Cemiplimab Improves Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) and Reduces Pain in Patients with Advanced Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (CSCC): Results from a Post Hoc Exploratory Analysis of a Phase 2 Clinical Trial

Michael R. Migden,1 Danny Rischin,2 Medha Sasane,3 Vera Mastey,1 Anna Pavlick,1 Chrysalyne D. Schmults,4 Zhen Chen,5 Alexander Guminski,5 Axel Hauschild,6 Denise Bury,7 Stacie Hudgens,8 Anne Lynn S. Chang,9

1University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA; 2Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA; 3Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA; 4Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Ithaca, NY, USA; 5University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, USA; 6University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; 7University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK; 8McKesson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA; 9Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA.

Abstract

Cemiplimab improves health-related quality of life (HRQoL) and reduces pain in patients with advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC). In the Phase 2 clinical trial (NCT02890649), patients with locally advanced CSCC (laCSCC) not eligible for curative surgery/radiotherapy or metastatic CSCC (mCSCC) were randomized to receive cemiplimab (350 mg every 3 weeks) or placebo for up to 2 years. This analysis evaluated the effect of cemiplimab on HRQoL and pain in patients with laCSCC who had baseline and post-baseline assessment of the QLQ-C30 pain scale and occurred during cycles 3 to 12. The trial was conducted at 114 sites in 12 countries.

Methods

Patients with laCSCC who had baseline and post-baseline assessment of the QLQ-C30 pain scale who were treated with cemiplimab were included. Analyses were conducted in a blinded manner.

Results

Cemiplimab treated patients had significant improvements in HRQoL (domains included global health status, physical function, role function, cognitive function, emotional function, social function, appetite, pain, fatigue, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, dyspnea, insomnia, financial difficulties, and global mental health) and pain (Figures 2 and 3). The 10-point threshold considered indicative of a clinically meaningful change has not been validated for this patient population (i.e., advanced CSCC).

Discussion

Cemiplimab improves HRQoL and pain in advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) patients who are not candidates for surgery or radiotherapy. The improvements observed here were clinically meaningful and contributed to improved HRQoL.

Conclusion

Cemiplimab is a promising therapeutic option for patients with advanced cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC) who are not candidates for surgery or radiotherapy.

References


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Study Limitations

This was a single-arm, open-label study.

The 10-point threshold considered indicative of a clinically meaningful change has not been validated for this patient population (i.e., advanced CSCC).

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Migden MR et al. The 10-point threshold considered indicative of a clinically meaningful change has not been validated for this patient population (i.e., advanced CSCC).