

# 851MO Final analysis of a phase II/III trial of post-operative chemoradiotherapy comparing 3-weekly cisplatin with weekly cisplatin in high-risk patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (JCOG1008)

M. Tahara<sup>1</sup>, N. Kiyota<sup>2</sup>, H. Fujii<sup>3</sup>, Y. Asada<sup>4</sup>, H. Mitani<sup>5</sup>, Y. Hirayama<sup>6</sup>, N. Nishio<sup>7</sup>, Y. Onozawa<sup>8</sup>, N. Hanai<sup>9</sup>, A. Ohkoshi<sup>10</sup>, M. Monden<sup>11</sup>, M. Nagaoka<sup>12</sup>, S. Minami<sup>13</sup>, T. Fujii<sup>14</sup>, K. Tanaka<sup>15</sup>, S. Yoshimoto<sup>16</sup>, T. Kodaira<sup>17</sup>, J. Mizusawa<sup>18</sup>, K. Nakamura<sup>19</sup>, R. Hayashi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Head and Neck Medical Oncology Dept., National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Japan; <sup>2</sup>Medical Oncology and Hematology department, Kobe University Hospital, Kobe, Japan; <sup>3</sup>Clinical Oncology, Jichi Medical University Hospital, Shimotsuke, Japan; <sup>4</sup>Head and Neck Surgery, Miyagi Cancer Center, Natori, Japan; <sup>5</sup>Head and Neck Surgery, The Cancer Institute Hospital of JFCR, Koto-ku, Japan; <sup>6</sup>Head and Neck Surgery Dept., Hyogo Cancer Center, Akashi, Japan; <sup>7</sup>Otolaryngology Dept., Nagoya University Hospital, Nagoya, Japan; <sup>8</sup>Clinical Oncology, Shizuoka Cancer Center, Shizuoka, Japan; <sup>9</sup>Head and Neck Surgery, Aichi Cancer Center Hospital, Nagoya, Japan; <sup>10</sup>Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Tohoku University Hospital, Sendai, Japan; <sup>11</sup>Head and Neck Surgery, NHO Shikoku Cancer Center, Matsuyama, Japan; <sup>12</sup>Otorhinolaryngology, Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan; <sup>13</sup>Department of Otolaryngology, NHO Tokyo Medical Center, Tokyo, Japan; <sup>14</sup>Head and Neck Surgery, OICI - Osaka International Cancer Institute, Osaka, Japan; <sup>15</sup>Medical Oncology, Kindai University School of Medicine - Main Campus, Osaka, Japan; <sup>16</sup>Department of Head and Neck Surgery, NCCH - National Cancer Center Hospital-Tsukiji Campus, Chuo-ku, Japan; <sup>17</sup>Radiation Oncology, Aichi Cancer Center Hospital, Nagoya, Japan; <sup>18</sup>Center for administration and support, National Cancer Center - Tsukiji Campus, Chuo-ku, Japan; <sup>19</sup>International Clinical Development, National Cancer Center, Tokyo, Japan

**Background:** JCOG1008 was a multi-institutional randomized phase II/III trial which compared weekly cisplatin (CDDP)+RT (40 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, qwk, 66 Gy/33Fr) with 3-weekly CDDP+RT (100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, q3wk, 66 Gy/33Fr) in post-operative high-risk squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN). Interim analysis had demonstrated the non-inferiority of weekly CDDP+RT in overall survival (OS) with a better acute toxicity profile (J Clin Oncol. 2022;40(18):1980-1990). Here, we report the final analysis of JCOG1008.

**Methods:** The aim of the trial was to confirm the non-inferiority of weekly CDDP+RT (Arm B) to 3-weekly CDDP+RT (Arm A) in patients (pts) with post-operative high-risk SCCHN. Primary endpoint of phase III was OS, and secondary endpoints included relapse-free survival (RFS), local relapse-free survival (LRFS) and adverse events (AEs). A non-inferiority margin of hazard ratio (HR) was set at 1.32. The data used in this final analysis were obtained at 5 years after last patient enrollment.

**Results:** Between Oct 2012 and Dec 2018, 261 pts were enrolled (Arm A 132 pts, Arm B 129 pts). At final analysis with a median follow-up of 5.6 years, 5-year OS was 58.7% in Arm A and 71.2% in Arm B (HR 0.76, 95% CI, 0.52-1.12 [ $<1.32$ ]), which maintained the non-inferiority of Arm B. 5-year RFS/LRFS was 53.0%/57.2% in Arm A and 64.3%/68.8% in Arm B (HR 0.81, [95% CI, 0.57-1.16]; HR 0.79, [95% CI, 0.54-1.14]), respectively. There were fewer deaths from any cause and cancer-specific deaths in Arm B (Arm A; 60/45 vs. Arm B; 48/32). Regarding disease events, local recurrence occurred in 21 pts in Arm A and 19 pts in Arm B; distant recurrence only occurred in 34 pts in Arm A and 24 pts in Arm B; and second primary disease occurred in 27 pts in Arm A and 31 pts in Arm B, the most common site of which was the esophagus. Regarding late AEs, any grade/grade 3 or more late AEs occurred in 91.5%/10.1% in Arm A and 94.2%/13.2% in Arm B.

**Conclusions:** At final analysis with 5-year follow up, the non-inferiority of weekly CDDP+RT was maintained. These results further support the use of weekly CDDP+RT as standard treatment.

**Clinical trial identification:** jRCT031180135.

**Legal entity responsible for the study:** Head and Neck Cancer Study Group of the Japan Clinical Oncology Group (JCOG-HNCSG).

**Funding:** The National Cancer Center Research and Development Funds and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED).

**Disclosure:** M. Tahara: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: Merck Biopharma, Ono pharma, MSD, Pfizer, Bayer, Lilly, Rakuten Medical, Boehringer Ingelheim, AstraZeneca; Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Bristol Myers Squibb, Eisai, Novartis; Financial Interests, Institutional, Local PI: MSD, AstraZeneca, Ono Pharma, Novartis, Pfizer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Loxo, GSK, Lilly, Rakuten Medical, Bayer, Merck Biopharma; Financial Interests, Institutional, Research Grant: Bayer. N. Kiyota: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Ono pharmaceutical, Bristol Myers Squibb, Bayer, MSD, Eisai, Lilly, Novartis, Merck Biopharma; Financial Interests, Institutional, Local PI: Ono pharmaceutical, AstraZeneca, Rakuten Medical, Roche, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Lilly, Abbvie, GSK; Financial Interests, Institutional, Steering Committee Member: Adlai Nortye. N. Hanai: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Rakuten Medical K.K.; Financial Interests, Institutional, Local PI: MSD K.K., Adley Nortye. T. Fujii: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Merck Biopharma Co, Ltd, Taiho Pharmaceutical Co, Ltd, Rakuten Medical, MSD, Medtronic. K. Tanaka: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: AstraZeneca K.K., Merck Biopharma Co. Ltd, Eisai Co. Ltd, Bristol Myers Squibb Co. Ltd, Ono pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, MSD K.K., Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, Taiho Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd, Novartis Pharma K.K., Kyowa Hakko Kirin Co. Ltd, T. Kodaira: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Merck Serono Co, Accuray Co, Ozuka Pharmaceutical Co, AstraZeneca Co, Jansen Pharmaceutical K.K., MSD Co, Hitachi Co.; Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board: Canon Co. J. Mizusawa: Financial Interests, Personal, Other, Honoraria: Chugai pharmaceutical, Taiho pharmaceutical; Other, My spouse receives salary: Pfizer. K. Nakamura: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Chugai, Taiho, AstraZeneca, Lilly, Takeda. R. Hayashi: Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board: Rakuten Medical; Financial Interests, Coordinating PI: Shimadzu. All other authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2024.08.912>

# 852MO REWRITE—GORTEC 2018-02: Radiotherapy-durvalumab without prophylactic neck irradiation in squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck

J. Castelli<sup>1</sup>, X. sun<sup>2</sup>, E. Neveu<sup>3</sup>, T.V. Nguyen<sup>4</sup>, Y. Tao<sup>5</sup>, L. Martin<sup>6</sup>, U. Schick<sup>7</sup>, C. Sire<sup>8</sup>, T. Leroy<sup>9</sup>, N. Vulquin<sup>10</sup>, B. Calderon<sup>11</sup>, J. Thariat<sup>12</sup>, S. Guihard<sup>13</sup>, X. Liem<sup>14</sup>, O. Arsene<sup>15</sup>, L. Sinigaglia<sup>16</sup>, B. Campillo-Gimenez<sup>17</sup>, J. Bourhis<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Radiotherapy, Univ Rennes, CLCC Eugène Marquis, Rennes, France; <sup>2</sup>Radiotherapy, CHRU Besançon and HNFC, Besançon, France; <sup>3</sup>Clinical Research, Centre Eugene - Marquis, Rennes, France; <sup>4</sup>Radiotherapy, Gustave Roussy - Cancer Campus, Villejuif, France; <sup>5</sup>Radiation Oncology, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France; <sup>6</sup>Radiotherapy, Clinique des Ormeaux, Le Havre, France; <sup>7</sup>Radiotherapy, CHRU Brest - Hôpital Augustin Morvan, Brest, France; <sup>8</sup>Oncology Dept., Groupe Hospitalier de Bretagne Sud - Site du Scorff, Lorient, France; <sup>9</sup>Radiotherapy, Centre de Cancérologie Les Dentellières, Valenciennes, France; <sup>10</sup>Radiotherapy, Centre Georges-François Leclerc, Dijon, France; <sup>11</sup>Radiotherapy, Institut Sainte-Catherine, Avignon, France; <sup>12</sup>Radiotherapy Dept., Centre François Baclesse, Caen, France; <sup>13</sup>Radiotherapy, Centre Paul Strauss Centre de Lutte contre le Cancer, Strasbourg, France; <sup>14</sup>Radiotherapy, Centre Oscar Lambret, Lille, France; <sup>15</sup>Radiotherapy, Centre Hospitalier Simone Veil de Blois, Blois, France; <sup>16</sup>Clinical Research, GORTEC, Tours, France; <sup>17</sup>Clinical Research, CLCC Eugène Marquis, Inserm, LTSI - UMR 1099, Rennes, France; <sup>18</sup>Radiation Oncology department, CHUV - Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Background:** REWRITE, a multi-center single-arm phase II trial, was conducted to evaluate the neck control with durvalumab and RT restricted to the primary tumor site, with largely reduced-volume prophylactic neck irradiation (PNI) of N0 regions, in patients (pts) with SCCHN.

**Methods:** Pts with SCCHN T1-T4, N0-N2b non palpable, and only homolateral lymph node (LN) in radiological examinations, deemed ineligible for concomitant RT-CT were enrolled in this study. RT was delivered to the primary tumor and involved LN to a dose of 70Gy/33F over 6.5 weeks. Target volume included nodal level immediately adjacent to primary tumor/involved LN to 52.8Gy, without any other PNI. Durvalumab was delivered during RT (1125 mg, Q3W) and was continued Q4W at 1500 mg for 6 months. The primary endpoint was regional nodal control rate in non-irradiated neck at 1 year, with an expected control rate of 92%.

**Results:** 57 pts (median age=74 years, male = 72%) were included. The main primary tumor site was larynx (n=22, 39%) and oropharynx (n=15, 26%). The main T staging was T2 (N=23, 40%) and T4 (N=20, 35%). N staging was N1-N2b for 18 pts (31%). PS was 1 for 31 pts (54%) and 2 for 16 pts (28%). Durvalumab was delivered for 3 cycles during RT for 46 pts (80%). 29 pts (50%) could receive 6 months adjuvant durvalumab as planned. 56/57 pts were eligible for the evaluation of primary endpoint. 2 patients (3.6% [IC95% = 0.44; 12.31%]) had a progression disease in non-irradiated N0 neck at 1 year, corresponding to a neck control rate of 96.4%. 23 pts had a relapse, with a majority occurring in primary tumor (n=14). 1-year OS rate was 70% [95% CI 56-80%]. RT was well tolerated, with 4 G3 toxicity occurred in 3 pts (mucositis, dysphagia and pneumonia aspiration). Two pts had a G5 durvalumab related toxicity (interstitial pneumonia and diabetes) and 1 patient had a G5 durvalumab and RT related toxicity (Mucositis).

**Conclusions:** The primary endpoint was met showing that very limited N0 neck irradiation was associated with a very low probability of nodal relapse in non-irradiated neck in this subset of frail pts with T1-T4 SCCHN. The regional control rate compared favorably to that observed in case of large PNI.

**Clinical trial identification:** EU Clinical Trials Register: 2018-001976-39.

**Legal entity responsible for the study:** GORTEC.

**Funding:** AstraZeneca.

**Disclosure:** All authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2024.08.913>

# 853MO Setanaxib plus pembrolizumab for the treatment of recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head & neck: Results of a randomized, double-blind phase II trial

J. Fayette<sup>1</sup>, G. Thomas<sup>2</sup>, A. Daste<sup>3</sup>, M. Rotarski<sup>4</sup>, B. Castelo<sup>5</sup>, A. Rullan<sup>6</sup>, A. Levine<sup>7</sup>, R.S. Philipson<sup>8</sup>, K.J. Harrington<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Medicine Dept., Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon, France; <sup>2</sup>School of Cancer Sciences, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK; <sup>3</sup>Medical Oncology, CHU Bordeaux - Hôpital St. André, Bordeaux, France; <sup>4</sup>Oncology Department, Centre Oncologie du Pays Basque, Bayonne, France; <sup>5</sup>Medical Oncology, Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid, Spain; <sup>6</sup>Head and Neck Unit, The Royal Marsden Hospital - Chelsea, London, UK; <sup>7</sup>Statistics Dept., Calliditas Therapeutics AB, Stockholm, Sweden; <sup>8</sup>Clinical Dept., Calliditas Therapeutics AB, Stockholm, Sweden; <sup>9</sup>Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging, Institute of Cancer Research/Royal Marsden, London, UK

**Background:** Myofibroblastic cancer-associated fibroblasts (myCAFs) exclude CD8+ T cells from tumours and promote resistance to anti-PD-1 therapy (Ford K. *Cancer Res.* 2020;80:1846-60). NOX4 regulates myCAF differentiation; preclinical data show that the NOX1/4 inhibitor setanaxib (STX) overcomes myCAF-mediated immunotherapy resistance (Ford K. *Cancer Res.* 2020;80:1846-60). Pembrolizumab (PMB) is used as

first-line monotherapy for patients (pts) with recurrent or metastatic head & neck squamous cell carcinoma (rmHNSCC), where ~85% of tumours have moderate/high myCAF levels ( $\geq 5\%$ ) and response rates are low (Harrington KJ. *J Clin Oncol*. 2023;41:790-802; Marsh D. *J Pathol*. 2011;223:470-81).

**Methods:** This randomized, double-blind phase II trial (NCT05323656) evaluated the effect of STX added to PMB in adult pts with rmHNSCC, a combined positive score  $\geq 1$ , and tumour CAF levels  $\geq 5\%$ . Randomization was 1:1 (stratified by HPV status) to oral STX 800 mg BID or placebo, on top of PMB 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, for  $\leq 24$  months. Primary endpoint was best % change from baseline in tumour size (RECIST v1.1); secondary endpoints included PFS, OS, and change from baseline in biomarkers, incl. intratumoural CD8+ T cells.

**Results:** N=55 pts were randomized. No difference in the primary endpoint was seen but PFS and OS were both statistically significantly greater in the STX arm, with nominal p values below the 0.2 significance threshold level set for this study (Table). No difference in the overall incidence of Grade  $\geq 3$  adverse events was seen; mild/moderate hypothyroidism was more common with STX (8 vs 3 pts). Paired biopsy transcriptomic analyses showed statistically significantly more CD8+ T cells in tumour tissue from STX pts.

Table: 853MO		
Endpoint	Setanaxib (STX) + pembrolizumab (PMB), n=27	Placebo + pembrolizumab (PMB), n=28
<b>Best % change from baseline in tumour lesion size</b>		
Adjusted LS mean (SE)	-7.88 (9.323)	-12.93 (8.997)
LS mean difference (80% CI)	5.05 (-11.9, 22.0)	
<b>Progression-free survival (PFS)</b>		
Number of events (%)	17 (63%)	21 (75%)
Median PFS, months	5.0	2.9
Progression-free at 6 months	41%	25%
Hazard ratio (80% CI)	0.58 (0.38, 0.89; nominal p value=0.1)	
<b>Overall survival (OS)</b>		
Number of events (%)	6 (22%)	13 (46%)
OS at 9 months	88%	58%
Hazard ratio (80% CI)	0.45 (0.24, 0.85; nominal p value=0.1)	

**Conclusions:** STX added to PMB showed statistically significant effects on PFS and OS in pts with rmHNSCC. STX was well tolerated. This combination could have utility in targeting myCAF-rich, 'immune-excluded' tumours;.

**Clinical trial identification:** NCT05323656; EudraCT 2021-004627-33 Sponsor's protocol number: GSN000400.

**Editorial acknowledgement:** Editorial assistance was provided by Maria Vidal-Rohr and Geraint Owens of Chameleon Communications International, UK, funded by Calliditas Therapeutics.

**Legal entity responsible for the study:** Calliditas Therapeutics.

**Funding:** Calliditas Therapeutics.

**Disclosure:** J. Fayette: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: AstraZeneca, MSD, Innate Pharma, Merck Serono, Roche, Pfizer, Hookipa; Non-Financial Interests, Principal Investigator: AstraZeneca, MSD, Pfizer, Meru, Calliditas, Isa. G. Thomas: Financial Interests, Institutional, Research Grant, PI programme grant: Cancer Research UK; Financial Interests, Institutional, Research Grant, PI Boehringer Ingelheim-funded academic research grant: Boehringer Ingelheim; Financial Interests, Institutional, Funding, PI AstraZeneca-funded PhD studentship: AstraZeneca; Financial Interests, Institutional, Research Grant, PI Gilead-funded academic research grant: Gilead Sciences INC; Financial Interests, Personal, Speaker, Consultant, Advisor, Consultancy: Calliditas Therapeutics, Bristol Myers Squibb. A. Daste: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb, MSD, Merus. A. Levine: Financial Interests, Institutional, Full or part-time Employment: Calliditas Therapeutics AB. R.S. Philipson: Financial Interests, Institutional, Full or part-time Employment: Calliditas Therapeutics AB; Financial Interests, Institutional, Stocks or ownership: Calliditas Therapeutics AB. K.J. Harrington: Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board: Amgen, AstraZeneca, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck, MSD, Pfizer, Replimune, Oncolys, Vyriad, Idera; Financial Interests, Institutional, Other, Honoraria for lectures: Amgen, AstraZeneca, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim; Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board, Advisory board for CD47 assets: Arch Oncology; Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board, Development of DDR assets: ARTIOS; Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board, Development of exosomal STING agonist: Codiak; Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board, Development of oncolytic adenovirus: PsiVac; Financial Interests, Institutional, Funding, Research: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, MSD; Financial Interests, Institutional, Funding, Development of oncolytic HSV platform: Replimune; Non-Financial Interests, Leadership Role, Chair of Steering Committee: ART NET; Non-Financial Interests, Other, Member of Global Steering Committee: MR - Linac. All other authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2024.08.914>

## 854MO Avelumab-cetuximab-radiotherapy (RT) versus standards of care in patients with locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck (LA-SCCHN): Final analysis of randomized phase III GORTEC 2017-01 REACH trial

Y. Tao<sup>1</sup>, A. Auperin<sup>2</sup>, X. Sun<sup>3</sup>, X. Liem<sup>4</sup>, C. Sire<sup>5</sup>, L. Martin<sup>6</sup>, Y. Pointreau<sup>7</sup>, C. Borel<sup>8</sup>, M.-C. Kaminsky-Forrett<sup>9</sup>, J. Miroir<sup>10</sup>, F. Rolland<sup>11</sup>, A. Coutte<sup>12</sup>, F. Clatot<sup>13</sup>, L. Sinigaglia<sup>14</sup>, J. Thariat<sup>15</sup>, C. Even<sup>16</sup>, E.B. Saada<sup>17</sup>, J. Guigay<sup>18</sup>, J. Bourhis<sup>19</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Radiation Oncology, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France; <sup>2</sup>Biostatistics, Gustave Roussy - Cancer Campus, Villejuif, France; <sup>3</sup>Radiation Oncology, CHRU Besançon and HNFC, Besançon, France; <sup>4</sup>Radiotherapy and Brachytherapy, Centre Oscar Lambret, Lille, France; <sup>5</sup>Radiotherapy and Oncology, South Brittany Hospital, Lorient, France; <sup>6</sup>Radiation Oncology, Clinique des Ormeaux, Le Havre, France; <sup>7</sup>Radiation Oncology, ILC-Centre Jean Bernard, Le Mans, France; <sup>8</sup>Medical Oncology Department, ICANS - Institut de Cancérologie Strasbourg Europe, Strasbourg, France; <sup>9</sup>Medical Oncology, Institut de Cancérologie de Lorraine - Alexis Vautrin, Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy, France; <sup>10</sup>Radiotherapy and brachytherapy, Centre Jean Perrin, Clermont-Ferrand, France; <sup>11</sup>Medical Oncology Department, ICO Institut de Cancerologie de l'Ouest René Gauducheau, Saint-Herblain, France; <sup>12</sup>Oncology Radiotherapy Department, CHU Amiens-Picardie - Site Sud, Amiens, France; <sup>13</sup>Medical Oncology Department, Centre Henri Becquerel, Rouen, France; <sup>14</sup>Clinical Research, GORTEC, Tours, France; <sup>15</sup>Radiotherapy, Centre Francois Baclesse, Caen, France; <sup>16</sup>Head and Neck Oncology department, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France; <sup>17</sup>Medical Oncology, Centre Anticancer Antoine Lacassagne, Nice, France; <sup>18</sup>GORTEC, Tours, France; <sup>19</sup>Radiation Oncology Department, CHUV - Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Background:** Based on a potential synergistic effect of anti-PD-L1 avelumab plus cetuximab and RT, this combination was tested in a randomized trial against two standards of care (SOC) in LA-SCCHN.

**Methods:** The trial comprised 2 cohorts of patients (pts): fit for cisplatin (100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, Q3W) and unfit for cisplatin. The SOC was IMRT 70 Gy / 6.5 weeks with cisplatin in fit Cohort and with cetuximab in unfit Cohort (Bonner, 2006). In both cohorts, experimental arm (Exp) was IMRT 70 Gy plus weekly cetuximab and avelumab 10 mg/kg at Day-7 and every 2 weeks during RT followed by avelumab every 2 weeks for 1 year. The primary endpoint was progression-free survival (PFS). In unfit Cohort, 115 events were needed / 277 pts to detect a HR of 0.62 (1-sided  $\alpha$  error 0.05; power 80%). In fit Cohort, 166 events were needed / 430 pts to detect a HR of 0.64 (2-sided  $\alpha$  error 0.05; power 80%).

**Results:** Between 2017 and 2020, 707 patients were randomized, 6 withdrew consent. Unfit Cohort: 275 pts, median age 67 years, 61% OPC including 35% p16+. The number of events was reached in 2021, the current analysis is a long-term update. With a median follow-up of 47.7 months (IQR 39.4-56.0) and 200 PFS events, HR was 0.80 (95%CI 0.60-1.06); 4-year PFS rate was 33.7% (95%CI 26.2%-42.2%) in Exp vs 18.4% (95%CI 12.5%-26.1%) in SOC-cetux. Distant metastasis rate remained lower in Exp (subHR 0.24 (95%CI 0.11-0.49)). No significant difference in OS was seen between arms (HR 1.05 (95%CI 0.76-1.44)). Fit Cohort: 426 pts, median age 59 years, 70% oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) including 49% p16+. With a median follow-up of 50.8 months (IQR 45.8-57.4) and 224 PFS events, PFS was significantly lower in Exp than in SOC-cisplatin: HR 1.40 (95%CI 1.12-1.75), p=0.012; 4-year PFS rate 42.3% (95%CI 35.7%-49.2%) in Exp vs 54.7% in SOC-cisplatin (95%CI 47.8%-61.4%). OS was also lower in Exp than in SOC-cisplatin (HR=1.45, 95%CI 1.12-1.87, p=0.017).

**Conclusions:** In cisplatin-unfit pts, a favorable effect of adding avelumab to cetuximab-RT was seen on PFS and distant metastases but not on OS. In cisplatin-fit pts, the SOC cisplatin-RT was superior to combination of cetuximab-avelumab-RT.

**Clinical trial identification:** NCT02999087.

**Legal entity responsible for the study:** GORTEC.

**Funding:** GORTEC with a funding from Merck Serono. This research was financially supported by Merck Serono S.A.S, Lyon, France, an affiliate of Merck KGaA, as part of an alliance between Merck (CrossRef Funder ID: 10.13039/100009945) and Pfizer.

**Disclosure:** Y. Tao: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: MSD; Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Merck, Seagen. X. Sun: Non-Financial Interests, Personal, Principal Investigator: Merck. Y. Pointreau: Financial Interests, Personal and Institutional, Invited Speaker: Merck; Non-Financial Interests, Personal, Principal Investigator: Merck. C. Borel: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: MSD, Merck Serono, BMS, AstraZeneca; Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: Merck Serono, AstraZeneca, MSD. F. Rolland: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: Pfizer, Eisai, MSD, Merck Serono; Financial Interests, Institutional, Coordinating PI: Exelixis; Financial Interests, Institutional, Local PI: BMS, Ipsen. F. Clatot: Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Merck. C. Even: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: BMS, MSD, Innate Pharma, Merck Serono; Financial Interests, Institutional, Advisory Board: F Star Therapeutics, Novartis, Eleva, Bicara, PDS Biotechnology, GSK, Merus; Financial Interests, Institutional, Local PI: BMS, AstraZeneca, ISA pharmaceuticals, MSD, Debiopharma, Ayala, Gilead, GSK, Beigene, Takeda, Genmab, Seagen, Nykade; Financial Interests, Institutional, Coordinating PI: BMS, Novartis, Sanofi. E.B. Saada: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: Merck Serono; Financial Interests, Personal, Invited Speaker: Merck Serono, MSD; Financial Interests, Coordinating PI: Novartis; Financial Interests, Institutional, Coordinating PI: Roche. J. Guigay: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Board: BMS, Hookipa, MSD, Merck, Nanobiotix, Roche. J. Bourhis: Financial Interests, Personal, Advisory Role: AstraZeneca, BMS, Debiopharm, Merck, MSD, Nanobiotix, Roche. All other authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2024.08.915>