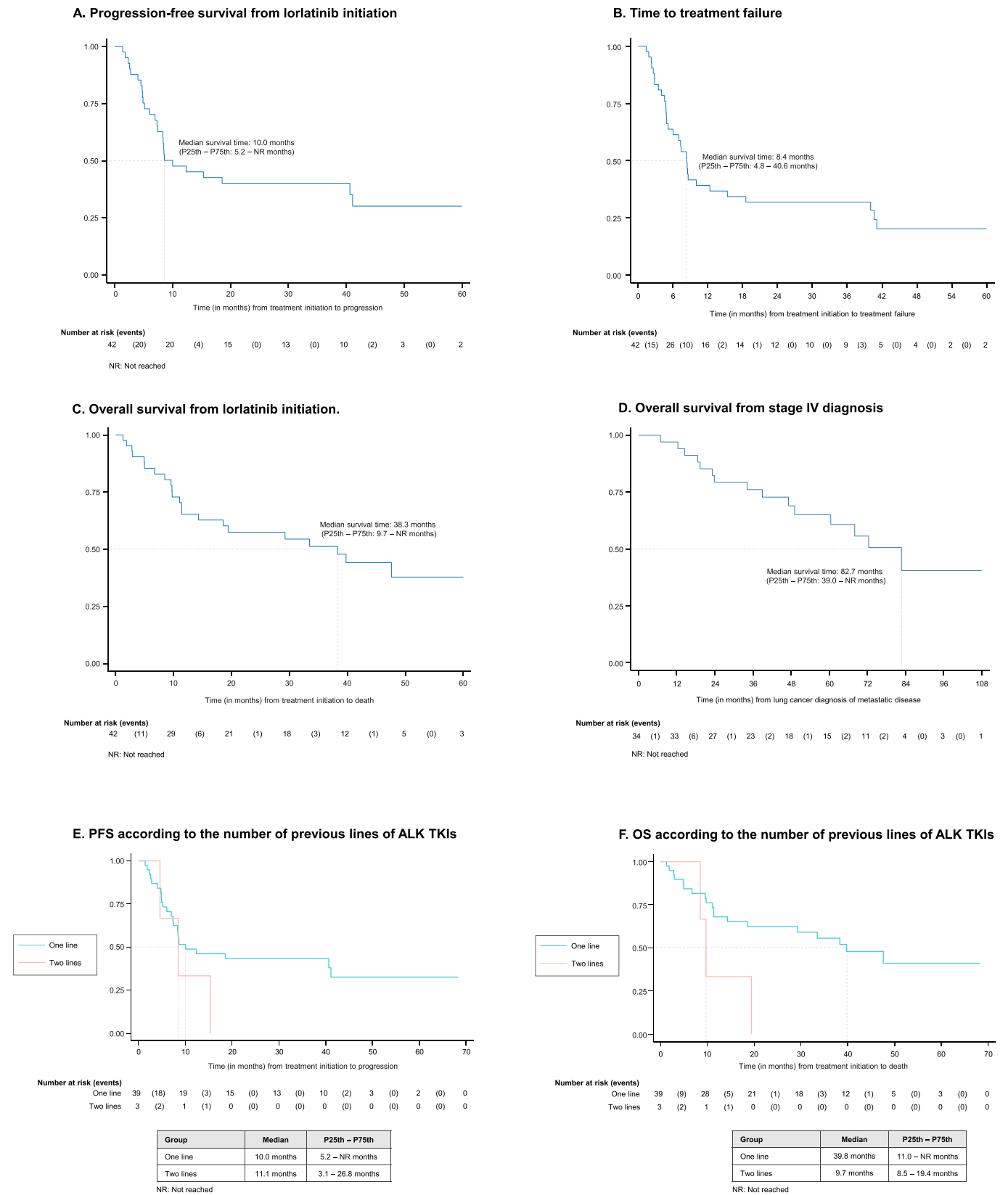


Fig. 2. Survival curves in *ROS1*+ NSCLC patients treated with lorlatinib estimated by the Kaplan-Meier method. A, Progression-free survival. B, Time to treatment failure. C, Overall survival from lorlatinib initiation. D, Overall survival from stage IV diagnosis. E, Progression-free survival according to the number of previous lines of *ROS1* TKIs. F, Overall survival from lorlatinib according to the number of previous lines of *ROS1* TKIs.

Table 3Adverse events in ALK+ and ROS1+ patients (n = 103). All results are shown as n (%), unless otherwise stated. [§]Two observations have lost value in the grade.

Grade	ALK					ROS1				
	1 - 2	3	4	5	Total [§]	1	2	3	4	Total [§]
	N = 143	N = 29	N = 1	N = 1	N = 176	N = 29	N = 37	N = 15	N = 3	N = 85
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	1 (0.7)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.3)	2 (6.9)	2 (5.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (4.7)
Anemia	1 (0.7)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.7)	2 (6.9)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.5)
Leukocytosis	0 (0.0)	1 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Neutrophil count decreased	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Lymphocyte count decreased	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Platelet count decreased	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.4)
Others	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Cardiac disorders	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Pericardial effusion	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Endocrine disorders	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cushingoid	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hypothyroidism	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Eye disorders	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Blurred vision	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Others	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Gastrointestinal disorders	14 (9.8)	1 (3.4)	1 (25.0)	0 (0.0)	16 (9.1)	3 (10.3)	2 (5.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (5.9)
Abdominal distension	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Constipation	6 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Diarrhea	1 (0.7)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Dysphagia	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Dysphagia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Mucositis oral	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.4)
Nausea	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Oral hemorrhage	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Vomiting	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
General disorders and administration site conditions	33 (23.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	33 (18.7)	5 (17.2)	7 (18.9)	2 (13.3)	0 (0.0)	14 (16.5)
Edema face	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Edema limbs	12 (8.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	12 (6.8)	5 (17.2)	6 (16.2)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	12 (14.1)
Fatigue	5 (3.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Fever	6 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Generalized edema	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Localized edema	4 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Pain	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Others	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hepatobiliary disorders	0 (0.0)	4 (13.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hepatic failure	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Others	0 (0.0)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.7)	3 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Infections and infestations	4 (2.8)	1 (3.4)	1 (25.0)	3 (1.7)	6 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.4)
Bronchial infection	3 (2.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Gum infection	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Urinary tract infection	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Folliculitis	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Lung infection	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Others	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Others	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Investigations	20 (14.0)	3 (10.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	23 (13.1)	5 (17.2)	5 (13.5)	4 (26.7)	1 (33.3)	15 (17.6)
Alanine aminotransferase increased	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Aspartate aminotransferase increased	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Blood bilirubin increased	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cholesterol high	17 (11.9)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	18 (10.2)	2 (6.9)	2 (5.4)	3 (20.0)	1 (33.3)	8 (9.4)
Lipase increased	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Weight gain	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	1 (3.4)	1 (2.7)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.5)
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	30 (21.0)	6 (20.7)	1 (25.0)	0 (0.0)	37 (21.0)	2 (6.9)	6 (16.2)	5 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	14 (16.5)
Anorexia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hypercalcemia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hyperkalemia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hyperlipidemia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (25.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (5.4)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.5)
Hypertriglyceridemia	23 (16.1)	5 (17.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	23 (13.1)	2 (6.9)	3 (8.1)	3 (20.0)	1 (33.3)	9 (10.6)
Others	3 (2.1)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (2.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.4)
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	7 (4.9)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (4.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (8.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (4.7)
Arthralgia	5 (3.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	5 (2.8)	0 (0.0)	2 (5.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.5)
Arthritis	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Back pain	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Bone pain	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Myalgia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Nervous system disorders	7 (4.9)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (4.5)	5 (17.2)	5 (13.5)	2 (13.3)	0 (0.0)	12 (14.1)
Amnesia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Aphonia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cognitive disturbance	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (13.3)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.5)
Dizziness	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)

(continued on next page)

Table 3 (continued)

Grade	ALK					ROS1				
	1 - 2 N = 143	3 N = 29	4 N = 1	5 N = 1	Total [§] N = 176	1 N = 29	2 N = 37	3 N = 15	4 N = 3	Total [§] N = 85
Dysarthria	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Headache	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Memory impairment	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Neuralgia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Paresthesia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Peripheral sensory neuropathy	1 (0.7)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Syncope	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Others	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	3 (8.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (4.7)
Psychiatric disorders	7 (4.9)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	9 (5.1)	0 (0.0)	2 (5.4)	1 (6.7)	0 (0.0)	3 (3.5)
Agitation	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Anxiety	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Confusion	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Delirium	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Depression	1 (0.7)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Hallucinations	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Irritability	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Renal and urinary disorders	3 (2.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Nephrotic syndrome	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Renal colic	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Others	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders	11 (7.7)	4 (13.8)	0 (0.0)	1 (100.0)	16 (9.1)	3 (10.3)	2 (5.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (33.3)	6 (7.1)
Atelectasis	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Cough	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (100.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Dyspnea	5 (3.5)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	6 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (33.3)	2 (2.4)
Pleural effusion	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Pneumonitis	1 (0.7)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.7)	3 (10.3)	1 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (4.7)
Productive cough	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Wheezing	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Others	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	2 (1.4)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (1.7)	2 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.4)
Alopecia	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Hyperhidrosis	0 (0.0)	1 (1.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Pruritus	1 (0.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Social circumstances	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)
Others	0 (0.0)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	1 (3.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)

measurable CNS metastases (5/13) [32]. Talrectinib, a highly potent, CNS-active, ROS1 TKI, showed compelling efficacy in patients with ROS-1 NSCLC. Pooled analysis from the TRUST-I and TRUST-II trials reported an ORR of 55.8 % in patients previously treated with a ROS1 TKI ($n = 113$). In the subset of patients with measurable CNS metastases ($n = 32$), the intracranial ORR was 65.6 % [33]. NVL-520 is a novel selective, TRK-sparing and brain-penetrant ROS1 inhibitor. The FDA has granted breakthrough therapy designation to NVL-520 for the treatment of patients with metastatic ROS1-NSCLC who previously received at least two ROS1 TKIs based on the preliminary activity shown in the currently ongoing phase 1/2 ARROS-1 trial (NCT05118789). Patients with ROS1 G2032R mutations ($n = 9$) achieved an ORR of 78 %, while those with CNS metastases ($n = 11$) had an ORR of 73 %. In heavily pretreated patients who received at least two prior ROS1 TKIs and chemotherapy ($n = 17$), NVL-520 achieved an ORR of 53 %. Notably, those previously treated with lorlatinib or repotrectinib ($n = 18$) had an ORR of 50 % [34]. In summary, the consistent efficacy and intracranial activity of lorlatinib, along with emerging data for novel ROS1 inhibitors such as repotrectinib, talrectinib, and NVL-520, highlight the expanding therapeutic landscape for patients with ROS1 alterations after progression on prior TKIs.

The slightly superior outcomes in the ROS1+ cohort compared to ALK+ patients may be attributed to differences in disease biology and patient characteristics. ROS1+ NSCLC often arises in younger, healthier, non-smoking individuals with fewer comorbidities, which could contribute to better overall outcomes. In both cohorts, however, patients who had received multiple prior TKIs experienced diminishing returns with lorlatinib, particularly in ALK+ cases. This trend was previously observed in the phase II trial of lorlatinib, where response rates and PFS were lower in patients who had been treated with greater number of prior ALK TKIs. This decremental efficacy of lorlatinib could be

biologically explained in part, by the acquisition of more complex, compound ALK resistant mutations, that are harder to target effectively; lower tyrosine kinase activity dependence in favor of bypass signaling or alternative pathway activation that promote tumor growth and survival in an independent manner than ALK oncoprotein tyrosine kinase activation; or just by the presence of worse clinical prognostic factors, such as a higher prevalence of CNS metastasis and poorer performance status in patients after treatment with multiple lines of therapy.

The high incidence of brain metastases in both ALK+ and ROS1+ populations underscore the unmet need for CNS-active therapies [35–37]. Lorlatinib's CNS efficacy is particularly striking in previously TKI treated population, with intracranial response rates of 57 % in ROS1+ patients and 47.6 % in ALK+ patients, consistent with results from prior trials [9,10,12,17]. The prevention and treatment of brain metastases are crucial to improve both quality of life and survival, given that over half of the patients in both cohorts presented with CNS involvement, and lorlatinib offers a key advantage by reducing intracranial progression and impact on patient-reported outcomes (PROs) [38]. For instance, in the ROS1+ cohort, the high intracranial response rate in patients receiving steroids for CNS symptoms reflects the critical role of lorlatinib in managing neurologically symptomatic disease. These findings underscore the importance of optimizing treatment sequencing and prioritizing therapies with robust intracranial efficacy, particularly in heavily pretreated populations.

Given the benefits seen in CNS disease control with lorlatinib in ALK+ patients from the CROWN trial [11,12], it is reasonable to extrapolate that earlier use of lorlatinib in ROS1+ NSCLC could prevent or delay CNS progression. These findings support further exploration of lorlatinib as a first-line option in ROS1+ NSCLC to achieve both therapeutic and preventive CNS effects, similar to its established role in ALK+ patients.

The safety profile of lorlatinib in both cohorts was consistent with previous reports from prospective clinical trials [9,10,13]. Common adverse events included dyslipidemia, edema, and neurological and psychiatric symptoms. The incidence of grade ≥ 3 dyslipidemia (11 %) was lower than that reported in clinical trials (16 %), potentially due to differences in retrospective data collection and proactive management strategies. In both *ALK*+ and *ROS1*+ patients, dose modifications, such as reductions and interruptions were common, yet the safety profile remained manageable. Dose modifications are key strategies in managing adverse events while maintaining treatment adherence with lorlatinib as previously described [39]. In addition, supportive care (e.g., lipid-lowering agents for hypercholesterolemia) complements dose modifications, enabling continued treatment without compromising efficacy. Our study was not designed to capture specific management strategies and their impact on treatment adherence but there are ongoing planned studies to evaluate it. The *ROS1*+ cohort, in particular, experienced a higher rate of treatment discontinuation due to AEs (9.5 %), mirroring other real-world studies, which have reported discontinuation rates higher than clinical trials [19,23,26,29]. This highlights the challenges of managing toxicity in routine practice, where patients often present with comorbidities or are on concurrent medications that may exacerbate side effects.

Lorlatinib has also demonstrated a favorable impact on quality of life in patients with *ALK*+ and *ROS1*+ NSCLC. In a prospective series of 59 *ALK*+ patients in Canada whose tumor progressed despite 2nd generation *ALK* TKI, lorlatinib demonstrated sustained improvement in quality of life [40]. In the phase 1/2 study of lorlatinib (NCT01970865) that included 255 patients with *ALK*+ or *ROS1*+ advanced NSCLC, PROs -including quality of life-, were clinically meaningful improved and maintained over time, with the exception of peripheral neuropathy [38]. Due to the nature of our study, we did not collect any PROs to provide a comprehensive view of lorlatinib's tolerability and quality of life in a heavily pretreated population.

The retrospective design of our study introduces several limitations, including the lack of a control group that prevents comparisons to other therapies and limits control for confounding factors; the varying imaging techniques, the unblinded central review of responses, and timing of assessments that may influence the degree of tumor response and the time to tumor progression; and other bias such as selection bias, as not all patients in the expanded access program (EAP) in Spain could not be included. Given the lack of randomized trials in the post-progression setting, validation of these findings should rely on real-world studies with larger, diverse cohorts. Multicenter registries and matched analyses using real-world evidence could address some limitations. Moreover, consistency in terms of efficacy and safety across retrospective data from different countries has been already mentioned, which helps to enhance generalizability of our data. Additionally, limited access to molecular data, particularly post-progression biopsies, hampers a more thorough understanding of resistance mechanisms to lorlatinib, both in *ALK*+ and *ROS1*+ NSCLC patients [41,42]. Prospective studies, like the ALKALINE trial (NCT04127110), are needed to elucidate predictive biomarkers and optimize patient selection for lorlatinib, particularly in later lines of therapy.

In conclusion, the efficacy and safety profiles of lorlatinib in both *ALK*+ and *ROS1*+ NSCLC patients treated within the compassionate use program in Spain are consistent with previous studies. Lorlatinib shows robust and durable responses, particularly in the CNS, with manageable toxicity. These real-world data support its continued use in heavily pretreated *ALK*+ and *ROS1*+ patients and highlight the potential benefits of its earlier use in both cohorts, particularly for CNS disease control. Further research into predictive biomarkers and access to new *ROS1* TKIs is essential to optimize treatment strategies for these patients.

Suppl Figure 1. Previous therapies by line of treatment and tumor activity in *ALK*+ NSCLC patients before treatment with lorlatinib. A, Treatment modality received before lorlatinib. B, Best overall response (BOR) by line of therapy; CR, complete response; PR, partial response;

SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease. C, Overall response rate (CR + PR) by line of therapy. D, Median duration of treatment by line of therapy (in months).

CRediT authorship contribution statement

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Declaration of competing interest

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Supplementary materials

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