

## HERTHENA-Breast03: A phase 2, randomized, open-label study evaluating neoadjuvant patritumab deruxtecan + pembrolizumab before or after pembrolizumab + chemotherapy for early-stage TNBC or HR-low+/HER2— breast cancer.

Joyce O'Shaughnessy, Julie Marie Collins, Lili Yao, Karen L. Smith, Jaime A. Mejia, Michael A. Danso; Baylor University Medical Center, Texas Oncology, Dallas, TX and Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Dallas, TX; Daiichi Sankyo, Inc., Basking Ridge, NJ; Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ; Virginia Oncology Associates, Norfolk, VA

**Background:** The standard of care for patients with high-risk, early-stage TNBC is neoadjuvant pembrolizumab (pembro) + chemotherapy followed by adjuvant pembro. Patients with HR-low+/HER2— breast cancer may also be treated per recommendations for TNBC. There is a need for improved neoadjuvant therapy to increase the rate of pCR, as patients who do not achieve pCR have a high risk of recurrence, and to reduce risk of long-term toxicities associated with cyclophosphamide and anthracyclines. HER3 is frequently expressed in breast cancer and implicated in drug resistance. Patritumab deruxtecan (HER3-DXd) is an antibody-drug conjugate comprising a fully human anti-HER3 IgG1 monoclonal antibody linked to a topoisomerase I inhibitor (DXd) via a stable tetrapeptide-based linker that is selectively cleaved within tumor cells. This phase 2 study (NCT06797635) will evaluate neoadjuvant HER3-DXd + pembro before or after carboplatin + paclitaxel + pembro for early-stage TNBC or HR-low+/HER2— breast cancer. **Methods:** Eligible participants (pts) are adults ( $\geq 18$  y) with untreated, locally advanced nonmetastatic (AJCC stage cT1c, N1–N2 or cT2–cT4, N0–N2) TNBC or HR-low+/HER2— breast cancer. Pts ( $N \geq 10$  and  $\leq 30$ ) in part 1 of the study (safety lead-in) will receive neoadjuvant HER3-DXd + pembro followed by carboplatin + paclitaxel + pembro (Table) then surgery. DLT evaluation and dose finding for HER3-DXd (three dose levels of 5.6 mg/kg Q3W, 4.8 mg/kg Q3W and 3.2 mg/kg Q3W) during cycle 1 of neoadjuvant HER3-DXd + pembro will be performed in part 1 to determine an acceptable dose of HER3-DXd for part 2. Pts ( $N \sim 342$ ) in part 2 will be randomly assigned 1:1:1 to arm A, B or C (Table) for neoadjuvant treatment. Randomization will be stratified by cancer type (TNBC vs HR-low+/HER2—) and, in the TNBC subgroup, PD-L1 status (combined positive score  $\geq 10$  vs  $< 10$ ), overall stage (II vs III) and HER3 expression (low vs high). After neoadjuvant treatment, pts will undergo surgery (with post-operative radiotherapy if clinically indicated) and receive adjuvant pembro 400 mg Q6W for 5 cycles. Pts with residual disease may receive additional adjuvant treatment of physician's choice. Primary endpoints are safety (part 1 and 2) and pCR (ypT0/Tis ypN0) (part 2). Enrollment is ongoing. Clinical trial information: NCT06797635. Research Sponsor: Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA (MSD). This study is part of a collaboration between MSD and Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.

	Neoadjuvant cycles 1-4	Neoadjuvant cycles 5-8
<b>Part 1</b>	HER3-DXd 5.6 or 4.8 or 3.2 mg/kg Q3W + pembro <sup>a</sup>	Carboplatin <sup>b</sup> + paclitaxel <sup>c</sup> + pembro <sup>a</sup>
<b>Part 2 Arm A</b>	HER3-DXd (selected dose from Part 1) + pembro <sup>a</sup>	Carboplatin <sup>b</sup> + paclitaxel <sup>c</sup> + pembro <sup>a</sup>
<b>Part 2 Arm B</b>	Carboplatin <sup>b</sup> + paclitaxel <sup>c</sup> + pembro <sup>a</sup>	HER3-DXd (selected dose from Part 1) + pembro <sup>a</sup>
<b>Part 2 Arm C</b>	Carboplatin <sup>b</sup> + paclitaxel <sup>c</sup> + pembro <sup>a</sup>	Doxorubicin <sup>d</sup> OR epirubicin <sup>e</sup> + cyclophosphamide <sup>f</sup> + pembro <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>200 mg Q3W; <sup>b</sup>AUC 1.5 mg/mL/min QW; <sup>c</sup>80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> QW; <sup>d</sup>60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W; <sup>e</sup>90 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W;

<sup>f</sup>600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W.