## Gefitinib in non-small cell lung carcinoma: a case report of an unusual side effect and complete response in advanced disease

Maria Maddalena Laterza<sup>1</sup>, Bruno Chiurazzi<sup>2</sup>, MariaFiorella Brangi<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando Riccardi<sup>2</sup>, and Giacomo Cartenì<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Oncology Studies, Second University of Naples; <sup>2</sup>Oncology Unit, Antonio Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

## ABSTRACT

Gefitinib is a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, indicated in advanced non-small cell lung cancer in all lines of treatment for patients harboring EGFR mutations. It has a favorable toxicity profile but may induce unexpected adverse effects, such as an infiammatory reaction in the bladder. We report a rare case of hemorrhagic cystitis, an unusual side effect, in a patient with non-small cell lung cancer treated with gefitinib, which did not compromise the clinical response.

*Key words:* gefitinib, non-small cell lung carcinoma, hemorrhagic cystitis.

*Correspondence to:* Maria Maddalena Laterza, Department of Medical Oncology Studies, Second University of Naples, Via Pansini 5, 81100 Naples, Italy. Tel +39-329-5382497;

fax +39-081-7472226; email marilena\_laterza@yahoo.it

Received February 8, 2012; accepted May 4, 2012.