

Capsule Summary

Evaluation of Atezolizumab Monotherapy in Metastatic NSCLC patients

The Advent of immune checkpoint inhibitors has created a paradigm shift for the treatment of numerous malignancies. Inhibitors targeting Programmed Cell Death 1 (PD-1) receptor and its ligand PD-L1, alone or in combination with chemotherapy drugs represent the new standard of treatment for difficult to treat malignancies such as non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC).

A recent study by Herbst et al. evaluated the safety and efficacy of the anti-programmed death ligand-1 (PD-L1) monoclonal antibody, Atezolizumab, in metastatic NSCLC patients. Atezolizumab is marketed as TECENTRIQ by Genentech. Following sections provide a summary of the key findings presented in the study.

Study Objective

To evaluate the safety and efficacy of Atezolizumab as the first line treatment for metastatic NSCLC, as compared to platinum based chemotherapeutic compounds, among patient groups with varying levels of PD-L1 expression.

Key methods and patient characteristics:

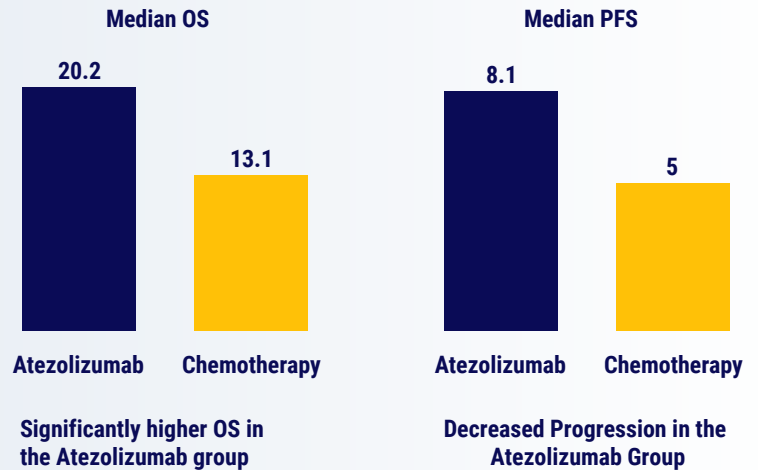
- Randomised, open label, phase 3 trial involving patients with metastatic squamous or non-squamous NSCLC, conducted between July 21, 2015, and February 20, 2018.
- Study restricted to patients that had not received prior treatment with any chemotherapeutic agents.
- Positive PD-L1 expression on at least 1% of malignant cells or infiltrating immune cells, as assessed by SP142 immunohistochemical assay.
- Patient randomised in 1:1 ratio to receive either Atezolizumab or platinum-based chemotherapy, with a total study sample size = 572 patients. Informed consent was received from all the patients.
- Primary endpoint: overall survival evaluated according to PD-L1 expression levels.
- Safety was assessed in all the patients regardless of PD-L1 expression.

Results	No of Pts	Pts with High PDL-1 Expression
Atezolizumab	285	107 (38.6%)
Chemotherapy	287	98 (35.4%)

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Adverse Events	Overall	Grade 3 or 4
Atezolizumab	90.2%	30.1%
Chemotherapy	94.7%	30.1%

Toxicities are consistent with known past studies

Conclusion

Treatment with atezolizumab monotherapy resulted in longer overall survival than platinum-based chemotherapy among patients with NSCLC with high PD-L1 expression.

Reference

The published manuscript can be accessed at - <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1917346>

Information Source:

Herbst et al. Atezolizumab for First-Line Treatment of PD-L1-Selected Patients with NSCLC. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 2020 Oct 1;383(14):1328-1339. PMID: 32997907 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1917346