

What Abecma does Carvykti might do better



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Sales of Carvykti might have stalled, but Johnson & Johnson and Legend now have data that might expand the Car-T therapy's reach in multiple myeloma. This is thanks to the Cartitude-4 study, which Legend today toplined as positive for its primary endpoint of progression-free survival. While Carvykti and Bristol Myers Squibb/2seventy Bio's Abecma are both approved for fifth-line or later multiple myeloma, Cartitude-4 tested the earlier setting of second to fourth-line disease. Depending on the full numbers, Cartitude-4 could enable Carvykti to get ahead of [Abecma, which last year scored in its own earlier-line trial, Karmma-3](#), a study that tested a slightly later setting, with patients additionally having to have failed Darzalex. Yet to be revealed is Cartitude-4's absolute benefit, toxicities, how Carvykti did against each of the two choices of control, and whether the therapy helps patients live longer. Cowen analysts expect Cartitude-4 to have been 90% powered to show a 50% reduction in risk of progression at this interim analysis, and expect 11 months' mPFS for control. Carvykti sold \$55m in the fourth quarter, flat versus three months earlier and short of \$60m+ consensus, as a shortage of lentivirus continued to bite.

Selected ph3 trials of anti-BCMA Car-T therapies

Salvage*	Earlier line	Front line	
Carvykti (Johnson & Johnson/Legend Biotech)			
5L+	2-4L	1L (no ASCT)	1L
Cartitude-1	Cartitude-4	Cartitude-5	Cartitude-6
Single arm	Versus PVd or DPd	Versus Rd (after VRd)	Versus ASCT (after DVRd)
98% ORR	Positive for PFS	Ends Jun 2026	Ends Jun 2026
Abecma (Bristol Myers Squibb/2seventy Bio)			
5L+	3-5L	(No ph3 studies)	
Karmma	Karmma-3		
Single arm	Versus DPd, IRd, Kd or EPd		
72% ORR	PFS HR=0.49		

Notes: *approved use; PVd=Pomalyst, Velcade + dexamethasone; DPd=Darzalex, Pomalyst + dexamethasone; VRd=Velcade, Revlimid + dexamethasone; Rd=Revlimid + dexamethasone; DVRd=Darzalex, Velcade, Revlimid + dexamethasone; IRd=Ninlaro, Revlimid + dexamethasone; Kd=Kyprolis + dexamethasone; EPd=Empliciti, Pomalyst + dexamethasone; ASCT=autologous stem cell transplant. Source: prescribing info & clinicaltrials.gov.

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