

The Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer 37th Annual Meeting and Pre-Conference Programs

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Intratumoral Sotigalimab with Pembrolizumab Activates Antigen-presenting cells and Induces Local and Distant Anti-tumor Responses in First-line Metastatic Melanoma: Results of a Phase I/II Study

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Presenter Disclosure Information

Salah-Eddine Bentebibel

I have no financial relationships to disclose.



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In Situ Priming of Intratumoral Immunity (Vaccine Effect)

Local Priming

Intra-tumoral injection of immunostimulatory agents to trigger tumor-specific immunity

Distant Effects

Systemic anti-tumor immunity against non-injected tumor sites



Sotigalimab (APX005M) : Harnessing the CD40 Pathway to Activate Innate and Adaptive Immunity



- The use of immune-checkpoint inhibitors (CPI) is an important modality for the treatment of metastatic melanoma
- New combinations are needed to improve benefit-risk profiles
- Sotigalimab is a humanized IgG1 mAb against human CD40
- Sotigalimab binds the ligand binding domain of CD40

Objectives of our Study

- Assess the safety and tolerability of the combination of sotigalimab and pembrolizumab.
- Define the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and/or recommended phase 2 dose (RP2D).
- Assess objective response rate (ORR) based on RECIST 1.1.
- Measure biomarkers in blood and tumor samples.

Dose-Escalation and Recommended Phase 2 Dose Expansion Trial of Intratumoral Sotigalimab + Pembrolizumab

Phase 1 (N=14)	I.V. Pembro 2 mg/kg +	
<u>CPI Treatment-Naïve</u>	I.T. Sotigalimab 10mg I.V. Pembro 2 mg/kg + I.T. Sotigalimab 3 mg	Pembro 2 mg/kg + Sotigalimab 10 mg
Histologically or cytologically confirmed cutaneous or mucosal melanoma	I.V. Pembro 2 mg/kg + I.T. Sotigalimab 1 mg	Recommended Phase 2 Dose (RP2D)
 Measurable, unresectable stage III or IV disease. Measurable disease per RECIST 1.1 	I.V. Pembro 2 mg/kg + I.T. Sotigalimab 0.5 mg	
 ECOG 0 or 1 Adequate organ function 	I.V. Pembro 2 mg/kg	Phase 2 (N=18)
• Fresh biopsy and archival tissue	+ I.T. Sotigalimab 0.1 mg	

As of October 28, 2022, 32 patients were enrolled. Patients received sotigalimab every 3 weeks for a total of 4 injections

Patient Demographics and Disease Characteristics

Characteristic	Total n (%) (N=32)		
Sex			
Male	27 (84%)		
Female	5 (16%)		
Age (years)			
Median (Range)	64.5 (32-81)		
ECOG Performance Status			
0	18 (56%)		
1	14 (44%)		

Characteristic	(N=32)	%		
BRAF status				
Positive	11	34		
Negative	19	59		
Unknown	2	7		
LDH at baseline				
< ULN	16	50		
> ULN	7	22		
×2 ULN	9	28		
PD-L1 status				
Positive	8	25		
Negative	11	34		
Unknown	13	41		
Stage				
III	8	25		
IV M1a or M1b	17	53		
IV M1c	7	22		

PD-L1 positivity with immunohistochemistry defined by \geq 1% of tumor cells

Safety and Tolerability

- The combination of sotigalimab with pembrolizumab is well tolerated.
- No study discontinuations or death due to treatment-related adverse events (TRAEs).
- Most common TRAEs were injection-site reactions; six patients (18%) experienced grade-3 immune-related adverse events.
- The combination therapy did not induce dose limiting toxicity at any dose level of sotigalimab.
- No immunosuppressive therapy needed.

Best Overall Response by RECIST 1.1 as of October 28, 2022



Response rate at the RP2D (10 mg= 12/24 (50%)) assisted by QIAC

Clinical Responses were Observed in Both PD-L1 Negative Tumors and Patients with Elevated LDH



Objective Response Rate



Sotigalimab Engaged CD40 Activation and Up-regulation of Genes Associated with Antigen Presenting Cells (APCs)

(NanoString Gene Expression)



Blood



1 2 3 4 5

CTLA4

Sotigalimab Administration Leads to Activation Profile Distinct from TLR9 agonist

IFNα gene signature after i.t TLR9 agonist (IMO-2125)



IFNα gene signature after i.t CD40 agonist (Sotigalimab)



Sotigalimab induced Rapid DC and Macrophage Activation

(mIF and IMC) Local Lesions



The Clinical Response to the Combination Therapy Does not Require Pre-existing IFN- γ Mediated Immune Activation at Baseline

• The clinical response to anti-PD1 is associated with Pre-existing IFN-g Mediated Immune Activation (Rodig, Science Translational Medicine 2018 Ayers, J. Clin. Invest 2017, Gide, Cancer Cell 2019, Grasso, Cancer Cell 2020)



(NanoString Gene Expression) Local lesions



Responding Patients Appear to Have Higher Pre-existing CD11c⁺ Myeloid cells and CD11c⁺DC-LAMP⁺ DC

(mIF) Local Lesions at Baseline

CD11c⁺ myeloid (SOX10⁻CD8⁻CD11C⁺) CD11c⁺DC-LAMP⁺ (Sox10⁻CD8⁻CD11c⁺DC-LAMP⁺) CD8⁺ (SOX10⁻CD8⁺)



The Combination Treatment Activated DC and Increases Macrophage Signature in Local and Distant Tumors

(NanoString Gene Expression)

(mIF)



On-treatment Increase in CD8⁺ T, Cytotoxic and Th1 Scores in Tumor Observed in Responding Patients

(NanoString Gene Expression) Local Lesions



Total normalized reads

On-treatment Increase in CD8⁺ T, Cytotoxic and Th1 Scores in Tumor Observed in Responding Patients

(NanoString Gene Expression) Distant Lesions

Total normalized reads



The Combination Treatment Can Lead to an Increase in CD8⁺ T cell proliferation in Responding Patients



The Combination Treatment Can Lead to an Increase in T cell Infiltration and Clonality

(TCR Sequencing in Tumor Samples)



Distant Lesions



The Combination Treatment Can Lead to an Expansion of New Clones Shared between Local and Distal Lesions

<u>Assessment of Shared Clones between</u> Local and Distant Lesions by TCR Sequencing





Lessons and Take Home Messages



- Sotigalimab in combination with pembrolizumab is well tolerated.
- Sotigalimab in combination with pembrolizumab showed encouraging anti-tumor activity.
- Biomarker analysis demonstrates that combination of sotigalimab with pembrolizumab can induce broad innate and adaptive immune activation in both local and distant lesions.



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A special thank you is extended to the patients and their families



MD Anderson Cancer Center

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