

Petosemtamab compared with investigator's choice monotherapy in previously treated patients (pts) with recurrent/metastatic (r/m) head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC): A randomized, open-label, phase 3 trial

Robert Haddad, 1 Maura Gillison, 2 Kevin J. Harrington, 3 Sung-Bae Kim, 4 Christophe Le Tourneau, 5 Ari Rosenberg, 6 Jim Ford, 7 Yu-Ming Shen, 7 David Yao, 7 Fabian Zohren, 7 Jean-Pascal Machiels 8

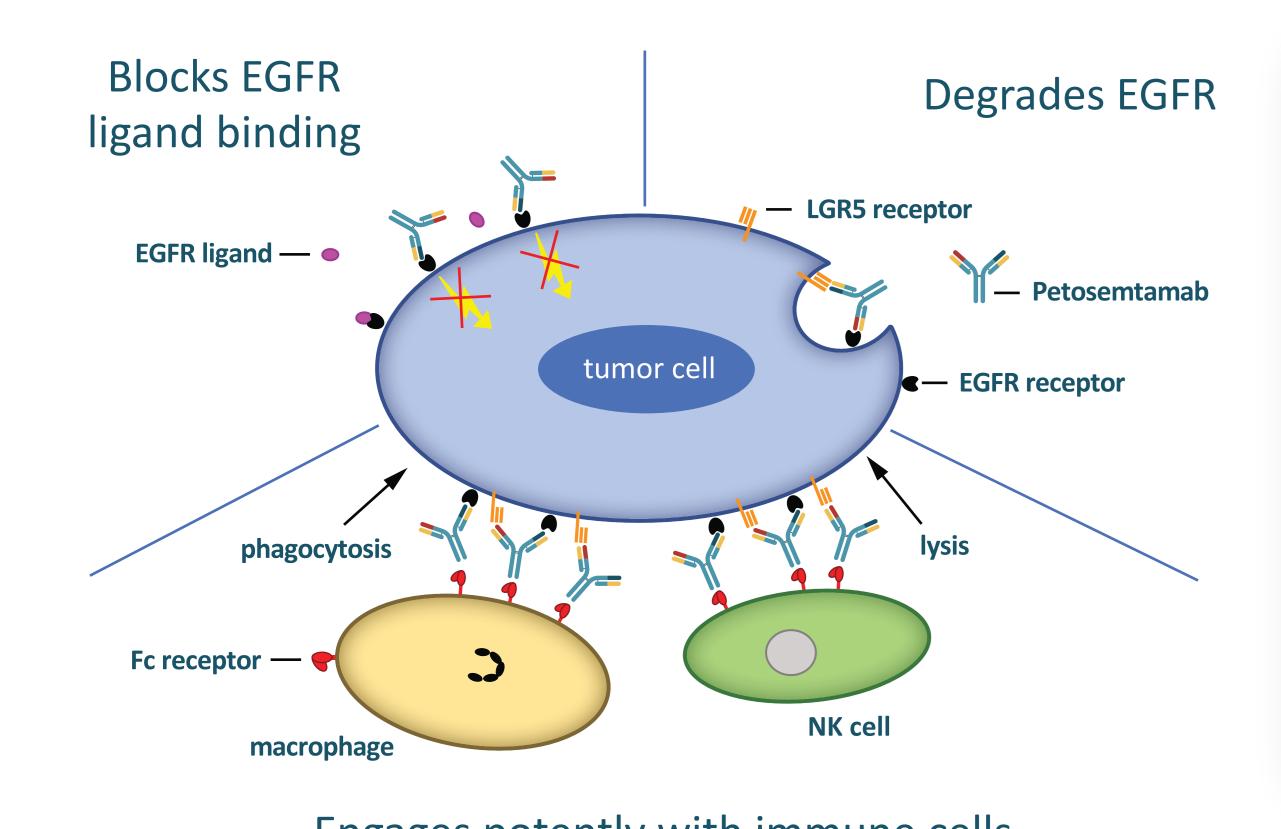
¹Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; ²MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA; ³The Institute of Cancer Research/Royal Marsden, London, UK; ⁴Asan Medical Center, University of Ulsan College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea; ⁵Institut Curie, Paris, France; ⁶University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA; ⁷Merus N.V., Utrecht, Netherlands; ⁸Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium



INTRODUCTION

Petosemtamab is a human, common light chain, lgG1 bispecific antibody with ADCC-enhanced activity, targeting EGFR and LGR5

- EGFR and WNT are oncogenic and mitogenic drivers in several cancer types, including HNSCC¹⁻³
- LGR5 is a receptor of WNT signaling and is upregulated in many cancer types^{4,5}
- Petosemtamab monotherapy demonstrated meaningful preclinical and clinical antitumor activity in HNSCC^{1,6}



Engages potently with immune cells

Mechanism of action¹

Petosemtamab was designed to:

- Block EGFR ligand binding and inhibit signaling
- Degrade EGFR (via LGR5/E3 ligase)
- Facilitate interaction with immune cells via ADCP and enhanced ADCC

Figure 1 | Petosemtamab mechanism of action

Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

- High prevalence and mortality with dismal prognosis⁷
- Sixth most common cancer worldwide in 2020⁷ and ~930,000 new cases and 467,000 deaths⁷
- Unmet medical need in the platinum and anti-PD-1 refractory setting
- Limited treatment options, and no standard of care, after platinum-based chemotherapy and pembrolizumab⁸⁻¹¹
- 6–19% ORR and median OS of 5–9 months in 2L+ setting with cetuximab, docetaxel, or methotrexate⁸⁻¹¹
- LGR5 expression reported in 52–89% of HNSCC^{12,13}
- EGFR overexpression reported in ~90% of HNSCC^{14,15}

2L+: previously treated; ADCC: antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity; ADCP: antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis; EGFR: epidermal growth factor receptor; Fc: fragment crystallizable; HNSCC: head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; IgG1: immunoglobulin G1; LGR5: leucine-rich repeat-containing G-protein coupled receptor 5; NK: natural killer; ORR: overall response rate; OS: overall survival; PD-1: programmed cell death protein 1; WNT: wingless/integrated.

LiGeR-HN2 PHASE 3 TRIAL DESIGN

LiGeR-HN2 is a phase 3, open-label, randomized, controlled, multicenter trial to compare petosemtamab vs. investigator's choice monotherapy in patients with HNSCC for the 2L and 3L treatment of incurable metastatic/recurrent disease

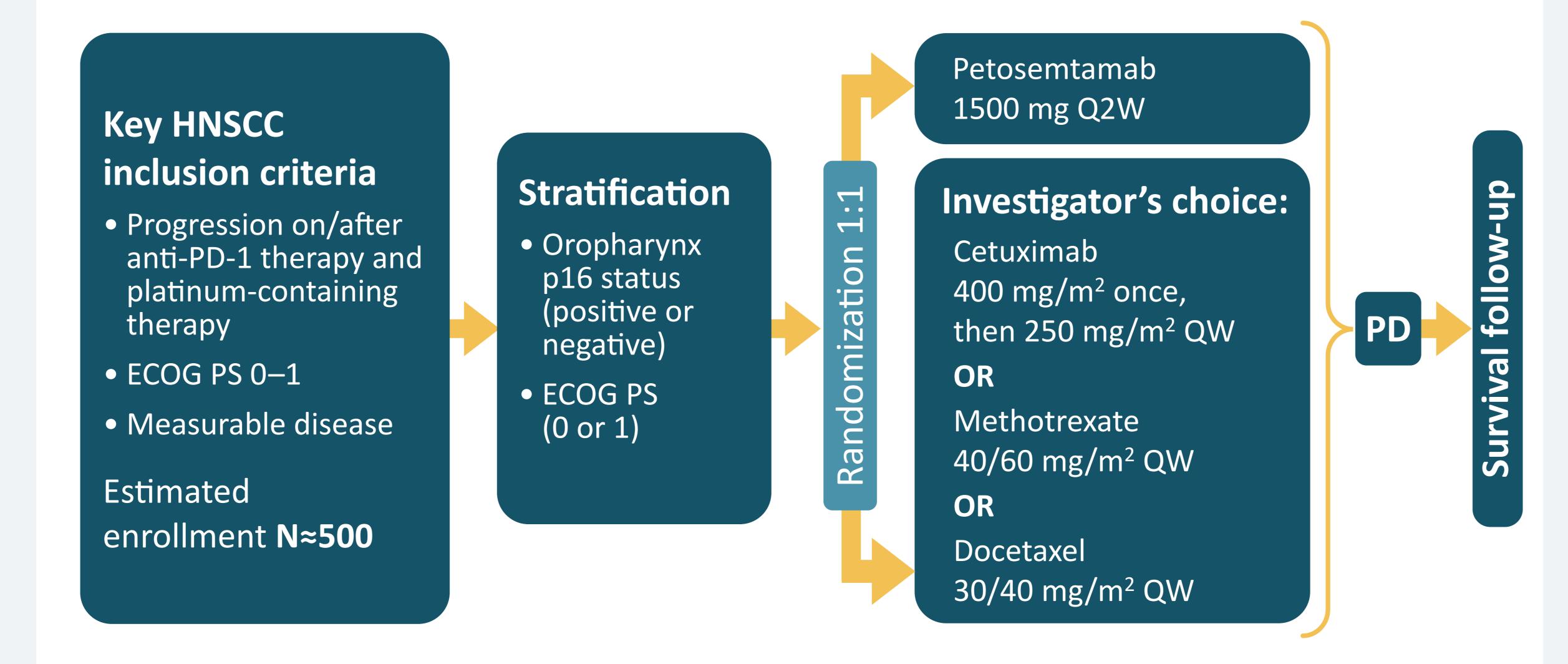


Figure 2 | LiGeR-HN2 trial design

rmitted. 2L: second line; 3L: third line; ECOG PS: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; PD: progressive disease; Q2W: once

PHASE 2 TRIAL INTERIM DATA: AACR® 2023

Overall response rate (RECIST v1.1, per investigator) Best percent change in sum of target lesions from baseline (N=43)⁶

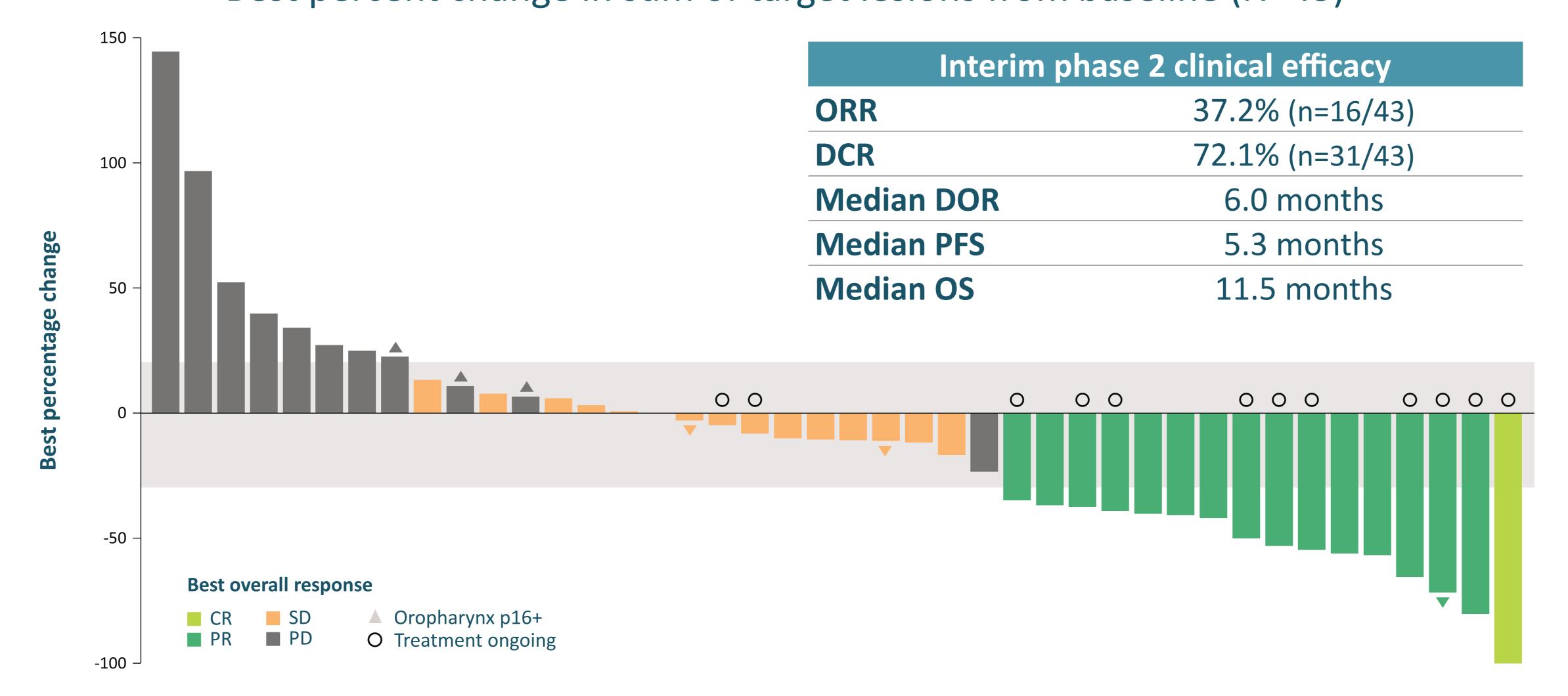


Figure 3 | Petosemtamab monotherapy in 2L+ r/m HNSCC: Phase 2 data (NCT03526835) Petosemtamab monotherapy was observed to be well tolerated with a manageable safety profile⁶

Data cutoff date: 01 Feb 2023.

Data from one patient with best overall response of 'not evaluable' were not included due to no post-baseline tumor assessment; p16 status was available in 9 of the 15 patients with oropharyngeal cancer (6 positive and 3 negative) in the efficacy evaluable population. AACR: American Association for Cancer Research; CR: complete response; DCR: disease control rate; DOR: duration of response; PFS: progression-free survival; PR: partial response; RECIST: Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; r/m: recurrent/metastatic; SD: stable disease.

LiGeR-HN2 METHODS

Inclusion criteria

- Age ≥18 years at signing of ICF
- Histologically previously confirmed HNSCC with evidence of metastatic or locally advanced disease not amenable to standard therapy with curative intent
- Progressed on or after anti-PD-1 therapy and platinum-containing therapy
- HNSCC primary tumor locations are oropharynx, oral cavity, hypopharynx, and larynx
- Documentation of p16 status (positive or negative) by local laboratory IHC for patients with primary oropharyngeal cancer
- Measurable disease as defined by RECIST v1.1 by radiologic methods
- ECOG PS of 0 or 1

 CNS metastases that are untreated or symptomatic, or require radiation, surgery, or continued steroid therapy to control symptoms within 14 days of study entry

Exclusion criteria

- Known leptomeningeal involvement
- Any systemic anticancer therapy within 4 weeks of the first dose of study treatment
- Primary tumor site of nasopharynx (any histology)

Primary outcome measures

- Objective response rate as assessed by BICR
- Overall survival

Secondary outcome measures

- Assessed by BICR and by investigator:
- Progression-free survival
- Duration of response
- Time to response
- Clinical benefit rate
- Objective response rate as assessed by investigator
- Number of participants who experienced:
- At least one TEAE

14. Byeon HK, et al. (2019) Exp Mol Med *51*, 1–14.

15. Xu MJ, et al. (2017) Cancer Metastasis Rev *36*, 463–473.

At least one serious TEAE

- Number of participants who:
- Discontinued study treatment due to TEAEs
- Had dose modification due to TEAEs
- Mean change from baseline in EORTC QLQ-C30 and QLQ-H&N43
- Concentrations predose and at end of infusion
- Pharmacokinetic parameters
- Incidence of antidrug antibody

BICR: blinded independent central review; CNS: central nervous system; EORTC: European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer; ICF: informed consent form; IHC: immunohistochemistry; QLQ-C30: 30-item Quality of Life Questionnaire; QLQ-H&N43: 43-item Quality of Life Head and Neck Cancer Module; TEAE: treatment-emergent adverse event.

References 1. Herpers B, et al. (2022) Nat Cancer 3, 418–436. 2. Schinke H, et al. (2022) Mol Cancer 21, 178. 3. Parsons MJ, et al. (2021) Cancer Discov 11, 2413–2429. 4. Xu L, et al. (2019) Stem Cell Res Ther 10, 219. 5. Katoh M. (2017) Int J Oncol *51*, 1357–1369. 6. Cohen E, et al. (2023) Cancer Res 83(Suppl 8), CT012 [oral, AACR 2023]. 7. Sung H, et al. (2021) CA Cancer J Clin *71*, 209–249. 8. Cohen E, et al. (2019) Lancet 393, 156-167. 9. Ferris RL, et al. (2016) N Engl J Med 375, 1856–1867. 10. Vermorken JB, et al. (2007) J Clin Oncol 25, 2171-2177. 11. Fayette J, et al. (2023) Ann Oncol 34(Suppl 2), S554–S593 [oral, ESMO 2023]. 12. Wu Z, et al. (2017) Int J Clin Exp Pathol 10, 11267–11275. 13. Dalley AJ, et al. (2015) Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol 119, 436-440

Acknowledgments

We thank the investigators and their teams; Merus colleagues; CROs and vendors; and Sophie Houten at LiNK Health Group. Study sponsored by Merus NV.

Presenting Author Disclosures

RH is a panel chair guidelines member for the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN); on the Data Safety Monitoring Board for Hookipa, Nanobiotix, and PSI; an advisory board consultant for AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Coherus, Eisai, EMD Serono, Exelixis, Genentech, Genmab, Merck, Merus, and Pfizer; and has received institutional research funding from AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, EMD Serono, Incyte, Kura, and Merck.



and/or text key codes are for personal use only and may not be reproduced without written permission of the authors.