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## **EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE SHARE**

## APPROPRIATE SELECTION OF PATIENTS FOR COMBINATION IMMUNOTHERAPY IN HCC: THE NOW AND THE NEXT

## Prof. Peter Galle, Prof. Sammy Saab and Prof. Amit Singal

Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2021

## EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE SHARE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES





To provide insights into the combination therapy for unresectable or advanced HCC patients, covering both approved therapies and those that are in clinical development

To define the HCC patient population who should benefit most from each available treatment option based on efficacy and safety profiles

To provide guidance on treatment sequencing

#### **INTRODUCING THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**





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## **EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE SHARE**

## **TREATING ADVANCED AND UNRESECTABLE HCC TODAY**

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#### DISCLOSURES



- Adaptimmune
- Bayer
- BMS
- AstraZeneca
- Sirtex
- MSD
- Eisai
- Ipsen
- Roche
- Lilly
- Guerbet

#### **HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA**





#### MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH IN HCC PATIENTS



#### THE HCC SYSTEMIC TREATMENT LANDSCAPE HAS RAPIDLY EVOLVED SINCE 2017



#### **First-line therapies**

Negative phase 3 trials in gold text.



\*CheckMate-459: Nivolumab did not achieve statistical significance for the primary endpoint of OS vs sorafenib<sup>19</sup>; <sup>†</sup>Patients with AFP ≥400 ng/mL; <sup>‡</sup> Pembrolizumab failed to significantly improve OS and PFS (co-primary endpoints) vs placebo in the phase 3 KEYNOTE-240 trial<sup>20,21</sup>

AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; EMA, European Medicines Agency; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; NMPA, National Medical Products Administration; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; uHCC, unresectable HCC 1. Nexvar (sorafenib) Full Prescribing Information. Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, Whippany, NJ. 2001 (accessed May 2020); 2. FDA regorafenib in HCC press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/Information.OnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 3. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationOnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationOnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationOnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/InformationDnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/InformationDnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/InformationDnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm577166.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/InformationDnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm57510.htm (accessed May 2020); 5. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/InformationDnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm57512.htm (accessed May 2020); 7. Ipsen press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/InformationDnDrugs/ApprovedDrugs/ucm57512.htm (accessed May 2020); 7. Ipsen press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/Ida-approves-ramucirumab-hepatocellular-carcinoma (accessed May 2020); 8. FDA press release. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/Ida-approves-ramucirumab-hepatocellular-carcinoma (accesse

# **1<sup>ST</sup>-LINE SYSTEMIC TREATMENT OPTIONS**

- Sorafenib
- Lenvatinib
- Atezolizumab + bevacizumab

#### 1<sup>ST</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: SORAFENIB AND LENVATINIB



Overall survival in the REFLECT\* trial<sup>2</sup>

Overall survival in the SHARP trial<sup>1</sup>



\*REFLECT is a randomized phase 3 non-inferiority trial

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival

1. Llovet JM, et al. N Engl J Med. 2008;359(4):378-90; 2. Kudo M, et al. Lancet. 2018;391(10126):1163-73

## IMBRAVE150 IS A PHASE III TRIAL OF 1L ATEZOLIZUMAB + BEVACIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH UNRESECTABLE HCC<sup>1</sup>





- **Region** (Asia excluding Japan<sup>‡</sup>/Rest of World)
- ECOG PS (0/1)
- MVI and/or EHS (presence/absence)
- Baseline AFP (<400/≥400 ng/ml)
- Co-primary endpoints: OS and PFS IRF-assessed per RECIST v1.1
- Key secondary endpoints (in testing strategy): ORR IRF-assessed per RECIST v1.1 and HCC mRECIST

<sup>\*</sup>There were an additional 57 Chinese patients in the China extension cohort that were not included in the global population/analysis; <sup>‡</sup>Japan is included in Rest of World 1L, first-line; AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; bid, twice daily; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; EHS, extrahepatic spread; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; IRF, independent review facility; iv, intravenous; (m)RECIST, (modified) Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; MVI, macrovascular invasion; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; q3w, every 3 weeks; PFS, progression-free survival. 1. Finn RS, et al. N Engl J Med. 2020;382:1894-905

#### UPDATED ANALYSIS: THE OS BENEFIT OBSERVED WITH ATEZOLIZUMAB + BEVACIZUMAB VS SORAFENIB WAS MAINTAINED



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\*Stratification factors included are geographic region (Asia excluding Japan vs RoW), AFP level (<400ng/mL vs ≥400ng/mL) at baseline and MVI and/or EHS (yes vs no)

per IxRS; \*p value for descriptive purposes only

AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; Atezo, atezolizumab; bev, bevacizumab; CCOD, clinical cutoff date: CI, confidence interval; EHS, extrahepatic spread; HR, hazard ratio; MVI, macrovascular invasion; OS, overall survival; RoW, Rest of World 1. Finn RS, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2021;39(3\_suppl):267-267 (ASCO GI 2021 oral presentation) 14





#### ≥10% FREQUENCY OF AEs IN EITHER ARM AND >5% DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARMS

#### Summary of adverse events



AE, adverse event; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; PPE, palmar-plantar erythrodysaesthesia Finn RS, et al. N Engl J Med. 2020;382:1894-905

# 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE SYSTEMIC TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Cabozantinib
- Regorafenib
- Ramucirumab
- Nivolumab
- Pembrolizumab
- Nivolumab + ipilimumab
- Camrelizumab

## 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: REGORAFENIB, CABOZANTINIB AND RAMUCIRUMAB\*



	RESORCE <sup>1</sup>	CELESTIAL <sup>2,3</sup>	REACH-2 <sup>4</sup>
Arms	Regorafenib vs placebo	Cabozantinib vs placebo	Ramucirumab vs placebo
Targets	VEGFR 1-3, RAF, KIT, RET, PDGFR, TIE 2, FGFR1	VEGFR, MET, AXL	VEGFR2
Class	ТКІ	ТКІ	mAb
Administration	Oral	Oral	IV
Previous treatment	Sorafenib	Sorafenib	Sorafenib
Reason for discontinuation of 1 <sup>st</sup> -line	Radiological progression	Progression or intolerance	Progression or intolerance
Line	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Biomarker	_	_	AFP ≥400 ng/mL

- \*Trials included different populations and should not be directly compared
- AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; AXL, anexelekto receptor; FGFR, fibroblast growth factor receptor; iv, intravenous; KIT, tyrosine-protein kinase gene; mAb, monoclonal antibody; MET, mesenchymal-epithelial transition factor; PDGFR, platelet-derived growth factor receptor; RAF, rapidly accelerated fibrosarcoma; RET, rearranged during transfection kinase; TIE, angiopoietin receptor; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor; VEGFR, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor

1. Bruix J, et al. Lancet. 2017;389:56-66; 2. Abou-Alfa GK, et al. N Engl J Med. 2018;379:54-63; 3. Kelley RK, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2018;36(15\_suppl):4088-4088; 4. Zhu A, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2019;2:282-96

#### 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: REGORAFENIB,<sup>1</sup> AND CABOZANTINIB<sup>2,3</sup> AND RAMUCIRUMAB,<sup>4</sup> VS PLACEBO



12 11.3 10.6 10.2 10 8.5 8.0 7.8 8 7.3 7.2 Months 6 4 2 0 Placebo Targeted therapy HR=0.63 HR=0.76 HR=0.70 HR=0.71 95% CI: 95% CI: 95% CI: 95% CI: 0.50-0.79 0.63-0.92 0.53-0.95 0.55-0.88 RESORCE CELESTIAL\*\* REACH-2\* **CELESTIAL** 

**Overall survival** 

#### **Progression-free survival**



Trials included different populations and should not be directly compared

\*AFP high population; \*\*Pure 2nd-line population

AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio

1. Bruix J, et al. Lancet. 2017;389:56-66; 2. Abou-Alfa GK, et al. N Engl J Med. 2018;379:54-63; 3. Kelley RK, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2018;36(15\_suppl):4088-4088;

4. Zhu A, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2019;2:282-96

### 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: RESORCE, CELESTIAL AND REACH-2 SAFETY SUMMARY



	RESORCE <sup>1</sup> (regorafenib)	CELESTIAL <sup>2</sup> (cabozantinib)	REACH-2 <sup>3,4</sup> (ramucirumab)
Discontinuation due to TRAEs	10%	16%	11%
Dose modification due to AEs	68%	62%	35%
Median duration of treatment	3.6 months	3.8 months	2.8 months (AFP high)
Grade ≥3 TEAEs	67%	68%	59%
Toxicities (≥10%, grade ≥3)	Skin reactions, hypertension, increased bilirubin, AST increase	Skin reactions, hypertension, AST increase, fatigue, diarrhoea	Hypertension

Trials included different populations and should not be directly compared

AE, adverse event; AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; TEAE, treatment-emergent AE; TRAE, treatment-related AE 1. Bruix J, et al. Lancet. 2017;389:56-66; 2. Abou-Alfa GK, et al. N Engl J Med. 2018;379:54-63; 3. Zhu A, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2019;2:282-96; 4. Zhu A, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2018;36(15\_suppl):4003-4003 (ASCO 2018 oral presentation)

## 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: NIVOLUMAB – RESULTS OF CHECKMATE-040



• This analysis of the Phase I/II study CheckMate-040 trial included 182 patients previously treated with sorafenib



Response, n ( %)	Nivolumab (ITT) (n=182)
ORR	26 (14)
DCR	100 (55)

- Nivolumab had a manageable safety profile and no new signals were observed in patients with advanced HCC
- No maximum tolerated dose was found

Nivolumab has been granted accelerated FDA approval in 2<sup>nd</sup>-line based on the results of CheckMate-040<sup>2\*</sup> In April 2021, FDA's Oncologic Drug Advisory Committee voted against the continued accelerated approval of nivolumab for the treatment of patients with HCC who were previously treated with sorafenib<sup>3</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Approved by the FDA, but not currently approved by the EMA

CI, confidence interval; DCR, disease control rate; EMA, European Medicines Agency; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; ITT, intention-to-treat; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival

<sup>1.</sup> Yau T, et al. J Hepatol. 2019;71:543-52; 2. FDA Press release. Available at: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-nivolumabhcc-previously-treated-sorafenib. Accessed May 2021; 3. https://www.fda.gov/media/147929/download. Accessed May 2021

#### 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: PEMBROLIZUMAB – RESULTS OF KEYNOTE-240<sup>1</sup>





#### KEYNOTE-240 did not meet the statistical criteria for either of the dual primary endpoints<sup>2</sup>



Pembrolizumab received accelerated FDA approval in patients previously treated with sorafenib based on the results of KEYNOTE-224<sup>3\*</sup>

\*Approved by the FDA, but not currently approved by the EMA

CI, confidence interval; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival

1. NCT02702401. Available at clinicaltrials.gov. Accessed May 2021; 2. Finn R, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2020 20;38:193-202; 3. Pembrolizumab press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-pembrolizumab-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020

#### 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: NIVOLUMAB + IPILIMUMAB – CHECKMATE-040<sup>1,2</sup>



# AIM: TO EVALUATE THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF 2L NIVOLUMAB + IPILIMUMAB IN SORAFENIB-TREATED PATIENTS WITH aHCC



2L, second-line; (a)HCC, (advanced) hepatocellular carcinoma; DCR, disease control rate; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q3W, every 3 weeks; Q6W, every 6 weeks; TTP, time to progression; TTR, time to response

1. NCT01658878. Available at clinicaltrials.gov. Accessed August 2020; 2. Yau T, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2019;37(15\_suppl):4012-4012

### 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: NIVOLUMAB + IPILIMUMAB – CHECKMATE-040



	Arm A Nivo1/Ipi3 Q3W (n=50)	Arm B Nivo3/Ipi1 Q3W (n=49)	Arm C Nivo3 Q2W/Ipi1 Q6W (n=49)	Total (N=148)
ORR, n (%)	16 (32)	15 (31)	15 (31)	46 (31)
Complete response	4 (8)	3 (6)	0	7 (5)
Partial response	12 (24)	12 (24)	15 (31)	39 (26)
Stable disease	9 (18)	5 (10)	9 (18)	23 (16)
Progressive disease	20 (40)	24 (49)	21 (43)	65 (44)
Unable to determine	3 (6)	4 (8)	4 (8)	11 (7)
DCR, n (%)	27 (54)	21 (43)	24 (49)	72 (49)
Median TTR, months (range)	2.0 (1.1-2.8)	2.6 (1.2-5.5)	2.7 (1.2-8.7)	-
Median DoR, months (range)	17.5 (4.6-30.5+)	22.2 (4.2-29.9+)	16.6 (4.1+-32.0+)	-
ORR by investigator, n (%)	16 (32)	13 (27)	14 (29)	_

Nivolumab plus ipilimumab led to robust and durable responses in sorafenib-treated patients, with higher ORRs (>30% in each treatment arm) than the ORR observed with nivolumab monotherapy (14%)

#### The nivolumab plus ipilimumab combination led to clinically meaningful responses and had an acceptable safety profile in patients with previous exposure to sorafenib

DCR, disease control rate; DoR, duration of response; Ipi, ipilimumab; ORR, objective response rate; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q3W, every 3 weeks; Q6W, every 6 weeks; TTR, time to response; Nivo, nivolumab Yau T, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2019;37(15\_suppl):4012-4012 (ASCO 2019 oral presentation)

#### 2<sup>ND</sup>-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS: CAMRELIZUMAB (ANTI-PD-1 INHIBITOR)



OPEN-LABEL CHINESE MULTICENTER PHASE 2 STUDY (NCT02989922): 217 EVALUABLE PRETREATED PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HCC WERE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 2016 AND NOVEMBER 2017 TO RECEIVE CAMRELIZUMAB AT 3 MG/KG EVERY 2 WEEKS (N=109) OR EVERY 3 WEEKS (N=108)

Cut off date: 16 November 2018	All treated patients (n=217)	Every 2 weeks (n=109)	Every 3 weeks (n=108)
Primary endpoints			
BICR-assessed objective response*, n (%, 95% CI)	32 (14.7%; 10.3-20.2)	13 (11.9%; 6.5-19.5)	19 (17.6%; 10.9-26.1)
6-month overall survival**, % (95% CI)	74.4% (68.0-79.7)	75.9% (66.6-82.9)	73.0% (63.6-80.4)
Secondary endpoints			
Disease control, n (%, 95% Cl)	96 (44.2%; 37.5-51.1)	52 (47.7%; 38.1-57.5)	44 (40.7%; 31.4-50.6)
Median time to response, months (IQR)	2.0 (1.9-3.4)	2.0 (1.9-2.0)	2.1 (2.0-3.5)
Median duration of response, month (IQR)	NR (3.7-14.0)	NR (2.9-12.5)	NR (4.1-14.5)
Median OS, months (95% CI)	13.8 (11.5-16.6)	14.2 (11.5-NR)	13.2 (9.4-17.0)

Camrelizumab showed antitumour activity in pretreated Chinese patients with advanced HCC, preliminary survival benefit and a manageable safety profile

\*Defined as the percentage of patients whose best overall response was confirmed complete or partial response; \*\*Defined as cumulative overall survival at 6 months from the first dose

BICR, blinded independent central review; CI, confidence interval; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; IQR, interquartile range; NR, not reached; PD-1, programmed cell death 1 Qin S, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2020;21(4):571-80

# **CLOSING REMARKS**

#### THE EVOLVING LANDSCAPE OF SYSTEMIC TREATMENT FOR HCC





\*Approved by the FDA, but not currently approved by the EMA

AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; CPI, checkpoint inhibitor; EMA, European Medicines Agency; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma

Nexavar Press release. Available at: www.drugs.com/nda/nexavar\_070820.html. Accessed August 2020; 2. Regorafenib Press release. Available at: www.cancer.gov/news-events/cancer-currents-blog/2017/fda-regorafenib-liver. Accessed August 2020; 3. Opdivo Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-nivolumab-hcc-previously-treated-sorafenib. Accessed August 2020; 4. Lenvatinib Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-lenvatinib-unresectable-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020; 5. Pembrolizumab Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-pembrolizumab-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020; 7. Cyramza Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/fda-approves-cabozantinib-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020; 8. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/drugs/drugs/drug-approved-biomarker. Accessed August 2020; 8. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/drugs/drugs/drug-approved-biomarker. Accessed August 2020; 9. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/drugs/2020; 9. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/drugs/2020; 9. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-nivolumab-and-ipilimumab-combination-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020; 9. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-nivolumab-and-ipilimumab-combination-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020. 9. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-grants-accelerated-approval-nivolumab-and-ipilimumab-combination-hepatocellular-carcinoma. Accessed August 2020. 9. FDA Press release. Available at: www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-informat

#### **EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE SHARE**

## **SEQUENCING GUIDELINES IN ADVANCED AND UNRESECTABLE HCC: WHERE DO WE STAND?**

## **Prof. Amit Singal**

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#### DISCLOSURES



- Bayer
- Eisai
- Genentech
- AstraZeneca
- Exelixis
- BMS

#### SUMMARY OF NCCN: RECOMMENDATIONS



First-Line Therapy	Subsequent-Line Therapy
Preferred Regimens	• Sorafenib
<ul> <li>Atezolizumab + bevacizumab</li> </ul>	Lenvatinib
• Sorafenib	Regorafenib
Lenvatinib	Cabozantinib
	Ramucirumab
Useful in Certain Circumstances	Nivolumab
Nivolumab	Pembrolizumab
	<ul> <li>Nivolumab + ipilimumab</li> </ul>

## ATEZOLIZUMAB/BEVACIZUMAB WILL BE PREFERRED IN MOST BUT NOT ALL PATIENTS





#### SEVERAL TREATMENT RESPONSE BIOMARKERS OF INTEREST





#### **Tumour and Immunologic Factors**

- PD-L1 expression by tumour and immune infiltrate
- Features of intra-tumoural lymphoid infiltrates

#### Tumour mutations and microsatellite instability

- Tumour mutation burden
- MSI-high status

#### **Circulating factors**

- Circulating immune cells
- Circulating soluble factors, e.g. TGF-B
- Extracellular vesicles, such as exosomes

#### **Host factors**

- Male sex and older age
- Gut microbiome

MSI, microsatellite instability; PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; TGF, transforming growth factor; TCR, T-cell receptor Jilkova ZM, et al. Cancers. 2019;11(10):1554

#### **PD-L1: ROLE AS A TREATMENT RESPONSE BIOMARKER**





FDA, Food and Drug Administration; GEJ, gastro-esophageal junction; H&N, head and neck; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HL, Hodgkin's Lymphoma; MSI, microsatellite instability; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; PMBCL, primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma; RCC, renal cell carcinoma; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; SCLC, small cell lung cancer

Davis A, et al. J Immunother Cancer. 2019;7(1):278

#### TKIS HIT DIFFERENT TARGETS BUT DOES NOT TRANSLATE TO PRACTICE



ТКІ	Therapy Line	VEGFA	VEGFR1	VEGFR2	VEGFR3	PDGFB	Other
Bevacizumab*	1 <sup>st</sup> Line	Х					
Sorafenib	1 <sup>st</sup> Line		Х	Х	Х	Х	BRAF, FLT3, c-Kit, FGFR1
Lenvatinib	1 <sup>st</sup> Line		Х	Х	Х	Х	FGFR1, Kit
Regorafenib	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line		Х	Х	Х	Х	BRAF, Ret, Kit
Cabozantinib	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line			Х		х	<b>c-Met,</b> Ret, Kit, Flt-1/3/4, Tie2, and <b>AXL</b>
Ramucirumab	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line			Х			

\*bevacizumab is approved in combination with atezolizumab for the treatment of patient with HCC in first line.

AXL, anexelekto receptor; BRAF, v-raf murine sarcoma viral oncogene homolog B1; FGFR, fibroblast growth factor receptor; FLT, fms-related tyrosine kinase; KIT, tyrosine-protein kinase; MET, mesenchymal-epithelial transition factor; PDGFB, platelet-derived growth factor subunit B; Ret, rearranged during transfection kinase; TIE, angiopoietin receptor; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor; 33 VEGFA, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor

## IS CIRRHOSIS ETIOLOGY ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONSE TO IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS?





 In preclinical HCC models in the setting of NASH, PD-1 inhibitors expanded CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells but did not induce tumour regression, indicating impaired tumour immune surveillance

CI, confidence interval; d.f., degrees of freedom; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HR, hazard ratio; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; NASH, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis Pfister D, et al. Nature. 2021;592(7854):450-6

#### CLINICAL FACTORS CAN HELP SELECT BETWEEN SORAFENIB AND LENVATINIB



	Sorafenib	Lenvatinib
Level of evidence	Phase 3	Phase 3
Inclusion criteria	Child A cirrhosis, ECOG 0-1	Child A cirrhosis, ECOG 0-1 Excluded patients with >50% liver involvement, main portal vein or bile duct invasion
Efficacy	Improved survival vs placebo	Non-inferior survival vs sorafenib Improved objective responses and time to progression compared to sorafenib
AE profile	Increased hand-foot skin reaction	Increased hypertension, proteinuria, anorexia
Logistics	Oral, twice daily Taken 1-2 hours removed from food	Oral, once daily Can be taken with or without food
Miscellaneous	Real-world effectiveness data in populations including Child B cirrhosis	

AE, adverse event; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status

#### **GIDEON PROVIDES REAL-WORLD DATA FOR SORAFENIB**



	Child-Pugh A (N=1,968)	Child-Pugh B (N=666)	Child-Pugh C (N=74)
Median treatment duration,* weeks	17.6	9.9	5.6
Initial dose, n (%) 800 mg 400 mg	1,415 (72) 482 (25)	464 (70) 173 (26)	46 (62) 21 (28)
Dose reduction rate, n (%)	784 (40)	194 (29)	19 (26)
AEs (all grades), n (%)	1,653 (84)	590 (89)	68 (92)
All grade 3 or 4 AEs, n (%)	638 (33)	210 (32)	13 (18)

\*Three patients recorded as having Child-Pugh B but specific score not recorded AE, adverse event

Marrero JA, et al. J Hepatol. 2016;65(6):1140-7

## CHECKMATE-040: NIVOLUMAB IN CHILD-PUGH B COHORT





- Patient population: 49 patients; 76% Child Pugh B7 and 24% Child Pugh B8
- TRAEs manageable and not higher vs Child-Pugh A cohort
- ORR 10.2%; mOS 7.6 months; mOS in sorafenib-naïve and previously treated patients 9.8 and 7.4 months



- The phase 3 CheckMate-459 (NCT02576509) did not show significant benefit of nivolumab over sorafenib
- FDA recommended to remove the accelerated approval of nivolumab for the treatment of HCC in 2<sup>nd</sup> line\*

Kudo. ASCO GI 2019; Kudo M, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2019;37(4 suppl):327-327

<sup>\*</sup>https://www.fda.gov/media/147929/download. Accessed May 2021.

CR, complete response; DoR, duration of response; mOS, median overall survival; ORR, objective response rate; PD, disease progression; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; TRAE, treatment-related adverse events

#### MULTIPLE SECOND-LINE TREATMENT OPTIONS AFTER SORAFENIB





\*In April 2021, FDA recommended rescinding nivolumab approval in 2<sup>nd</sup> line HCC treatment (Source: https://www.fda.gov/media/147929/download. Accessed May 2021).

## DIFFERENCES IN SECOND-LINE TARGETED TREATMENT OPTIONS (EXPERT COMMENTS)



	Regorafenib	Cabozantinib	Ramucirumab
Level of evidence	Phase 3	Phase 3	Phase 3
Inclusion criteria	<ul> <li>Tolerated sorafenib but with radiographic progression</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intolerant to sorafenib or with radiographic progression</li> <li>Could have received an additional line of systemic therapy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intolerant to sorafenib or with radiographic progression</li> <li>Patients with AFP ≥400 ng/mL</li> </ul>
Efficacy	<ul> <li>Improved OS</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improved OS</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Improved OS</li> </ul>
AE profile	<ul> <li>Similar to AE profile of other TKIs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Similar to AE profile of other TKIs</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Well tolerated with low rates of dose reductions or discontinuations</li> </ul>
Logistics	<ul> <li>Orally daily for 3 weeks with 1-week holiday</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Orally once daily</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>IV infusion every 2 weeks</li> </ul>

AE, adverse event; AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; iv, intravenous; OS, overall survival; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor

# CAN THEY BE APPLIED AFTER ATEZOLIZUMAB AND BEVACIZUMAB?





#### ABILITY TO SEQUENCE REQUIRES STARTING SYSTEMIC THERAPY AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME





CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; TACE, transcatheter arterial chemoembolisation Kudo M, et al. Cancers. 2019;11(8):1084

#### **SUMMARY**



- Interest in precision medicine and identifying best therapy for each patient
- Given a lack of proven biomarkers, we must rely on clinical factors to determine optimal therapies and sequencing strategies
- Although atezolizumab/bevacizumab should be first-line systemic therapy in most patients, there are patient population who will continue to receive TKI therapy
- TKIs could play an important role in second line after atezolizumab and bevacizumab
- Patient population with unique algorithms including patients with Child B, high risk of bleeding, or post-transplant
- Sequencing starts with transition from LRT to systemic therapy

#### **EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE SHARE**

## STRATIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH HCC: WHO NEEDS WHAT?

#### Sammy Saab, MD, MPH, AGAF, FACG, FAASLD Professor of Medicine and Surgery Head, Outcomes Research in Hepatology David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

#### DISCLOSURES



- AbbVie
- BMS
- Bayer
- Gilead
- Eisai
- Exilisi
- Intercept
- Dova
- Saliix

#### IMPACT OF CIRRHOSIS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA (HCC)



- Cirrhosis independently associated with survival
  - Dealing with two disorders: cirrhosis and HCC
- Certain causes of cirrhosis can reactivate during treatment of HCC
- Patients with cirrhosis can have unique complications not seen in patients with other cancers
  - Manifestations of portal hypertension
  - Drug toxicity
- Patients with cirrhosis require additional preparatory work prior to the treatment of HCC
  - Variceal endoscopy

#### **EVALUATION PRIOR TO STARTING HCC SYSTEMIC THERAPY**



#### Laboratory tests

- CBC with platelets
- Complete Metabolic Panel
- Prothrombin time/INR
- HBsAg
- HBcAb
- Urine analysis
- TSH
- AFP

#### Other

• Upper endoscopy

#### **AVAILABLE SYSTEMIC THERAPIES\***



Sequence	Agent	Administration	Class
First Line	Sorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Lenvatinib	Oral	VEGF Inhibitor
	Bevacizumab**	Injection	VEGF Inhibitor
	Atezolizumab**	Injection	PD-L1 Inhibitor
Second Line	Regorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Cabozantinib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Nivolumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor
	Pembrolizumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor
	Ramucirumab***	Injection	VEGFR2 inhibitor

\*nivolumab + ipilimumab combination is not mentioned as this slide will support the illustration of treatment selection by patient population. \*\*Bevacizumab/atezolizumab are used in combination; \*\*\* for HCC patients with AFP levels ≥400 ng/mL

PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VEGFR2, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 47 Source: NCCN Guidelines. Hepatobiliary Cancers. V2.2021. Issued April 16, 2021

#### CLASSIFICATION OF CIRRHOSIS SEVERITY DETERMINANTS FOR CHILD-TURCOTTE-PUGH (CTP)



	Points		
	1	2	3
Encephalopathy	None	Grade 1-2 (or precipitant-induced)	Grade 3-4 (or chronic)
Ascites	None	Mild/Moderate (diuretic-responsive)	Severe (diuretic-refractory)
Bilirubin (mg/dL)	<2	2-3	>3
Albumin (g/dL)	>3.5	2.8-3.5	<2.8
Prothrombin time (seconds prolonged)	<4	4-6	>6



#### Patients in Class A are considered "compensated"

Patients in Classes B and C are considered "decompensated"

#### **RECOMMENDED SYSTEMIC HCC THERAPIES FOR: PATIENTS WITH CHILD-CLASS B CIRRHOSIS**



Sequence	Agent	Administration	Class
First Line	Sorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
Second Line			
	Nivolumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor

\*\*Bevacizumab/atezolizumab are used in combination; \*\*\* for HCC patients with AFP levels ≥400 ng/mL

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VEGFR2, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2

#### RECOMMENDED SYSTEMIC HCC THERAPIES FOR: TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS OR IMMUNE CONTRAINDICATIONS



Sequence	Agent	Administration	Class
First Line	Sorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Lenvatinib	Oral	VEGF Inhibitor
Second Line	Regorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Cabozantinib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Ramucirumab***	Injection	VEGFR2 inhibitor

\*\*Bevacizumab/atezolizumab are used in combination; \*\*\* for HCC patients with AFP levels ≥400 ng/mL

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VEGFR2, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2

#### **RECOMMENDED SYSTEMIC HCC THERAPIES FOR: INTOLERANT TO SORAFENIB**



Sequence	Agent	Administration	Class
First Line			
	Lenvatinib	Oral	VEGF Inhibitor
	Bevacizumab**	Injection	VEGF Inhibitor
	Atezolizumab**	Injection	PD-L1 Inhibitor
Second Line			
	Cabozantinib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Nivolumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor
	Pembrolizumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor
	Ramucirumab***	Injection	VEGFR2 inhibitor

\*\*Bevacizumab/atezolizumab are used in combination; \*\*\* for HCC patients with AFP levels ≥400 ng/mL

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VEGFR2, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2

#### RECOMMENDED SYSTEMIC HCC THERAPIES FOR: MAIN PORTAL VEIN HCC INVASION



Sequence	Agent	Administration	Class
First Line	Sorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Bevacizumab**	Injection	VGEF Inhibitor
	Atezolizumab**	Injection	PD-L1 Inhibitor
Second Line	Regorafenib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Cabozantinib	Oral	Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
	Nivolumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor
	Pembrolizumab	Injection	PD-1 Inhibitor
	Ramucirumab***	Injection	VEGFR2 inhibitor

\*\*Bevacizumab/atezolizumab are used in combination; \*\*\* for HCC patients with AFP levels ≥400 ng/mL

HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; VEGFR2, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2

#### AREAS NEEDING FURTHER RESEARCH WHEN CHOOSING SYSTEMIC THERAPY

- Impact of underlying liver disease on treatment efficacy
  - Viral vs non-viral causes?
- Sequential therapy after immunotherapy nonresponse
- Biomarkers predicting treatment response
  - Ramucirumab and AFP, PD-L1 expression?
- Utility of systemic therapy in Child-Class B cirrhosis



## SELECTION BIOMARKERS CONSIDERATIONS IN TREATMENT OF HCC





FDA, Food and Drug Administration; GEJ, gastro-esophageal junction; H&N, head and neck; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; HL, Hodgkin's Lymphoma; MSI, microsatellite instability; NSCLC, nonsmall cell lung cancer; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; PMBCL, primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma; RCC, renal cell carcinoma; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; SCLC, small cell lung cancer

El Khoueiry et al Lancet 2017; 389(10088):2492-2502 - Zhu AX et al. Lancet Oncol 2018; 19(7):940-952 - Tai D, et al. Cancers. 2019;11:1926 - Davis A, et al. J Immunother Cancer. 2019;7(1):278

#### **PATHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF HCC**



(A) A case of poorly differentiated HCC, with a macrotrabecular architectural pattern and a high degree of nuclear atypia (hematein-eosin-saffron, x 400).

(B) Massive vascular invasion at the tumor margin, with tumoral thrombi within vessel lumens (hematein-eosin-saffron, x 100).

(C) Membranous PD-L1 expression by neoplastic cells (arrows, x 400).

(D) Diffuse tumoral infiltration by PD-1–positive lymphocytes (arrows, x 400).



## POSSIBLE THERAPEUTIC STRATIFICATION OF THE PATIENTS BASED ON PD-L1 EXPRESSION IN THE HCC SPECIMENS





AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1 Solinas A & Calvisi DF. Hepatology. 2016; 64(6):1847-1849



- Treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) does not occur in a vacuum
- Coordinated care with gastroenterology/hepatology is essential for preparing and managing patients with cirrhosis in the treatment of HCC
- No currently available predictive biomarkers for re-stratification and for tailoring therapy options

**EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE SHARE** 

## **A LOOK TO FUTURE TREATMENTS AND CLOSING REMARKS**

# Prof. Peter Galle

**Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology University Medical Center Mainz, Mainz, Germany** 

#### THE CLINICAL BENEFIT OBSERVED WITH ATEZOLIZUMAB + BEVACIZUMAB HAS SPARKED MULTIPLE ONGOING 1L CIT COMBINATION TRIALS



Cancer immunotherapy combinations combinations with anti-VEGF or a TKI



\*China only; <sup>‡</sup>Met primary endpoints (OS and PFS) at interim analysis

1L, first-line; CIT, cancer immunotherapy; CPI, checkpoint inhibitor; CTLA-4, cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4; LAG3, lymphocyte activation gene-3; PD-1, programmed cell death protein 1; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; TIM3, T-cell immunoglobulin and mucin-domain containing gene-3; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor; VEGF(R), vascular endothelial growth factor (receptor)

## COSMIC-312 (PHASE III): 1L ATEZOLIZUMAB + CABOZANTINIB IS CURRENTLY BEING INVESTIGATED IN ADVANCED HCC





- **Co-primary endpoints:** PFS by BIRC RECIST v1.1 and OS for atezolizumab + cabozantinib vs sorafenib
- Secondary endpoint: Duration of PFS by BIRC RECIST v1.1 for cabozantinib vs sorafenib

1L, first-line; BCLC, Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer; bid, twice daily; BIRC, blinded independent radiology committee; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; iv, intravenous; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; po, orally; q3w, every 3 weeks; qd, once daily; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors Source: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03755791

## LEAP-002 (PHASE III): ONGOING 1L TRIAL OF LENVATINIB + PEMBROLIZUMAB IN ADVANCED HCC





- **Co-primary endpoints:** PFS BICR assessed by RECIST v1.1, OS
- Secondary/exploratory endpoints includes: ORR,\* DOR,\* DCR,\* TTP,\* PFS,<sup>‡</sup> safety, PK

\*Per RECIST v1.1 or HCC mRECIST; <sup>‡</sup>Per HCC mRECIST

<sup>1</sup>L, first-line; BCLC, Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer; BIRC, blinded independent radiology committee; BW, body weight; DCR, disease control rate; DoR, duration of response; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; iv, intravenous; LRT, local regional treatment; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PK, pharmacokinetic; po, orally; q3w, every 3 weeks; qd, once daily; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; TTP, time to disease progression Source: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03713593

#### HIMALAYA (PHASE III): DATA FOR 1L DURVALUMAB ± TREMELIMUMAB IN UNRESECTABLE HCC





- Primary endpoint: OS
- Key secondary endpoints: TTP, PFS, ORR, DCR, DoR, safety and tolerability

<sup>1</sup>L, first-line; BCLC, Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer; DCR, disease control rate; DoR, duration of response; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; LRT, local regional treatment; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; TTP, time to progression Source: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03298451

## CHECKMATE-9DW (PHASE III): 1L TRIAL OF NIVOLUMAB + IPILIMUMAB IN ADVANCED HCC IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING

![](_page_62_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_2.jpeg)

- **Co-primary endpoints:** OS
- Secondary endpoints: ORR by RECIST v1.1, DoR, TTSD

1L, first-line; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; HCC, hepatocellular carcinoma; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; TTSD, time to symptom deterioration Source: https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04039607

## REACH HCC CONNECT VIA TWITTER, LINKEDIN, VIMEO & EMAIL OR VISIT THE GROUP'S WEBSITE http://www.hccconnect.info

![](_page_63_Picture_1.jpeg)

Follow the HCC CONNECT group on LinkedIn Watch us on the Vimeo Channel HCC CONNECT

![](_page_63_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_64_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_64_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_64_Picture_8.jpeg)

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