

Syndax suspends entinostat work after two trial flops



[Jonathan Gardner](#)

Another PD-(L)1 combination has bitten the dust. This time, Syndax Pharmaceuticals' HDAC inhibitor entinostat failed in trials with Roche's Tecentriq and Pfizer/Merck KGaA's Bavencio, in triple-negative breast cancer and ovarian cancer respectively. Syndax has postponed all work with entinostat plus checkpoint inhibitors, including a planned pivotal trial with Keytruda in non-small cell lung cancer. The company will await overall survival data from an NCI-sponsored trial of entinostat plus the aromatase inhibitor exemestane in breast cancer before making further decisions on the entinostat/PD-(L)1 combinations. This has effectively shifted Syndax's entire R&D focus to the phase I project SNDX-6352, which is being tested alone in graft-versus-host disease, and as monotherapy and in combination with Astrazeneca's Imfinzi in solid tumours; and the preclinical asset SNDX-5613, for which Syndax plans to submit an IND application in the second quarter of 2019. The group's shares tumbled 11% post-market yesterday.

Entinostat's clinical programme grinds to a halt

Study	Combination	Details	Trial ID
Encore 601	Keytruda combo	NSCLC and melanoma cohorts being presented at AACR; colorectal cancer cohort shelved	NCT02437136
Encore 602	Tecentriq combo	Previously treated, PD-1-naive triple-negative breast cancer - failed	NCT02708680
Encore 603	Bavencio combo	Heavily pretreated advanced epithelial ovarian cancer - failed	NCT02915523
Encore 607	Keytruda combo	NSCLC patients who have progressed on Keytruda + chemo - deferred	n/a
E2112*	exemestane combo	HR+, Her2- breast cancer - interim analysis due in Q2 2019	NCT02115282

*Sponsored by the NCI. Sources: Syndax, [clinicaltrials.gov](#).

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