Zanubrutinib (zanu) vs bendamustine + rituximab (BR) in patients (pts) with treatment-naïve (TN) CLL/SLL: Extended follow-up of the SEQUOIA study


Affiliations: 1Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington; 2Haematology, Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service (HMDS), St. James’s Institute of Oncology, Leeds, UK; 3Medical University of Łódź, Łódź, Poland; 4Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; 5Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO, USA; 6Strategic Research Program on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Division of Experimental Oncology, IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele and Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy; 7Experimental Hematooncology Department, Medical University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland; 8Hematology Department, St John’s Cancer Centre, Lublin, Poland; 9University Hospital Hradec Králové, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic; 10Department of Hematology, Karolinska University Hospital Solna, Stockholm, Sweden; 11Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy; 12Peninsula Health and Peninsula Private Hospital, Frankston, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; 13Monash Health and Clinical Haematology Unit, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia; 14Department of Haematology, Copernicus Regional Oncology Centre, Gdansk, Poland; 15Third Medical Department with Hematology, Medical Oncology, Rheumatology and Infectiology, Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg, Austria; 16Salzburg Cancer Research Institute Center for Clinical Cancer and Immunology Trials, Salzburg, Austria; 17Cancer Cluster Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria; 18Department of Haematology, Waitemata District Health Board, Takapuna, New Zealand; 19Hematology Unit, Santa Maria delle Croci Hospital, Ravenna, Italy; 20First Department of Medicine, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, General Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic; 21Hematologic Malignancies and Cellular Therapy, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC, USA; 22Sarah Cannon Research Institute/Tennesee Oncology, Nashville, TN, USA; 23Department of Hematology and Cancer Prevention, School of Public Health, Silesian Medical University, Katowice, Poland; 24Concord Repatriation General Hospital, University of Sydney, Concord, NSW, Australia; 25Department of Hematology, Azienda Socio Sanitaria Territoriali Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda, Milan, Italy; 26Hôpital de Pontchaillou, Rennes, France; 27Department of Chemotherapy of Hemoblastosis, Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Center, Moscow, Russia; 28Hematology Department, Centre Hospitalier Du Mans, Le Mans, France; 29Laboratorio de Citometría de Flujo, Servicio de Hematología y Hemoterapia, Hospital Universitario de Getafe, Getafe, Madrid, Spain; 30Department of Hematology, Jiangsu Province Hospital, Nanjing, China; 31BeiGene USA, San Mateo, CA, USA; 32Alfred Health and Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia; and 33Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Krakow, Poland
**Introduction:** Zanu, a next-generation Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor (BTKi), demonstrated superior progression-free survival (PFS) by independent review vs BR in pts with TN CLL/SLL without (w/o) del(17p) in the SEQUOIA study (NCT03336333) at a median follow-up of 26.2 mo; pts with del(17p) treated with zanu in a separate cohort had similar outcomes to pts w/o del(17p). Here, updated efficacy and safety results from the SEQUOIA study after 18 mo of additional follow-up (data cutoff 31 Oct 2022) are reported.

**Methods:** Patients w/o del(17p) were randomized to zanu or BR. Pts with del(17p) received zanu monotherapy. Investigator-assessed PFS, overall survival (OS), overall response rate, and safety/tolerability were evaluated.

**Results:** A total of 479 pts w/o del(17p) were randomized (zanu: n=241; BR: n=238). At a median follow-up of 43.7 mo, median PFS was not reached (NR) for zanu and was 42.2 mo for BR (Figure). At 42 mo, estimated PFS rates were 82% for zanu. With additional follow-up, PFS for zanu vs BR was improved for pts with mutated IGHV (HR 0.35; 95% CI: 0.19, 0.64); benefit was also sustained for pts with unmutated IGHV (HR 0.23; 95% CI: 0.14, 0.37) or del(11q) (HR 0.26; 95% CI: 0.13, 0.51). Complete response/complete response with incomplete hematological recovery (CR/CRi) rates in pts w/o del(17p) were 17% and 22% with zanu and BR, respectively. While median OS was NR in either arm, HR for OS was 0.87 (95% CI: 0.50, 1.48) for zanu vs BR, and estimated 42-mo rates were 89% vs 88%, respectively. For pts with del(17p) assigned to zanu monotherapy, after a median follow-up of 47.9 mo, the estimated 42-mo PFS and OS rates were 79% and 90%, respectively; the CR/CRi rate was 15%.

As of 31 Oct 2022, zanu treatment was ongoing in 75% pts w/o del(17p) and 70% pts with del(17p). The most common causes for treatment discontinuation were adverse events (AEs) and progressive disease for pts w/o del(17p) (15%, 6%) and with del(17p) (14%, 14%, respectively). AEs of interest (AEI) in pts w/o del(17p) (zanu vs BR) included any-grade (gr) atrial fibrillation/flutter (5% vs 3%), hypertension (18% vs 14%), bleeding (49% vs 12%), infection (73% vs 63%), anemia (7% vs 21%), thrombocytopenia (6% vs 18%), and neutropenia (17% vs 57%). Gr≥3 AEI included bleeding (6% vs 2%), infection (24% vs 22%), anemia (1% vs 2%), thrombocytopenia (2% vs 8%), and neutropenia (13% vs 51%).

**Conclusions:** With extended follow-up in the SEQUOIA study, zanu efficacy was maintained in pts w/o del(17p) with a safety profile aligned with long-term follow-up for the BTKi class. Longer follow-up showed benefit in pts with mutated IGHV, and pts with del(17p) continued to show PFS benefits consistent with the randomized cohort. Rates of atrial fibrillation remained low, and no new safety signals were identified. Zanu continues to be well tolerated over time, with low rates of treatment discontinuation, and remains a valuable treatment option for TN CLL/SLL.