ASPEN: Long-Term Follow-Up Results of a Phase 3 Randomized Trial of Zanubrutinib Versus Ibrutinib in Patients With Waldenström Macroglobulinemia

Paula Marlton¹, Ramon Garcia-Sanz², Stephen Opat³, Shirley D'Sa⁴, Wojciech Jurczak⁵, Hui Peng Lee⁶, Gavin Cull⁷, Roger G. Owen⁸, Bjorn E. Wahlin⁹, Alessandra Tedeschi¹⁰, Jorge J. Castillo¹¹, Tanya Siddiqi¹², Christian Buske¹³, Veronique Leblond¹⁴, Wai Y. Chan¹⁵, Jingjing Schneider¹⁵, Aileen Cohen¹⁵, Meletios Dimopoulos¹⁶, Constantine S. Tam^{17,18}

¹Princess Alexandra Hospital, University of Queensland Brisbane, QLD, Australia; ²Hospital Universitario de Salamanca, Spain; ³Monash Health, Monash University College London Hospital Foundation Trust, London, UK; ⁵Maria Sklodowska-Curie National Institute of Oncology, Krakow, Poland; ⁶Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, SA, Australia; ⁸St. James University Hospital, Leeds, UK; ⁹Karolinska Universitetssjukhuset and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden; ¹⁰ASST Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niquarda, Milan, Italy; ¹¹Bing Center for Waldenström Macroglobulinemia, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA; ¹²City Of Hope National Medical Center, Duarte, CA, USA; ¹³CCC Ulm - Universitätsklinikum Ulm, Ulm, Baden-Württemberg, Germany; ¹⁴Sorbonne University, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris, France; ¹⁵BeiGene USA, Inc., San Mateo, CA, USA; ¹⁶National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece; ¹⁷The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, VIC, Australia; ¹⁸Monash University, Clayton, VIC, Australia

INTRODUCTION

- Zanubrutinib is a potent, selective, and irreversible next-generation Bruton tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor designed to maximize BTK occupancy and minimize inhibition of off-target kinases¹
- Zanubrutinib has demonstrated a complete and sustained BTK occupancy in peripheral blood mononuclear cells and
- lymph nodes² Zanubrutinib has shown equipotency against BTK compared with ibrutinib; zanubrutinib has high selectivity for BTK and
- minimal off-target inhibition of tyrosine-protein kinase TEC and epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) family kinases • Favorable drug interaction properties allow zanubrutinib to be coadministered with strong or moderate cytochrome P450 3A (CYP3A) inhibitors (eg, antifungals) at a reduced dose, proton pump inhibitors, acid-reducing agents, and antithrombotic agents^{3,4}

OBJECTIVES

Primary Objective

 To compare the efficacy of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib in patients with activating myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88 mutant (MYD88^{MUT}) Waldenström macroglobulinemia (WM); primary endpoint was the complete response or very good partial response (CR+VGPR) rate

Secondary Objectives

• To further compare the efficacy, clinical benefit, and antilymphoma effects of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib, and to evaluate safety and tolerability of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib as measured by the incidence, timing, and severity of treatment-emergent adverse events (AEs) according to National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI CTCAE) v4.03

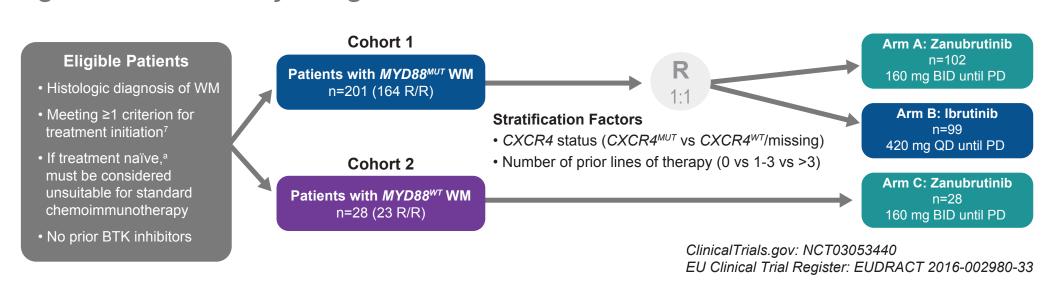
Exploratory Objectives

• To evaluate the efficacy and safety of zanubrutinib in patients with MYD88 wild-type (MYD88^{WT}) WM and the efficacy of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib according to C-X-C motif chemokine receptor 4 (CXCR4) mutation in patients with MYD88^{MUT} WM

METHODS

• ASPEN is an open-label, multicenter, randomized phase 3 study of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib in patients with WM (Figure 1)

Figure 1. ASPEN Study Design: Zanubrutinib vs Ibrutinib in WM^{5,6}



BID, twice daily; BTK, Bruton tyrosine kinase; CXCR4, C-X-C chemokine receptor 4 gene; MUT, mutant; MYD88, myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88; PD, progressive disease; QD, once daily; R, randomization; R/R, relapsed/refractory; WM, Waldenström macroglobulinemia; WT, wild type.

Cohort Assignments

- Bone marrow MYD88 and CXCR4 mutations were assessed centrally at study entry (NeoGenomics Laboratory,
- The MYD88^{MUT} assay includes a wild-type allele–blocking approach (limit of detection [LOD], 0.5%)^{7,8} and detects all mutations in the region encompassing Ala260-Pro278, which includes the predominant mutation in
- Patients were assigned to cohort 1 ($MYD88^{MUT}$; randomized) or exploratory cohort 2 ($MYD88^{WT}$ or MYD88 unknown; nonrandomized)

CXCR4 Mutation Detection

- Standard polymerase chain reaction/bidirectional Sanger sequencing assay to detect CXCR4 warts. hypogammaglobulinemia, infections, and myelokathexis (CXCR4WHIM) mutation was performed at screening; randomization
- in cohort 1 was stratified according to CXCR4 mutation status (CXCR4^{WHIM} vs CXCR4^{WT}/missing; LOD, 10%-15%) CXCR4 mutation status was assessed retrospectively by next-generation sequencing (NGS) using residual DNA samples or duplicate bone marrow biopsy sample (LOD, 0.25%)⁷⁻⁹

Response Assessments

- Responses were assessed according to response criteria in the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN®) WM guidelines and modified Owen criteria¹⁰ as assessed by the independent review committee (primary analysis) and
- Efficacy endpoints: response rates (CR+VGPR, major and overall responses), duration of response, time to response, time to next treatment, progression-free survival (PFS), and overall survival (OS)

RESULTS

- Both arms in cohort 1 were balanced except for patients aged >75 years, patients with CXCR4^{MUT} by NGS, and patients with hemoglobin levels ≤110 g/L, which were higher in the zanubrutinib arm (**Table 1**)
- In cohort 2, 42.9% of patients were >75 years of age

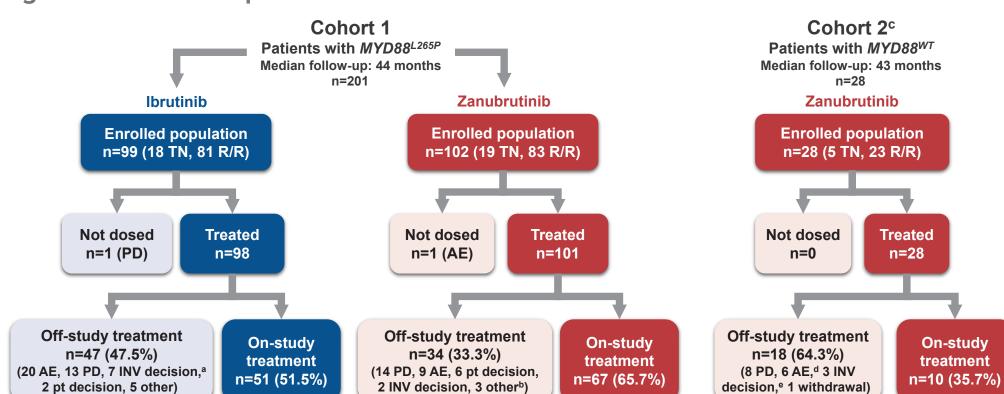
Table 1. ASPEN: Baseline Demographics and Disease Characteristics

	Coh	Cohort 2	
Characteristic	Ibrutinib (n=99)	Zanubrutinib (n=102)	Zanubrutinib (N=28)
Age, median (range), years	70 (38-90)	70 (45-87)	72 (39-87)
>65 years, n (%)	70 (70.7)	61 (59.8)	19 (67.9)
>75 years, n (%)	22 (22.2)	34 (33.3)	12 (42.9)
Male, n (%)	65 (65.7)	69 (67.6)	14 (50.0)
Prior lines of therapy, n (%)			
0	18 (18.2)	19 (18.6)	5 (17.9)
1-3	74 (74.7)	76 (74.5)	20 (71.4)
>3	7 (7.1)	7 (6.9)	3 (10.7)
Genotype by NGS, n (%)			
CXCR4 ^{WT}	72 (72.7)	65 (63.7)	27 (96.4)
CXCR4 ^{MUT}	20 (20.2)	33 (32.4)	1 (3.6)
Unknown	7 (7.1)	4 (3.9)	0
IPSS for WM, n (%)			
Low	13 (13.1)	17 (16.7)	5 (17.9)
Intermediate	42 (42.4)	38 (37.3)	11 (39.3)
High	44 (44.4)	47 (46.1)	12 (42.9)
Hemoglobin level ≤110 g/L, n (%)	53 (53.5)	67 (65.7)	15 (53.6)
Baseline IgM (g/L, central lab), median (range)	34.2 (2.4-108.0)	31.8 (5.8-86.9)	28.5 (5.6-73.4)
Bone marrow involvement, median (range), %	60 (0-90)	60 (0-90)	22.5 (0-50)
Extramedullary disease by investigator, n (%)	66 (66.7)	63 (61.8)	16 (57.1)

Bold values indicate >10% difference between arms in cohort 1 CXCR4, C-X-C motif chemokine receptor 4 gene; IgM, immunoglobulin M; IPSS, International Prognostic Scoring System; MUT, mutant; NGS, next-generation sequencing; WM, Waldenström macroglobulinemia; WT, wild type.

- In cohort 1, 51 patients (51.5%) treated with ibrutinib and 67 (65.7%) treated with zanubrutinib remained in the study (Figure 2); main reasons for discontinuation were PD (n=14 and n=13) and AEs (n=9 and n=20) with zanubrutinib and
- In cohort 2, 10 patients (35.7%) treated with zanubrutinib remained in the study; main reasons for discontinuation were PD (n=8) and AEs (n=6)

Figure 2. Patient Disposition



Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. ^aOne case related to COVID-19. ^bRadiotherapy for endometrial adenocarcinoma; patient started other anticancer therapy (rectal cancer); unwitnessed death (prior hospitalization for heart failure exacerbation but death not due to AE per site and no other information available). In cohort 2 (n=26 MYD88^{WT}; n=2 MYD88 mutation status unknown), the safety analysis set includes all 28 patients, and the efficacy analysis set includes 26 MYD88^{WT} patients, with a median treatment duration of 30 months. ^dOne case related to COVID-19. eINV decision: palliative care; mycobacterium infection required prolonged antibiotics; treatment for skin scleroderma. AE, adverse event; COVID-19, coronavirus disease of 2019; INV, investigator; MYD88, myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88; PD, progressive disease; R/R, relapsed/ refractory; TN, treatment-naive; WT, wild type.

RESULTS (CONT)

Efficacy

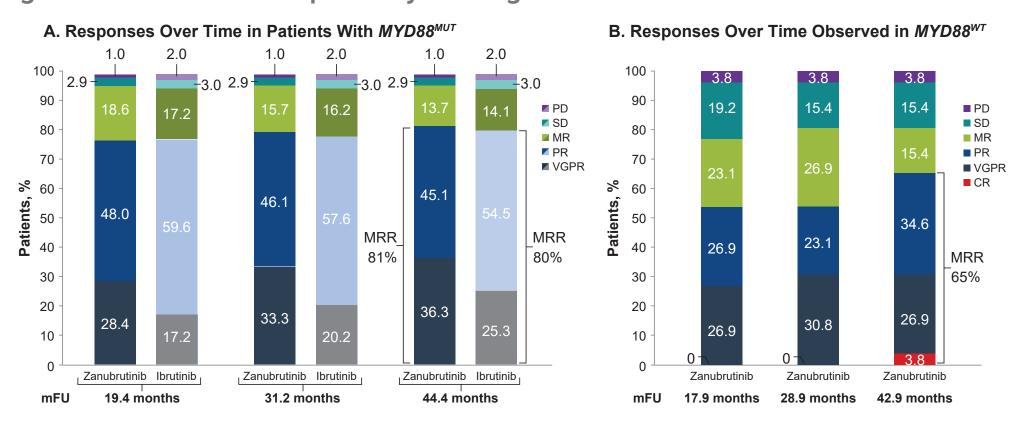
- In cohort 1, the investigator-assessed cumulative response rate increased over time in both treatment arms (**Figure 3A**) No CRs were observed in cohort 1; the response rate of CR+VGPR was numerically higher at all time points with
- zanubrutinib compared with ibrutinib At 44.4 months of median follow-up, CR+VGPR rates by investigator were 36.3% (zanubrutinib) vs 25.3% (ibrutinib)
- Median time to CR+VGPR was shorter with zanubrutinib (6.7 months [range, 1.9-42.0]) than ibrutinib (16.6 months [range, 2.0-49.9])

• Event-free rate for the duration of CR+VGPR at 24 months was higher with zanubrutinib (90.6% [range, 73.6-96.9]) than

- ibrutinib (79.3% [range, 53.5-91.8]) • Median PFS and median OS were not yet reached, with hazard ratio estimates favoring zanubrutinib in cohort 1 (Figure 4)
- In patients with CXCR4^{MUT} by NGS, zanubrutinib demonstrated deeper and faster responses, as well as favorable PFS, compared with ibrutinib (**Figure 5** and **Table 2**)
- In cohort 2 (MYD88^{WT}), zanubrutinib demonstrated a CR in 1 patient with major response rate of 65% (including 31% CR+VGPR) overall (**Figure 3B**)

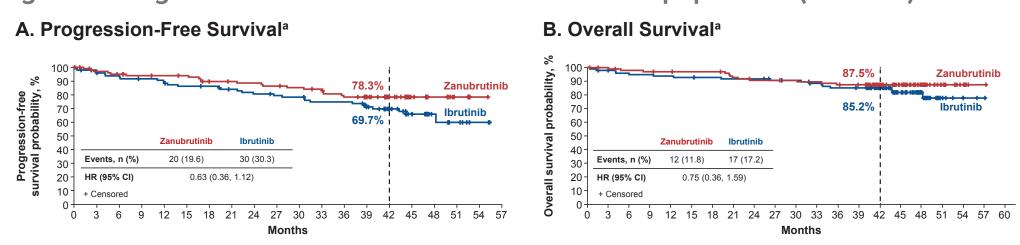
Event-free rates of PFS and OS at 42 months were 53.8% (95% CI, 33.3%-70.6%) and 83.9% (95% CI, 62.6%-93.7%), respectively

Figure 3. Best Overall Response by Investigator Over Time



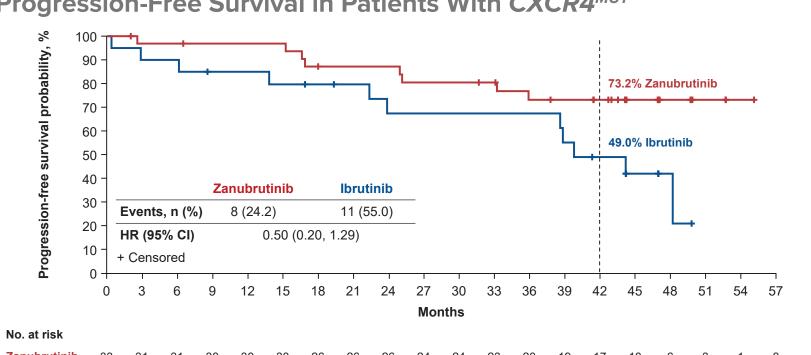
CR, complete response; mFU, median follow-up; MR, minimal response; MRR, major response rate; MUT, mutant; MYD88, myeloid differentiation primary response gene 88; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; VGPR, very good partial response; WT wild type.

Figure 4. Progression-Free and Overall Survivals in ITT population (Cohort 1)



Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. ^aBy investigator assessment.

Figure 5. Progression-Free Survival in Patients With CXCR4MUT



Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. CXCR4, C-X-C motif chemokine receptor 4 gene; MUT, mutant.

Table 2. Response Assessment by CXCR4 Status^a

	CXCR4 ^{MUT}			CR4 ^{₩T}
	lbrutinib (n=20)	Zanubrutinib (n=33)	lbrutinib (n=72)	Zanubrutinib (n=65)
VGPR or better	2 (10.0)	7 (21.2)	22 (30.6)	29 (44.6)
Major response	13 (65.0)	26 (78.8)	61 (84.7)	54 (83.1)
Overall response	19 (95.0)	30 (90.9)	68 (94.4)	63 (96.9)
Time to major response, median, months	6.6	3.4	2.8	2.8
Time to VGPR, median, months	31.3	11.1	11.3	6.5

Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. Bold values indicate >10% difference between arms ^aCXCR4 mutation determined by NGS. Ninety-two ibrutinib patients and 98 zanubrutinib patients had NGS results available. CXCR4, C-X-C motif chemokine receptor 4 gene; MUT, mutant; NGS, next-generation sequencing; VGPR, very good partial response; WT, wild type.

Long-Term Safety and Tolerability

- Zanubrutinib had fewer AEs leading to death, treatment discontinuations, and dose reductions than ibrutinib The most common AEs that led to discontinuation were cardiac disorder and infection (4% each) with ibrutinib and
- second malignancy (4%) with zanubrutinib (**Table 3**)
- The profile of AEs of interest favored zanubrutinib compared with ibrutinib (**Table 4**, **Table 5**, and **Figure 7**) The prevalence of atrial fibrillation, hypertension, and bleeding were lower in the zanubrutinib arm at all
- Neutropenia occurred early, and prevalence decreased over time in patients receiving zanubrutinib
- Prevalence of infection decreased over time and to a greater extent in the zanubrutinib arm
- A similar safety profile for zanubrutinib in cohort 1 was observed in cohort 2

Table 3. Overall Safety Summary

	Co	Cohort 2	
Category, n (%)	lbrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	Zanubrutinib (n=28)
Patients with ≥1 AE	98 (100.0)	100 (99.0)	26 (92.9)
Grade ≥3	71 (72.4)	75 (74.3)	20 (71.4)
Serious	49 (50.0)	57 (56.4)	14 (50.0)
AE leading to death	5 (5.1) ^a	3 (3.0) ^b	3 (10.7)°
AE leading to treatment discontinuation	20 (20.4) ^d	9 (8.9) ^e	6 (21.4) ^f
AE leading to dose reduction	26 (26.5)	16 (15.8)	2 (7.1)
AE leading to dose held	62 (63.3)	63 (62.4)	18 (64.3)
COVID-19–related AE	4 (4.1)	4 (4.0)	2 (7.1)

Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. ^aCardiac failure acute, death (unexplained), pneumonia, sepsis (n=2). ^bCardiomegaly (cardiac arrest after plasmapheresis), metastatic malignant melanoma, subdural hematoma (after a fall). Cardiac arrest, COVID-19 infection, lymphoma transformation. Cardiac disorders (n=4; includes 2 due to atrial fibrillation), infection and infestations (n=4; pneumonia and sepsis, 2 each), respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders (n=3), second malignancy (n=3), blood and lymphatic system disorders (n=2), renal and urinary disorders (n=1), death of unknown cause (n=1), drug-induced liver injury (n=1), hepatitis (n=1). "Second malignancy (n=4; includes breast cancer, metastatic melanoma, multiple myeloma, and myelodysplastic syndrome, 1 each), cardiomegaly (n=1), drug-induced liver injury (n=1), neutropenia (n=1), subdural hemorrhage (n=1), worsening of chronic kidney disease (n=1). (Cardiac arrest, COVID-19 infection, diarrhea, hepatitis B infection, squamous cell carcinoma of lung, subdural hemorrhage (after a fall). AE. adverse event: COVID-19, coronavirus disease of 2019.

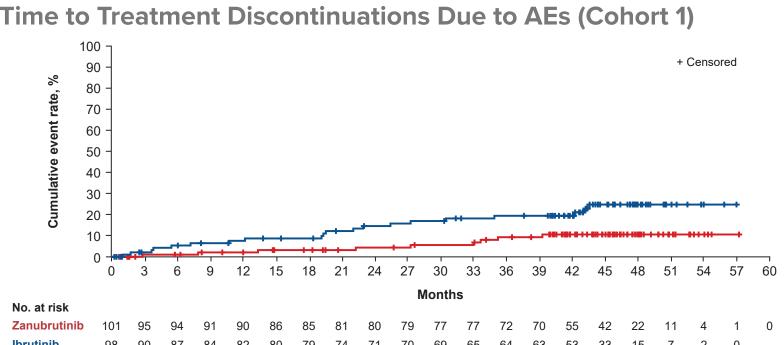
Table 4. Most Common AEs (Cohort 1)

	All grad	es (≥ 20 %)	Grade	3 (≥5%)	
AEs, n (%) ª	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	
Diarrhea	34 (34.7)	23 (22.8)	2 (2.0)	3 (3.0)	
Upper respiratory tract infection	32 (32.7)	33 (32.7)	1 (1.0)	0	
Muscle spasms ^b	28 (28.6) ^b	12 (11.9)	1 (1.0)	0	
Contusion	27 (27.6)	19 (18.8)	0	0	
Arthralgia	24 (24.5)	24 (23.8)	0	3 (3.0)	
Hypertension	24 (24.5)	15 (14.9)	19 (19.4)	10 (9.9)	
Peripheral edema	21 (21.4)	18 (17.8)	0	0	
Epistaxis	21 (21.4)	17 (16.8)	0	1 (1.0)	
Atrial fibrillation ^b	21 (21.4) ^b	7 (6.9)	6 (6.1) ^b	2 (2.0)	
Cough	20 (20.4)	19 (18.8)	0	0	
Fatigue	19 (19.4)	26 (25.7)	1 (1.0)	1 (1.0)	
Pneumonia ^b	18 (18.4) ^b	5 (5.0)	10 (10.2) ^b	1 (1.0)	
Syncope	8 (8.2)	5 (5.0)	6 (6.1)	5 (5.0)	

Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. **Bold** values indicate rate of AEs with ≥10% (all grades) or ≥5% (Grade ≥3) difference between arms. ^aPreferred terms by Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities v24.0, excluding cytopenia and cytopenias, are reported in Table 5. ^bDescriptive purposes only; 1-sided *P*<.025 in rate difference in all grades and/or Grade ≥3.

AE, adverse event.

Figure 6. Time to Treatment Discontinuations Due to AEs (Cohort 1)



Data cutoff: 31 October 2021.

Table 5. AEs of Interest in Cohort 1

	All g	ırades	Grade ≥3			
AEs, n (%) ^a	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)	Ibrutinib (n=98)	Zanubrutinib (n=101)		
Infection	78 (79.6)	80 (79.2)	27 (27.6)	22 (21.8)		
Bleeding	61 (62.2)	56 (55.4)	10 (10.2)	9 (8.9)		
Diarrhea	34 (34.7)	23 (22.8)	2 (2.0)	3 (3.0)		
Hypertension ^b	25 (25.5)	15 (14.9)	20 (20.4) ^b	10 (9.9)		
Atrial fibrillation/flutter ^b	23 (23.5) ^b	8 (7.9)	8 (8.2) ^b	2 (2.0)		
Anemia	22 (22.4)	18 (17.8)	6 (6.1)	12 (11.9)		
Neutropenia ^{b,c}	20 (20.4)	35 (34.7) [⊳]	10 (10.2)	24 (23.8) ^b		
Thrombocytopenia	17 (17.3)	17 (16.8)	6 (6.1)	11 (10.9)		
Second primary malignancy/	17 (17.3)/	17 (16.8)/	3 (3.1)/	6 (5.9)/		
nonskin cancers	6 (6.1)	6 (5.9)	3 (3.1)	4 (4.0)		

Data cutoff: 31 October 2021. **Bold** values indicate rate of AEs with ≥10% (all grades) or ≥5% (Grade ≥3) difference between arms. ^aAE categories (grouped terms) of preferred terms by Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities v24.0. ^bDescriptive purposes only; 1-sided P<.025 in rate difference in all grades and/or Grade ≥3. ¹Including preferred terms of neutropenia, neutrophil count decreased, febrile neutropenia, and neutropenic sepsis

Figure 7A. Time to AEs of Interest (Cohort 1)

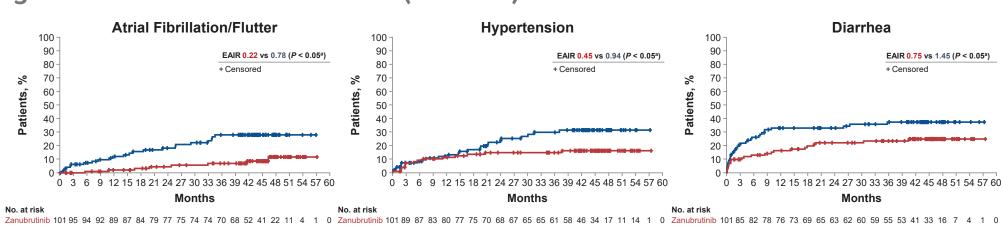


Figure 7B. Prevalence Analysis of AEs of Interest (Cohort 1)

	_			· ·					
Atrial Fibrillation	0-12 months		>12-24 montl	hs	>	24-36 months	>36	months	
Atrial Fibrillation Zanubrutinib Ibrutinib Hypertension	2.0		3.3			5.0	4.:	2 17.2	
Zanubrutinib Ibrutinib			12.2			8.8		9.7	
Bleeding Zanubrutinib Ibrutinib Neutropenia		57.1	32	46.3		30.0		23.6	
Zanubrutinib Ibrutinib			17.8			8.8 9.7		8.3 9.4	
Infection Zanubrutinib Ibrutinib		61.4		43.3 54.9		38.8		34.7	
Patients, ^{b,c} %	0 50	0 100	0	50	100 0	50	100 0	50	100
Zanubrutinib, nd	10	1		90		80		72	

^aDescriptive purpose only; 2-sided P value. ^bEvents of the same preferred term that occurred within 1 day of the previous event were combined as 1 event. Patients with ongoing or new events in the interval are counted. Percentage is based on N. In is the number of patients who are on treatment in each time interval or who discontinued treatment but the time from first dose date to the earliest date (last dose date +30 days, initiation of new anticancer therapy, end of study, death or cutoff date) is within the time interval. AE, adverse event; EAIR, exposure-adjusted incidence rate (persons per 100 person-months).

CONCLUSIONS

- Zanubrutinib, with long-term follow-up, continued to demonstrate clinically meaningful efficacy in patients with WM
 - Although not statistically significant at primary analysis, a consistent trend of deeper, earlier, and more durable responses (CR+VGPR) compared with ibrutinib was observed over time

 Zanubrutinib provided faster and deeper responses in patients with CXCR4^{MUT} PFS and OS continued to favor zanubrutinib treatment

- At median follow-up of nearly 4 years, 66% of patients were still receiving treatment with zanubrutinib versus 52% with ibrutinib Responses to zanubrutinib in patients with $MYD88^{WT}$ (cohort 2) continued to deepen over time
- With longer follow-up, safety advantages of zanubrutinib remained consistent, with less off-target activity than ibrutinib Fewer AEs leading to treatment discontinuations, dose reductions, and deaths occurred in the zanubrutinib arm
 - Cumulative incidences of atrial fibrillation, diarrhea, hypertension, muscle spasm, and pneumonia were lower in patients receiving zanubrutinib — Despite a higher rate of neutropenia in the zanubrutinib arm, infection rates were similar, and more patients in the ibrutinib arm had Grade ≥3 infections

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DISCLOSURES

PM: consulting at Roche, Janssen-Cilag, Novartis, AbbVie, Astellas Pharma, Pfizer, BeiGene, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, Gilead Sciences; honoraria from Roche, AbbVie RGS: consulting at Janssen; travel expense from Janssen, Takeda; royalties from BIOMED 2 primers; honoraria from Janssen, Takeda, Amgen, BeiGene, Novartis, Astellas Pharma; research funding from Gilead Sciences, Incyte, Astellas Pharma SO: honoraria from AbbVie, BeiGene, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, CSL Behring, Gilead, Janssen, Merck, Roche, Takeda; consulting at AbbVie, BeiGene, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, CSL Behring, Gilead, Janssen, Merck, Roche, Takeda; research funding from AbbVie, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, CSL Behring, Gilead, Janssen, Merck, Pharmacyclics, Roche, Takeda

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JS, AC: employment and stock with BeiGene MD: consulting with Amgen, Janssen-Cilag, Takeda, Bristol Myers Squibb, BeiGene; honoraria with Amgen, Takeda, Janssen-Cilag, Bristol Myers Squibb, BeiGene CST: research funding at Janssen, AbbVie, BeiGene; honoraria at Janssen, AbbVie, BeiGene, Loxo Oncology, Novartis **HL:** nothing to disclose

CORRESPONDENCE Paula.Marlton@health.qld.gov.au

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