Phase Ib study of futibatinib plus pembrolizumab in patients with esophageal carcinoma: Updated results of antitumor activity and tolerability results in combination with chemotherapy


1 Department of Head and Neck Esophageal Medical Oncology, National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, 2 Department of Clinical Oncology, Aichi Cancer Center Hospital, Nagoya, Aichi, Japan, 3 Department of Thoracic Oncology, Osaka International Cancer Institute, Osaka, Japan, 4 Department of Medical Oncology, Kindai University Faculty of Medicine, Osaka-Sayama, Japan, 5 Department of Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Oncology, National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Japan, 6 Department of Gastroenterological Surgery, Gunma Prefectural Cancer Center, Gunma, Japan, 7 Department of Gastroenterological Surgery, Gifu University Hospital, Gifu, Japan, 8 Department of Medical Oncology, Toranomon Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, 9 Department of Gastroenterology, Kanagawa Cancer Center, Kanagawa, Shizuoka, Japan, 10 Department of Gastroenterological Surgery, Tokai University Hospital, Kanagawa, Japan, 11 Department of Gastroenterology, Akita University Hospital, Akita, Japan, 12 Tsukuba Research Institute, Taiho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, Tsukuba, Japan, 13 Oncology Early Clinical Development, Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA, 14 Department of Gastroenterological chemotherapy, The Cancer Institute Hospital of Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, Tokyo, Japan

Background
Combination therapy using FGFR inhibitors and Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) are being explored as a novel strategy for cancer patients (pts). Previously, we reported the preliminary antitumor activity of irreversible FGFR inhibitor futibatinib plus pembrolizumab in pts with advanced (adv) or metastatic esophageal carcinoma (EC). Here, updated results and tolerability in combination with chemotherapy are presented.

Methods
Pts who are ICI naïve (Cohort A) or ICI refractory (Cohort B) for adv or metastatic EC who have received at least one prior therapy with a fluorouracil and platinum-based drug were administrated with futibatinib plus pembrolizumab. In addition, pts who have not received prior treatment with any systemic chemotherapy received futibatinib 20 mg once daily (QD) plus pembrolizumab 200 mg, fluorouracil 800mg/m² on days 1-5 and cisplatin 80mg/m² every 3weeks in Cohort D. Primary endpoint was overall response rate (ORR) in Cohort A and B, and dose-limiting toxicity (DLT) in Cohort D.

Results
As of March 15, 2023, 31 pts (Cohort A), 50 pts (Cohort B) and 11 pts (Cohort D) were enrolled. As results of the analysis for the cut-off data, confirmed partial responses (PRs) were observed in 11 pts in Cohort A; ORR was 39% with DCR of 75%. In Cohort B, confirmed PRs were observed in 3 pts; ORR was 6% with DCR of 57%. DLT was observed in one pt (Grade 3, Stomatitis) in Cohort D and the RD of futibatinib in combination with pembrolizumab and chemotherapy was determined as 20 mg QD. In Cohort D, most common TRAEs (N=11; all grade, grade ≥3) were hyperphosphatemia (82%, 0%) and stomatitis (82%, 9.1%). Of the 8 pts evaluated for efficacy in Cohort D, confirmed PRs and unconfirmed PRs were observed in 2 pts and 5 pts (5 pts are ongoing), respectively.

Conclusions
Futibatinib plus pembrolizumab showed encouraging antitumor activity in ICIs naïve adv or metastatic EC pts. Futibatinib plus pembrolizumab and chemotherapy showed no new safety signals and manageable safety profile, with promising antitumor activity in pts with adv or metastatic EC who have not received prior treatment with systemic chemotherapy.

Clinical trial identification
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Disclosure

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