Perioperative Enfortumab Vedotin Plus Pembrolizumab Versus Chemotherapy in Cisplatin-Eligible Patients With Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer: Phase 3 KEYNOTE-B15/EV-304

Christopher Hoimes¹; Yohann Loriot²; Jens Bedke³; Hiroyuki Nishiyama⁴; Ritesh S. Kataria⁵; Blanca Homet Moreno⁵; Matthew D. Galsky⁶

¹Duke University, Durham, NC, USA; ²Gustave Roussy, Cancer Campus, Villejuif, France; ³Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany; ⁴University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan; ⁵Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA; ⁶Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA

Background

- Standard of care for cisplatin-eligible patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) is neoadjuvant cisplatin-based chemotherapy followed by radical cystectomy + pelvic lymph node dissection (RC + PLND); however, up to 50% of patients experience disease recurrence or progression^{1,2}
- Pembrolizumab, a PD-1 inhibitor, is approved in the United States for patients with³
- Locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who are ineligible for any platinum-containing chemotherapy
- Locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who experience disease progression during or after platinum-containing chemotherapy or within 12 months before neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment with platinum-containing chemotherapy
- Bacillus Calmette-Guérin-unresponsive, high-risk non-muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) + carcinoma in situ with or without papillary tumors and who are ineligible for or have elected not to undergo cystectomy
- In the European Union, pembrolizumab is approved for patients with⁴
- Locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who received prior platinum-containing chemotherapy
- Locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who are not eligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy and whose tumors express PD-L1 with a combined positive score (CPS) of ≥10
- Enfortumab vedotin (EV) is a Nectin-4-directed antibody-drug conjugate composed of a fully human anti-Nectin-4 immunoglobulin G1 kappa monoclonal antibody conjugated to the small molecule microtubule-disrupting agent monomethyl auristatin E via a protease-cleavable maleimidocaproyl valine-citrulline linker⁵
- Approved in the United States for the treatment of adults with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer who:
- Previously received a PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitor and platinum-containing chemotherapy
- Are ineligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy and have previously received ≥1 prior lines of therapy
- EV + pembrolizumab was shown to have encouraging antitumor activity and acceptable safety as first-line treatment for cisplatin-ineligible patients with metastatic urothelial cancer in the EV-103/KEYNOTE-869 phase 1/2 study⁶
- KEYNOTE-B15/EV-304 (NCT04700124) is a randomized, open-label, phase 3 study designed to evaluate perioperative EV + pembrolizumab versus neoadjuvant gemcitabine + cisplatin in cisplatin-eligible participants with MIBC

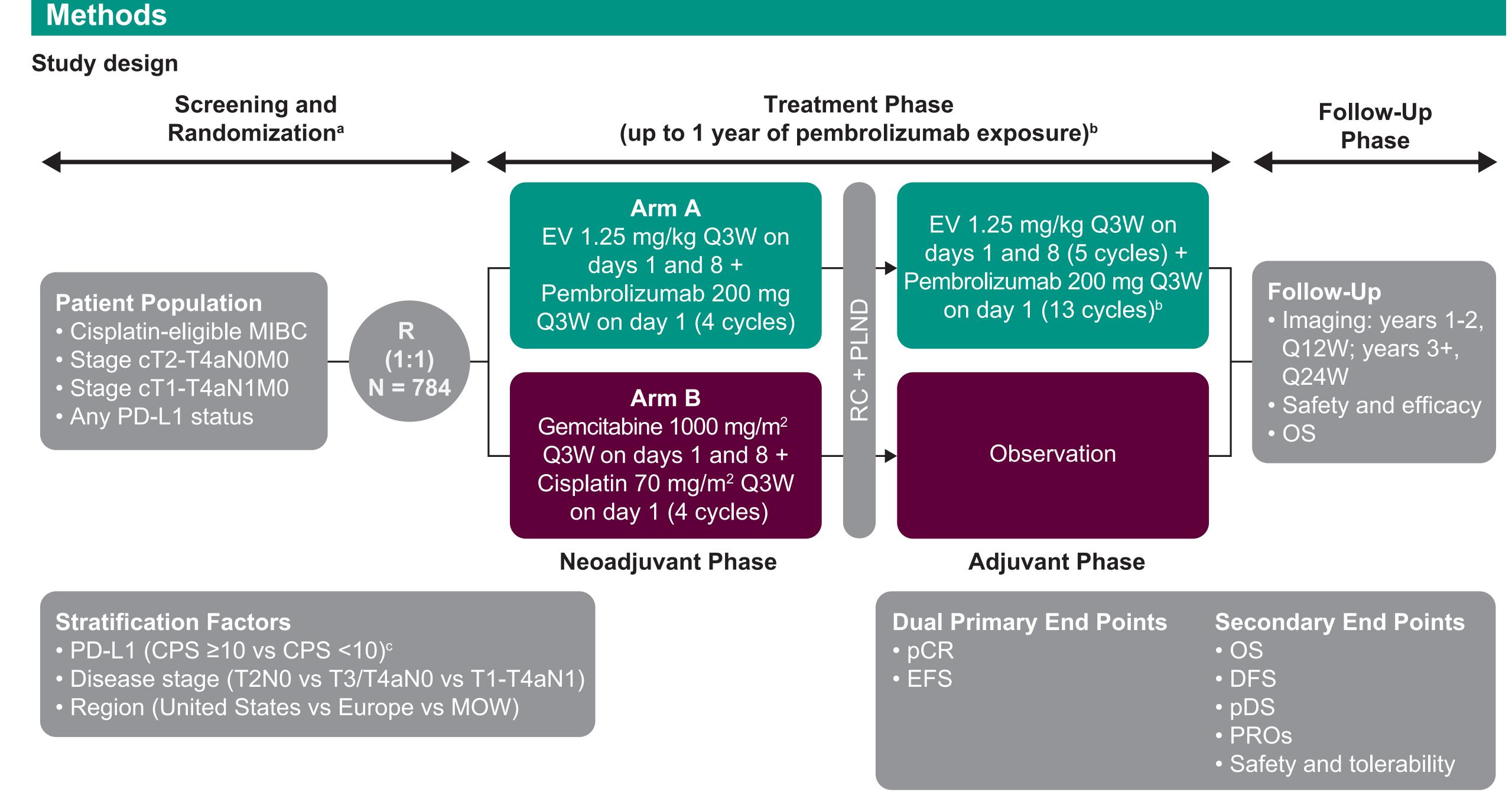
Primary

Objectives

- To compare the following between perioperative EV + pembrolizumab and RC + PLND versus neoadjuvant gemcitabine + cisplatin and RC + PLND in cisplatin-eligible patients with MIBC:
- Pathologic complete response (pCR)
- Event-free survival (EFS)

Secondary

- To compare the following between perioperative EV + pembrolizumab and RC + PLND versus neoadjuvant gemcitabine + cisplatin and RC + PLND in cisplatin-eligible patients with MIBC:
- Overall survival (OS)
- Disease-free survival (DFS)
- Pathologic downstaging (pDS)
- Defined as any stage lower than pT2 (includes pT0, pTis, pTa, and pT1) and N0 in tissue obtained by RC + PLND
- Patient-reported outcomes (PROs)
- Safety and tolerability



AE, adverse event; BICR, blinded independent central review; CT, computed tomography; MOW, most of world; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; Q3W, every 3 weeks; Q12W, every 12 weeks; Q24W, every 24 weeks; ^aAll patients will undergo baseline imaging studies (CT or MRI) for clinical staging (evaluated by BICR before randomization) and central pathology confirmation for pathologic stage pT2-T4a or pT1 (only if N1),

urothelial histology, and PD-L1 expression

bUntil unacceptable AEs, intercurrent illness preventing further treatment administration, or investigator or patient decision to withdraw. ^cCPS is defined as the number of PD-L1-staining cells (tumor cells, lymphocytes, macrophages) divided by the total number of viable tumor cells, multiplied by 100.

Patient eligibility criteria

Key inclusion criteria	Key exclusion criteria
Age ≥18 years Histologically confirmed urothelial carcinoma (clinical stage T2-T4aN0M0 or T1-T4aN1M0) with predominant (≥50%) urothelial histology and any level of PD-L1 expression (CPS ≥10 or CPS <10) ^a Clinically nonmetastatic bladder cancer (N≤1, M0) ^b Eligibility for RC + PLND and must agree to undergo curative-intent standard RC + PLND TURBT (obtained ≤60 days [+14 days] before enrollment) submitted for central pathology assessment and adequate to determine urothelial histology and PD-L1 expression ECOG PS 0 or 1 Adequate organ function	 Additional nonurothelial malignancy that is progressing or necessitated active anticancer treatment ≤3 years before study randomization Any prior systemic treatment, chemoradiation, or radiation therapy treatment for MIBC°; radiation therapy to the bladder; or partial cystectomy ≥N2 disease or metastatic disease (M1) Cisplatin ineligibility^d Prior therapy with an anti–PD-1, anti–PD-L1, or anti–PD-L2 agent or with an agent directed to another stimulatory or coinhibitory T-cell receptor Prior systemic anticancer therapy that included investigational agents ≤3 years before randomization Active autoimmune disease necessitating steroids Current pneumonitis or history of (noninfectious) pneumonitis necessitating steroids History of HIV infection, active HBV infection, or active HCV infection Ongoing sensory or motor neuropathy grade ≥2 History of uncontrolled diabetes

CrCl, creatinine clearance; CTCAE, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; NYHA, New York Heart Association; TURBT, transurethral resection of bladder tumor.

acT2-T4aN0M0 or cT1-T4aN1M0; histology and presence of muscle invasion to be confirmed by BICR (central pathology and/or central imaging assessment). Participants whose tumors are pT1 are eligible only if the participants have N1 disease (confirmed by BICR).

Determined by imaging (CT of the chest and CT or MRI of the abdomen/pelvis), confirmed by BICR.

^cPrior treatment for NMIBC with intravesical instillation therapy permitted.

dDetermined by any 1 of the following: impaired renal function with measured CrCl <60 mL/min; ECOG PS ≥2; CTCAE v5.0 grade ≥2 peripheral neuropathy; CTCAE v5.0 grade ≥2 audiometric hearing loss; or NYHA class III heart failure.

Assessment and follow-up

Assessments	Details
Tumor response	• Imaging of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis will be performed 6 weeks before cystectomy to exclude disease progression that might preclude curative-intent surgery; patients who remain radiographically free of distant metastases will undergo RC + PLND within 6 weeks of the last dose of neoadjuvant treatment
	 Postoperative imaging will be conducted 6 weeks (42 days ± 14 days) after cystectomy
	 After postcystectomy imaging at 6 weeks, imaging will be performed Q12W (84 days ± 7 days) up to the end of year 2 (96 weeks), at discontinuation, and then Q24W (168 days ± 14 days) thereafter
	 All RC + PLND surgical specimens will be assessed by blinded independent central pathology to determine pathologic response
	• Patients with new recurrent/metastatic disease will have met the primary EFS end point and will not undergo further therapy but will transition into survival follow-up phase
	- Patients who discontinue for reasons other than an EFS event will be followed up for posttreatment efficacy and disease status until an EFS event occurs
	 All patients will be followed up for OS status until death, withdrawal of consent, or end of study, whichever occurs first
Safety	• AEs will be monitored and assessed by the investigator per CTCAE v5.0 from randomization for up to 30 days after the last dose of study treatment
PROs	 PROs will be assessed using the EORTC QLQ-C30, BCI, and EuroQol EQ-5D-5L questionnaires

BCI, Bladder Cancer Index; EORTC QLQ-C30, EORTC Quality of Life Questionnaire Core 30; EuroQol EQ-5D-5L, EuroQol 5-dimension, 5-level questionnaire.

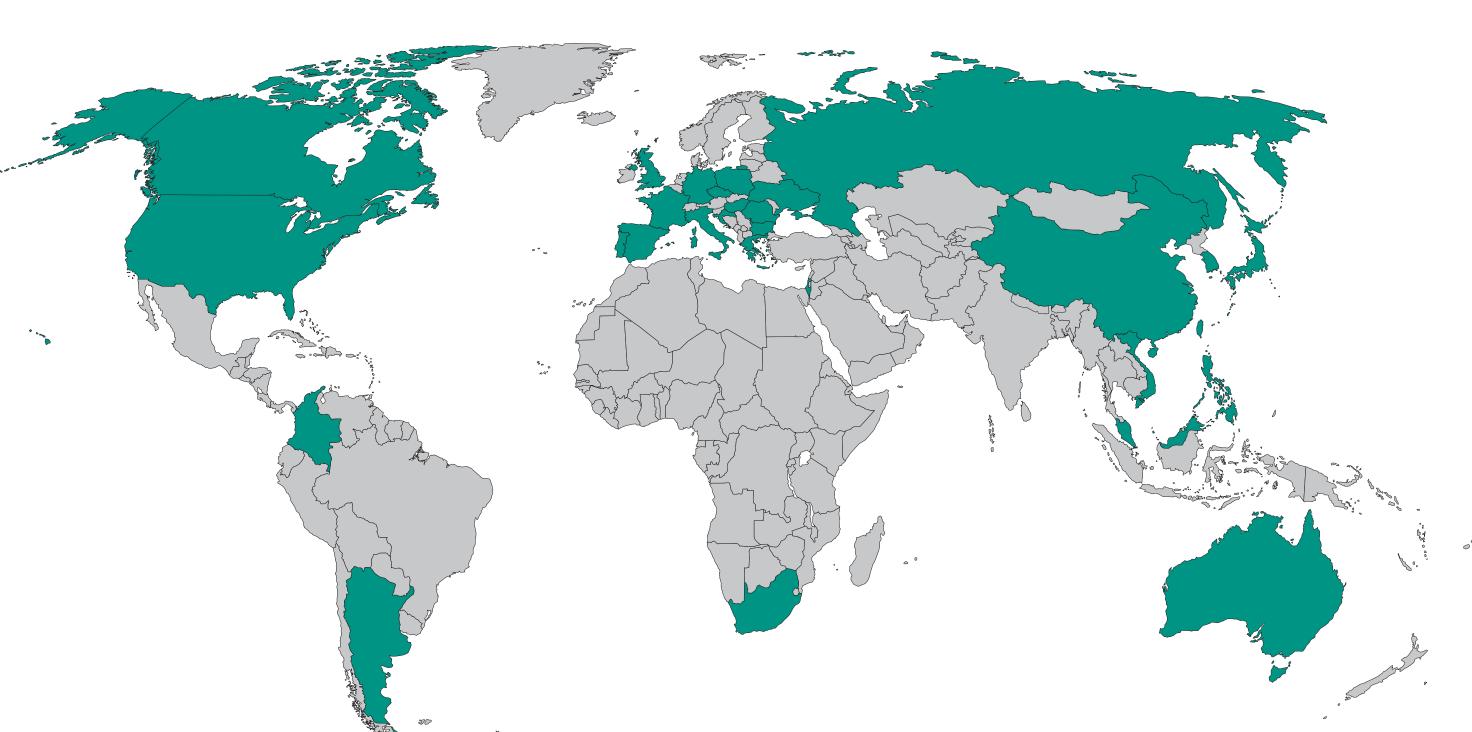
Analyses

Allaly 3C3	
Analyses	Details
Efficacy	• The full analysis set will serve as the analysis population for pCR and pDS and consists of all randomly assigned patients regardless of whether they received treatment
	 pCR and pDS will be analyzed using the stratified Miettinen and Nurminen method,⁷ with strata weighting by sample size
	• The intention-to-treat population (all randomly assigned patients) will serve as the analysis population for EFS and OS
	 EFS and OS will be evaluated using the nonparametric Kaplan-Meier method; treatment differences (ie, HR) will be assessed using the stratified log-rank test and will be estimated using the stratified Cox proportional hazards model with the Efron method for handling ties (HR and 95% CI)
	• The DFS analysis population will consist of patients who are disease free at initial postsurgery imaging; data will be summarized descriptively using the Kaplan-Meier method
Safety	• Safety will be assessed by clinical review of all relevant parameters, including AEs, serious AEs, fatal AEs, laboratory test results, vital signs, ECG, and surgical complications

ECG, electrocardiography; HR, hazard ratio.

Status

Sites of enrollment for KEYNOTE B-15 (in green)



References

- 1. Powles T et al. Ann Oncol. 2022;33:244-258. 2. Stenzl A et al. Eur Urol. 2009;55:815-825
- 3. KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab) injection, for intravenous use. 1/2023. Merck Sharp & Dohme, LLC: Rahway, NJ, USA; 2023.
- 5. Padcev (enfortumab vedotin). Prescribing information Northbrook, IL: Astellas Pharma US, Inc.; October 2022 6. Hoimes CJ et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2023:41:22-31.

7. Miettinen O, Nurminen M. Stat Med. 1985;4:213-226.

4. KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) 50 mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (summary of product characteristics). Haarlem, Netherlands: MSD B.V.; November 2022.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the patients and their families and caregivers for participating in this trial and all investigators and site personnel. The authors would also like to thank Fand Liu (employee of Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA) for contributions the development of the study. Medical writing and/or editorial assistance was provided by Matthew Grzywacz, PhD, of ApotheCom (Yardley, PA, USA) This assistance was funded by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA. Funding for this research was provided by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA. Astellas and Seagen are collaborative partners for this study.

Contact information

Contact the author at christopher.hoimes@duke.edu for questions or comments

To access poster

To access

plain language summa

https://bit.ly/3JdeRUU