
















First-Line Mobocertinib Versus Platinum-Based Chemotherapy in Patients With *EGFR* Exon 20 Insertion–Positive Metastatic Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer in the Phase III EXCLAIM-2 Trial

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO-24-01269>

ABSTRACT


PURPOSE Mobocertinib is an oral epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine kinase inhibitor that targets *EGFR* exon 20 insertion (ex20ins) mutations in non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). This open-label, phase III trial (EXCLAIM-2, ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT04129502](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04129502)) compared mobocertinib versus platinum-based chemotherapy as first-line treatment of *EGFR* ex20ins+ advanced/metastatic NSCLC.

METHODS Patients with treatment-naïve *EGFR* ex20ins+ locally advanced/metastatic NSCLC were randomly assigned 1:1 to mobocertinib 160 mg once daily or pemetrexed plus cisplatin or carboplatin every 3 weeks for four cycles followed by maintenance pemetrexed. The primary end point was progression-free survival (PFS) by blinded independent central review (BICR), with planned interim analysis (IA) after approximately 70% of 227 expected PFS events.

RESULTS A total of 354 patients were randomly assigned (mobocertinib: n = 179; chemotherapy: n = 175). Baseline characteristics were balanced between arms. At IA (cutoff: April 4, 2023), the median PFS per BICR was 9.6 months in each treatment arm (hazard ratio [HR], 1.04 [95% CI, 0.77 to 1.39]; *P* = .803). The primary end point crossed the prespecified futility boundary (HR > 1). The confirmed objective response rate (95% CI) per BICR was 32% (26 to 40) with mobocertinib versus 30% (24 to 38) with chemotherapy; the median duration of response was 12.0 versus 8.4 months. Quality-of-life assessments indicated clinically meaningful delays in time to deterioration of lung cancer symptoms, cognitive function, and constipation with mobocertinib versus chemotherapy. Grade ≥3 adverse events in >5% of patients (mobocertinib, chemotherapy) were diarrhea (20%, 1%), anemia (6%, 10%), increased lipase (6%, 0%), and decreased neutrophil count (1%, 7%).

CONCLUSION The EXCLAIM-2 trial did not meet its primary end point. The efficacy of mobocertinib was not superior to platinum-based chemotherapy for first-line treatment of patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+ advanced/metastatic NSCLC.

ACCOMPANYING CONTENT

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Accepted December 16, 2024

Published January 29, 2025

J Clin Oncol 43:1553-1563

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INTRODUCTION

Epidermal growth factor receptor (*EGFR*) exon 20 insertion (ex20ins) mutations represent approximately 6%–12% of all *EGFR*+ non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) cases.^{1,2} First- and second-generation *EGFR* tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) are associated with an objective response rate (ORR) of approximately 10% and a progression-free survival (PFS) of approximately 1–3 months in patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+

NSCLC.^{2–5} Platinum-based chemotherapy, commonly the first line of therapy for patients with *EGFR* ex20ins mutations,⁶ has resulted in ORRs of 24.6%–47.0%, a median PFS of 5.6–7.1 months, and a median overall survival (OS) of 19.6–24.4 months.^{6–8} On the basis of real-world evidence, the median PFS ranges from 4.2 to 6.4 months with platinum-based chemotherapy,^{9–12} underscoring an unmet need for effective therapies for patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC.

CONTEXT

Key Objective

To assess whether mobocertinib is superior to platinum-based chemotherapy for first-line treatment of patients with advanced epidermal growth factor receptor (*EGFR*) exon 20 insertion (ex20ins) mutation–positive non–small cell lung cancer in a phase III trial (EXCLAIM-2).

Knowledge Generated

The primary end point of EXCLAIM-2 was not met, indicating that the efficacy of mobocertinib was not superior to platinum-based chemotherapy.

Relevance (T.E. Stinchcombe)

The next generation of *EGFR* tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI)'s targeting *EGFR* ex20ins mutations will need to have greater efficacy and better tolerability. The preferred phase III trial design, *EGFR* TKI compared with platinum-based chemotherapy or *EGFR* TKI in combination with platinum-based chemotherapy compared with chemotherapy alone is undetermined.*

*Relevance section written by JCO Associate Editor Thomas E. Stinchcombe, MD.

Mobocertinib is a first-in-class, oral *EGFR* TKI that targets in-frame *EGFR* ex20ins mutations.^{13,14} In a phase I/II study of mobocertinib in platinum-pretreated *EGFR* ex20ins+ locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC,^{15,16} the confirmed ORR by independent review committee (IRC) was 28%, the median duration of response (DoR) was 15.8 months, and the median PFS by IRC was 7.3 months (November 1, 2021 data cutoff).¹⁷ Mobocertinib received accelerated approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in September 2021 for patients with locally advanced or metastatic *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC whose disease has progressed on or after platinum-based chemotherapy^{18–20} and was subsequently approved in multiple additional countries worldwide.^{19,21}

Here, we report results of the phase III trial (EXCLAIM-2), a confirmatory trial to fulfill the data requirements of the accelerated approval granted by the FDA and conditional marketing approvals granted in other countries. In this trial, we compared the efficacy and safety of first-line mobocertinib with platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with advanced *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC.

METHODS

Study Design and Patients

EXCLAIM-2 was a phase III, open-label, multicenter, randomized, active-comparator study (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT04129502](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04129502)) that was conducted globally (site locations are listed in Data Supplement, Table S1, online only). Patients with previously untreated *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC were randomly assigned (1:1 ratio using block-stratified random assignment with an interactive response system) to receive either mobocertinib 160 mg orally once daily, with or without food, or investigator's choice of intravenous chemotherapy (pemetrexed plus cisplatin or

pemetrexed plus carboplatin; Data Supplement). Random assignment was stratified according to the presence of CNS metastases at baseline (yes v no) and race (Asian v non-Asian). Patients continued treatment until they experienced progressive disease (PD) as assessed by blinded independent central review (BICR), had intolerable toxicity, or met another discontinuation criterion. Patients in the chemotherapy arm could cross over to treatment with mobocertinib after BICR-assessed PD was documented and crossover eligibility criteria were met. Patients in the crossover population started loperamide for diarrhea prophylaxis on the day of their first mobocertinib dose. For patients not in the crossover arm, extensive guidelines were provided for loperamide use on diarrhea onset (Protocol, online only).

Eligible patients were adults with locally advanced or metastatic NSCLC and a documented *EGFR* in-frame ex20ins mutation (central confirmation not required before random assignment; Data Supplement). Additional inclusion criteria were at least one measurable lesion per RECIST v1.1,²² life expectancy ≥ 3 months, an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of 0 or 1, adequate organ and hematologic function, and normal QT interval on screening ECG. Patients were excluded if they had untreated symptomatic brain metastases (patients with brain metastases treated with surgery and/or radiation who were stable without requiring corticosteroids to control symptoms within 7 days before random assignment and no evidence of new or enlarging brain metastases were allowed); had symptomatic or asymptomatic spinal cord compression or leptomeningeal disease; received previous systemic treatment for locally advanced or metastatic disease, including local administration, with the exception of neoadjuvant or adjuvant chemotherapy or immunotherapy for stage I–III disease or combined modality chemotherapy/radiation for locally advanced disease if

completed >6 months before development of metastatic disease; or received radiotherapy ≤14 days before random assignment or had not recovered from radiotherapy-related toxicities. Palliative radiation administered outside the chest and brain, stereotactic radiosurgery, and stereotactic body radiotherapy were allowed up to 7 days before random assignment. Complete eligibility criteria are described in the Protocol.

All patients provided written informed consent. The study was conducted in accordance with Good Clinical Practice and ethics in the Declaration of Helsinki. The protocol and informed consent documents were approved by local institutional review boards or ethics committees.

Assessments

Disease was assessed by computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at screening, at 6-week intervals through cycle 18, and every 12 weeks thereafter. Screening disease assessment included imaging of the chest, abdomen, brain, and other metastatic sites (eg, neck, pelvis) only if clinically indicated using CT or MRI with contrast (unless contraindicated). Brain imaging, preferably by contrast-enhanced MRI, was required at screening for all patients and was repeated postbaseline for patients with baseline CNS metastases. Target lesion response (ie, partial response or complete response) was confirmed at least 4 weeks after the response was first documented. All radiographic images were submitted to the imaging core laboratory for central review. Severity of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) was graded according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events version 5.0. The European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) quality-of-life questionnaire (QLQ-C30) and the lung cancer module (EORTC quality-of-life questionnaire-lung cancer 13 [QLQ-LC13]) were administered at screening, day 1 of every cycle up to cycle 19, and every four cycles thereafter until the end of treatment.

Outcomes

The primary end point was PFS assessed by the BICR, per RECIST v1.1. Key secondary end points were confirmed ORR by BICR per RECIST v1.1 and OS. Other secondary end points were PFS and confirmed ORR, as assessed by the investigator; DoR, time to response, and disease control rate (DCR) as assessed by BICR and the investigator; time to deterioration²³ (TTD; Data Supplement) in patient-reported symptoms (particularly core lung cancer and gastrointestinal-related symptoms); and health-related quality-of-life (HRQoL) functioning assessed with the EORTC QLQ-C30²⁴ and the EORTC QLQ-LC13.²⁵ Safety end points were TEAEs. Exploratory end points included efficacy in patients who crossed over to mobocertinib after platinum-based chemotherapy.

Statistical Analysis

Efficacy was analyzed in the intention-to-treat (ITT) population, which included all patients randomly assigned to treatment. Safety was analyzed in all patients who received at least one dose of the study drug. HRQoL end points were analyzed in the patient-reported outcomes (PROs)-ITT population, which included all randomly assigned patients who had baseline and at least one postbaseline HRQoL measurements.

Per the statistical analysis plan, approximately 318 patients were to be enrolled to provide a 90% power to detect a 3.5-month improvement in median PFS (hazard ratio [HR] for disease progression or death, 0.65), after approximately 227 PFS events (PD or death) had occurred, assuming a median PFS of 6.5 months for platinum-doublet chemotherapy and 10 months for mobocertinib in treatment-naïve patients in the target population. This power calculation was based on a two-sided log-rank test controlled at the two-sided 0.05 level, adjusting for the proposed interim analysis (IA) plan and assuming an exponential distribution for PFS. We used an adaptive event-size reassessment approach for the primary end point and a sequential testing procedure for type I error control. One IA was planned after observation of approximately 70% of the minimum total expected PFS events (159 of 227 expected events). An O'Brien-Fleming Lan-DeMets alpha spending function was used for PFS to control the overall two-sided alpha level at .05. The study was to be stopped early for futility if the observed HR was >1 at the IA.

Primary analysis of the primary end point was performed using a two-sided stratified log-rank test stratified by the presence of intracranial CNS metastases at baseline (yes v no) and race (Asian v non-Asian). The HR was estimated using a stratified Cox regression model. Formal statistical tests of the key secondary efficacy end points were only to be performed if the analysis of the primary end point demonstrated a statistically significantly longer PFS on mobocertinib versus platinum-based chemotherapy with strong control for type I error rate. Kaplan-Meier methods were used to estimate the medians of time-to-event end points and associated two-sided 95% CIs. Statistical analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 or higher (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).

RESULTS

Study Population

Between January 2020 and December 2022, 354 patients were randomly assigned to mobocertinib (n = 179) or platinum-based chemotherapy (n = 175), with 144 patients receiving carboplatin and 19 patients receiving cisplatin (Fig 1). Baseline demographic and disease characteristics were balanced between arms (Table 1). Approximately one

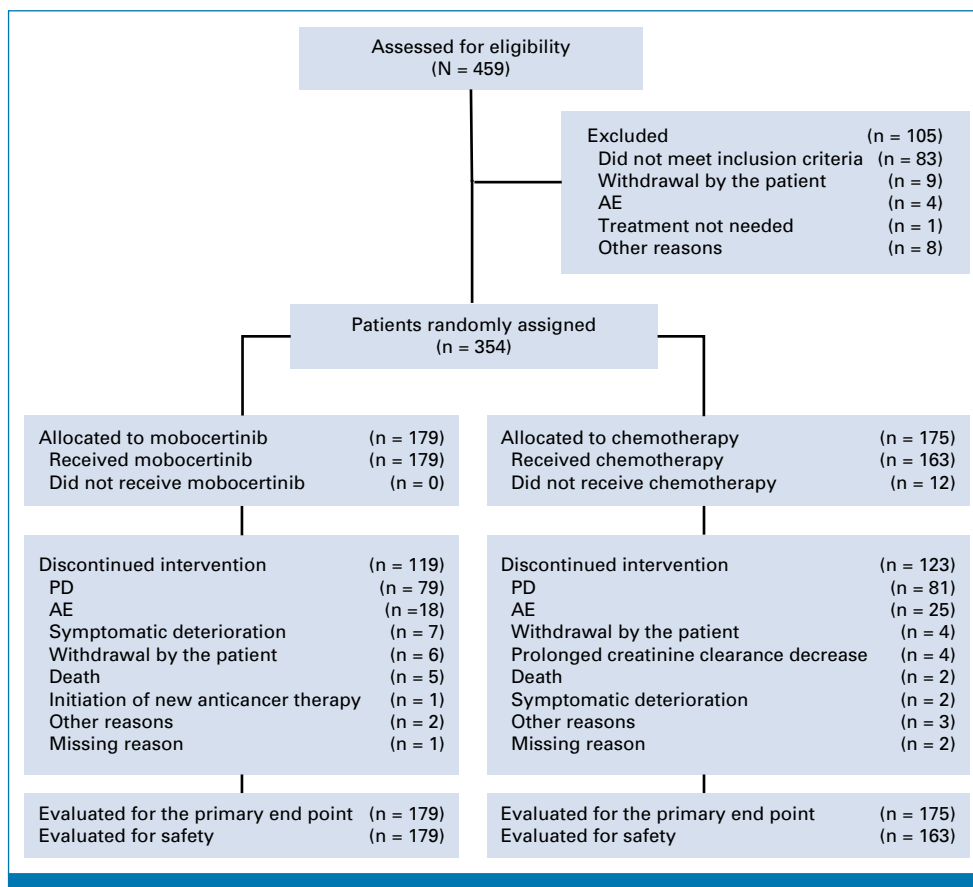


FIG 1. CONSORT diagram for the EXCLAIM-2 trial. Data are reported as of the cutoff date for the interim analysis (April 4, 2023). AE, adverse event; PD, progressive disease.

third of patients had intracranial metastases at baseline in the mobocertinib (33%) and chemotherapy arms (31%).

As of April 4, 2023, 60 patients (34%) in the mobocertinib arm and 40 patients (23%) in the chemotherapy arm remained on assigned treatment. The median (range) follow-up was 13.1 months (0.5–36.4) for mobocertinib and 13.8 months (0.03–37.8) for chemotherapy. The median (range) relative dose intensity was 91.5% (3.1–100) in the mobocertinib arm and 100% for cisplatin (93.7–100), carboplatin (62.5–100), and pemetrexed (62.5–100) in the chemotherapy arm. The median dose in the 60 patients remaining on mobocertinib was 120 mg once daily.

Subsequent anticancer therapies are summarized in the Data Supplement (Table S2).

Efficacy

Progression-Free Survival

The median BICR-assessed PFS was 9.6 months (95% CI, 7.1 to 11.1) in the mobocertinib arm and 9.6 months (95% CI, 7.2 to 11.4) in the chemotherapy arm (HR, 1.04 [95% CI, 0.77 to

1.39]; log-rank $P = .803$; Fig 2A). Thus, the primary end point crossed the prespecified futility boundary (HR >1), as concluded by an independent data monitoring committee, and the study was discontinued. The median PFS by investigator assessment was 8.6 months (95% CI, 6.9 to 9.9) in the mobocertinib arm and 8.4 months (95% CI, 7.1 to 11.1) in the chemotherapy arm. Subgroup analyses of BICR-assessed PFS revealed no apparent differences between prespecified groups (Fig 2B). In post hoc subgroup analyses, there were no apparent differences between patients with near-loop versus far-loop *EGFR* ex20ins mutations (Data Supplement, Tables S3 and S4). Exploratory analyses of CNS progression are reported in the Data Supplement.

Sixty-three patients crossed over from chemotherapy to mobocertinib. These patients had a median BICR-assessed PFS of 6.8 months (95% CI, 3.9 to 10.6) on second-line mobocertinib. Additional results for these patients are reported in the Data Supplement (Table S5).

Antitumor Response

The confirmed ORR with mobocertinib versus chemotherapy was 32% (95% CI, 26 to 40) versus 30% (95% CI, 24 to 38) by

TABLE 1. Patient Demographics and Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	Mobocertinib (n = 179)	Chemotherapy (n = 175)
Age, years, median (range)	64 (25-87)	62 (31-88)
Sex, female, No. (%)	108 (60)	116 (66)
Race, No. (%)		
Asian	98 (55)	98 (56)
White	72 (40)	65 (37)
Black or African American	3 (2)	0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1 (1)	0
Not reported	5 (3)	12 (7)
Histology, No. (%)		
Adenocarcinoma	178 (99)	172 (98)
Adenocarcinoma with mixed subtypes	0	1 (1)
Adenosquamous carcinoma	0	1 (1)
Other	1 (1)	1 (1)
ECOG performance status, No. (%)		
0	84 (47)	74 (42)
1	95 (53)	101 (58)
History of cigarette smoking, No. (%)		
Never	97 (54)	106 (61)
Former	78 (44)	62 (35)
Current	4 (2)	7 (4)
Disease stage at study entry, No. (%)		
IIA/B	2 (1)	1 (1)
IIIA/B/C	9 (5)	7 (4)
IVA	70 (39)	61 (35)
IVB	98 (55)	105 (60)
Time since initial diagnosis, months, median (range)	1.7 (0.1-82.8)	1.8 (0.3-151.9)
Baseline brain metastases, No. (%)	59 (33)	55 (31)

Abbreviation: ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

BICR assessment and 37% (95% CI, 30 to 45) versus 30% (95% CI, 24 to 38) by investigator assessment (Table 2). The DCR was 87% with mobocertinib and 80% with chemotherapy by BICR and 93% and 83%, respectively, by investigator assessment. The median time to response by BICR was 1.5 months with mobocertinib and 2.8 months with chemotherapy. The median DoR by BICR was 12.0 months (95% CI, 8.5 to 23.6) with mobocertinib and 8.4 months (95% CI, 5.7 to 11.0) with chemotherapy (Fig 2C).

Overall Survival

The median OS was not estimable (NE) in the mobocertinib arm (95% CI, 22.6 to NE) and 30.0 months (95% CI, 29.0 to NE) in the chemotherapy arm (HR, 0.98 [95% CI, 0.62 to 1.54]; Fig 2D), with 39 (22%) deaths in the mobocertinib arm and 38 (22%) in the chemotherapy arm. The 2- and 3-year OS rates were 61% (95% CI, 49 to 71) and 51% (95% CI, 36 to 64) in the mobocertinib arm and 62% (95% CI, 50 to 73) and 47% (95% CI, 30 to 63) in the chemotherapy arm, respectively.

Patient-Reported Outcomes

The median TTD in EORTC QLQ-LC13 composite lung cancer symptom score (cough, dyspnea, chest pain) was 9.4 months and 5.0 months for the mobocertinib and chemotherapy arms, respectively; event rates were 46% and 56% in the mobocertinib and chemotherapy arms, respectively (HR, 0.68 [95% CI, 0.50 to 0.93]; Fig 3). TTD was shorter for diarrhea and appetite loss but longer for constipation in the mobocertinib arm versus the chemotherapy arm (Data Supplement, Fig S1). For diarrhea, events occurred in 84% of patients in the mobocertinib arm versus 12% in the chemotherapy arm (HR, 16.73 [95% CI, 10.21 to 27.41]). Appetite loss events occurred in 52% versus 34% in the mobocertinib and chemotherapy arms, respectively (HR, 1.90 [95% CI, 1.35 to 2.68]). Constipation events occurred in 9% of patients in the mobocertinib arm versus 38% in the chemotherapy arm (HR, 0.185 [95% CI, 0.105 to 0.328]). TTD for global health status/quality-of-life and other functional domains is shown in the Data Supplement (Fig S2).

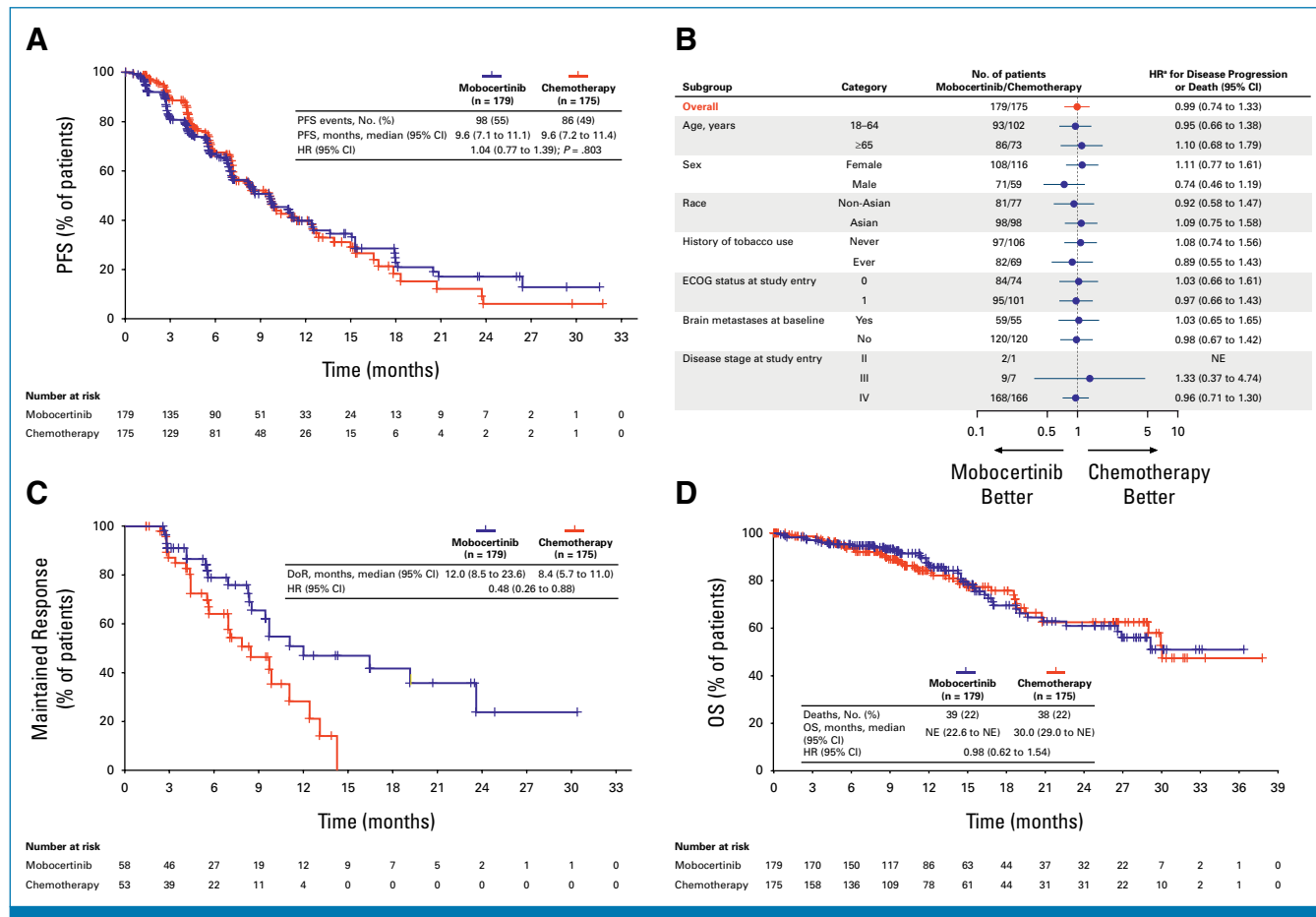


FIG 2. Efficacy of first-line mobocertinib versus platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC. (A) Kaplan-Meier–estimated PFS by BICR assessment in the ITT population. (B) Forest plot of HRs for BICR-assessed PFS across patient subgroups. HRs are based on an unstratified Cox proportional hazards regression model. (C) DoR in confirmed responders. (D) OS in the ITT population. * <1 HR for treatment indicates better prevention of progression or death in the mobocertinib arm compared with the chemotherapy arm. BICR, blinded independent central review; DoR, duration of response; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; *EGFR* ex20ins, epidermal growth factor receptor exon 20 insertion; HR, hazard ratio; ITT, intention-to-treat; NE, not estimable; NSCLC, non–small cell lung cancer; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

Safety

In the mobocertinib arm, the most common any-grade TEAEs were diarrhea (96%), paronychia (47%), decreased appetite (43%), and stomatitis (40%; Table 3). In the chemotherapy arm, the most common any-grade TEAEs were constipation (48%), nausea (47%), and anemia (42%). The most common grade ≥ 3 TEAEs were diarrhea (20%), lipase increased (6%), and anemia (6%) in the mobocertinib arm and anemia (10%), neutropenia (9%), and neutrophil count decreased (7%) in the chemotherapy arm. Treatment-related adverse events and TEAEs of clinical interest are summarized in the Data Supplement (Tables S6 and S7).

Dose modifications because of TEAEs (including dose reduction, dose rate reduction, dose interruption, drug withdrawal, dose delay, or drug infusion interruption) occurred more frequently with mobocertinib (77%) versus chemotherapy (63%; Table 3). The incidences of TEAEs leading to dose interruption and to reduction were 70% and

45% in the mobocertinib arm versus 6% and 20% in the chemotherapy arm, respectively. In the chemotherapy arm, 49% of patients had dose delays because of TEAEs. TEAEs led to treatment discontinuation in 18% in the mobocertinib arm and 20% in the chemotherapy arm. Deaths occurred in 10 patients in the mobocertinib arm and three patients in the chemotherapy arm (Data Supplement, Table S8). No deaths in the mobocertinib arm were deemed treatment-related; one death in the chemotherapy arm resulted from sepsis that was considered related to pemetrexed/carboplatin. The HR for PFS between the two treatment arms did not appear to be affected by dose reduction for TEAEs (Data Supplement, Table S3). In the mobocertinib arm, 24% of patients had one dose reduction (regardless of cause) and 26% had ≥ 2 dose reductions.

DISCUSSION

At the IA of EXCLAIM-2, the primary end point was not met. The efficacy of mobocertinib was not superior to platinum-

TABLE 2. Efficacy of First-Line Mobocertinib Versus Platinum-Based Chemotherapy

Assessment	Mobocertinib (n = 179)	Chemotherapy (n = 175)
BICR-assessed confirmed objective response ^a		
No. of patients	58	53
% (95% CI)	32 (26 to 40)	30 (24 to 38)
CR, No. (%)	0	1 (1)
PR, No. (%)	58 (32)	52 (30)
Stable disease, No. (%) ^b	97 (54)	87 (50)
PD, No. (%)	14 (8)	6 (3)
Not evaluable, No. (%)	10 (6)	29 (17)
Confirmed DCR, No. (%) [95% CI]	155 (87) [81 to 91]	140 (80) [73 to 86]
Investigator-assessed confirmed objective response ^a		
No. of patients	67	53
% (95% CI)	37 (30 to 45)	30 (24 to 38)
CR, No. (%)	1 (1)	3 (2)
PR, No. (%)	66 (37)	50 (29)
Stable disease, No. (%) ^b	98 (55)	91 (52)
PD, No. (%)	8 (5)	10 (6)
Not evaluable, No. (%)	6 (3)	21 (12)
Confirmed DCR, No. (%) [95% CI]	165 (92) [87 to 96]	144 (82) [76 to 88]
DoR in confirmed responders, months, median (95% CI)		
BICR-assessed	n = 58	n = 53
	12.0 (8.5 to 23.6)	8.4 (5.7 to 11.0)
Investigator-assessed	n = 67	n = 53
	8.3 (6.9 to 11.5)	9.7 (4.5 to 11.3)
Time to response, months, median (range)		
BICR-assessed	n = 58	n = 53
	1.5 (1.2-9.7)	2.8 (1.3-8.5)
Investigator-assessed	n = 67	n = 53
	1.4 (1.2-8.4)	1.9 (1.3-20.7)

Abbreviations: BICR, blinded independent central review; CR, complete response; DCR, disease control rate; DoR, duration of response; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response.

^aObjective response by RECIST version 1.1.

^bStable disease observed ≥ 6 weeks after first study drug administration.

based chemotherapy as first-line treatment of *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC. The median PFS by BICR was 9.6 months in both arms (HR, 1.04 [95% CI, 0.77 to 1.39]; $P = .803$). The primary end point crossed the prespecified futility boundary, and the trial was discontinued prematurely. For mobocertinib, the median PFS by BICR of 9.6 months was close to the assumed PFS of 10 months as defined in the EXCLAIM-2 study protocol, exceeding previous reports of median PFS achieved with platinum-based chemotherapy in this setting, ranging from 4.2 to 7.1 months.^{6,8,9,11,12,26} It is unclear why the chemotherapy arm showed a longer median PFS compared with historical data. Comparisons of patient populations among different studies are challenging. Effective management of adverse events resulting in a high median relative dose intensity among patients in the chemotherapy arm (100% among patients treated with pemetrexed or cisplatin/carboplatin) might have contributed to the outcomes in our study. For mobocertinib, there was a higher rate

of dose reductions because of TEAEs in this study (45%) versus the previous phase I/II trial (27%), which could have potentially affected response to treatment, although median PFS was longer in the present study (9.6 months v 7.3 months)¹⁷ and median relative dose intensity was high (91.5%). Other clinical features of patients may be relevant, such as differences in subtypes of *EGFR* exon20ins+ mutations between trials. Despite the lack of superiority of the primary end point of median PFS by BICR, mobocertinib performed better on some secondary efficacy end points. Patients in the mobocertinib arm had a shorter median time to response by BICR (1.5 months v 2.8 months) and longer DoR by BICR (12.0 months v 8.4 months) compared with the chemotherapy arm. Furthermore, median OS was NE in the mobocertinib arm (v 30 months in the chemotherapy arm).

The median PFS among patients who crossed over from chemotherapy to mobocertinib during the study was

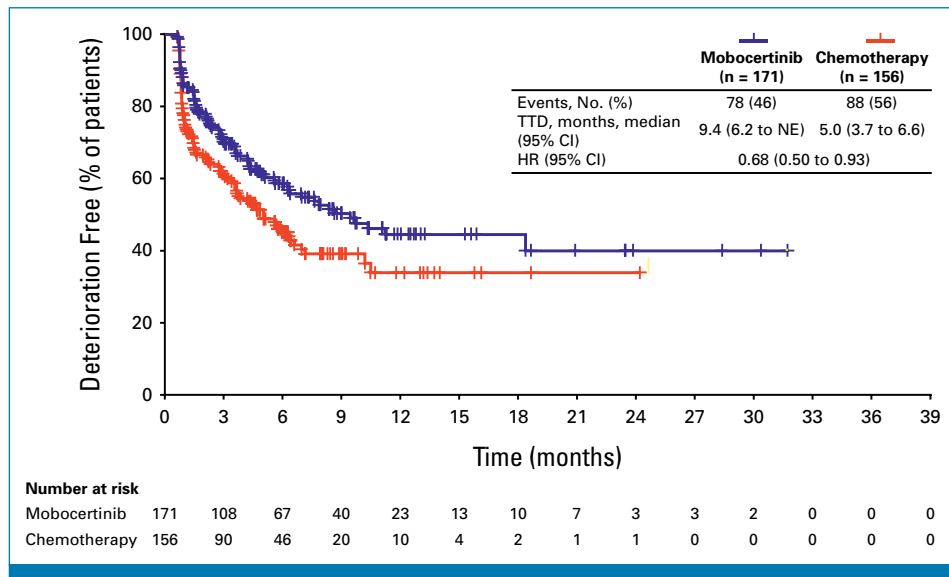


FIG 3. TTD in patient-reported lung cancer symptoms. TTD in the EORTC QLQ-LC13 composite lung cancer symptom score (cough, dyspnea, and chest pain). A clinically meaningful change was defined as an 11.1-point (for dyspnea) or 33.3-point (for cough or chest pain) deterioration for the EORTC QLQ-LC13 composite score scale. EORTC, European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer; HR, hazard ratio; NE, not estimable; QLQ-LC13, quality-of-life questionnaire-lung cancer 13; TTD, time to deterioration.

comparable with previous results with mobocertinib in the phase I/II study in platinum-pretreated patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC.¹⁷ In that study, the median PFS was 7.3 months,¹⁷ compared with 6.8 months in patients who crossed over to mobocertinib in the current study.

The safety and tolerability of mobocertinib were consistent with previous reports.^{16,17} No new safety signals were identified. The overall incidence of TEAEs and rates of discontinuation because of TEAEs were similar between treatment arms. Dose reductions and interruptions because of TEAEs were more frequent in the mobocertinib arm than in the chemotherapy arm, whereas dose delays were considerably more frequent with chemotherapy. The incidences of any-grade and grade ≥ 3 treatment-related diarrhea in EXCLAIM-2 were consistent with those observed in the phase I/II study.¹⁶ The high rate of diarrhea was reflected in a decreased TTD in diarrhea with mobocertinib compared with chemotherapy in the patient-reported EORTC QLQ-C30 symptom scale. As expected, any-grade nausea was more prevalent with chemotherapy, consistent with previous reports.^{27,28} Myelosuppression, a substantial medical burden associated with chemotherapy,²⁹ was less common with mobocertinib than chemotherapy.

Compared with chemotherapy, mobocertinib demonstrated clinically meaningful delays in TTD of the LC13 lung cancer composite end point and cognitive function but was associated with earlier worsening of diarrhea and appetite loss. These results align with a previous evaluation of PROs after mobocertinib treatment in patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC who had previously received platinum-based chemotherapy.³⁰

On the basis of these interim results from EXCLAIM-2, the trial did not fulfill the legal and regulatory data requirements of the accelerated approval granted by the FDA and the conditional marketing approvals granted in other countries.³¹ Takeda has voluntarily withdrawn all marketing authorizations for mobocertinib globally. The accelerated approval pathway is intended for treatments that potentially fulfill a high unmet medical need for patients with serious or life-threatening diseases. Although EXCLAIM-2 did not meet its primary end point, the results provide additional supportive evidence of clinical activity with mobocertinib in patients with *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC, shown in the phase I/II study that led to mobocertinib's accelerated approval.¹⁶ The clinical activity of mobocertinib compares favorably with that observed historically in other studies of single-agent first-generation *EGFR* TKIs as first-line therapy in patients with NSCLC with *EGFR*-sensitizing mutations, for which the median PFS ranged from 4.7 to 16.6 months in a systematic review.³² The confirmatory EXCLAIM-2 study was designed as a head-to-head comparison of mobocertinib against standard-of-care chemotherapy, rather than as an add-on combination study comparing mobocertinib plus chemotherapy versus chemotherapy alone, which was used in PAPILLON, the confirmatory phase III trial for amivantamab,⁸ the only other agent currently approved for *EGFR* ex20ins+ NSCLC. In PAPILLON, median PFS with amivantamab plus chemotherapy (11.4 months [95% CI, 9.8 to 13.7]) was significantly longer than with chemotherapy alone (6.7 months [95% CI, 5.6 to 7.3]).⁸ It is unclear why PFS in patients treated with chemotherapy alone differed between the PAPILLON and EXCLAIM-2 studies, despite similar

TABLE 3. Safety Overview and TEAEs of Any Grade Reported in $\geq 15\%$ of Patients and Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs Reported in $\geq 3\%$ of Patients

TEAE	Mobocertinib (n = 179)		Chemotherapy (n = 163) ^a	
	Any Grade, No. (%)	Grade ≥ 3 , No. (%)	Any Grade, No. (%)	Grade ≥ 3 , No. (%)
Overview of TEAEs				
≥ 1 TEAE	178 (99)	111 (62)	160 (98)	86 (53)
≥ 1 TRAE	177 (99)	82 (46)	154 (95)	60 (37)
≥ 1 serious TEAE	64 (36)	—	41 (25)	—
TEAE leading to				
Dose modification ^b	137 (77)	—	103 (63)	—
Dose interruption	125 (70)	—	9 (6)	—
Dose reduction	81 (45)	—	32 (20)	—
Treatment discontinuation	33 (18)	—	33 (20)	—
TEAEs of any grade reported in $\geq 15\%$ or of grade ≥ 3 reported in $\geq 3\%$ of patients				
Diarrhea	172 (96)	36 (20)	30 (18)	2 (1)
Paronychia	84 (47)	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Decreased appetite	77 (43)	4 (2)	47 (29)	2 (1)
Stomatitis	72 (40)	7 (4)	23 (14)	0
Nausea	66 (37)	2 (1)	77 (47)	3 (2)
Dermatitis acneiform	63 (35)	2 (1)	3 (2)	0
Dry skin	61 (34)	1 (1)	8 (5)	0
Fatigue	56 (31)	4 (2)	56 (34)	3 (2)
Increased blood creatinine	53 (30)	2 (1)	11 (7)	1 (1)
Increased lipase	53 (30)	11 (6)	8 (5)	0
Anemia	52 (29)	10 (6)	68 (42)	16 (10)
Vomiting	46 (26)	4 (2)	42 (26)	2 (1)
Increased amylase	45 (25)	3 (2)	8 (5)	0
Weight decreased	43 (24)	2 (1)	12 (7)	0
Pruritus	35 (20)	0	8 (5)	0
Alopecia	34 (19)	0	17 (10)	0
Cough	34 (19)	0	26 (16)	0
Increased ALT	33 (18)	3 (2)	46 (28)	4 (3)
COVID-19	33 (18)	1 (1)	27 (17)	1 (1)
Mouth ulceration	32 (18)	1 (1)	6 (4)	0
Back pain	30 (17)	2 (1)	26 (16)	1 (1)
Increased AST	28 (16)	0	44 (27)	0
QT-interval prolonged on ECG	28 (16)	5 (3)	2 (1)	1 (1)
Constipation	22 (12)	1 (1)	78 (48)	0
Asthenia	20 (11)	4 (2)	24 (15)	0
Dyspnea	18 (10)	0	27 (17)	4 (3)
Headache	18 (10)	1 (1)	27 (17)	0
Decreased platelet count	10 (6)	1 (1)	26 (16)	5 (3)
Decreased WBC count	9 (5)	1 (1)	28 (17)	5 (3)
Decreased neutrophil count	8 (4)	2 (1)	34 (21)	12 (7)
Decreased lymphocyte count	18 (10)	6 (3)	7 (4)	1 (1)
Neutropenia	2 (1)	1 (1)	27 (17)	14 (9)

Abbreviations: TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event; TRAE, treatment-related adverse event.

^aTwelve patients randomly assigned to chemotherapy did not receive treatment.

^bA dose modification was defined as any of the following: dose reduction, dose rate reduction, dose interruption, drug withdrawal, dose delay, or drug infusion interruption.

inclusion criteria.⁸ The mobocertinib accelerated approval experience highlights the need to thoroughly assess the pros and cons of potential study designs of phase III confirmatory trials for full regulatory approval. Several EGFR TKIs in clinical development for patients with EGFR ex20ins+ NSCLC, including sunvozertinib/DZD9008 (phase III, ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT05668988](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT05668988)), zipalertinib/CLN-081 (phase III, ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT05973773](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT05973773)),

and ORIC-114 (phase I/II, ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT05315700](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT05315700)), may provide additional treatment options for this patient population.

In conclusion, the EXCLAIM-2 trial did not meet its primary end point. The efficacy of mobocertinib was not superior to platinum-based chemotherapy for first-line treatment of EGFR ex20ins+ NSCLC.

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PRIOR PRESENTATION

Presented at the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Asia Congress, Singapore, Singapore, December 1-3, 2023.

SUPPORT

Supported by Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc and complied with the Good Publication Practice (GPP) guidelines.

CLINICAL TRIAL INFORMATION

[NCT04129502](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT04129502)

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Disclosures provided by the authors are available with this article at DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO-24-01269>.

DATA SHARING STATEMENT

A data sharing statement provided by the authors is available with this article at DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO-24-01269>. The data sets, including the redacted study protocol, redacted statistical analysis plan, and individual participant data supporting the results reported in this article, will be made available from the completed study within 3 months from initial request to researchers who provide a methodologically sound proposal. The data will be provided after deidentification, in compliance with applicable privacy laws, data protection, and requirements for consent and anonymization.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank the patients, their families, and their caregivers; the EXCLAIM-2 investigators and their team members at each study site; and colleagues from Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc, Lexington, MA. Professional medical writing assistance was provided by Corey Burgin, PhD, and Lela Creutz, PhD, of Peloton Advantage, LLC, an OPEN Health company, and funded by Takeda Development Center Americas, Inc, Lexington, MA.

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AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

First-Line Mobocertinib Versus Platinum-Based Chemotherapy in Patients With *EGFR* Exon 20 Insertion—Positive Metastatic Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer in the Phase III EXCLAIM-2 Trial

The following represents disclosure information provided by authors of this manuscript. All relationships are considered compensated unless otherwise noted. Relationships are self-held unless noted. I = Immediate Family Member, Inst = My Institution. Relationships may not relate to the subject matter of this manuscript. For more information about ASCO's conflict of interest policy, please refer to www.asco.org/rwc or ascopubs.org/jco/authors/author-center.

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Consulting or Advisory Role: AbbVie, ACEA Pharmaceutical Research, Alpha Biopharma, Amgen, Amoy Diagnostics, AstraZeneca, BeiGene, Berry Oncology, Boehringer Ingelheim, Blueprint Medicines, Bristol Myers Squibb, CStone Pharmaceuticals, Curio Science, Daiichi Sankyo/UCB Japan, Eisai, Fishawack Facilitate, Gritstone Bio, Guardant Health, Hengrui Therapeutics, Ignyta, Incyte, Inivata, IQvia, Lilly, Loxo, Lunit, Merck Serono, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Mirati Therapeutics, Novartis, Pfizer, Puma Biotechnology, Roche, SFJ Pharmaceuticals Group, Takeda, Vertex, Yuhon, Qiming Development (HK) Ltd, D3, C4 Therapeutics, G1 Therapeutics, Gilead Sciences, Janssen, geneDecode, Adagene, Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, BerGenBio, Bowtie Life Insurance Company, Bridgebio, Covidien/Medtronic, Cirina, Da Volterra, Elevation Oncology, Genentech, HUTCHMED, Lakeshore Biotechnology, Lucence, Medtronic, MiRXES, Omega Therapeutics, Origimed, OSE Immunotherapeutics, PRIME Oncology, Prenetics, Regeneron, Simcere,

Summit Therapeutics, Synergy Research, Tigermed, Virtus Medical Group, Imagen AI Ltd

Research Funding: AstraZeneca (Inst), Boehringer Ingelheim (Inst), Pfizer (Inst), Novartis (Inst), SFJ Pharmaceuticals Group (Inst), Roche

(Inst), Merck Sharp & Dohme (Inst), Bristol Myers Squibb (Inst), Xcovery (Inst), G1 Therapeutics (Inst), Merck Serono (Inst), Takeda (Inst)

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: AstraZeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, MiRXES, Pfizer, Novartis, AbbVie, Roche, Zai Lab, Pfizer, Liangyihui

No other potential conflicts of interest were reported.