

Zanubrutinib Demonstrates Superior Progression-Free Survival vs Ibrutinib for Relapsed/Refractory CLL/SLL: ALPINE Final Analysis

Authors: Talha Munir (Consultant Haematologist),¹ Jennifer R. Brown (Director of CLL Center of the Division of Hematologic Malignancies),² Barbara Eichhorst (Associate Professor),³ Peter Hillmen (Professor),⁴ Nicole Lamanna (Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine),⁵ Susan M. O'Brien (Associate Director),⁶ Constantine S. Tam (Director of Haematology),^{7,8} Lugu Qiu (Professor),⁹ Maciej Kaźmierczak (Professor),¹⁰ Wojciech Jurczak (Professor),¹¹ Keshu Zhou (professor),¹² Martin Šimkovič (Consultant Haematologist),^{13,14} Jiří Mayer (Deputy Head of the Department of Internal Medicine),¹⁵ Amanda Gillespie-Twardy (PI),¹⁶ Alessandra Ferrajoli (Associate Professor),¹⁷ Peter S. Ganly (Consultant Haematologist),¹⁸ Robert Weinkove (Clinical Director),^{19,20} Sebastian Grosicki (Professor),²¹ Andrzej Mital (Coordinator of the Department of General Hematology),²² Tadeusz Robak (Professor of Hematology),²³ Anders Österborg (Professor),^{24,25} Habte A. Yimer (Medical Oncologist/Hematologist),²⁶ Tommi Salmi (Senior Medical Director of Clinical Development),²⁷ Megan (Der Yu) Wang (Associate Director of Clinical Science),²⁷ Lina Fu (Senior Project Manager),²⁷ Jessica Li (Senior Biomarker Scientist),²⁷ Kenneth Wu (Director of Biostatistics),²⁷ Aileen Cohen (Vice President of Clinical Development),²⁷ and Mazyar Shadman (Associate Professor)^{28,29}

Affiliations: ¹Leeds Hospital NHS Trust, Leeds, United Kingdom; ²Department of Medical Oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; ³Department of Internal Medicine, University of Cologne, Center for Integrated Oncology Aachen, Bonn, Cologne, Duesseldorf, Cologne, Germany; ⁴St James's University Hospital, Leeds, United Kingdom; ⁵Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA; ⁶Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA; ⁷The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; ⁸Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; ⁹State Key Laboratory of Experimental Hematology, National Clinical Research Center for Hematological Disorders, Institute of Hematology and Blood Diseases Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Tianjin, China; ¹⁰Department of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland; ¹¹Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Krakow, Poland; ¹²Affiliated Cancer Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Henan Cancer Hospital, Zhengzhou, China; ¹³4th Department of Internal Medicine - Hematology, University Hospital, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic; ¹⁴Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; ¹⁵Department of Internal Medicine-Hematology and Oncology, Masaryk University and University Hospital, Brno, Czech Republic; ¹⁶Blue Ridge Cancer Care, Roanoke, VA, USA; ¹⁷Department of Leukemia, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA; ¹⁸Department of Haematology, Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand; ¹⁹Te Rerenga Ora Blood and Cancer Centre, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Capital Coast & Hutt Valley, Wellington, New Zealand; ²⁰Cancer Immunotherapy Programme, Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, Wellington, New Zealand; ²¹Department of Hematology and Cancer Prevention, Health Sciences Faculty, Medical University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland; ²²Department of Hematology and Transplantology, Medical University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland; ²³Medical University of Lodz, Lodz, Poland; ²⁴Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; ²⁵Department of Hematology, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden; ²⁶Texas Oncology-Tyler/US Oncology Research, Tyler, TX, USA; ²⁷BeiGene (Beijing) Co., Ltd., Beijing, China and BeiGene USA, Inc., San Mateo, CA, USA; ²⁸Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA, USA; and ²⁹Department of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Abstract Content: Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL) is often characterized by consecutive relapses and renewed need for therapy. First-generation Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor (BTKi) ibrutinib is standard of care but has off-target side effects that can limit use. Zanubrutinib, a next-generation BTKi, provides improved BTK occupancy across disease-relevant tissues with greater kinase selectivity. In predefined interim response analyses of ALPINE, a randomized phase 3

study comparing zanubrutinib with ibrutinib (NCT03734016), zanubrutinib demonstrated superior overall response rate (ORR) in patients with relapsed/refractory CLL/SLL. Here, the progression-free survival (PFS) final analysis is reported.

Patients with relapsed/refractory CLL/SLL who had received ≥ 1 prior therapy and had measurable disease (N=652) were randomized 1:1 to receive zanubrutinib (n=327) or ibrutinib (n=325) until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. Because the primary endpoint of ORR was superior with zanubrutinib, the key secondary efficacy endpoint of PFS was tested for noninferiority under hierarchical testing when 205 PFS events were observed. If PFS noninferiority between zanubrutinib and ibrutinib was demonstrated, superiority of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib could be tested and claimed if the 2-sided *P* value was $<.04996$.

As of August 8, 2022 (median follow-up: 29.6 months), zanubrutinib PFS by independent review committee (PFS_{IRC}) was superior to ibrutinib in the intent-to-treat population (HR: 0.65 [95% CI: 0.49, 0.86]; 2-sided *P*=.0024); statistical values were identical by investigator assessment. In a predefined subgroup of patients with del(17p)/*TP53* mutation, longer PFS_{IRC} was demonstrated with zanubrutinib than ibrutinib. PFS consistently favored zanubrutinib across other major predefined subgroups, including *IGHV* status, regardless of IRC or investigator assessment. Rates of treatment discontinuation, overall (26.3% vs 41.2%) and due to cardiac disorders (0.3% vs 4.3%), were lower with zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib, respectively. Grade ≥ 3 adverse events (AEs), serious AEs, dose interruption, and dose reduction were also lower with zanubrutinib compared with ibrutinib. Rate of atrial fibrillation/flutter was lower with zanubrutinib compared with ibrutinib (5.2% vs 13.3%); rates of other AEs of special interest were similar between treatments. Zero grade 5 AEs due to cardiac disorders with zanubrutinib vs 6 (1.9%) with ibrutinib were observed. Overall, 48 (14.7%) and 60 (18.5%) patients treated with zanubrutinib or ibrutinib, respectively, died (overall survival HR: 0.76 [95% CI: 0.51, 1.11]).

ALPINE is the first study to demonstrate PFS superiority in a head-to-head comparison of BTKi in patients with relapsed/refractory CLL/SLL. With these data and results from the predefined interim analysis, zanubrutinib has now proven superiority to ibrutinib in PFS and ORR endpoints.