



Shilpa Gupta¹; Andrea Necchi²; Neal D. Shore³; Girish Kulkarni⁴; Hema Dave⁵; Ekta Kapadia⁶; Qing Zhao⁵; Ashish Kamat⁶

¹Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Center, Cleveland, OH, USA; ²Vita-Salute San Raffaele University and Department of Medical Oncology, IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Milan, Italy; ³Carolina Urologic Research Center, Myrtle Beach, SC, USA; ⁴University Health Network, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada; ⁵Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA; ⁶The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA

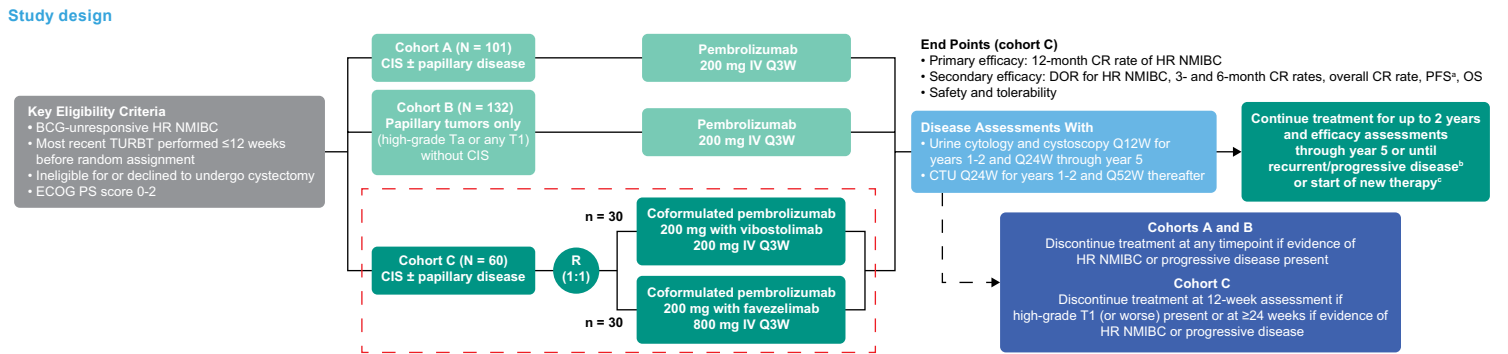
Background

- Pembrolizumab, a PD-1 inhibitor, was shown to have antitumor activity in cohort A of the open-label phase 2 KEYNOTE-057 study (NCT02625961), resulting in US Food and Drug Administration approval of pembrolizumab for the treatment of patients with bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG)–unresponsive high-risk (HR) non–muscle-invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) with carcinoma in situ (CIS) ± papillary tumors who are ineligible for or have elected not to undergo radical cystectomy^{1,2}
- Novel combinations that can further improve the efficacy of pembrolizumab are urgently needed
- The immune checkpoints T-cell immunoglobulin and ITIM domain (TIGIT) and lymphocyte activation gene 3 (LAG-3) have been shown to contribute to treatment resistance in many cancers and have been expressed in bladder cancer
 - Compared with healthy donors, increased peripheral blood total NK cells and higher TIGIT expression on NK, CD4+, and CD8+ T cells have been observed in patients with NMIBC³
 - Stromal expression of LAG-3 has been shown to correlate with poor prognosis in metastatic urothelial cancer, and expression in immune cell subsets has been found to correlate with PD-1 expression⁴
- Because inhibition of TIGIT and LAG-3 may enhance the efficacy of pembrolizumab, cohort C of KEYNOTE-057 will evaluate the efficacy and safety of coformulations (receiving both treatments as a single infusion) of pembrolizumab with the TIGIT inhibitor vibostolimab or with the LAG-3 inhibitor favezelimab in patients with HR BCG-unresponsive NMIBC with CIS ± papillary tumors

Objectives

- Primary efficacy**
- To evaluate antitumor activity of the coformulations of pembrolizumab with vibostolimab and pembrolizumab with favezelimab using the 12-month complete response (CR) rate of HR NMIBC as determined by cystoscopy, cytology, biopsy, and radiologic imaging by central pathology and radiology review
- Secondary efficacy**
- To evaluate the following for the coformulations of pembrolizumab with vibostolimab and pembrolizumab with favezelimab
 - Duration of response (DOR) of HR NMIBC in responders
 - CR rates at 3 and 6 months
 - Overall CR rate
 - Progression-free survival (PFS) to worsening of grade or stage or death
 - PFS to muscle-invasive or metastatic disease or death
 - Overall survival (OS)
- Safety**
- To characterize safety and tolerability of the coformulations of pembrolizumab with vibostolimab and pembrolizumab with favezelimab in patients with NMIBC

Methods



CTU, computed tomography urography; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; IV, intravenously; Q3W, every 3 weeks; Q12W, every 12 weeks; Q24W, every 24 weeks; Q52W, every 52 weeks; R, randomization; TURBT, transurethral resection of bladder tumor.
^aPFS to worsening of grade or stage or death and PFS to muscle-invasive or metastatic disease or death.
^bPersistent HR disease at the 12-week disease assessment for cohorts A and B or thereafter and central pathology–confirmed ≥T1 at any time point or persistent or recurrent CIS or high-grade ≥Ta at the 24-week efficacy review for cohort C or thereafter.
^cIn the absence of disease persistence/recurrence or progression, treatment will continue until unacceptable toxicity, decision to withdraw, or for administrative reasons. Patients with central pathology–confirmed low-grade Ta recurrence at any time point may continue treatment after resection of visible tumors.

Patient eligibility criteria

Key inclusion criteria	Key exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age ≥18 years Histologically confirmed diagnosis of HR non–muscle-invasive (CIS with/without papillary disease [T1, high-grade Ta]) transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder^a For patients with papillary tumors (Ta and T1), a complete TURBT ≤12 weeks before random assignment must have been performed, as characterized by attainment of a visually complete resection of all papillary tumors (Ta and T1)^b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients with T1 disease should undergo a restaging TURBT within 12 weeks before randomization to confirm complete resection Treated with adequate BCG therapy^c and developed HR NMIBC unresponsive to BCG therapy defined as persistent or recurrent CIS alone or with Ta/T1 within 12 months of completion of treatment Elected not to undergo or considered ineligible for radical cystectomy ECOG PS 0-2 Adequate organ function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centrally assessed muscle-invasive (ie, T2, T3, T4) locally advanced nonresectable or metastatic urothelial carcinoma Centrally assessed concurrent extravesical (ie, urethra, ureter, or renal pelvis) non–muscle-invasive transitional cell carcinoma of the urothelium Undergone any intervening intravesical chemotherapy or immunotherapy from the time of most recent cystoscopy/TURBT to starting trial treatment Prior chemotherapy, targeted small molecule therapy, or radiation therapy within 2 weeks prior to starting trial treatment Active autoimmune disease that necessitated systemic treatment in past 2 years Received prior therapy with an anti–PD-1/L1/L2 agent, TIGIT inhibitor, LAG-3 inhibitor, or any other agent directed to another coinhibitory T-cell receptor Active infection that necessitates systemic therapy History of HIV, hepatitis B virus, or active hepatitis C virus infection

^aPatients with tumors of mixed transitional/nontransitional cell histology are eligible, but transitional cell carcinoma must be the predominant histology. Patients with predominant or exclusively nontransitional cell histology are not eligible.
^bResidual CIS not amenable to complete resection is permitted.
^cAdequate BCG therapy is defined as an induction course with ≥5 installations of BCG (adequate induction) and ≥7 installations of BCG within 9 months of the first installation of adequate induction course.

Assessments and follow-up

Assessment	Details
Tumor response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tumor evaluation using cystoscopy and urine cytology will be performed Q12W (±2 weeks) from the start of trial treatment (cycle 1, day 1) for the first 2 years, then Q24W (±2 weeks) thereafter for up to 5 years Patients will also be evaluated with cross-sectional imaging CTU of the abdomen and pelvis Q24W (±2 weeks) for the first 2 years and yearly (52 ± 4 weeks) thereafter Random biopsies will be performed at week 48
Adverse events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be monitored and assessed by investigators throughout the study and for 30 days (90 days for serious adverse events) after the last dose of study treatment Severity will be graded per NCI CTCAE v4.0 guidelines

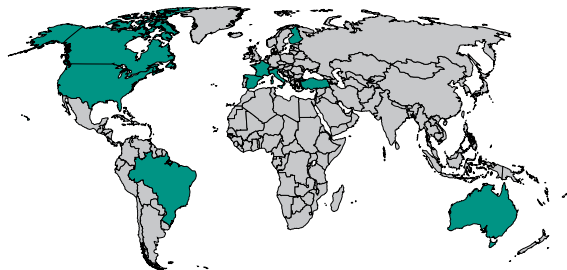
CTCAE v4.0, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.0; NCI, National Cancer Institute.

Analyses

Analysis	Details
Efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficacy analyses will be conducted in the full analysis set, which consists of all enrolled patients who receive ≥1 dose of trial treatment and have a baseline evaluation consisting of pre-enrollment cystoscopy, TURBT/biopsy, urine cytology, and baseline CTU imaging CR rates will be evaluated using point estimates, and CIs will be evaluated using the binomial exact method DOR, PFS, and OS will be summarized using the Kaplan-Meier method
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety analyses will be conducted in the all-patients-as-treated population, defined as all enrolled patients who received at ≥1 dose of trial treatment Safety will be summarized descriptively

Status

Sites of enrollment for KEYNOTE-057 cohort C (green)



References

- Balar AV et al. *Lancet Oncol*. 2021;22:919-930.
- KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab) injection, for intravenous use. 4/2023. Merck Sharp & Dohme, LLC. Rahway, NJ, USA; 2023.
- Audenet F et al. *World J Urol*. 2018;36:1741-1748.
- Zeng H et al. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2020;8:e000651.

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the patients and their families and caregivers for participating in this trial and all investigators and site personnel. Medical writing and/or editorial assistance was provided by Matthew Grzywacz, PhD, of ApotheCom (Yardley, PA, USA). This assistance was funded by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA. Funding for this research was provided by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA.

Contact information

Contact the author at guptas5@ccf.org for questions or comments.