

Astra throws doubt on one oncology combo approach



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This morning's [discontinuation of AstraZeneca's lung cancer study combining oleclumab with AZD4635](#) should be of interest to Corvus and Novartis. The latter two companies are also pursuing combinations of in-house projects that have the same mechanisms of action: co-blocking CD73 and the A2A receptor. The two pathways are thought to be related, and there is [some preclinical rationale behind blocking them both](#). Astra today stressed that it was continuing to work on combinations, and indeed a separate [oleclumab/AZD4635 trial in prostate cancer](#) is continuing. The group has also recently begun new studies combining oleclumab with Imfinzi, as well as with Innate Pharma's anti-CD39 MAb IPH5201. Corvus's A2A approach, once implied only in Parkinson's disease, had earlier disappointed in combination with Tecentriq ([AACR - Parkinson's approach to cancer needs more work](#), *Aptil 5, 2017*). And yesterday the company disappointed further, falling 5% after the same combo posted just one partial remission among 35 subjects with very late-line prostate cancer, according to an abstract at Asco's Genitourinary Cancers Symposium.

Selected anti-CD73 and A2A receptor inhibitor projects

Company	CD73	A2A	Combo work?	Clinical study summary
AstraZeneca	Oleclumab	AZD4635*	Yes	Discontinued combo in EGFRm NSCLC
Corvus	CPI-006	Ciforadenant	Yes	Phase I as monotherapies & combo (also with PD-1)
Arcus	AB680	AB928	No	Studies as monotherapies and in combo with PD-1 or Tigit
Novartis	SRF373/ NZV930**	PBF 509/ NIR178	Yes	Phase I as monotherapies & combo (also with spartalizumab)
Bristol-Myers Squibb	BMS-986179	(none)	NA	Phase I monotherapy & Opdivo combo
I-Mab/Tracon	TJD5	(none)	NA	Phase I Tecentriq combo

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