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US backs only one of two Daiichi oncology projects, but this is only the beginning



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Endorsement by an FDA advisory committee for one of the two oncology drugs that Daiichi Sankyo had up for review gives the Japanese pharma's cancer ambitions a small boost. The panel voted [in favour of pexidartinib](#) for a rare tumour of the tendon sheaths, but [against quizartinib](#) for an aggressive form of acute myeloid leukaemia. Neither agent is seen as having substantial prospects – sales forecasts for quizartinib are certainly heading south – but there is much more to come from Daiichi in oncology. The company recently signalled a boost to investment into its pipeline of antibody-drug conjugates; the lead asset here is the Astrazeneca-partnered DS-8201, a Her2-targeted project that could be filed for US approval later this year ([Astra and Daiichi lay out their plan for a better Herceptin, May 8, 2019](#)). Earlier-stage ADCs from Daiichi will be on show at Asco next month: phase I lung cancer data on both US-1402, an anti-Her3 agent, and DS-1062, which hits Trop2, are slated for presentation. Investor meetings being held alongside the cancer conference will be scrutinised for any insight into a new business plan, which executives have also promised to deliver. Yesterday's FDA panel looks to mark the beginning of a busy period for Daiichi Sankyo's oncology division.

Daiichi Sankyo's oncology efforts

			Annual Sales WW (\$m)		
Product	Mechanism	Originator/licensee	2020	2022	2024
Filed					
Quizartinib	FLT 3 inhibitor	Ambit Biosciences	84	185	263
Pexidartinib	CSF-1R, c-kit & FLT 3 inhibitor	Plexxikon	51	114	169
			135	299	432
Phase III					
DS-8201 (trastuzumab deruxtecan)	Anti-Her2 ADC	Astrazeneca 50/50 profit share	100	741	1,790
Phase I/II					
U3-1402	Anti-Her3 ADC	Daiichi Sankyo	-	35	75
DS-1062	Anti-Trop 2 ADC	Daiichi Sankyo	-	-	-
DS-1647	HSV 1 oncolytic virus	Daiichi Sankyo	-	-	-
PLX2853	BRD 4 inhibitor	Plexxikon			
DS-3032 (milademetan)	MDM 2 inhibitor	Rigel Pharmaceuticals			
DS-3201 (valemetostat)	EZH 1 & 2 inhibitor	Daiichi Sankyo	-	-	-
DS-1001	IDH 1 inhibitor	Daiichi Sankyo	-	-	-
Yescarta	Anti-CD19 CAR-T	Gilead	-	-	-
DS-1205	AXL inhibitor	Daiichi Sankyo	-		
<i>Note: Not all products have attracted sellside sales forecasts. Source: EvaluatePharma.</i>					