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Pembrolizumab and nintedanib for patients with advanced mesothelioma

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Background

We report the results from the advanced malignant mesothelioma (aMM) expansion cohort of the PEMBIB phase Ib trial (NCT02856425) evaluating the safety, efficacy & biomarkers of an antiangiogenic TKI (nintedanib = [N]) with an anti-PD1 immunotherapy (pembrolizumab = [P]).

Methods

Patients (Pts) with aMM that relapsed after at least one line of platinum-based combination were treated with a combination of oral [N] (150mg BID) & IV [P] (200mg Q3W) with 7 days [N] lead-in preceded [P] initiation. Baseline and on-treatment fresh tumor & blood samples were prospectively phenotyped immune cells by flow cytometry (FC). RNAseq was run on tumor samples. Immune factors were titrated by multiplex ELISA on tumor secretome and plasma.

Results

30 aMM Pts were treated and 29 evaluable for response. Median age was 68 years old (38-85) and 86% of aMM were epithelioid. The most frequent adverse events (AE) (grades 1-3) related to the combination were liver enzymes increase, fatigue, nausea and diarrhea. 4 (13.3%) Pts developed grade 3-5 immune- related AE. Patients died of cancer progression (n=14), myocarditis with thrombo-embolic event (n=1) and COVID-19 (n=1). Median follow-up was 14.8 months (95%CI [9.70-18.2]). Best Overall Response Rates (BORR) were Partial Response (PR; n=7), Stable Disease (SD; n=17) and Progressive Disease (PD; n=5). Disease Control Rate (DCR) (defined as PR + SD) was 68.4% and 46.6% at 3 and 6 months, respectively. Analyses on *fresh* tumor biopsies showed that all patients increased their CD3+ T-cells and circulating levels of soluble PD1 and CXCL9 under treatment. Pts developing PR had significantly higher CD45+ and CD3+ tumor infiltrative cells at baseline compared to Pts with SD & PD as BORR. Pts with DCR at 6 months had significantly higher expression of integrins on circulating effector memory CD4+ & CD8+ T cells by FC, and higher NK, T, and myeloid dendritic cells infiltrates on baseline tumor RNAseq. Pre & on-treatment IL6 and IL8 levels in tumor secretome & plasma were higher among Pts with PD.

Conclusions

With a BORR of 23% and a DCR of 47% at 6 months, [P]+[N] combination provided valuable therapeutic benefits for Pts with aMM. Flow cytometry and secretome on fresh baseline tumor biopsies are simple techniques which could be used to predict treatment efficacy in aMM Pts.

Clinical trial identification

NCT02856425.

Legal entity responsible for the study

Gustave Roussy.

Funding

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Disclosure

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