News Release

Title

Efficacy and safety of second-line therapy of docetaxel plus ramucirumab after first-line platinum-based chemotherapy plus immune checkpoint inhibitors in non-small cell lung cancer (SCORPION): a multicenter, open-label, single-arm, phase 2 trial

Key Points

• For advanced non-small cell lung cancer, immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) plus platinum-based chemotherapy has been established as the 1st line standard of care, but most patients will require second-line therapy due to re-growth of the cancer. Docetaxel plus ramucirumab after failure of ICI plus platinum-based chemotherapy is an approved treatment option for second-line therapy in Japan, but further evaluation of efficacy and safety is needed.

• In the current multicenter phase II clinical trial, the objective response rate was 34.4%. Grade ≥3 anaemia and febrile neutropenia were observed in 2 (6%) and 3 (9%) patients, respectively. No treatment-related deaths and no new safety signals were observed.

• DTX plus RAM demonstrated encouraging antitumor activity with a manageable safety profile in patients who have progressed on front-line ICIs plus platinum-based chemotherapy. The results of this trial can be a helpful reference in conducting further phase III trials of new second-line treatment options.

Research Background

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) plus platinum-based chemotherapy has been recognized as a standard first-line therapy in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC); however, no prospective clinical trials of docetaxel (DTX) plus ramucirumab (RAM) following first-line ICI plus platinum-based chemotherapy has been reported.

Research Results

In the efficacy analysis population (n = 32), the primary endpoint was met as 11 patients achieved partial response (PR), with ORR of 34.4% (80% CI, 23.1–47.2). Grade ≥3 anaemia and febrile neutropenia were observed in 2 (6%) and 3 (9%) patients, respectively. No treatment-related deaths and no new safety signals were observed. DTX plus RAM demonstrated encouraging antitumor activity with a manageable safety profile in patients who have progressed on front-line ICIs plus platinum-based chemotherapy. The results of this trial can be a helpful reference in conducting further phase III trials of new second-line treatment options.

Research Summary and Future Perspective

Because this is an exploratory clinical study, the results of this study need to be validated in larger clinical trials, but the results are expected to be helpful in determining the choice of second-line treatment for non-small cell lung cancer in routine practice. The results of this trial can be a helpful reference in conducting further phase III trials of new second-line treatment options.

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Publication

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