



The 65th ASH Annual Meeting Abstracts

POSTER ABSTRACTS

624.HODGKIN LYMPHOMAS AND T/NK CELL LYMPHOMAS: CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL

Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab and Chemotherapy in Newly-Diagnosed, Early Unfavorable or Advanced Classic Hodgkin Lymphoma: The Phase 2 Keynote-C11 Study

Ranjana H. Advani, MD¹, Abraham Avigdor, MD², Anna Maria Sureda Balari, MD PhD³, David Lavie⁴, Stefan Hohaus, MD⁵, Jan M. Zaucha⁶, Vu Minh Hua, MBBS PhD FRACP FRCPA⁷, Vittorio Ruggero Zilioli⁸, Raimundo Gazitua, MD⁹, Muhit Ozcan, MD¹⁰, Amos Odeleye-Ajakaye¹¹, Nishitha Reddy¹¹, Patricia Marinello, PharmD¹¹, Jane N. Winter, MD¹²

¹ Division of Oncology, Stanford University Institute, Stanford, CA

² Division of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, and School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

³ Clinical Hematology, Institut Català d'Oncologia-Hospitalet, IDIBELL, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

⁴ Department of Hematology, Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel

⁵ Unit of Extramedullary Lymphoproliferative Diseases, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy

⁶ Department of Hematology and Transplantology, Medical University of Gdańsk, Gdansk, Poland

⁷ Hematology Department, Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, Australia

⁸ Division of Hematology, ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda, Milano, Italy

⁹ Instituto Oncológico Fundación Arturo López Pérez, Santiago, Chile

¹⁰ Hematology Department, Ankara University School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

¹¹ Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ

¹² Division of Hematology/Oncology, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

Introduction: The phase 2 KEYNOTE-C11 study (NCT05008224) evaluates the safety and efficacy of pembrolizumab (pembro) followed by AVD chemotherapy (chemotherapy) and pembro consolidation in patients with untreated, early unfavorable or advanced-stage cHL without radiotherapy. The criteria for study continuation were met at the pre-specified interim futility analysis after pembrolizumab induction and 2 cycles of AVD, with approximately 3 months of follow-up. We present results of an analysis of efficacy and safety in all enrolled patients with an additional 8 months of follow-up.

Methods: Patients aged ≥ 18 years with newly-diagnosed, early unfavorable or advanced stage cHL, received induction with pembrolizumab 200 mg IV on d1 Q3W for 3 cycles, followed by a PET2 to determine response. All patients then received 2 cycles standard dose AVD on d1 and 15 for 2 cycles (chemotherapy phase 1) followed by PET3. Patients who were PET3-negative (Deauville score 1-3) received 2-4 additional cycles AVD based on bulk. Patients aged ≤ 60 years who were PET3-positive (Deauville score 4-5) received 2-4 cycles of escalated bleomycin plus etoposide, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, procarbazine, and prednisone (escBEACOPP, chemotherapy phase 2). All patients then received consolidation pembrolizumab 400 mg Q6W for 4 cycles followed by a PET4 assessment. The primary endpoint for this analysis was investigator assessed PET3-negativity response in all treated patients. A posthoc PET analysis was also performed in the actuarial population of all treated patients who reached PET2 or PET3.

Results: At data cut-off (Apr 5, 2023), the median (range) follow-up was 11.8 months (9.7-17.6). A total of 146 patients with untreated cHL were enrolled. Median (range) age was 34.5 years (18-78); 32 (22%) patients had bulky disease, 84 (57%) and 62 (43%), respectively, had advanced and early unfavorable disease. Of 146 patients, 137 (94%) had completed pembrolizumab monotherapy, 130 of 136 (96%) who proceeded to chemotherapy phase 1 completed chemotherapy phase 1, and 127 of 130 (98%) completed chemotherapy phase 2 (111 [AVD]; 16 [BEACOPP]). The PET2-negativity rate was 29% and 31% in all treated patients (N=146) and the actuarial population (n=137), respectively. The PET3-negativity rate was 70% and 78% in all treated patients (N=146) and the actuarial population (n=131), respectively. The ORR at end of PET2 and PET3 was 78% and 88%, respectively. Grade ≥ 3 drug related adverse events (AEs) were reported in 23 of 146 (16%) patients who received pembrolizumab alone or at consolidation, 94 of 136 (69%) patients who received AVD, and in 10 of 17 (59%) patients who received escBEACOPP. Immune mediated AEs were reported in 37 (25%) patients who received pembrolizumab alone and

consolidation, most commonly hyperthyroidism (10%) and hypothyroidism (6%). There were no deaths due to study drug related or immune-mediated AEs.

Conclusion: Pembrolizumab induction followed by chemotherapy continued to be well tolerated in patients with newly-diagnosed, early unfavorable, or advanced-stage cHL, with 70% achieving a PET3-negative response as assessed by investigator after the initial chemotherapy phase. There were no new safety concerns and study is ongoing.

Disclosures Advani: *Genentech:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Beigene:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Regeneron:* Research Funding; *Epizyme:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Incyte:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Roche:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *ADCT:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Research Funding; *Cyteir:* Research Funding; *Merck:* Research Funding; *Gilead:* Research Funding; *Seagen:* Research Funding. **Avigdor:** *Gilead:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Takeda:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Novartis:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Roche:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *BMS:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *AbbVie:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Other: Travel/Accommodations/Expenses; *MSD:* Research Funding. **Sureda Balari:** *MSD:* Research Funding; *Takeda:* Consultancy, Honoraria, Speakers Bureau; *Kite:* Consultancy, Speakers Bureau. **Lavie:** *MSD:* Honoraria, Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Other: Travel/Accommodation expenses, lecture; *Medisson:* Honoraria, Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *AbbVie:* Consultancy, Honoraria, Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Other: Advisory Board and Travel/Accommodation expenses; *Novartis:* Honoraria, Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Other: Lecture; *Takeda:* Honoraria, Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Other: Lecture; *Roche:* Honoraria, Other: Advisory Board. **Hohaus:** *MSD:* Research Funding. **Zaucha:** *Medical University of Gdańsk:* Current Employment; *BMS:* Research Funding; *Pierre Fabre, Takeda, BMS, Gilead, Novartis, Pfizer, Amgen, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Astra Zeneca, Abbvie:* Honoraria; *MSD:* Research Funding. **Hua:** *MSD:* Research Funding. **Zilioli:** *Gilead:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Research Funding; *MSD:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Research Funding; *Novartis:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees; *Takeda:* Membership on an entity's Board of Directors or advisory committees, Other: travel expenses, Speakers Bureau; *Incyte:* Speakers Bureau; *Janssen:* Other: travel expenses, Speakers Bureau; *Lilly:* Speakers Bureau; *Servier:* Speakers Bureau; *Roche:* Consultancy, Other: travel expenses. **Gazitua:** *Pfizer:* Other: Travel; *BMS:* Speakers Bureau; *Roche:* Other: Travel; Non-remunerated activity; *MSD:* Research Funding. **Ozcan:** *Takeda:* Research Funding; *Acerta:* Research Funding; *Pfizer:* Research Funding; *MSD:* Research Funding; *Bayer:* Research Funding; *Janssen:* Research Funding; *PSI:* Research Funding; *Roche:* Research Funding; *Abbvie:* Other: Travel/Accommodations/Expenses, Research Funding; *Sandoz:* Other: Travel/Accommodations/Expenses. **Odeleye-Ajakaye:** *Merck & Co., Inc.:* Current Employment, Current equity holder in publicly-traded company. **Reddy:** *Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA:* Current Employment, Current equity holder in publicly-traded company. **Marinello:** *Merck & Co., Inc.:* Current Employment, Current equity holder in publicly-traded company. **Winter:** *Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA:* Research Funding.

<https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2023-181171>