

Esmo 2021 - poziotinib could add first-line string to its bow



[Jacob Plieth](#)

Spectrum's poziotinib keeps throwing up surprises. Its multi-cohort Zenith20 lung cancer study had whiffed twice and [yielded one surprising hit](#), on the basis of which the group plans a US filing this year. But a late-breaking Esmo abstract just made public suggests that the project could have broader potential: cohort 4, in first-line NSCLC patients whose cancer harbours Her2 exon 20 insertion, is also positive. The stated 44% confirmed remission rate in 48 subjects appears comfortably to hit Spectrum's success criteria, and there are another two responses as yet unconfirmed. Twice-daily dosing in cohort 4 continues, but the Esmo data relate to once-daily, the same dose that Spectrum will take to the FDA in a filing focused on relapsed Her2 exon 20 insertion NSCLC. As for competition, Takeda's now approved Exkivity (mobocertinib) and Cullinan's CLN-081 have [put up impressive results in EGFR exon 20 insertions](#), the niche where poziotinib failed, but little data exist on exon 20 insertions in Her2. How significant could the latter opportunity be? The sellside once expected poziotinib to sell over \$500m by 2024, according to *Evaluate Pharma*, but now its 2026 consensus is \$285m. The late-breaking data will be presented in full on Saturday.

Posiotinib's Zenith20 study in NSCLC (possibly registrational cohorts)

Cohort	Setting	Subjects	Confirmed ORR	mDOR	Result
1	Relapsed, EGFR exon 20 insertions	115	14.8%	7.4mth	Fail: missed undisclosed threshold
2	Relapsed, Her2 exon 20 insertions	90	27.8%	5.1mth	Success: lower bound of CI >17%
3	1st-line EGFR exon 20 insertions	70	27.8%	6.5mth	Fail: lower bound of CI <20%
4	1st-line Her2 exon 20 insertions	70	43.8%*	5.4mth	Apparent success
6	EGFR Tagrisso failures	30	-		-
7	Atypical EGFR or Her mutations	30	-		-

Source: Spectrum & Esmo. Note: *data from 48 evaluable subjects, with a further 2 CRs taking unconfirmed ORR to 48%; ORR=overall remission rate; mDOR=median duration of response; CI=confidence interval.

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