














Pirtobrutinib in Covalent Bruton Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Pretreated Mantle-Cell Lymphoma

Michael L. Wang, MD¹ ; Wojciech Jurczak, MD, PhD²; Pier Luigi Zinzani, MD, PhD^{3,4} ; Toby A. Eyre, MD, MBChB, DipMedEd, MRCP, FRCPath⁵ ; Chan Y. Cheah, MD^{6,7} ; Chaitra S. Ujjani, MD⁸; Youngil Koh, MD⁹ ; Koji Izutsu, MD, PhD¹⁰ ; James N. Gerson, MD¹¹; Ian Flinn, MD, PhD¹² ; Benoit Tessoulin, MD¹³ ; Alvaro J. Alencar, MD¹⁴ ; Shuo Ma, MD, PhD¹⁵ ; David Lewis, PhD, MBChB¹⁶ ; Ewa Lech-Maranda, MD, PhD¹⁷ ; Joanna Rhodes, MD^{18,19} ; Krish Patel, MD²⁰ ; Kami Maddocks, MD²¹; Nicole Lamanna, MD²² ; Yucai Wang, MD, PhD²³ ; Constantine S. Tam, MD²⁴ ; Talha Munir, MBBS²⁵ ; Hirokazu Nagai, MD, PhD²⁶; Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri, MD²⁷; Anita Kumar, MD²⁸ ; Timothy S. Fenske, MD, MS²⁹ ; John F. Seymour, PhD, MBBS, FRACP²⁴ ; Andrew D. Zelenetz, MD, PhD²⁸ ; Binoj Nair, PhD³⁰; Donald E. Tsai, MD, PhD³⁰; Minna Balbas, PhD³⁰; Richard A. Walgren, MD, PhD³⁰; Paolo Abada, MD, PhD³⁰ ; Chunxiao Wang, PhD³¹; Junjie Zhao, PhD³⁰; Anthony R. Mato, MD, MSCE²⁸ ; and Nirav N. Shah, MD²⁹ 

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ABSTRACT




PURPOSE Pirtobrutinib is a highly selective, noncovalent (reversible) Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor (BTKi). We report the safety and efficacy of pirtobrutinib in patients with covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor (cBTKi) pretreated mantle-cell lymphoma (MCL), a population with poor prognosis.

METHODS Patients with cBTKi pretreated relapsed/refractory (R/R) MCL received pirtobrutinib monotherapy in a multicenter phase I/II trial (BRUIN; ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT03740529](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT03740529)). Efficacy was assessed in the first 90 consecutively enrolled patients who met criteria for inclusion in the primary efficacy cohort. The primary end point was overall response rate (ORR). Secondary end points included duration of response (DOR) and safety.

RESULTS The median patient age was 70 years (range, 46–87), the median prior lines of therapy was 3 (range, 1–8), 82.2% had discontinued a prior cBTKi because of disease progression, and 77.8% had intermediate- or high-risk simplified MCL International Prognostic Index score. The ORR was 57.8% (95% CI, 46.9 to 68.1), including 20.0% complete responses (n = 18). At a median follow-up of 12 months, the median DOR was 21.6 months (95% CI, 7.5 to not reached). The 6- and 12-month estimated DOR rates were 73.6% and 57.1%, respectively. In the MCL safety cohort (n = 164), the most common treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were fatigue (29.9%), diarrhea (21.3%), and dyspnea (16.5%). Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs of hemorrhage (3.7%) and atrial fibrillation/flutter (1.2%) were less common. Only 3% of patients discontinued pirtobrutinib because of a treatment-related adverse event.

CONCLUSION Pirtobrutinib is a first-in-class novel noncovalent (reversible) BTKi and the first BTKi of any kind to demonstrate durable efficacy after prior cBTKi therapy in heavily pretreated R/R MCL. Pirtobrutinib was well tolerated with low rates of treatment discontinuation because of toxicity.

ACCOMPANYING CONTENT

-  Appendix
-  Data Supplement
-  Protocol

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INTRODUCTION

Mantle-cell lymphoma (MCL) is an aggressive, rare subtype of B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors (cBTKi) have transformed the therapeutic landscape of multiple B-cell malignancies, including relapsed/refractory (R/R) MCL.^{1,2} However, the efficacy of cBTKi in this setting is limited by drug resistance or intolerance.^{3–6} After cBTKi therapy, patients with R/R MCL have historically had very poor outcomes with a median overall survival (OS) <10

months.^{3,5,7–9} Recent availability of CD19-targeted chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy for R/R MCL has expanded treatment options, but access is limited, not all patients qualify, and treatment is associated with severe toxicities.¹⁰ Therefore, there remains a significant unmet medical need for efficacious, broadly accessible, and well-tolerated therapies for patients with MCL after cBTKi treatment.

Resistance mechanisms to cBTKi vary by tumor type. In chronic lymphocytic leukemia, Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK)

CONTEXT

Key Objective

Despite the efficacy of covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors (cBTKi) in mantle-cell lymphoma (MCL), resistance invariably develops. Treatment options are then limited, and consequently, patient outcomes are poor with a median overall survival of <10 months. Pirtobrutinib, a highly selective, noncovalent (reversible) Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor (BTKi), inhibits both wild-type and C481-mutant Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) with equal low nM potency and has favorable oral pharmacology that enables continuous BTK inhibition throughout the daily dosing interval, regardless of intrinsic rate of BTK turnover. Here, we report the safety and efficacy of pirtobrutinib in patients with cBTKi pretreated MCL.

Knowledge Generated

Pirtobrutinib is a first-in-class noncovalent (reversible) BTKi, and the first BTKi of any kind to demonstrate durable efficacy after prior cBTKi therapy in heavily pretreated patients with relapsed/refractory MCL. Pirtobrutinib was well tolerated with low rates of cBTKi-associated adverse events and discontinuation because of drug-related toxicity.

Relevance (J.W. Friedberg)

These data directly inform the regulatory approval of pirtobrutinib for patients with MCL, and provide rationale for planned and ongoing phase III studies comparing covalent to non-covalent BTKi in several hematological malignancies.*

*Relevance section written by JCO Editor-in-Chief Jonathan W. Friedberg, MD.

mutations have been well described, most commonly at the C481 position.¹¹ These mutations prevent irreversible drug binding and confer cross resistance to all cBTKi. In MCL, BTK mutations are uncommon, and mechanisms of resistance are less well understood but may converge on epigenetic or genetic mechanisms that collectively restore BTK signaling.^{4,12-14} Neoplastic MCL cells may also become more proliferative over time, leading to increased BTK protein turnover and incomplete target inhibition with cBTKi.¹⁵ Although three cBTKi (ibrutinib, acalabrutinib, and zanubrutinib) have been approved for the treatment of R/R MCL, data suggest similar efficacy for each of these agents.¹⁶⁻¹⁸ Importantly, no cBTKi has demonstrated efficacy after progression when used sequentially after another cBTKi.

Pirtobrutinib, a highly selective, noncovalent (reversible) BTKi, inhibits both wild-type and C481-mutant BTK with equal low nM potency and has favorable oral pharmacology that enables continuous BTK inhibition throughout the once daily dosing interval, regardless of the intrinsic rate of BTK turnover.¹⁹ Here, we report the primary efficacy and safety analysis from cBTKi pretreated patients with MCL enrolled in the phase I/II BRUIN trial.

METHODS

Patients

Patients with R/R MCL and other B-cell malignancies, including those who were previously treated with a cBTKi, were eligible for treatment with pirtobrutinib monotherapy in the first-in-human open-label, multicenter, phase I/II BRUIN trial.¹⁹ Patient allocation by B-cell malignancy is

included in the Data Supplement ([Fig S1], online only). The overall trial design and full eligibility criteria have been previously described¹⁹ and are detailed in the protocol (Data Supplement). Eligible patients with MCL were enrolled at 37 sites in eight countries.

The trial Protocol (online only) was approved by the institutional review boards overseeing each site. The trial was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, Good Clinical Practice guidelines, and local laws. All patients provided written informed consent. This trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov (identifier: [NCT03740529](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT03740529)).

Trial Design and Treatment

Patients with R/R MCL were treated in either the dose escalation or expansion portion of the trial. The phase I portion explored doses ranging from 25 to 300 mg once daily and the phase II portion utilized the recommended phase II dose of 200 mg once daily. Treatment was administered until disease progression, discontinuation because of toxicity, or patient/physician decision to withdraw. Patients with disease progression were permitted to continue pirtobrutinib treatment if clinical benefit was experienced at the investigator's discretion.

Trial Assessments

The safety cohort included all patients with MCL who were administered at least one dose of pirtobrutinib monotherapy as of the data cutoff date. The primary efficacy cohort included the first 90 patients with MCL consecutively enrolled to either the phase I or II who had measurable disease as

assessed per investigator, had received a prior cBTKi-containing regimen, and had no known central nervous system involvement. A data cutoff date of January 31, 2022 was selected to ensure that the vast majority (approximately 90%) of responders in the efficacy cohort would be followed for at least 9 months from date of response onset. Efficacy was also separately assessed in 14 enrolled patients with cBTKi-naïve MCL, who were enrolled in earlier versions of the protocol to both phase I and II portions of the study. Positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT) scans were used as the primary response assessment modality, when available, with the remainder of patients being assessed by CT scans only.

The primary end point was overall response rate (ORR) as assessed by an independent review committee (IRC). Secondary end points included IRC-assessed best overall response (BOR), duration of response (DOR), progression-free survival (PFS), OS, and safety. Disease response assessments were performed at 8-week intervals in the first year, 12-week intervals in the second year, and then every 6 months. In the MCL cohort, the ORR was assessed according to Lugano 2014 criteria,²⁰ integrating CT measurements with FDG-PET when available.²¹ DOR was measured from the start date of the first documented response to the earlier of the documentation of progressive disease or death from any cause. PFS was measured from the first dose of pirtobrutinib to the earlier of the documentation of progressive disease or death from any cause. OS was measured from first dose of pirtobrutinib to the date of death from any cause. Frequency, attribution, and severity of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were investigator assessed from the first dose of pirtobrutinib and graded according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 5.0 (CTCAE v5.0).

Statistical Analysis

All analyses were conducted according to the statistical analysis plan (SAP) as reviewed by global health authorities (Data Supplement). Under the originally proposed SAP, a sample size of 65 patients in the primary efficacy cohort, also called primary analysis set, was estimated to provide approximately 95% power to have the lower boundary of a two-sided 95% exact binomial CI >20%, if the true ORR is 40%. Ruling out a lower limit of 20% for ORR is considered clinically meaningful for patients with MCL who have discontinued prior cBTKi therapy, as ORRs of approximately 20%–30% were reported in clinical studies testing agents given as monotherapy in patients with cBTKi-naïve advanced MCL (temsirrolimus, 22%²²; bortezomib, 31%²³; lenalidomide, 28%²⁴). The sample size for the primary efficacy cohort was subsequently increased to 90 patients following US regulatory feedback.

Descriptive statistics were used to present patient disposition, demographics, and disease characteristics, BOR, and safety data. ORR was estimated with an exact two-sided 95% CI. The Kaplan-Meier method was used to analyze DOR, PFS, and OS.

Analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC).

RESULTS

Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics

From March 21, 2019, to January 31, 2022, a total of 164 patients with MCL were enrolled and treated with pirtobrutinib, including 90 cBTKi pretreated patients in the primary efficacy cohort and 14 cBTKi-naïve patients (Data Supplement [Fig S1]). The additional 60 patients with MCL not included in the efficacy analyses were either not eligible for the primary efficacy cohort or had insufficient follow-up. PET-CT scans were used in response assessments in 47% (n = 42) of patients in the primary efficacy cohort (n = 90), with the remainder being assessed by CT scans only. Among patients in the primary efficacy cohort, the median age was 70 (range, 46–87) years, the median number of prior lines of therapy was 3 (range, 1–8), and the majority of patients (77.8%, n = 70) had intermediate- or high-risk disease on the basis of the simplified MCL International Prognostic Index score (Table 1). Additional prior therapies included an anti-CD20 antibody (95.6%, n = 86), chemotherapy (87.8%, n = 79), immunomodulatory drugs (21.1%, n = 19), stem-cell transplantation (21.1%, n = 19; autologous [18.9%] or allogeneic [4.4%]), B-cell lymphoma-2 inhibitor (15.6%, n = 14), CAR T-cell therapy (4.4%, n = 4), and phosphoinositide 3-kinase inhibitor (3.3% n = 3). The majority of patients discontinued their prior cBTKi because of disease progression (82.2%, n = 74), followed by toxicity/intolerance (17.8%, n = 16). Six patients (6.7%) received only one prior line of therapy which was a BTKi, 66 (73.3%) patients received one prior cBTKi but also had other types of prior lines of therapy, and 18 patients (20%) received more than one prior cBTKi. Most patients (n = 79, 87.8%) received at least one dose of pirtobrutinib at the recommended phase II dose of 200 mg once daily, with 77 (85.6%) patients receiving 200 mg once daily as starting dose. The median time on treatment was 5.2 months (range, 0.2–33.7). Treatment was discontinued in 72 (80.0%) patients, 49 (54.4%) because of disease progression, 11 (12.2%) because of a TEAE with 3 (3.3%) of these considered to be treatment-related adverse event (AE; weight loss, cholecystitis, and neutrophil count decrease), 3 (3.3%) because of commencement of an alternative therapy, 2 (2.2%) because of withdrawal of consent, 5 (5.6%) because of death, and 2 (2.2%) because of other reasons. Baseline characteristics for the 14 cBTKi-naïve patients with MCL are also provided in Table 1.

Efficacy

Among the primary efficacy cohort (n = 90), the ORR as determined by IRC was 57.8% (95% CI, 46.9 to 68.1), including 20.0% (n = 18) with complete responses and 37.8% (n = 34) with partial responses (Table 2; Fig 1). The median time-to-response was 1.8 months (IQR, 1.0–7.5). In patients with blastoid histology (n = 8) and pleomorphic histology

TABLE 1. Patient Characteristics at Baseline

Characteristic	cBTKi Pretreated MCL (n = 90)	cBTKi-Naïve MCL (n = 14)
Age, years, median (range)	70 (46-87)	67 (60-86)
Sex, No. (%)		
Female	18 (20.0)	4 (28.6)
Male	72 (80.0)	10 (71.4)
Race, No. (%)		
Asian	6 (6.7)	2 (14.3)
Black or African American	1 (1.1)	0
White	76 (84.4)	9 (64.3)
Others	7 (7.8)	3 (21.4)
Histology, No. (%)		
Classic	70 (77.8)	11 (78.6)
Pleomorphic	12 (13.3)	2 (14.3)
Blastoid	8 (8.9)	1 (7.1)
ECOG PS, No. (%)		
0	61 (67.8)	5 (35.7)
1	28 (31.1)	8 (57.1)
2	1 (1.1)	1 (7.1)
sMIPI score, No. (%)		
Low risk (0-3)	20 (22.2)	3 (21.4)
Intermediate risk (4-5)	50 (55.6)	5 (35.7)
High risk (6-11)	20 (22.2)	6 (42.9)
Tumor bulk ^a (cm), No. (%)		
<5	66 (73.3)	9 (64.3)
≥5	24 (26.7)	5 (35.7)
≥10	3 (3.3)	2 (14.3)
Extranodal disease, No. (%)		
Yes	35 (38.9)	6 (42.9)
No	55 (61.1)	8 (57.1)
Bone marrow involvement, No. (%)		
Yes	46 (51.1)	4 (28.6)
No	44 (48.9)	10 (71.4)
Prior lines of systemic therapy, No., median (range)	3 (1-8)	2 (1-3)
Prior therapy, ^b No. (%)		
BTK inhibitor	90 (100.0)	0 (0)
Anti-CD20 antibody	86 (95.6)	14 (100.0)
Chemotherapy	79 (87.8)	14 (100.0)
Immunomodulator	19 (21.1)	1 (7.1)
Stem-cell transplant	19 (21.1)	7 (50.0)
Autologous	17 (18.9)	7 (50.0)
Allogeneic	4 (4.4)	0 (0)
BCL2 inhibitor	14 (15.6)	0 (0)
CAR T-cell	4 (4.4)	0 (0)
PI3K inhibitor	3 (3.3)	1 (7.1)
Reason discontinued any previous cBTKi inhibitor, ^{c,d} No. (%)		
Progressive disease	74 (82.2)	—
Toxicity/other ^e	16 (17.8)	—

Abbreviations: BCL2 inhibitor, B-cell lymphoma-2; BTK, Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; cBTKi, covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; MCL, mantle-cell lymphoma; mTOR, mammalian target of rapamycin; PI3K, phosphoinositide 3-kinase; sMIPI, simplified MCL International Prognostic Index.

^aTumor bulk is defined as the largest diameter of a lymph node.

^bOther prior treatment options include mTOR inhibitors, other immunotherapies excluding anti-CD20 antibodies, PD/PDL1 immunotherapies, proteasome inhibitors, other small molecules inhibitors.

^cCalculated as percent of patients who received prior cBTKi.

^dIn the event more than one reason was noted for discontinuation, disease progression took priority.

^eOther includes patient decision, physician decision, and other reasons for discontinuation.

TABLE 2. Efficacy of Pirtobrutinib in Patients With cBTKi Pre-treated and cBTKi-Naïve MCL

Response	cBTKi Pretreated MCL (n = 90)	cBTKi-Naïve MCL (n = 14)
Overall response rate, % (95% CI)	57.8 (46.9 to 68.1)	85.7 (57.2 to 98.2)
Best overall response, No. (%)		
Complete response	18 (20.0)	5 (35.7)
Partial response	34 (37.8)	7 (50)
Stable disease	14 (15.6)	0
Progressive disease	15 (16.7)	1 (7.1)
Not evaluable ^a	9 (10.0)	1 (7.1)
DOR		
Patients with a response, No.	52	12
Patients with censored data, No. (%)	33 (63.5)	12 (100)
DOR, months, median (95% CI)	21.6 (7.5 to NR)	NR (NR to NR)
Median follow-up, months	11.9	7.1
PFS		
Patients with censored data, No. (%)	45 (50.0)	13 (92.9)
PFS, months, median (95% CI)	7.4 (5.3 to 12.5)	NR (NR to NR)
Median follow-up, months	9.2	8.6
OS		
Patients with censored data, No. (%)	60 (66.7)	13 (92.9)
OS, months, median (95% CI)	NR (14.8 to NR)	NR (NR to NR)
Median follow-up, months	16.6	9.4

NOTE. Overall response and best response were determined according to the 2014 Lugano criteria²⁰ and on the basis of independent review committee assessment.

Abbreviations: cBTKi, covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; DOR, duration of response; MCL, mantle-cell lymphoma; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

^aPatients without postbaseline disease assessment were not evaluable.

(n = 12), the ORR was 75.0% (95% CI, 34.9 to 96.8) and 50.0% (95% CI, 21.1 to 78.9), respectively. Two of four patients who received previous CAR T-cell therapy attained disease response, and the ORR among 19 patients who had received previous stem cell transplantation was 57.9% (95% CI, 33.5 to 79.7). The ORR was generally consistent across other prespecified subgroups regardless of demographics, number of prior lines of therapy, or prior therapy (Data Supplement [Fig S2]). Similarly, the ORR to pirtobrutinib was similar in patients previously treated with ibrutinib, acalabrutinib, or zanubrutinib (Data Supplement [Table S1]).

At a median response follow-up of 12 months, the median DOR by IRC among the 52 responders was 21.6 months (95% CI, 7.5 to not reached [NR]; Fig 2A; Table 2). The 6-, 12-, and 18-month estimated DOR rates were 73.6% (95% CI, 58.0 to 84.2), 57.1% (95% CI, 39.3 to 71.5), and 52.4% (95% CI, 33.9 to 67.9), respectively. Among responding patients, 35% of

responses were ongoing at the time of data cutoff, with the longest ongoing response observed at 26.2 months. Patients with BTKi as their most recent prior line of therapy (n = 55) had a median DOR of 14.8 months (95% CI, 5.55 to not estimable [NE]) and an ORR of 52.7% (Data Supplement [Table S5]; n = 29). The median PFS by IRC was 7.4 months (95% CI, 5.3 to 12.5; Fig 2B; Table 2). The median OS was NR (95% CI, 14.8 to NR; Fig 2C; Table 2). The 12- and 18-month estimated OS rates were 67.6% (95% CI, 55.7 to 77.0) and 59.3% (95% CI, 46.1 to 70.2), respectively. After treatment with pirtobrutinib, 17 (18.9%) patients went on to receive subsequent CAR T-cell therapy.

Among the 14 cBTKi-naïve patients, the ORR according to IRC was 85.7% (95% CI, 57.2 to 98.2), including 35.7% (5 of 14) with complete response and 50.0% (7 of 14) with partial responses (Table 2; Fig 1). At a median response follow-up of 7.1 months, the median DOR was NR (95% CI, NR to NR; Table 2). The 6 months estimated DOR rate was 100% (95% CI, NR to NR; Data Supplement [Fig S3]). Median PFS and OS had not been reached (Table 2). At 6 months, the PFS and OS rates were both 92.3% (95% CI, 56.6 to 98.9; Data Supplement [Figs S4 and S5]). Patients who discontinued previous cBTKi treatment because of disease progression (n = 74) had an ORR of 50% (n = 37; 95% CI, 38.1 to 61.9), and a median DOR of 14.8 months (95% CI, 5.6 to NE). These patients had a median PFS of 5.5 months (95% CI, 3.7 to 8.3) and a median OS of 23.4 months (95% CI, 10.9 to NE). Patients who discontinued previous BTKi because of toxicity (n = 12) had an ORR of 92% (n = 11), an NE median DOR (95% CI, 7.5 to NE), NE median PFS (95% CI, 9.3 to NE), and an NE median OS (95% CI, 13.3 to NE). These patients had a 12-month DOR of 78.8% (95% CI, 38.1 to 94.3), 12-month PFS of 82.5% (95% CI, 46.1 to 95.3), and a 12-month OS of 91.7% (95% CI, 53.9 to 98.8).

Safety

Among the 164 patients with MCL treated with pirtobrutinib as of the data cutoff date, 92.1% had received at least one dose of pirtobrutinib at the recommended phase II dose of 200 mg once daily. The median time on treatment was 4.5 months. The most common TEAEs and AEs of special interest are presented in Table 3. The most common TEAEs, regardless of attribution, were fatigue (29.9%, n = 49), diarrhea (21.3%, n = 35), and dyspnea (16.5%, n = 27). The most frequent grade ≥3 TEAE was infection (17.1%, n = 28).

Grade ≥3 pirtobrutinib-related AEs were infrequent, with neutropenia (8.5%, n = 14) being the most common. No grade ≥3 TEAEs of hypertension were observed. Atrial fibrillation/flutter was uncommon and seen in 6 (3.7%) patients, three of whom had a history of atrial fibrillation, despite 17 (10.4%) patients enrolled with a medical history of atrial fibrillation/flutter. Only two events of atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter were grade ≥3, neither of which resulted in discontinuation of pirtobrutinib. Low rates of grade ≥3 TEAEs of hemorrhage (3.7%, n = 6) were observed,

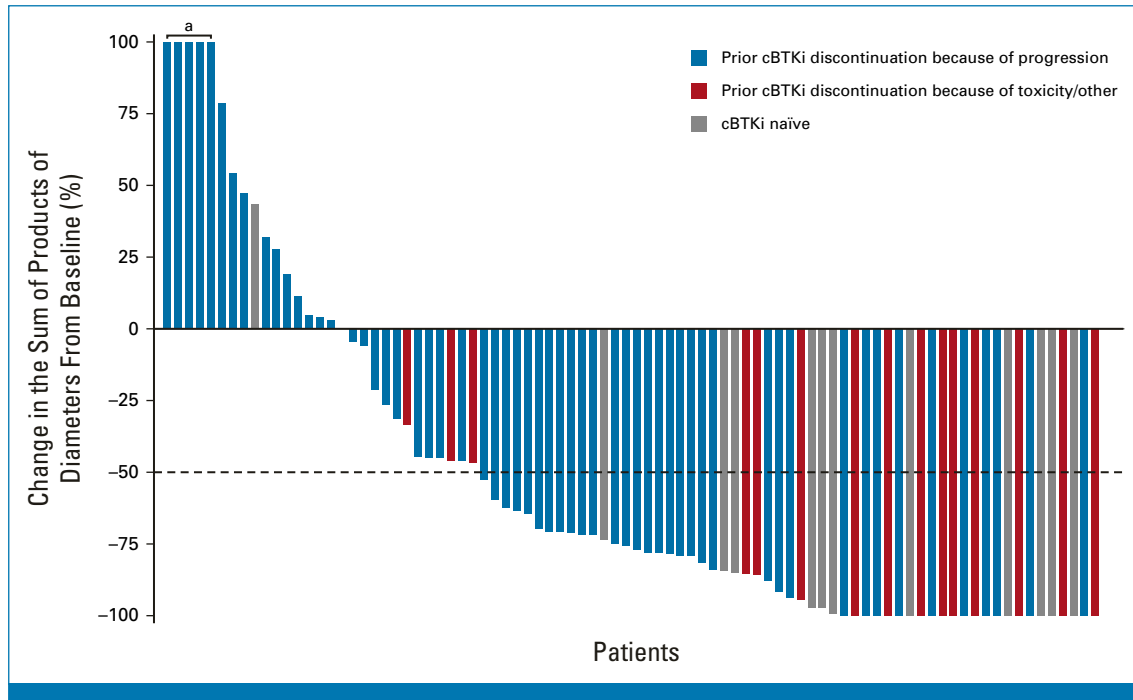


FIG 1. Efficacy of pirtobrutinib in patients with relapsed/refractory mantle-cell lymphoma. Change in tumor burden from baseline was measured by changes in the sum of product of diameters on axial CT images of index lesions. Waterfall plot includes patients with baseline and at least one evaluable postbaseline tumor measurement. Data for 18 patients are not shown in the waterfall plot because of no measurable target lesions identified by CT at baseline, discontinuation before first response assessment, or lack of adequate imaging in follow-up. ^aIndicates patients with >100% increase in SPD. cBTKi, covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; CT, computed tomography; SPD, sum of product of diameter.

with no grade 3 or higher bruising events (Table 3). Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs of infection occurred in 28 (17.1%) patients. The most common infection of any grade observed was pneumonia (10.4%, $n = 17$) and COVID-19–related pneumonia (3%, $n = 5$). There were 8 (4.9%) patients with documented COVID-19 disease of any grade. AEs leading to dose interruptions and dose reductions were observed in 42 (25.6%) and 8 (4.9%) patients, respectively. Permanent discontinuations because of TEAEs occurred in 15 (9.1%) patients, the most common being pneumonia ($n = 2$, 1.2) while no other event accounted for more than one discontinuation (Data Supplement [Table S3]). Permanent discontinuations for drug-related adverse events occurred in 5 (3.0%) patients (Data Supplement [Table S4]). There were 11 grade 5 TEAEs, none of which were considered drug-related by investigators (Table 3), although treatment effect can never be completely ruled out. The safety profile of all patients with MCL ($n = 164$) was consistent with the overall population comprising all patients treated with pirtobrutinib across B-cell malignancies ($N = 725$; Data Supplement [Tables S2 and S3]).

DISCUSSION

Pirtobrutinib demonstrated durable efficacy and a favorable safety profile in patients with cBTKi pretreated MCL in the BRUIN phase I/II trial. These data suggest that re-establishing BTK inhibition with pirtobrutinib, a noncovalent BTKi, is an effective and safe approach in patients with MCL who had

prior cBTKi treatment. Pirtobrutinib has the potential to meaningfully extend the total period of clinical benefit from BTK inhibition when used sequentially after cBTKi exposure.

The availability of effective and safe therapies for patients with MCL after treatment with cBTKi remains an area of high unmet need. In this trial, patients with MCL and prior cBTKi exposure receiving pirtobrutinib monotherapy achieved a clinically meaningful ORR of 58%, with 57% of responders maintaining response at 12 months. Responses with pirtobrutinib were consistent in patients who discontinued their prior cBTKi because of disease progression or toxicity/other reasons and across most prespecified subgroups including in patients with blastoid/pleomorphic histologies, those who previously received CAR T-cell therapy and stem-cell transplantation, and those who received multiple prior lines of therapy. Notably, similar efficacy was observed in patients previously treated with ibrutinib, acalabrutinib, or zanubrutinib, suggesting that there may not be a unique pattern of BTK-mediated resistance associated with these covalent agents. Importantly, the OS observed 12-month survival rate of 68% appears promising, given the reports in similar cohorts from the literature (median survival <10 months).^{3,7-9,25}

The exact mechanisms by which pirtobrutinib is efficacious in MCL after cBTKi treatment is incompletely understood as BTK mutations are rarely observed in MCL.^{4,12,13} Pirtobrutinib has favorable pharmacokinetics with high oral bioavailability and

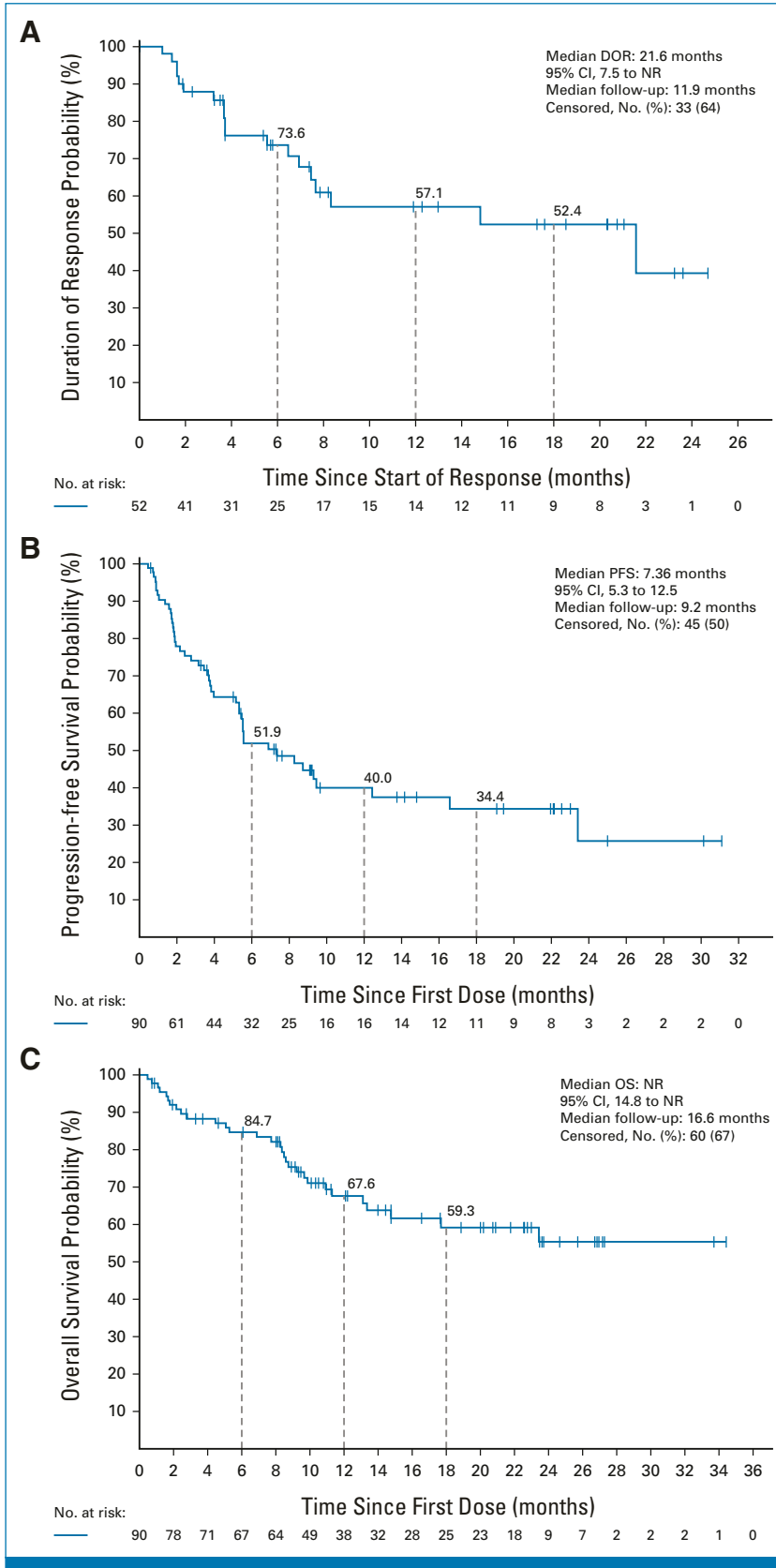


FIG 2. Kaplan-Meier plot of (A) DOR, (B) PFS, and (C) OS in patients with cBTKi pre-treated MCL treated with pirtobrutinib. cBTKi, covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; DOR, duration of response; MCL, mantle-cell lymphoma; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

TABLE 3. Adverse Events in At Least 10% of All Patients With MCL

Adverse Event	MCL Safety Population (n = 164)			
	TEAE, (≥10%), No. (%)		TRAE, No. (%)	
	Any Grade	Grade ≥3	Any Grade	Grade ≥3
Fatigue	49 (29.9)	4 (2.4)	34 (20.7)	4 (2.4)
Diarrhea	35 (21.3)	0	20 (12.2)	0
Dyspnea	27 (16.5)	3 (1.8)	15 (9.1)	1 (0.6)
Contusion	24 (14.6)	0	16 (9.8)	0
Anemia	21 (12.8)	8 (4.9)	10 (6.1)	4 (2.4)
Back pain	21 (12.8)	2 (1.2)	2 (1.2)	0
Cough	20 (12.2)	0	10 (6.1)	0
Pyrexia	19 (11.6)	0	6 (3.7)	0
Constipation	18 (11.0)	0	3 (1.8)	0
Nausea	18 (11.0)	0	7 (4.3)	0
Pneumonia	17 (10.4)	14 (8.5)	5 (3.0)	4 (2.4)
Myalgia	17 (10.4)	0	14 (8.5)	0
Adverse event of special interest ^a				
Infections	59 (36.0)	28 (17.1)	24 (14.0)	5 (3.0)
Bleeding	45 (27.4)	6 (3.7)	26 (15.9)	1 (0.6)
Thrombocytopenia	24 (14.6)	11 (6.7)	2 (1.2)	0
Neutropenia ^b	23 (14.0)	22 (13.4)	15 (9.1)	14 (8.5)
Bruising ^c	27 (16.5)	0	19 (11.6)	0 (0.0)
Hemorrhage	25 (15.2)	6 (3.7)	11 (6.7)	1 (0.6)
Atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter ^d	6 (3.7)	2 (1.2)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)

NOTE. There were 11 grade 5 adverse events, none of which were considered treatment-related (two respiratory failure and one each of pneumonia, COVID-19 pneumonia, multiple organ dysfunction syndrome, cardiac arrest, hemorrhage, malignant pleural effusion, mucormycosis, streptococcal infection, and sudden death).

Abbreviations: cBTKi, covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; MCL, mantle cell lymphoma; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event; TRAE, treatment-related adverse event.

^aAdverse events of special interest are those that were previously associated with cBTKi and are all composite terms.

^bCombines neutrophil count decreased, neutropenia, febrile neutropenia, and neutropenic sepsis.

^cBruising includes contusion, petechia, ecchymosis, and increased tendency to bruise.

^dOf six total atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter TEAEs, three occurred in patients with a medical history of atrial fibrillation.

a 19-hour half-life, attaining continuous BTK inhibition (>IC₉₀) throughout the dosing interval, regardless of intrinsic rate of BTK turnover. The highly selective nature of pirtobrutinib may also reduce off-target inhibition, thus minimizing adverse events while permitting maximal on-target drug coverage. Finally, other features of pirtobrutinib besides its pharmacologic properties and reversible binding mode may be responsible for its unique clinical profile and preclinical studies are ongoing.

The safety of pirtobrutinib was favorable in patients with R/R MCL and was similar to the larger population of pirtobrutinib-treated patients. This favorable safety profile is consistent with the high selectivity of pirtobrutinib for BTK. Non-BTK-mediated grade 3 or higher adverse events and treatment discontinuation because of drug-related toxicity were both uncommon. Despite allowing patients with a history of prior

atrial fibrillation on cBTKi to enroll, atrial fibrillation rates observed here were consistent with that expected in age-matched population controls.^{17,26} Rates of grade ≥3 infection and bleeding were also low, despite enrolling patients with a history of these events on prior cBTKi. Finally, the frequency of any grade hypertension was low, and no high-grade hypertension was observed, which has been usually reported with cBTKi therapy with longer follow-up.²⁷⁻²⁹

The approval of CD19-targeted CAR T-cell therapy for R/R MCL has expanded treatment options in this setting; however, delivery of this therapy is often not feasible because of the rapidly progressive kinetics of relapsed MCL³⁰ and is limited to patients with access to tertiary centers, often associated with severe adverse events,¹⁰ and commonly requires an effective bridging therapy.³¹ Other investigational therapies such as bispecific antibodies

have shown promising results in the R/R MCL setting, including patients with previous BTKi exposure, although evidence is limited with small sample size and limited follow-up.³² Nemtabrutinib, a noncovalent BTKi, is under investigation for the treatment of R/R B-cell malignancies although data are currently only available for six patients with MCL.³³

This trial has some important limitations. As this was a single-arm trial, formal comparison to other available therapies typically used for the treatment of R/R MCL after cBTKi treatment is not possible. Additionally, numerous subgroups have limited patient numbers, resulting in large confidence intervals for response rates. The median DOR, although reached, is not fully mature and may change

in response to additional follow-up. Finally, additional follow-up is needed to assess the long term-safety profile of pirtobrutinib.

In summary, pirtobrutinib is the first noncovalent (reversible) BTK inhibitor to demonstrate meaningful response rates and durable efficacy in patients with heavily pretreated MCL who received a prior cBTKi. Pirtobrutinib was well tolerated with low rates of cBTKi-associated adverse events and discontinuation because of drug-related toxicity. Several ongoing clinical trials are evaluating pirtobrutinib in the treatment of B-cell malignancies, including a randomized, global, phase III trial comparing pirtobrutinib with investigator's choice of cBTKi in patients with pretreated BTKi-naïve MCL (BRUIN MCL-321; ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT04662255](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04662255)).³⁴

AFFILIATIONS

¹MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX

²Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Krakow, Poland

³IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna Istituto di Ematologia "Seràgnoli," Bologna, Italy

⁴Dipartimento di Medicina Specialistica, Diagnostica e Sperimentale Università di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

⁵Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Churchill Cancer Center, Oxford, United Kingdom

⁶Linear Clinical Research and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth, WA, Australia

⁷Medical School, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia

⁸Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

⁹Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul, Korea

¹⁰Department of Hematology, National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

¹¹University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

¹²Sarah Cannon Research Institute and Tennessee Oncology, Nashville, TN

¹³Haematology Department, University Hospital, Nantes, France

¹⁴Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miami, FL

¹⁵Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL

¹⁶Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust—Derriford Hospital, Plymouth, United Kingdom

¹⁷Institute of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine, Warsaw, Poland

¹⁸Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Northwell/Hofstra, Uniondale, NY

¹⁹Northwell Health Cancer Institute Lake Success, New Hyde Park, NY

²⁰Center for Blood Disorders and Cellular Therapy, Swedish Cancer Institute, Seattle, WA

²¹The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH

²²Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University, New York, NY

²³Division of Hematology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

²⁴Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

²⁵Department of Haematology, St James's University Hospital, Leeds, United Kingdom

²⁶Department of Hematology, National Hospital Organization Nagoya Medical Center, Aichi, Japan

²⁷Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, Buffalo, NY

²⁸Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

²⁹Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

³⁰Loxo@Lilly, Indianapolis, IN

³¹Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Michael L. Wang, MD, Department of Lymphoma, MD Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd, Houston, TX 77030; e-mail: miwang@mdanderson.org.

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DATA SHARING STATEMENT

Eli Lilly provides access to all individual participant data collected during the trial, after anonymization, with the exception of pharmacokinetic or genetic data. Data are available to request 6 months after the indication studied has been approved in the United States and European Union and after primary publication acceptance, whichever is later. No expiration date of data requests is currently set once data are made available. Access is provided after a proposal has been approved by an independent review committee identified for this purpose and after receipt of a signed data sharing agreement. Data and documents, including the study protocol, statistical analysis plan, clinical study report, blank or annotated case report forms, will be provided in a secure data sharing environment. For details on submitting a request, see the instructions provided at www.vivli.org.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conception and design: Michael L. Wang, Wojciech Jurczak, Chan Y. Cheah, Donald E. Tsai

Provision of study materials or patients: Wojciech Jurczak, Pier Luigi Zinzani, Toby A. Eyre, Chan Y. Cheah, Youngil Koh, Shuo Ma, David Lewis, Joanna Rhodes, Krish Patel, Nicole Lamanna, Yucai Wang, Talha Munir, Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri, Timothy S. Fenske, John F. Seymour, Andrew D. Zelenetz

Collection and assembly of data: Michael L. Wang, Wojciech Jurczak, Pier Luigi Zinzani, Toby A. Eyre, Chan Y. Cheah, Chaitra S. Ujjani, Youngil Koh, Koji Izutsu, Ian Flinn, Benoit Tessoulin, Alvaro J. Alencar, Shuo Ma, David Lewis, Ewa Lech-Maranda, Joanna Rhodes, Krish Patel, Kami Maddocks, Yucai Wang, Constantine S. Tam, Talha Munir, Hirokazu Nagai, Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri, Timothy S. Fenske, John F. Seymour, Andrew D. Zelenetz, Binoj Nair, Donald E. Tsai, Minna Balbas, Richard A. Walgren, Paolo Abada, Anthony R. Mato, Nirav N. Shah

Data analysis and interpretation: Wojciech Jurczak, Pier Luigi Zinzani, Toby A. Eyre, Chan Y. Cheah, Chaitra S. Ujjani, Youngil Koh, James N.

Gerson, Alvaro J. Alencar, Shuo Ma, David Lewis, Krish Patel, Kami Maddocks, Nicole Lamanna, Yucai Wang, Talha Munir, Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri, Anita Kumar, Timothy S. Fenske, John F. Seymour, Andrew D. Zelenetz, Binoj Nair, Minna Balbas, Richard A. Walgren, Paolo Abada, Chunxiao Wang, Junjie Zhao, Anthony R. Mato, Nirav N. Shah

Manuscript writing: All authors

Final approval of manuscript: All authors

Accountable for all aspects of the work: All authors

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AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**Pirtobrutinib in Covalent Bruton Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Pretreated Mantle-Cell Lymphoma**

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Michael L. Wang

Honoraria: Janssen Research & Development, Dava Oncology, AstraZeneca, Cahon, Acerta Pharma, BeiGene, Kite, a Gilead company, Moffit Cancer Center, Physicians' Education Resource, Breast-Gynecological International Cancer Society, Pharmacyclics/Janssen, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Medscape, Meeting Minds Experts, OncLive/MJH Life Sciences, Practice Point Communications, Bioinvent, AbbVie, Bantam Pharmaceutical, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Genmab, IDEology Health, MD Education, Merck, Nurix, Oncology Specialty Group, Studio ER Congressi

Consulting or Advisory Role: AstraZeneca, Janssen Research & Development, Bioinvent, Pharmacyclics/Janssen, Kite, a Gilead company, Innocare, Oncternal Therapeutics, Genentech, BeiGene, DTRM, Miltenyi Biomedicine, VelosBio, Deciphera, Lilly, Pepromene, AbbVie, Acerta Pharma, ADC Therapeutics, Amphista Therapeutics, Be Biopharma, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Merck, Milken Institute, Parexel

Research Funding: AstraZeneca, Janssen Research & Development, Pharmacyclics, Kite, a Gilead company, Juno Therapeutics, BeiGene, Acerta Pharma, Oncternal Therapeutics, Bioinvent, Loxo, VelosBio, Celgene, Molecular Templates, Lilly, Innocare, Genmab, Genentech, Vincerx Pharma

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: AstraZeneca, Celgene, Dava Oncology, Kite, a Gilead company, Physicians' Education Resource

Wojciech Jurczak

Consulting or Advisory Role: BeiGene, AstraZeneca, Lilly

Research Funding: Roche, Takeda, Janssen-Cilag, BeiGene, Morphosys, AstraZeneca, Lilly

Pier Luigi Zinzani

Consulting or Advisory Role: Celltrion, Gilead Sciences, Janssen-Cilag, Bristol Myers Squibb, Servier, Sandoz, MSD, Roche, EUSA Pharma, Kyowa Hakko Kirin, Takeda, Secura Bio, TG Therapeutics, Novartis, ADC Therapeutics, Incyte, BeiGene

Speakers' Bureau: MSD, EUSA Pharma, Novartis

Toby A. Eyre

Honoraria: Roche, Gilead Sciences, Janssen Oncology, AbbVie, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Loxo/Lilly, Incyte, Secura Bio, Autolus Therapeutics

Consulting or Advisory Role: Roche, Kite/Gilead, AbbVie, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Loxo, BeiGene, Incyte, Secura Bio

Research Funding: AstraZeneca/MedImmune, BeiGene

Chan Y. Cheah

Honoraria: Roche/Genentech, Janssen-Cilag, TG Therapeutics, Loxo/Lilly, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Gilead Sciences, BeiGene, Novartis

Consulting or Advisory Role: Janssen-Cilag, Roche/Genentech (Inst), TG Therapeutics, Loxo/Lilly, Gilead Sciences, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Ascentage Pharma, Merck

Research Funding: Roche/Genentech (Inst), Bristol Myers Squibb (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), Merck (Inst)

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Roche

Chaitra S. Ujjani

Honoraria: Pharmacyclics, AbbVie, Genentech, Janssen, Incyte, BeiGene, Lilly

Consulting or Advisory Role: AstraZeneca, Epizyme, Atara Biotherapeutics

Research Funding: Pharmacyclics (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), Lilly, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Adaptive Biotechnologies, Kite, a Gilead company

Youngil Koh

Leadership: GenomeOpinion

Stock and Other Ownership Interests: Curocell

Honoraria: Janssen, Amgen, Novartis, Takeda Korea

Consulting or Advisory Role: Prothena

Koji Izutsu

Honoraria: Takeda, Chugai Pharma, Eisai, Janssen, AbbVie, Novartis, MSD, Daiippon Sumitomo Pharma, Ono Pharmaceutical, Mundipharma, HUYA Bioscience International, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Kyowa Kirin, Fujifilm, Celgene, Daiichi Sankyo, Allergan, Symbio Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer, Meiji Seika Kaisha, Nippon Kayaku, Lilly

Consulting or Advisory Role: Bayer, Celgene, AstraZeneca, Ono Pharmaceutical, Kyowa Kirin, AbbVie, Genmab, Bristol Myers Squibb, Nippon Shinyaku, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma

Research Funding: Eisai, Chugai Pharma

James N. Gerson

Research Funding: Loxo

Ian Flinn

Consulting or Advisory Role: AbbVie (Inst), TG Therapeutics (Inst), Kite, a Gilead company (Inst), BeiGene (Inst), Genentech (Inst), Novartis (Inst), Century Therapeutics (Inst), Hutchison MediPharma (Inst), Servier (Inst), Vincerx Pharma (Inst), Genmab (Inst), Innocare (Inst), Myeloid Therapeutics (Inst), Secura Bio (Inst), Xencor (Inst)

Research Funding: Acerta Pharma (Inst), Agios (Inst), Celgene (Inst), Constellation Pharmaceuticals (Inst), Genentech (Inst), Gilead Sciences (Inst), Incyte (Inst), Infinity Pharmaceuticals (Inst), Janssen (Inst), Kite, a Gilead company (Inst), Novartis (Inst), Pharmacyclics (Inst), Portola

Pharmaceuticals (Inst), Roche (Inst), TG Therapeutics (Inst), Trillium Therapeutics (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), ArQule (Inst), BeiGene (Inst), Curis (Inst), Forma Therapeutics (Inst), Forty Seven (Inst), Merck (Inst), Pfizer (Inst), Verastem (Inst), AstraZeneca (Inst), Unum Therapeutics (Inst), MorphoSys (Inst), Seagen (Inst), IGM Biosciences (Inst), Loxo (Inst), Rhizen Pharmaceuticals (Inst), Triact Therapeutics (Inst), Bristol Myers Squibb (Inst), CALGB (Inst), CTI (Inst), Fate Therapeutics (Inst), Millennium (Inst), Tessa Therapeutics (Inst), City of Hope (Inst), CALIBR (Inst), Bio-Path Holdings, Inc (Inst), Nurix (Inst), Innocare (Inst), Myeloid Therapeutics (Inst), Epizyme (Inst), Marker Therapeutics (Inst), Step Pharma (Inst), Vincerx Pharma (Inst), 2seventy bio (Inst)

Benoit Tessoulin

Honoraria: Kite/Gilead, AbbVie

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Kite/Gilead, AbbVie

Alvaro J. Alencar

Consulting or Advisory Role: Kite, a Gilead company, Amgen, Karyopharm Therapeutics, Seagen, Epizyme, Janssen, BeiGene, Incyte, TG Therapeutics, Genentech, Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Lilly

Research Funding: Loxo

Open Payments Link: <https://openpaymentsdata.cms.gov/physician/1171980>

Shuo Ma

Consulting or Advisory Role: Genentech/Roche, AbbVie, Pharmacyclics, Janssen Oncology, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Bristol Myers Squibb/Celgene/Juno, TG Therapeutics

Speakers' Bureau: Pharmacyclics, Janssen Oncology, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Lilly

Research Funding: Pharmacyclics (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), BeiGene (Inst), Loxo/Lilly (Inst), Juno/Bristol-Myers Squibb (Inst), AstraZeneca (Inst), IGM Biosciences (Inst)

David Lewis

Consulting or Advisory Role: Janssen Oncology, Kite/Gilead, BeiGene, AbbVie

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Kite, a Gilead company

Joanna Rhodes

Honoraria: Dava Oncology, Curio Science, Aptitude Health

Consulting or Advisory Role: AbbVie, Verastem, Genentech, Pharmacyclics, TG Therapeutics, SeaGen, Morphosys, Janssen, BeiGene, Genmab, Epizyme

Research Funding: Loxo/Lilly (Inst), Acerta Pharma (Inst), Pharmacyclics (Inst), Oncternal Therapeutics (Inst), VelosBio (Inst), Epizyme (Inst)

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: DAVA Pharmaceuticals, Loxo, Curio Science

Krish Patel

Consulting or Advisory Role: AstraZeneca, Genentech, BeiGene, Pharmacyclics, Bristol Myers Squibb/Celgene/Juno, Morphosys, Kite, a Gilead company, TG Therapeutics, Loxo/Lilly, AbbVie, Seagen, Epizyme, ADC Therapeutics, Caribou Biosciences, Xencor, Fate Therapeutics

Speakers' Bureau: AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb/Celgene, Kite, a Gilead company, TG Therapeutics

Research Funding: AstraZeneca (Inst), Xencor (Inst), Pharmacyclics (Inst), Curis (Inst), Bristol Myers Squibb (Inst), Celgene (Inst), MEI Pharma (Inst), Trillium Therapeutics (Inst), Kite/Gilead (Inst), Roche/Genentech (Inst), Fate Therapeutics (Inst), Takeda (Inst), Epizyme (Inst), Aptevo Therapeutics (Inst), Nurix (Inst), Loxo/Lilly (Inst)

Kami Maddocks

Honoraria: Pharmacyclics, Celgene, Seagen, MorphoSys, BMS, Karyopharm Therapeutics, Kite, a Gilead company, ADC Therapeutics, Genmab, Lilly, Genentech, Epizyme, AstraZeneca/Merck, BeiGene, Incyte, AbbVie

Research Funding: Pharmacyclics, Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb

Nicole Lamanna

Consulting or Advisory Role: Celgene, Genentech, AbbVie, ProNAi, Pharmacyclics, Juno Therapeutics, Roche, Janssen, AstraZeneca, Gilead Sciences, BeiGene, Loxo/Lilly, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation

Research Funding: Genentech/AbbVie (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), Infinity Pharmaceuticals (Inst), Gilead Sciences (Inst), ProNAi (Inst), Beigene (Inst), AstraZeneca (Inst), Verastem (Inst), Juno Therapeutics (Inst), TG Therapeutics (Inst), Acerta Pharma/AstraZeneca (Inst), Loxo (Inst), Oncternal Therapeutics, Inc (Inst), MingSight (Inst), Octapharm (Inst)

Yucai Wang

Employment: Merck

Stock and Other Ownership Interests: Merck

Honoraria: Kite, a Gilead company (Inst)

Consulting or Advisory Role: Loxo (Inst), Incyte (Inst), Innocare (Inst), TG Therapeutics (Inst), Kite, a Gilead company (Inst), Lilly (Inst), Janssen (Inst), BeiGene (Inst)

Research Funding: InnoCare (Inst), Incyte (Inst), Novartis (Inst), Genentech (Inst), Loxo (Inst), MorphoSys (Inst), Genmab (Inst)

Constantine S. Tam

Honoraria: Janssen-Cilag, AbbVie, Novartis, Beigene, Pharmacyclics, Roche/Genentech, Loxo/Lilly

Consulting or Advisory Role: Janssen, Loxo, Roche, BeiGene, AbbVie

Research Funding: Janssen-Cilag (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), BeiGene (Inst)

Talha Munir

Consulting or Advisory Role: Janssen-Cilag, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Sobi, Roche, AbbVie, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Lilly

Speakers' Bureau: AbbVie, Janssen-Cilag, Gilead Sciences, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, Sobi

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Janssen-Cilag, AbbVie, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca

Hirokazu Nagai

Honoraria: Janssen, Ono Pharmaceutical, Bristol Myers Squibb, Chugai Pharma, Takeda, Eisai, Mundipharma, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Lilly, Meiji Seika Kaisha, AbbVie, GlaxoSmithKline, Genmab, Sumitomo Pharma Oncology, CSL Behring

Research Funding: Janssen (Inst), Celgene (Inst), AbbVie (Inst), Takeda (Inst), Bristol Myers Squibb (Inst), Ono Pharmaceutical (Inst), Zenyaku Kogyo (Inst), AstraZeneca (Inst), Chugai Pharma (Inst), Solasia Pharma (Inst), Kyowa Kirin (Inst), Nippon Shinyaku (Inst), Daiichi Sankyo (Inst), Eisai (Inst), Genmab (Inst), Lilly Japan (Inst), Regeneron (Inst), Incyte Japan (Inst), HUYA Bioscience International (Inst)

Francisco Hernandez-Illaliturri

Consulting or Advisory Role: Seagen, Pharmacyclics, Novartis, Kite/Gilead, Epizyme, Morphosys, BeiGene, AbbVie

Anita Kumar**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Bridgebio**Consulting or Advisory Role:** Celgene, Kite, a Gilead company, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Janssen, Genentech, Loxo/Lilly**Research Funding:** AbbVie/Genentech, Adaptive Biotechnologies, Celgene, Seagen, AstraZeneca/MedImmune, Pharmacyclics, MorphoSys/Incyte, Loxo/Lilly**Timothy S. Fenske****Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Merck**Honoraria:** Adaptive Biotechnologies, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Kite, a Gilead company, MorphoSys, Pharmacyclics, Sanofi, Seagen, Servier, TG Therapeutics**Consulting or Advisory Role:** Adaptive Biotechnologies, BeiGene, MorphoSys, Pharmacyclics, Seagen, Servier, TG Therapeutics**Speakers' Bureau:** AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Kite, a Gilead company, Sanofi, Seagen, TG Therapeutics**Expert Testimony:** Bayer**Travel, Accommodations, Expenses:** AstraZeneca, Kite, a Gilead company, Sanofi, Seagen, TG Therapeutics**John F. Seymour****Honoraria:** AbbVie, Janssen, Roche, BMS, AstraZeneca, Gilead Sciences, BeiGene**Consulting or Advisory Role:** AbbVie, Janssen, Roche, AstraZeneca, BMS, Gilead Sciences, TG Therapeutics, Genor BioPharma, BeiGene**Speakers' Bureau:** AbbVie, Roche**Research Funding:** AbbVie, Celgene, Janssen, Roche**Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property:** Named patent holder for venetolcax dose ramp up and combination treatment. I do not receive any royalties**Expert Testimony:** Roche, TG Therapeutics**Travel, Accommodations, Expenses:** AbbVie, Roche**Andrew D. Zelenetz****Honoraria:** NCCN, Curio Science, OncLive/MJH Life Sciences**Consulting or Advisory Role:** Genentech/Roche, Celgene, AstraZeneca, Dava Oncology, BeiGene, MEI Pharma, Kite, a Gilead company, Juno/Celgene/Bristol Myers Squibb, Sandoz, Ono Pharmaceutical**Research Funding:** Genentech/Roche, MEI Pharma, BeiGene, AbbVie (Inst)**Travel, Accommodations, Expenses:** Kite, a Gilead company, NCCN, BeiGene**Binoj Nair****Employment:** Loxo/Lilly**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Lilly**Donald E. Tsai****Employment:** Loxo at Lilly**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Lilly, TG Therapeutics**Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property:** Patent on retinoic acid compounds**Travel, Accommodations, Expenses:** Loxo at Lilly**Minna Balbas****Employment:** Loxo**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Lilly, ORIC Pharmaceuticals**Richard A. Walgren****Employment:** Lilly**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Lilly**Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property:** Patent applicant/holder, without royalties, for therapeutic applications related to ramucirumab and merestinib (Inst)**Paolo Abada****Employment:** Lilly**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Lilly**Chunxiao Wang****Employment:** Lilly**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Lilly**Junjie Zhao****Employment:** Loxo**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Loxo/Lilly**Anthony R. Mato****Consulting or Advisory Role:** TG Therapeutics, AbbVie/Genentech, Pharmacyclics, Adaptive Biotechnologies, Johnson & Johnson, Acerta Pharma/AstraZeneca, Loxo/Lilly, Curio/Vaniam Group, Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb/Pfizer, PerView, DAVA Oncology, BMS, Genmab, AXIS Education, PER**Research Funding:** Regeneron, TG Therapeutics, Sunesis Pharmaceuticals, Loxo, AbbVie/Genentech, Pharmacyclics, Adaptive Biotechnologies, Johnson & Johnson, Acerta Pharma/AstraZeneca, DTRM, Genmab, Nurix**Nirav N. Shah****Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** Tundra Targeted Therapeutics**Consulting or Advisory Role:** Kite, a Gilead company, Loxo/Lilly, TG Therapeutics, Seagen, Incyte, Novartis, Juno/Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen Oncology**Research Funding:** Miltenyi Biotec, Loxo/Lilly, Adaptive Biotechnologies**Travel, Accommodations, Expenses:** Miltenyi Biotec

No other potential conflicts of interest were reported.

APPENDIX

TABLE A1. BRUIN Investigators

Investigator Name	Site Name
Anthony Mato	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Michael Wang	MD Anderson Cancer Center
Wojciech Jurczak	Pratia MCM Kraków
William Wierda	MD Anderson
Nirav Shah	Medical College Wisconsin
Toby Eyre	Oxford University Hospitals National Health Service Trust—Churchill Hospital
Jennifer Woyach	The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chan Yoon Cheah	Linear Clinical Research
Paolo Ghia	IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele
Krish Patel	Swedish Cancer Institute
Ewa Lech-Maranda	Instytut Hematologii i Transfuzjologii, Klinika Hematologii
Manish Patel	Florida Cancer Specialists
Jennifer Brown	Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Talha Munir	Haematology Clinical Trials
Pier Luigi Zinzani	Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria di Bologna-Instituto di Ematologia Loren
James Gerson	University of Pennsylvania
Nicole Lamanna	Columbia
Alvaro Alencar	University of Miami Hospital Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chaitra Ujjani	University of Washington School of Medicine
Constantine Tam	Peter MacCallum Cancer Center
Catherine Coombs	University of North Carolina
David Lewis	Plymouth Hospitals National Health Service Trust-Derriford Hospital
Bitra Fakhri	University of California, San Francisco
Shuo Ma	Northwestern
Thomas Gastinne	Universite De Nantes
Jonathon Cohen	Winship Cancer Institute
Ian Flinn	Sarah Cannon Research Institute-Nashville
Joanna Rhodes	Northwell Health—Centers for Advanced Medicine
Koji Izutsu	National Cancer Center Hospital
Youngil Koh	Seoul National University Hospital
Marc Hoffmann	University of Kansas Cancer Center
Francisco Hernandez-Ilizaliturri	Roswell Park
Bryone Kuss	Flinders Medical Centre
Hirokazu Nagai	Naka-ku, Nagoya-shi
Yucai Wang	Mayo Clinic—Minnesota
Deepa Jagadeesh	Cleveland Clinic
Minal Barve	Mary Crowley Cancer Research
Noriko Fukuhara	Aoba-ku, Sendai-shi
Won Seog Kim	Samsung Medical Center
Kiyoshi Ando	Tokai University Hospital
Daigo Hashimoto	Hokkaido University Hospital
Julie Vose	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Kaname Miyashita	Kyushu Cancer Center
Anders Osterborg	Cancerstudieenheden, Centrum för kliniska Cancerstudier
Scott Huntington	Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale—New Haven
Matthew McKinney	Duke University Medical Center
Anastasios Stathis	Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland (IOSI)
Takahiro Kumode	Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Kindai University Hospital
Kensuke Kojima	Kochi Medical School Hospital