ADISINSIGHT REPORT



Durvalumab: First Global Approval

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Abstract Intravenous durvalumab (ImfinziTM; AstraZeneca) is a fully human monoclonal antibody that blocks programmed cell death ligand-1 binding to its receptors (PD-1 and CD80), resulting in enhanced T-cell responses against cancer cells. The US FDA has granted durvalumab accelerated approval for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who have disease progression during or following platinumcontaining chemotherapy, or within 12 months of neoadjuvant or adjuvant platinum-containing chemotherapy. Durvalumab ± tremelimumab is under phase III clinical trials in urothelial carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, small cell lung cancer and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. The drug is also being evaluated in phase I or II clinical trials in a wide range of solid tumours and haematological malignancies. This article summarizes the milestones in the development of durvalumab leading to this first approval for urothelial carcinoma.

1 Introduction

Durvalumab (ImfinziTM) is a fully human immunoglobulin G1k monoclonal antibody against programmed cell death ligand-1 (PD-L1) that is being developed by

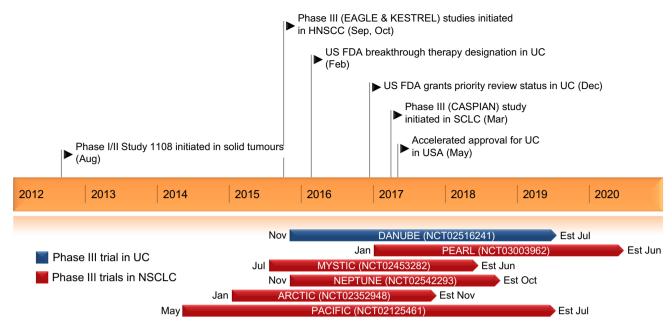
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AstraZeneca for the treatment of cancer [1, 2]. PD-L1 binds to programmed cell death-1 (PD-1) and CD80 (B7-1) receptors, resulting in inhibition of T-cell function. A broad range of human tumours upregulate PD-L1, evading immune surveillance and antitumour T-cell responses. Thus, overexpression of PD-L1 is associated with poor prognosis. Durvalumab blocks PD-L1 binding to both PD-1 and CD80, resulting in enhanced recognition and killing of tumour cells by T-cells [1, 2].

Intravenous durvalumab received US FDA accelerated approval in May 2017 for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who have disease progression during or following platinumcontaining chemotherapy, or within 12 months of neoadjuvant or adjuvant platinum-containing chemotherapy [3]. The approval was based on the objective response rate (ORR) and duration of response seen in Study 1108 (Sect. 2.3.1) and continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in confirmatory trials [3]. The recommended dosage of durvalumab is 10 mg/kg intravenous infusion over 60 min every 2 weeks until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity [3]. Withholding or discontinuing durvalumab is recommended to manage adverse events, such as pneumonitis, hepatitis, colitis or diarrhoea, hypothyroidism, adrenal insufficiency, hypophysitis/hypopituitarism, type 1 diabetes mellitus, nephritis, rash or dermatitis, infection, infusion-related reactions or other grade 3 or 4 adverse events [3]. The US FDA granted durvalumab a breakthrough therapy designation in PD-L1-positive urothelial bladder cancer in February 2016 [4] and a priority review status in bladder cancer in December 2016 [5].

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Key milestones in the development of durvalumab. Est estimated completion date, NSCLC non-small cell lung cancer, HNSCC head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, SCLC small cell lung cancer, UC urothelial cancer

Phase III development of durvalumab monotherapy or in combination with tremelimumab is underway in urothelial carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC). Durvalumab is also being evaluated extensively in phase I or II clinical trials in a wide range of solid tumours and haematological malignancies.

1.1 Company Agreements

AstraZeneca or MedImmune (a subsidiary of AstraZeneca) have collaboration agreements with pharmaceutical companies to evaluate durvalumab in combination with the following drugs in early phase trials:

- Mirati Therapeutics' mocetinostat in NSCLC (agreement signed in August 2015) [6].
- Peregrine's bavituximab in solid tumours, including NSCLC (August and October 2015) [7].
- Eli Lilly's ramucirumab, galunisertib, LY2510924 or LY3022855 in solid tumours (August and October 2015)
 [8].
- Celgene's anticancer drugs in haematological malignancies (April 2015) [9].
- Gilead's idelalisib in haematological cancers/solid tumours, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and triple-negative breast cancer (first quarter of 2015) [10].
- Innate Pharma's monalizumab in cancer (April 2015) [11].

- Pharmacyclics (a subsidiary of AbbVie) and Janssen Biotech's ibrutinib in solid tumours and haematological malignancies (November 2014) [12].
- Immunocore's IMC gp100 in melanoma (April 2015)
 [13].
- Advaxis' axalimogene filolisbac in human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cervical cancer and HNSCC (July 2014) [14].
- Kyowa Hakko Kirin's mogamulizumab in solid tumours (July 2014) [15].

2 Scientific Summary

2.1 Pharmacodynamics

Durvalumab binds to PD-L1 with high affinity and specificity, blocking its interaction with PD-1 and CD80 receptors [2]. Durvalumab does not bind to PD-L2 [2]. It is specifically engineered to disable cytotoxic effector functions, such as antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity and complement-dependent cytotoxicity against cells expressing PD-L1 [1, 2]. Durvalumab inhibited the activity of PD-L1 in a concentration-dependent manner in an anti-CD3-based T-cell activation assay and a mixed lymphocyte reaction assay [2]. Durvalumab inhibited tumour growth in mouse xenograft models of human melanoma (A375) and pancreatic (HPAC) tumour cell lines, via a T-cell-mediated mechanism [2].

Data from the Study 1108 (Sect. 2.3.1) suggest that patients with NSCLC who had detectable levels of interferon γ mRNA and PD-L1 protein expression in \geq 25% of tumour cells may have longer survival with durvalumab treatment; durvalumab significantly (p < 0.016) induced interferon γ gene expression in tumour microenvironment [16].

In a phase I study in patients with advanced NSCLC, durvalumab plus tremelimumab combination therapy was associated with higher peripheral T-cell activation and proliferation, compared with durvalumab monotherapy [17]. Durvalumab plus MEDI0680 (a monoclonal antibody that blocks interaction of PD-L1 and PD-L2 with PD-1 receptors) treatment was associated with increased pharmacodynamic activity against the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway in patients with advanced malignancies in a phase I study [18]. Durvalumab did not appear to antagonize the gefitinib's mechanism of action [epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) inhibition] in patients with NSCLC in a phase I study [19].

2.2 Pharmacokinetics

Exposure to durvalumab increased dose-proportionally at ≥ 3 mg/kg in cancer patients, with steady state levels observed at ≈ 16 weeks [3]. The geometric mean steady state volume of distribution was 5.6 L [3]. As with therapeutic monoclonal antibodies in general, durvalumab undergoes target-mediated clearance [20]. Durvalumab clearance decreases over time, but is not considered clinically relevant; the geometric mean terminal half-life of durvalumab is ≈ 17 days [3].

The pharmacokinetics of durvalumab are not affected to a clinical significant extent by age (19–96 years), bodyweight (34–149 kg), sex, race, tumour type, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, levels of albumin, lactate dehydrogenase, creatinine or soluble PD-L1, mild or moderate renal impairment [creatinine clearance (CL_{CR}) 60–89 and 30–59 mL/min, respectively) or mild hepatic impairment [bilirubin \leq upper limit of normal (ULN) and AST >ULN or bilirubin >1.0 to 1.5 times ULN and any AST] [3]. The effect of severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} 15–29 mL/min), or moderate or severe hepatic impairment (bilirubin >1.5 to 3.0 and >3.0 times ULN, respectively, and any AST) on the pharmacokinetics of durvalumab is unknown [3].

There was no clinically relevant pharmacokinetic interaction between durvalumab and tremelimumab [17] or durvalumab and gefitinib [21] in patients with NSCLC.

2.3 Therapeutic Trials

2.3.1 Urothelial Carcinoma

In a multicentre, multicohort, open-label, phase I/II trial (Study 1108; NCT01693562), a cohort of patients with urothelial carcinoma (n=182) treated with durvalumab had an ORR of 17.6% (95% CI 12.3–23.9) in all patients, 27.4% (18.7–37.5) in the PD-L1-high subgroup (n=95) and 4.1% (0.9–11.5) in the PD-L1-low/negative subgroup (n=73) (abstract presentation [22]). Among 32 responders, 15 (46.9%) had ongoing responses of ≥ 6 months. Study 1108 included patients with inoperable or metastatic solid tumours. The urothelial carcinoma cohort had progressed while receiving or after a

Features and properties of durvalumab

Alternative names	Anti-PD-L1 monoclonal antibody; Anti-PD-LI mAb; anti-programmed cell death 1 ligand 1 monoclonal antibody; Imfinzi; MEDI-4736				
Class	Antineoplastics; monoclonal antibodies				
Mechanism of action	CD274 antigen inhibitors				
Route of administration	Intravenous				
Pharmacodynamics	Binds to PD-L1 with high affinity and selectivity, blocking its interaction with PD-1 and CD80 receptors; induces T-cell activation and proliferation; inhibits tumour growth in xenograft models.				
Pharmacokinetics	Dose-proportional pharmacokinetics at ≥3 mg/kg; mean terminal half-life 17 days;				
Most frequent adverse events	Fatigue, musculoskeletal pain, constipation, decreased appetite, nausea, peripheral oedema and urinary tract infection				
ATC codes					
WHO ATC code	B06A (other hematological agents); L01X-C28 (durvalumab)				
EphMRA ATC code	B6C (other haematological agents); L1G (monoclonal antibody antineoplastics); L1X9 (all other antineoplastics)				
Chemical name	Immunoglobulin G1-kappa, anti-(human programmed cell death 1 ligand 1 (B7 homolog 1, CD274)); human monoclonal antibody; γ1 heavy chain (1-451) [human VH (IGHV3-7*01 (99%)–IGHJ4*01) [8.8.14] (1–121)– IGHG1*03 (CH1 (122–219), hinge (220–234), CH2 L4 > F(238), L5 > E(239), P101 > S(335) (235-344), CH3 (345–451)) (122–451)] (224–215')-disulfide with κ light chain (1'–215') [human V-KAPPA (IGKV3-20*01 (97%)–IGKJ1*01) [7.3.9] (1'–108')–IGKC*01(109'–215')] dimer (230–230":233–233")-bisdisulfide				

platinum-based therapy, including those who progressed within 12 months of receiving therapy in a neo-adjuvant or adjuvant setting. Patients received durvalumab 10 mg/kg every 2 weeks for up to 12 months or until unacceptable toxicity or disease progression. The ORR was assessed using the RECIST v1.1 criteria by a blinded independent central review [22].

2.3.2 Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

In the randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III PACIFIC trial (NCT02125461), a planned interim analysis showed that durvalumab sequential monotherapy significantly prolonged progression-free survival in patients with unresectable stage III NSCLC who had not progressed following platinum-based concurrent chemoradiation therapy (media release presentation [23]).

In Study 1108, durvalumab monotherapy was associated with improved ORR and overall survival in patients with PD-L1-positive NSCLC (abstract presentation [24]). After a median six doses, the confirmed ORR was 25% in the PD-L1-positive (n = 154) and 6% in the PD-L1-negative (n = 115) subgroups, with a similar trend seen in the first-line (29 and 11%), second-line (26 and 4%) and >3rd line (22 and 6%) setting. The median overall survival in the PD-L1-positive and PD-L1-negative subgroups was: second-line 17.8 and 8.2 months; >3rd line 13.0 and 7.1 months. The 12-month overall survival rate was: second-line 55.8 and 38.8%; $\geq 3rd$ line 51.1 and 36.8% [24]. Durvalumab treatment showed early clinical benefit in treatmentnaive patients with advanced NSCLC of squamous or nonsquamous histology [25].

In a phase Ib dose-escalation study (NCT02000947), a combination of durvalumab plus tremelimumab showed early clinical activity in immunotherapy-naive patients with advanced NSCLC, regardless of PD-L1 status (interim data) [17]. Patients received durvalumab 3–20 mg/kg every 4 weeks or 10 mg/kg every 2 weeks and tremelimumab 1–10 mg/kg every 4 weeks for six doses then every 12 weeks for 12 months. In all evaluable patients with \geq 24 weeks follow-up, the ORR was 29% across all dosage cohorts, 33% in the PD-L1-positive subgroup and 30% in the PD-L1-negative subgroup (n = 63, 18 and 37, respectively). The corresponding disease control rate at \geq 24 weeks was 41, 39 and 46%. Durvalumab 20 mg/kg plus tremelimumab 1 mg/kg every 4 weeks was selected for phase III studies [17].

In a phase I study (NCT02088112), a combination of durvalumab and gefitinib showed early clinical activity in tyrosine kinase inhibitor-naive patients with EGFR mutant advanced NSCLC [21].

2.3.3 Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

In Study 1108, durvalumab monotherapy was associated with durable responses in a cohort of patients with recurrent or metastatic HNSCC previously treated with a median of three systemic treatments (n = 62) (abstract presentation [26]). In this cohort, retreatment was permitted upon progression after 12 months. After a median follow-up of 25 months, there were seven responders, with six patients showing response duration of ≥ 12 months. The 12-month overall survival was 42%, with no clear difference by PD-L1 status [26].

2.3.4 Other Cancers

Durvalumab alone or in combination with other drugs showed evidence of clinical activity in the following trials (abstract presentations):

- Durvalumab monotherapy in an open-label phase II trial (NCT02336165) in bevacizumab-naive patients with recurrent glioblastoma (estimated 6-month progression-free survival 20.0%; ORR 13.3%; stable disease rate 40.0%; n = 30) [27].
- Durvalumab monotherapy in a phase I trial (NCT01938612) in Japanese patients with advanced solid tumours [28].
- Durvalumab plus olaparib in a phase II trial (NCT02484404) in previously treated patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (6-month progression-free survival 86.7%, 9-month progression-free survival 57.8%; n = 19) [29] and in a phase I (NCT02484404) trial in patients with ovarian cancer or triple-negative breast cancer without germline BRCA mutation [30].
- Durvalumab plus axalimogene filolisbac in a phase I/II trial (NCT02291055) in previously treated patients with recurrent/metastatic HPV-associated cervical cancer [31].
- Durvalumab plus darafenib plus trametinib in a phase I/II trial (NCT02027961) in patients with BRAF mutant or wild type metastatic or unresectable melanoma [32].
- Durvalumab plus tremelimumab in a phase I trial (NCT02141347) in Japanese patients with advanced solid tumours [33].
- Durvalumab plus MEDI0680 in a phase I trial (NCT02118337) in patients with advanced malignancies [18].
- Durvalumab plus AZD9150 (antisense oligonucleotide against STAT3) or AZD5069 (CXCR2 antagonist) in a phase Ib/II trial (NCT02499328) in patients with advanced malignancies [34].

Key clinical trials of durvalumab (sponsored by AstraZeneca/MedImmune unless stated otherwise)

Drug(s)	Indication	Phase	Status	Identifier
Durvalumab ± tremelimumab, SoC (1st line)	Stage IV urothelial carcinoma	III	Recruiting	NCT02516241; DANUBE
Durvalumab, SoC (1st line)	Advanced NSCLC	III	Recruiting	NCT03003962; PEARL
Durvalumab \pm tremelimumab, SoC (1st line)	Advanced/metastatic NSCLC	Ш	Ongoing	NCT02453282; MYSTIC
Durvalumab + tremelimumab, SoC (1st line)	Advanced/metastatic NSCLC	Ш	Recruiting	NCT02542293; NEPTUNE
Durvalumab \pm tremelimumab, SoC (3rd line)	Advanced/metastatic NSCLC	Ш	Ongoing	NCT02352948; ARCTIC
Durvalumab + concurrent chemoradiation	Stage III unresectable NSCLC	Ш	Ongoing	NCT02125461; PACIFIC
Durvalumab, placebo (adjuvant therapy)	Completely resected NSCLC	Ш	Recruiting	NCT02273375; ADJUVANT ^a
Durvalumab, multiple comparators (biomarker-targeted 2nd line)	Stage IV squamous NSCLC	II/III	Recruiting	NCT02154490; Lung Master Protocol ^a
Durvalumab (3rd line)	Advanced/metastatic NSCLC	II	Ongoing	NCT02087423; ATLANTIC
$Durvalumab \pm tremelimumab + chemotherapy$	Advanced SCLC	Ш	Recruiting	NCT03043872; CASPIAN
Durvalumab + tremelimumab, AZD1775 + carboplatin	Extensive stage SCLC	II	Recruiting	NCT02937818; BALTIC
Durvalumab \pm tremelimumab, SoC (1st line)	Recurrent/metastatic HNSCC	III	Ongoing	NCT02551159; KESTREL
Durvalumab \pm tremelimumab, SoC (2nd line)	Recurrent/metastatic HNSCC	III	Recruiting	NCT02369874; EAGLE
Durvalumab	Recurrent/metastatic HNSCC	II	Ongoing	NCT02207530; HAWK
Durvalumab, tremelimumab, durvalumab + tremelimumab	Recurrent/metastatic HNSCC	II	Ongoing	NCT02319044; CONDOR
Durvalumab + tremelimumab, durvalumab, tremelimumab	Unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma	II	Recruiting	NCT02519348
Durvalumab + tremelimumab, durvalumab	Advanced solid tumours	III	Recruiting	NCT03084471; STRONG
Durvalumab	HIV-1 plus solid tumours	II	Recruiting	NCT03094286
Durvalumab, tremelimumab, durvalumab + tremelimumab	Advanced solid tumours	II	Ongoing	NCT02527434
Durvalumab (≥2nd line)	Advanced solid tumours	I/II	Ongoing	NCT01693562; Study 1108

All are multinational trials, with the exception of NCT03094286, which is being conducted in Spain

NSCLC non-small cell lung cancer, HNSCC head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, SCLC small cell lung cancer, SoC standard-of-care

2.4 Adverse Events

Durvalumab had a manageable tolerability profile in patients with urothelial carcinoma in Study 1108 (n=182; median duration of durvalumab exposure 10.2 weeks) [3]. Durvalumab treatment was delayed or interrupted in 31% of patients, most commonly because of liver injury (4.9%), urinary tract infection (3.3%), acute kidney injury (3.3%) and musculoskeletal pain (2.7%). Serious adverse reactions occurred in 46% of patients and the most common (incidence >2%) were acute kidney injury (4.9%), urinary tract infection (4.4%), musculoskeletal pain (4.4%), liver injury (3.3%), general physical health deterioration (3.3%), sepsis (2.7%), abdominal pain (2.7%) and pyrexia/tumour associated fever (2.7%) [3].

In Study 1108, adverse reactions of any grade and grade 3 or 4 were reported in 96 and 43% of patients respectively [3]. The most common adverse events (incidence \geq 15%) of any grade were fatigue (39%), musculoskeletal pain (24%), constipation (21%), decreased appetite (19%), nausea

(16%), peripheral oedema (15%) and urinary tract infection (15%). The most common (incidence \geq 3%) grade 3 or 4 adverse reactions were fatigue (6%), urinary tract infection (4%), musculoskeletal pain (4%) and abdominal pain (3%), as well as dehydration and general physical health deterioration (incidence not reported). Grade 5 adverse events occurred in 4.4% of durvalumab recipients, including cardiorespiratory arrest, general physical health deterioration, sepsis, ileus, pneumonitis or immune-mediated hepatitis. The most common (incidence $\geq 4\%$) grade 3 or 4 laboratory abnormalities which worsened from baseline were hyponatremia (12%), lymphopenia (11%), anaemia (8%), increased alkaline phosphatase (4%) and hypermagnesemia (4%). Immune-mediated adverse reactions requiring systemic corticosteroids or hormone replacement therapy were reported in 8.2% of durvalumab recipients [3].

In Study 1108, palliative concurrent radiotherapy with durvalumab was generally well tolerated in a subgroup of patients (n = 10) with solid tumours, including urothelial bladder cancer [35].

^a Sponsored by Canadian Cancer Trials Group (ADJUVANT) or Southwest Oncology Group (Lung Master Protocol)

Durvalumab plus tremelimumab had a manageable tolerability profile in patients with NSCLC in the NCT02000947 trial discussed in Sect. 2.3.2 (n=102; median follow-up 18.8 weeks) [17]. The most common treatment-related grade 3 or 4 adverse events were diarrhoea (11%), colitis (9%) and increased lipase (8%). Treatment-related serious adverse events occurred in 36% of patients, with 28% of patients discontinuing treatment attributable to treatment-related adverse events. There were three treatment-related deaths because of complications arising from myasthenia gravis, pericardial effusion and neuromuscular disorder [17].

As with all therapeutic proteins, durvalumab has the potential for immunogenicity [3]. Among evaluable 1124 patients treated with durvalumab 10 mg/kg every 2 weeks, 3.3% of patients had treatment-emergent anti-durvalumab antibodies. The clinical significance these antibodies is currently unknown [3].

2.5 Complementary Diagnostic

In May 2017, the US FDA approved Roche's VENTANA PD-L1 (SP263) assay as a complementary diagnostic for the qualitative detection of PD-L1 expression in patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who are being considered for treatment with durvalumab [36]. The assay is available in the USA for use on the BenchMark ULTRA staining instrument and may be useful in determining the likelihood of responding to durvalumab, but not required for use of durvalumab [36].

2.6 Ongoing Clinical Trials

Durvalumab alone or in combination with other drugs is being evaluated in more than 150 clinical trials [sponsored by AstraZeneca/MedImmune, partnered companies (Sect. 1.1) or investigators] in a wide range of solid tumours and haematological malignancies. A selected list of clinical trials based on AstraZeneca's durvalumab pipeline reported in the first quarter of 2017 [37] is presented here.

The DANUBE trial in urothelial carcinoma is ongoing. Furthermore, a biomarker-directed phase Ib trial (BISCAY; NCT02546661) is evaluating durvalumab alone or in combination with AZD4547 (fibroblast growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase 1, 2 and 3 inhibitor), AZD1775 (WEE1 tyrosine kinase inhibitor), olaparib or vistusertib in patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer.

Phase III trials evaluating durvalumab as monotherapy (PEARL, MYSTIC, ARCTIC, PACIFIC) or in combination with tremelimumab (MYSTIC, NEPTUNE, ARCTIC) in the first-line (PEARL, MYSTIC, NEPTUNE), second-line (PACIFIC) or third-line (ARCTIC) settings in NSCLC are ongoing. The ADJUVANT, Lung Master Protocol and

ATLANTIC trials, and the clinical trials discussed in Sect. 2.3.2 (Study 1108, NCT02000947, NCT02088112) are also ongoing. In addition, AstraZeneca has initiated a phase III trial (POSEIDON; NCT03164616) to evaluate the addition of durvalumab plus tremelimumab to the standard-of-care in patients with metastatic NSCLC. The CASPIAN and BALTIC trials in patients with SCLC are ongoing.

The KESTREL, EAGLE, HAWK and CONDOR trials in HNSCC are ongoing. The NCT02291055 and NCT02499328 trials (Sect. 2.3.4) in expanded cohorts of HNSCC are ongoing. In addition, a phase I trial (NCT02262741) is evaluating durvalumab plus tremelimumab in patients with HNSCC.

Durvalumab is also being evaluated in the following trials: a phase Ib/II trial (NCT02549651) of durvalumab alone and in combination with tremelimumab or AZD9150 in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; a phase Ib/II trial (Study 21; NCT02340975) of durvalumab alone and in combination with tremelimumab in gastric adenocarcinoma; the NCT02027961 trial in melanoma (Sect. 2.3.4); and, phase I trials of durvalumab in combination with MEDI0680 (NCT02118337; Sect. 2.3.4), MEDI0526 (NCT02705482), monalizumab (NCT02 671435), selumetinib (NCT02586987), (NCT02617277), MEDI9447 (NCT02503774), tremelimumab in Japanese patients (NCT01938612) and tremelimumab plus first-line chemotherapy (NCT02658214) in advanced solid tumours.

3 Current Status

Durvalumab received its first global approval on 1 May 2017 in the USA for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who have disease progression during or following platinum-containing chemotherapy, or within 12 months of neoadjuvant or adjuvant platinum-containing chemotherapy.

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Additional information about this Adis Drug Review can be found at http://www.medengine.com/Redeem/C898F06046BCED2D.

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