

KEYNOTE-716: Phase III study of adjuvant pembrolizumab versus placebo in resected high-risk stage II melanoma

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Patients with high-risk stage II melanoma are at significant risk for recurrence after surgical resection. Adjuvant treatment options to lower the risk for distant metastases are limited. Although adjuvant IFN- α 2b is associated with improved relapse-free survival in patients with high-risk melanoma, toxicity and limited overall survival benefits limit its use. Adjuvant treatment with the PD-1 inhibitor pembrolizumab significantly improved recurrence-free survival, compared with placebo, in patients with resected stage III melanoma in the Phase III KEYNOTE-054 trial; efficacy in patients with stage II disease has not been established. This article describes the design and rationale of KEYNOTE-716 (NCT03553836), a two-part, randomized, placebo-controlled, multicenter Phase III study of adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients with surgically resected high-risk stage II melanoma.

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Melanoma ranks 21st among the most common cancers worldwide, with approximately 288,000 new cases and 61,000 deaths in 2018, and ranks fifth in the USA, with approximately 96,000 new cases and 7000 related deaths expected in 2019 [1,2]. The global incidence of cutaneous melanoma has increased at a faster rate than has any other

malignancy [3], doubling between 1982 and 2011 in the USA [4]; 112,000 new melanoma cases are projected to occur in 2030 [4].

Therapeutic options for melanoma depend on host and tumor features (including stage, location and genetic profile) and may include surgical resection, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy or chemotherapy [5,6]. Patients with localized stage II melanoma are typically treated by surgery [7]; however, high-risk patients (stage IIB and IIC) often experience disease recurrence after surgical resection [8]. Among patients with stage IIB and IIC melanoma, 19 and 11%, respectively, experience local recurrence; 45 and 58%, experience regional recurrence and 44 and 39% have distant recurrence. Recurrence patterns for stage III disease indicate that although distant recurrence is more common than locoregional recurrence, many patients experience locoregional recurrence [9–11]. A meta-analysis involving 15 randomized trials of adjuvant IFN- α in patients with resected high-risk melanoma showed reduced risk for relapse (improvement in recurrence-free survival [RFS]; hazard ratio of 0.88) and improved overall survival (OS; ~3% OS advantage at 5 years) [12]. Although adjuvant IFN- α is offered to patients with stage II melanoma in some European countries, it is often not recommended because of significant associated toxicity [13], and its use may be limited to patients with ulcerated primary melanomas [14]. Furthermore, it has been reported that patients with melanoma experience fear of recurrence after being treated for localized melanoma [15]. There remains a significant need for adjuvant therapies to improve survival in patients with high-risk clinically localized melanoma.

Recent clinical trials in the adjuvant setting in melanoma have focused on treating high-risk stage III patients with the PD-1 inhibitors pembrolizumab and nivolumab or with combination BRAF and MEK inhibitors to decrease the risk for recurrence and improve distant metastasis-free survival (DMFS) and OS (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer [EORTC] 1325/KEYNOTE-054, NCT02362594 [16]; S1404/KEYNOTE-053, NCT02506153 [17]; CheckMate 238, NCT02388906 [18]; COMBI-AD, NCT01682083 [19]). So far, the tolerability and benefits of adjuvant PD-1 inhibitor therapy have been reported in two studies [16,18]. CheckMate 238 showed 1-year RFS rates of 71% with adjuvant nivolumab versus 61% with adjuvant ipilimumab in patients with resected stage III or IV melanoma [18]. Results of the EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 study demonstrated 1-year RFS rates of 75% with pembrolizumab versus 61% with placebo in patients with resected stage III melanoma [16]. Moreover, preliminary findings of both studies indicate that DMFS may also be improved with these agents, with events reported in 25.2% of patients receiving nivolumab versus 31.4% of those receiving ipilimumab and in 15.2% of those receiving pembrolizumab versus 27.3% of those receiving placebo [16,18]. In COMBI-AD, the combination of dabrafenib (BRAF inhibitor) plus trametinib (MEK inhibitor) as adjuvant therapy provided a 3-year RFS rate of 58 versus 39% for adjuvant placebo in patients with stage III, *BRAF*^{V600E/V600K}-mutant melanoma, as well as a 3-year OS rate of 86 versus 77% and a suggestion of improved DMFS, with events reported in 25% versus 35% with adjuvant placebo [19]. Importantly, health-related quality of life was maintained with adjuvant pembrolizumab versus placebo in the KEYNOTE-054 study [20]. These encouraging data warrant further investigation of adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients with high-risk stage II melanoma.

Introduction to the KEYNOTE-716 trial

Herein, we describe the design of the randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, crossover/rechallenge, multicenter Phase III KEYNOTE-716 study (ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT03553836), which is being conducted to evaluate the clinical benefit of adjuvant pembrolizumab therapy compared with placebo in pediatric patients (aged 12 to <18 years) and adult patients (aged \geq 18 years) with high-risk stage II melanoma.

Background & rationale

Pembrolizumab is a highly selective anti-PD-1 humanized monoclonal antibody that blocks the interaction between PD-1 and its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2 [21], thus releasing PD-1 pathway-mediated inhibition of immune response, including the antitumor response. The robust and durable antitumor activity and manageable safety profile of pembrolizumab demonstrated in several advanced solid tumors have led to the approval of pembrolizumab in numerous countries for the treatment of one or more advanced cancers, including melanoma [21,22].

The approval of pembrolizumab for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic melanoma in pretreated and in treatment-naïve patients was based on results from the KEYNOTE-001 (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier, NCT01295827), KEYNOTE-002 (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier, NCT01704287) and KEYNOTE-006 (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier, NCT01866319) trials [23–25]. More recently, pembrolizumab was approved for the adjuvant treatment of patients with melanoma with involvement of lymph nodes after complete resection, based

on results from the EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 study [16]. In that study, adult patients with high-risk stage III melanoma who received 18 doses (~1 year) of pembrolizumab 200 mg every 3 weeks after resection had a significantly longer RFS than those who received placebo. The 1-year RFS rate was 75.4% (95% CI: 71.3–78.9%) versus 61.0% (95% CI: 56.5–65.1%), respectively; hazard ratio for recurrence or death was 0.57 (98.4% CI: 0.43–0.74; $p < 0.001$). Grade ≥ 3 treatment-related adverse events (AEs) occurred in 14.7% of patients in the pembrolizumab arm versus 3.4% in the placebo arm. The safety profile of pembrolizumab was consistent with that established through previous studies [16]. Moreover, the EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 study showed a consistent reduction in risk for recurrence with pembrolizumab across a variety of subgroups, including microscopic and macroscopic positive lymph nodes and stages (IIIA [patients with stage N1a melanoma were required to have at least one micrometastasis measuring >1 mm in greatest diameter], IIIB and IIIC), according to the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, 7th edition (AJCC-7) [11,16]. This consistency across subgroups is maintained when using the *AJCC Cancer Staging Manual*, 8th edition (AJCC-8) [26] compared with the AJCC-7 staging system [27]. The EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 study is also investigating whether pembrolizumab rechallenge benefits stage III patients who experience documented disease recurrence >6 months after completion of 1 year of adjuvant pembrolizumab [16,28]. It has been demonstrated that, in some advanced melanoma patients who derived benefit from anti-PD-1 or anti-PD-L1 therapy, rechallenge with the same agent after subsequent progression can confer additional benefit [29].

Adjuvant pembrolizumab may reduce the risk for recurrence in patients with surgically resected high-risk stage II melanoma because of the proven clinical benefit of adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients with resected stage III melanoma [16]. Patients with stage IIB, IIC or stage IIIB melanoma have similar survival outcomes (5-year melanoma-specific survival rates are 87, 82 and 83% for stage IIB, IIC and IIIB, respectively; 10-year melanoma-specific survival rates are 82, 75 and 77% for stage IIB, IIC and IIIB, respectively [26]) [9,10]. Therefore, the evidence supports the study of adjuvant pembrolizumab in these high-risk patients and provides the opportunity to assess rechallenge with pembrolizumab in the event of disease recurrence in this patient population.

Stage II melanoma affects adult and pediatric patients. Pembrolizumab was well tolerated in pediatric patients, as demonstrated in the KEYNOTE-051 study, which established the recommended Phase II dose of 2 mg/kg every 3 weeks for children with advanced solid tumors, including melanoma or lymphoma [30]. Therefore, pembrolizumab has the potential to decrease the risk for recurrence and improve DMFS and OS in pediatric patients with newly diagnosed and resected high-risk stage II melanoma.

Study design

KEYNOTE-716 is a two-part (adjuvant and rechallenge/crossover), randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, multicenter, Phase III study of adjuvant pembrolizumab in adult patients (aged ≥ 18 years) and pediatric patients (aged 12 to <18 years) with resected stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma (Figure 1). Stage IIB and IIC cutaneous melanoma are defined as T category T3b and T4a, and T4b, respectively (Table 1), with negative sentinel lymph node biopsy, no regional metastases and no evidence of distant metastasis (per AJCC-8 [26]).

In Part 1, eligible patients will be randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive adjuvant therapy with either the pembrolizumab adult (aged ≥ 18 years) dose of 200 mg iv. every 3 weeks or the pediatric (aged ≥ 12 to <18 years) dose of 2 mg/kg iv. up to a maximum of 200 mg every 3 weeks or saline placebo intravenously every 3 weeks. Treatment will continue for up to 17 cycles. Part 2 is the unblinded crossover/rechallenge phase of the study in which eligible patients with disease recurrence can receive further treatment with pembrolizumab if they meet eligibility criteria.

Treatment allocation/randomization will occur centrally using an interactive response technology system. The patients and the investigator involved in administering the study treatments or clinical evaluation of the patients will be blinded to the group assignments in Part 1.

Eligibility criteria

A full account of the eligibility criteria is provided in Table 1. In brief, male and female patients aged ≥ 12 years will be eligible for enrollment if they have surgically resected and histologically or pathologically confirmed stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma.

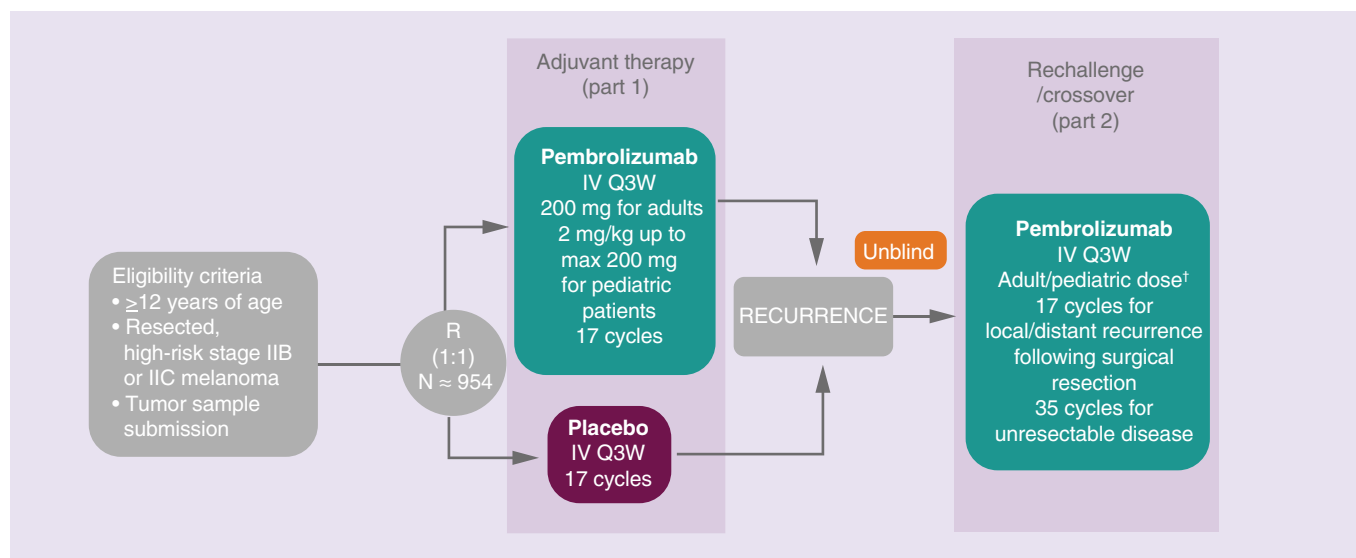


Figure 1. Study design.

†Adult dose, 200 mg Q3W; pediatric dose, 2 mg/kg Q3W (to a maximum of 200 mg Q3W).

IV: Intravenous; Q3W: Every 3 weeks; R: Randomized.

Planned sample size & study period

Approximately 954 eligible patients will be enrolled in the trial. The sample size is driven by the primary end point of RFS. The final analysis of RFS is event driven and will be conducted after approximately 179 RFS events have been observed, at about 48 months after enrollment starts, unless the study is terminated early. The trial start date was 12 September 2018, and the estimated study completion date is 21 October 2033.

Study procedures

Patients will undergo imaging that includes full chest/abdomen/pelvis computed tomography and/or MRI in Part 1, every 6 months while treatment is ongoing, at the end of treatment, every 6 months from years 2–4 from randomization and then once in year 5 from randomization or until disease recurrence. For patients in Part 2, tumor imaging will be performed every 12 weeks during treatment for 1 or 2 years based on stage or recurrence pattern and resectability of disease before entry to Part 2. During Part 2 follow-up, the imaging schedule will be based on disease stage/recurrence pattern and resectability of disease before entry to Part 2. Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors, version 1.1 (RECIST 1.1 [31]), with a modification to allow a maximum of ten target lesions in total and five target lesions per organ will be used as the primary measure for assessment of tumor response and date of disease progression, and as a basis for all protocol guidelines related to disease status in Part 1. Objective response (partial response/complete response) will be confirmed based on repeat imaging using RECIST v1.1, and Guidelines for Response Criteria for Use in Trials Testing Immunotherapeutics (iRECIST) will be used to confirm progressive disease after initial site-assessed radiologic progressive disease per RECIST v1.1 in clinically stable patients. Patients who have disease recurrence will be unblinded. All patients who complete Part 1 pembrolizumab treatment will be eligible for additional cycles of pembrolizumab if they meet Part 2 rechallenge/crossover enrollment criteria (Table 1). Patients who received pembrolizumab during Part 1 and experience recurrence after more than 6 months from last dose of treatment may be eligible for rechallenge and receive up to 17 (after resection of recurrent disease, if feasible) or 35 cycles (for unresectable local or unresectable distant recurrence) of pembrolizumab in Part 2 (approximately 1 and 2 years of treatment, respectively). Patients are required to start Part 2 treatment within 4 weeks of recurrence. For safety, AEs will be monitored throughout the study and for 30 days after the end of treatment (90 days for serious AEs) and will be graded per Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.0 [32].

In Part 1, the EuroQol 5 dimension, 5 level questionnaire (EQ-5D-5L) and EORTC Quality of Life Questionnaire Core 30 (QLQ-C30) will be completed electronically at baseline during treatment (Cycle 1), during treatment in year 1 (Cycles 5, 9, 13 and 17), every 12 weeks during year 2 and every 6 months during year 3. In

Table 1. Eligibility criteria for Parts 1 and 2 of KEYNOTE-716.

Part 1	
Key inclusion criteria	Key exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged ≥ 12 years • Provision of informed consent by patient or legal representative • Surgically resected and histologically/pathologically confirmed new diagnosis of stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma[†] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Category T3b, T4a or T4b with pathologically confirmed negative sentinel lymph node biopsy specimen and no evidence of regional or distant metastatic disease[†] • Not previously treated for melanoma beyond complete surgical resection of current primary melanoma lesion • No more than 12 weeks elapsed between full surgical resection and first dose of study treatment and with complete wound healing, • ECOG PS 0 or 1 (patients aged >18 years) or Lansky Play-Performance Scale score ≥ 50 (children aged ≤ 16 years) or Karnofsky Performance Status Scale score ≥ 50 (children aged >16 and <18 years) • Female patients of child-bearing potential and male patients must agree to follow the protocol's contraception guidance during the treatment period and for ≥ 120 days thereafter • Adequate hematologic function, defined as ANC $\geq 1500/\mu\text{l}$, platelet count $\geq 100,000/\mu\text{l}$ and hemoglobin ≥ 9.0 g/dl or ≥ 5.6 mmol/l • Adequate renal function, defined as creatinine $\leq 1.5 \times$ ULN or measured or calculated creatinine clearance ≥ 30 ml/min for those with creatinine levels $>1.5 \times$ ULN • Adequate hepatic function, defined as total bilirubin $\leq 1.5 \times$ ULN or direct bilirubin \leq ULN for those with total bilirubin levels $>1.5 \times$ ULN and ALT/AST levels $\leq 2.5 \times$ ULN (Parts 1 and 2; $<5 \times$ ULN for patients in Part 2 with liver metastases) • Adequate coagulation function, defined as INR $\leq 1.5 \times$ ULN unless the patient is receiving anticoagulant therapy as long as PT or aPTT is within the therapeutic range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uveal or ocular melanoma • Known additional progressive malignancy that necessitated active antineoplastic therapy (including hormonal) or surgery within preceding 5 years[‡] • Diagnosis of immunodeficiency or receiving long-term systemic steroid therapy (>10 mg/day of prednisone equivalent) or any other form of immunosuppressive therapy ≤ 7 days before the first dose of study drug • Received prior therapy with an anti-PD-1, anti-PD-L1 or anti-PD-L2 agent or agent directed to another stimulatory or co-inhibitory T-cell receptor • Received prior systemic anticancer therapy for melanoma • History of radiation therapy for melanoma before study entry • Pregnant or breastfeeding • Received live vaccine ≤ 30 days before first dose of study drug • Inadequate recovery from major surgery (with ongoing toxicity or other complications) • Evidence of metastatic disease on imaging by investigator assessment • Severe hypersensitivity (grade ≥ 3) to any pembrolizumab excipients • Active autoimmune disease that has necessitated systemic treatment in the past 2 years[§] • History of (noninfectious) pneumonitis that necessitated use of steroids, or current pneumonitis • Active infection necessitating systemic therapy • Known history of HIV or HBV infection, or known active HCV infection • History of active tuberculosis (<i>Bacillus tuberculosis</i>)
Part 2 – Crossover or rechallenge after recurrence	
Key inclusion criteria	Key exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigator-determined/confirmed first disease recurrence[¶] (radiologic or by examination/biopsy) • Continuing from Part 1 placebo or completed 17 cycles of pembrolizumab treatment with no treatment delays in ≥ 12 weeks • Full resection of lesions or biopsy of unresectable or metastatic disease confirmed by site pathologist to be melanoma^{††} • ECOG PS 0–2 in patients aged ≥ 18 years or Lansky Play-Performance Scale score ≥ 50 (children aged ≤ 16 years) or Karnofsky Performance Status Scale score ≥ 50 (children aged >16 and <18 years) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received new anticancer treatment after the last dose of Part 1 trial treatment • Second recurrence • Presence of leptomeningeal disease[#] • Discontinued study treatment during Part 1 because of documented disease recurrence on pembrolizumab, unacceptable AEs, investigator or patient decision to withdraw consent
<p>[†] According to <i>AJCC Cancer Staging Manual</i>, 8th edition [26].</p> <p>[‡] Basal carcinoma of the skin, squamous cell carcinoma of the skin, nonulcerated primary melanoma <1 mm in depth with no nodal involvement or carcinoma <i>in situ</i> that has undergone potentially curative therapy is allowed.</p> <p>[§] Replacement therapy (e.g., thyroxine, insulin, physiologic corticosteroid replacement therapy for adrenal or pituitary insufficiency) is not considered a form of systemic treatment and is allowed.</p> <p>[¶] Patients who are at <6 months from their last dose of pembrolizumab in Part 1 were not eligible.</p> <p>[#] Patients with focal or multifocal brain metastasis who are asymptomatic and do not require supraphysiologic steroid therapy are eligible and may receive concurrent radiation to these lesions.</p> <p>^{††} If biopsy is clinically contraindicated, investigators should seek sponsor review and approval to start participant on Part 2 therapy. If participant has a thoracic lesion or lymph node suspected of recurrence (especially if solitary lesion), it is encouraged that a biopsy be performed to confirm metastatic melanoma vs another lung primary malignancy vs a nonmalignant lung disease (e.g., sarcoidosis).</p> <p>AE: Adverse event; AJCC: American Joint Committee on Cancer; ANC: Absolute neutrophil count; aPTT: Activated partial thromboplastin time; ECOG PS: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GFR: Glomerular filtration rate; INR: International normalized ratio; PT: Prothrombin time; ULN: Upper limit of normal.</p>	

Part 2, the EQ-5D-5L will be completed at baseline (Cycle 1), during treatment (Cycles 9, 17 and 35) and at 24 and 48 weeks during the first year of treatment. Blood samples will be obtained to measure the pharmacokinetics of serum pembrolizumab in all pediatric patients. Biospecimens (i.e., blood components, tumor material and stool samples) for biomarker identification will be collected to support analyses of cellular components (e.g., protein, DNA, RNA and metabolites) and other circulating molecules.

Outcome measures/end points

The primary objective of the study is to compare RFS (assessed by the site investigator) between patients with completely resected high-risk stage II melanoma treated with adjuvant pembrolizumab and those receiving placebo. Secondary objectives are to compare DMFS (assessed by the site investigator) and OS between the two treatment arms and to assess the safety and tolerability of pembrolizumab. Exploratory objectives include comparison of change in global quality of life (QoL) using the QLQ-C30 global health status/QoL scale, characterization of

health utilities using the EQ-5D-5L, comparison between treatment arms of the time to subsequent surgery or therapy and identification of molecular biomarkers that may predict response or resistance to treatment.

Statistics

Efficacy will be analyzed using the intention-to-treat population (all randomly assigned patients) by assigned treatment. The non-parametric Kaplan–Meier method will be used to estimate the RFS and OS in each treatment group. Nonparametric cumulative incidence curves will be used to estimate DMFS in each treatment arm. Treatment differences in RFS, DMFS and OS will be assessed by the stratified log-rank test. A stratified Cox proportional hazards model with the Efron method of tie handling will be used to assess the hazard ratio and its 95% CI for RFS, DMFS and OS.

Safety will be analyzed in all randomly assigned patients who received at least one dose of study medication according to the treatment received. Patient-reported outcomes will be analyzed in all patients for whom at least one patient-reported outcome assessment is available and who have received at least one dose of study treatment.

Conclusion

Because of the clinical benefit observed with adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients with stage III melanoma, a strong rationale exists to examine whether a similar benefit will be observed in adult and pediatric patients with high-risk resected stage II disease. Herein, we described the methodology of the KEYNOTE-716 study, a two-part (adjuvant and rechallenge/crossover), randomized, placebo-controlled, multicenter, Phase III study of adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients aged 12 years and older with resected stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma. The results of this study will help to define the role of adjuvant pembrolizumab in the management of high-risk stage II melanoma, with potential to improve survival outcomes in this patient population.

Executive summary

- Treatment options that lower the risk for distant recurrence in patients with surgically resected high-risk stage II melanoma are limited.
- Adjuvant IFB- α 2b has improved survival outcomes in a subset of patients with surgically resected high-risk stage II melanoma, but its use is limited by toxicity.

Background & rationale

- Patients with localized stage I/II melanoma are typically treated by surgery.
- However, disease recurrence after surgery may occur, and there is an unmet need for adjuvant treatment options that can safely lower the risk for recurrence in high-risk subgroups of this patient population.
- Five-year melanoma-specific survival rates of patients with certain stage II and stage III melanoma subgroups are similar.
- Adjuvant pembrolizumab showed promising efficacy in patients with resected stage III melanoma in the KEYNOTE-054 study, in which recurrence-free survival was significantly longer with pembrolizumab than with placebo.
- Adjuvant pembrolizumab may reduce the risk for recurrence in patients with surgically resected high-risk stage II melanoma.

KEYNOTE-716 study design & eligibility criteria

- KEYNOTE-716 is a two-part (adjuvant and rechallenge/crossover), randomized, placebo-controlled, multicenter, Phase III study of adjuvant pembrolizumab in patients 12 years of age and older with resected stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma.
- In the double-blind phase (Part 1), patients will be randomly assigned 1:1 to receive pembrolizumab or placebo every 3 weeks for up to 17 cycles.
- In the unblinded phase (Part 2), patients with confirmed recurrence may be rechallenged (patients who received pembrolizumab in Part 1) or cross over to pembrolizumab (patients who received placebo in Part 1).
- Approximately 954 patients will be enrolled.

Outcome measures/end points

- The primary end point is recurrence-free survival; secondary end points are distant metastasis-free survival, overall survival and safety.

Conclusion

- This study will determine whether the benefits achieved with pembrolizumab adjuvant therapy seen in stage III and IV melanoma will also be observed in adult and pediatric patients with high-risk stage II melanoma.

Supplementary data

To view the supplementary data that accompany this paper please visit the journal website at: www.futuremedicine.com/doi/suppl/10.2217/fon-2019-0666

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Ethical conduct of research

The authors state that they have obtained appropriate institutional review board approval and have followed the principles outlined in the Declaration of Helsinki for all human experimental investigations. In addition, informed consent has been obtained from the patients involved.

Conference paper information

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Article details

Title of article
KEYNOTE-716: Phase III study of adjuvant therapy with pembrolizumab versus placebo in resected high-risk stage II melanoma

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Trial registration number
NCT03553836

Start date: September 12, 2018
Estimated completion date: October 21, 2033

Primary objectives/rationale

Primary objective
Compare between treatment arms RFS as assessed by the investigator

Secondary key objectives
Compare between treatment arms:

- DMFS as assessed by the investigator
- OS
- Safety and tolerability with respect to proportion of AEs

Study design and treatment including planned sample size, planned study period and study procedures

Two-part
Randomized, placebo-controlled
Adjuvant pembrolizumab or placebo
Multi-site
Phase III

954 patients

Pediatric patients (aged 12 to <18 years)
Adult patients (aged ≥18 years)
with surgically resected high-risk stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma

Adjuvant therapy (part 1)

Pembrolizumab
IV Q3W
200 mg for adults
2 mg/kg up to max 200 mg for pediatric patients
17 cycles

Placebo
IV Q3W
17 cycles

RECURRENCE

Unblind

Pembrolizumab
IV Q3W
adult/pediatric dose*
17 cycles for local/distant recurrence following surgical resection
35 cycles for unresectable disease

Rechallenge/crossover (part 2)

Eligibility criteria

- ≥12 years of age
- Resected, high-risk stage IIB or IIC melanoma
- Tumor sample submission

R (1:1)
N ≈ 954

Key eligibility criteria

Part 1

- Age ≥12 years
- Surgically resected and histologically/pathologically confirmed new diagnosis of stage IIB or IIC cutaneous melanoma per AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 8th edition
- ≤12 weeks elapsed between complete surgical resection and first dose of study treatment and with complete wound healing
- ECOG PS 0 or 1 in adults (patients aged ≥18 years) or Lansky Play-Performance Scale score ≥50 (children aged ≤16 years) or Karnofsky Performance Status Scale score ≥50 (children aged >16 years and <18 years)
- No previous treatment for melanoma beyond complete resection of current primary melanoma lesion
- Adequate hematologic, renal, hepatic and coagulation function

Part 2

- Investigator-confirmed disease recurrence
- Continuing from Part 1 placebo or and completed 17 cycles of pembrolizumab treatment with no delays in ≥12 weeks
- Full resection of lesions or biopsy of unresectable or metastatic disease confirmed to be melanoma by site pathologist
- ECOG PS 0, 1 or 2 in adults (patients aged ≥18 years) or Lansky Play-Performance Scale score ≥50 (children aged ≤16 years), or Karnofsky Performance Status Scale score ≥50 (children aged >16 years and <18 years)

Outcome measures/end points

Primary end point

- RFS assessed by the site investigator

Secondary end points

- DMFS assessed by the site investigator
- OS
- Safety and tolerability

Exploratory end points

- HRQoL and health utilities
- Time to subsequent surgery
- Biomarkers that may predict response or resistance to treatment

Glossary

AEs: Adverse events;
DMFS: Distant metastasis-free survival;
ECOG PS: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status;
HRQoL: Health-related quality of life;
IV: Intravenous;
OS: Overall survival;
Q3W: Every 3 weeks;
RFS: Recurrence-free survival.

*Adult dose, 200 mg Q3W;
pediatric dose, 2 mg/kg Q3W
(to a maximum of 200 mg Q3W)

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