Evaluate Vantage

December 24, 2018

Bavencio’s ovarian disappointment reveals a low-key industry presence

Jacob Plieth

While Parp inhibitors are transforming the treatment of ovarian cancer – at least for a subgroup of patients – the same cannot be said of checkpoint blockers. And on Friday one of the few anti-PD-(L)1 agents with an active programme in this tumour type, Merck KGaA/Pfizer’s Bavencio, flunked its first-line study, Javelin Ovarian 100. This trial had progression-free survival as its primary endpoint, but interim analysis suggested futility, causing it to be terminated. Javelin Ovarian 200, Bavencio’s study in platinum-refractory disease, continues, as do trials in combination with Parp inhibitors. But a search of clinicaltrials.gov reveals a very low-key industry presence overall, with the vast majority of checkpoint blocker studies in ovarian cancer being sponsored by academia. Other notable exceptions include the uncontrolled Keynote-100 trial of Merck & Co’s Keytruda in second-line disease, and the phase III Imagyn-050 test of Roche’s Tecentriq in combination with Avastin, in front-line treatment of tumours that also include fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancers.

Failed studies of anti-PD-(L)1 antibodies across various cancer types

	Keytruda	**Opdivo**	**Tecentriq**	**Imfinzi**	**Bavencio**
	Merck & Co	**Bristol-Myers Squibb**	**Roche**	**Astrazeneca**	**Merck KGaA/Pfizer**
Urothelial			Imvigor-211 (2L)*		
Colorectal			Imblaze-370 (3L)**		
Gastric	Keynote-061 (2L)				
Glioblastoma		Checkmate-143 (2L)			
NSCLC		Checkmate-026 (1L)		Arctic (3L) Mystic (1L)*	Javelin Lung 200 (2L)
SCLC		Checkmate-331 (2L) Checkmate-451 (1L)*			
Head & neck	Keynote-040 (2L)			Eagle (2L)*	
Ovarian					Javelin Ovarian 100 (1L)

**CTLA-4 combo; **Cotellic combo; 1L=1st line; 2L=2nd line; 3L=3rd line.*