ADU-1604, a novel CTLA-4 blocking antibody modulates pharmacodynamic markers in PD1 relapsed/refractory melanoma patients

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Background

Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4 (CTLA-4) is a negative regulator of T-cell responses, also known as an immune checkpoint. The clinical relevance of CTLA-4 blockade was demonstrated by the approval of ipilimumab (YERVOY®) for the treatment of melanoma, both in the adjuvant as well as metastatic settings. Sairopa acquired ADU-1604, a humanized hlg1 CTLA-4 antagonist antibody. ADU-1604 binds a unique epitope on CTLA-4, demonstrating, in contrast to ipilimumab full blockade of both CD80 and CD86 interactions. In vitro and in vivo ADU-1604 demonstrates at least as potent efficacy as compared to ipilimumab, was well tolerated in non-human primates and demonstrated enhanced immunogenicity against hepatitis B vaccine in non-human primates1.

Methods

This is a phase 1, first-in-human (FIH), two-part, open-label clinical trial of intravenous (IV) administration of ADU-1604 given as monotherapy on subjects with advanced-stage, relapsed/refractory melanoma who relapsed or were refractory to a prior anti-PD-1/PD-L1 therapy. Main endpoints are safety of ADU-1604 monotherapy, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics (upregulation of ICOS and Ki-67 on circulation CD4+ T cells and ALC, CD4+ and CD8+ T cells) as well as preliminary clinical efficacy. Up to 20 subjects will receive escalating doses of ADU-1604 IV (25, 75, 225, 450 mg flat dose) Q3W until RP2D is defined. In the dose expansion part up to 20 additional patients will be treated at the recommended phase 2 dose (RP2D) to further characterize safety, PK, PD, and explore initial clinical activity of ADU-1604 monotherapy in PD1 relapsed/refractory melanoma patients. The study was initiated in June 2022. Cohort 4 (450 mg) is ongoing at time of submission of the abstract (07/2023). The clinical trial is registered with EudraCT number 2021-002823-38.

ADU-1604 binds unique epitope on CTLA-4

The epitope of ADU-1604 was determined by deuterated chemical crosslinking followed by enzymatic digestion and peptide mass fingerprinting using mass spectrometry (Eggermann, Zurich, Switzerland) and highlighted in purple. The same experimental procedure was used to determine the binding region of ipilimumab. The epitope residues determined for ipilimumab overlap with the residues identified in the X-ray structure as described by Ramagopal et al. (2017) PNAS 114: E4223-4232 (PDB ID: 5TRU). The tremelimumab and Gotostabt binding region was not determined here, its graphic representation is based on the epitope as described by Lee et al (2016) Nat Commun 7: 13354-13354 and Gao et al. Cell Discovery (2020)6:79, respectively mapped on PDB ID: n.a.

ADU-1604 shows pH-sensitive binding to CTLA-4

ADU-1604 demonstrates stronger binding potency to human recombinant CTLA-4 as compared to ipilimumab and Gotostabt. Of note, ADU-1604 and ipilimumab demonstrate a higher binding efficacy as compared to Gotostabt (left panel). Comparing binding of ADU-1604, ipilimumab and Gotostabt at pH of 7.5 vs. 5.5 (late endosome), ADU-1604 and Gotostabt demonstrate pH-sensitivity for binding to recombinant CTLA-4 when compared to ipilimumab.

ADU-1604 shows early signs of clinical efficacy

450 MG DOSE OF ADU-1604 IS WELL TOLERATED

PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS

ADU-1604 DOSE-DEPENDENTLY INCREASES Ki-67 POSITIVE T CELLS

Summary

✓ ADU-1604 is a novel CTLA-4 blocking antibody that targets a unique epitope on CTLA-4.
✓ ADU-1604 binds CTLA-4 stronger as compared to other CTLA-4 targeting antibodies and demonstrates pH sensitive binding to CTLA-4.
✓ In melanoma patients, relapse/refractory to PD-1, blockade ADU-1604 is well tolerated up to 450 mg dose.
✓ Induction of proliferation of CD4 and CD8 T cells is induced by ADU-1604, coinciding with early signs of clinical activity.

Ethics Approval: All participants gave informed consent prior to study participation. Ethical Committee Approval issued by France, CPP Sud-Méditerranée on 16 Mar 2022, issued by Spain, CEilim Hospital Clinic on 16 Mar 2022, issued by Italy, IRCNS Pascale on 31 Mar 2022, issued by Poland. Bioethics Committee of Narodowy Instytut Onkologii on 15 Dec 2021.

ADU-1604 shows pH-sensitive binding to CTLA-4

Binding to recombinant human CTLA-4

Gotostabt ipilimumab ADU-1604

Top Telo EC50 1.932 2.517 2.678 1.573 0.2709 0.1102

pH-dependent binding of CTLA-4 antibodies

Gotostabt ipilimumab ADU-1604

0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5

EC50 1.573 1.923 1.923 2.517 2.678

ADU-1604 demonstrates pH-sensitive binding to human recombinant CTLA-4 as compared to ipilimumab and Gotostabt. Of note, ADU-1604 and ipilimumab demonstrate a higher binding efficacy as compared to Gotostabt (left panel). Comparing binding of ADU-1604, ipilimumab and Gotostabt at pH of 7.5 vs. 5.5 (late endosome), ADU-1604 and Gotostabt demonstrate pH-sensitivity for binding to recombinant CTLA-4 when compared to ipilimumab.

ADU-1604 shows early signs of clinical efficacy

450 MG DOSE OF ADU-1604 IS WELL TOLERATED

PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS

Age (years)

25 mg (N = 4)
75 mg (N = 6)
225 mg (N = 3)
450 mg (N = 3)
Total (N = 17)

25 mg (N = 4)
75 mg (N = 6)
225 mg (N = 3)
450 mg (N = 3)
Total (N = 17)

Sex (%)

Male 60.3 61.8 67.8 51.3 60.3
Female 39.7 38.2 32.2 48.7 39.7

Melanoma type

Nodular Melanoma 50.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 75.0
Superficial Spreading Melanoma 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 37.5
Lentigo Maligna 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0
Other 100.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 25.0

ECCG Performance Status

0 0 0 0 0
1 2 2 2 2
2** 2 2 2 2
3 1 1 1 1
4 0 0 0 0 0

Prior treatment line(s) (%)

1-2 3 (75) 0 (0) 0 (0) 0 (0) 4 (23.5)
3-4* 2 (50) 0 (0) 0 (0) 0 (0) 1 (5.9)

Number of Cycles of ADU-1604 (1 Cycle ~ 21 days)

Average 8 2 4 2 4 4

ADU-1604 DOSE-DEPENDENTLY INCREASES Ki-67 POSITIVE T CELLS

** One patient received 25 mg for cycles 1-8, then received 75mg from Cycle 9 to Cycle 13. Confirmed disease progression at 11.9 months.
* One Grade 4 event, Neutropenia unrelated to ADU-1604. No grade 5 events occurred.
** Two AEs: Grade 3 Immune-mediated gastritis, probably related to ADU-1604 & Grade 3 Alkaline phosphatase increased, possibly related to ADU-1604.
*** Most common treatment-related AEs were Rash [2/17 (12%)] & Pruritis [2/17 (12%)] reported in the 225mg cohort and Fatigue [2/17 (12%)] reported in the 450mg cohort. Database cut-off: 28 September 2023.