A phase 2/3, randomized, placebo-controlled study of bintrafusp alfa with gemcitabine plus cisplatin as first-line treatment of biliary tract cancer

**BACKGROUND**

Biliary tract cancer (BTC) is a group of rare, heterogenous cancers arising from the cells that make up any portion of the biliary tree.

- Gemcitabine plus cisplatin is the current standard care for first-line treatment of patients with locally advanced/metastatic BTC, but survival outcomes are poor, with a median overall survival (OS) of 11.2–11.7 months.
- Recent studies of the treatment of multiple cancers with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) have shown promising results, even though the efficacy of ICIs has yet to be demonstrated in BTC.
- The TGF-β pathway is activated in over 60% of BTC tumors, whereas TGF-β receptor inhibitors, such as galunisertib, can exert antitumor activity.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To evaluate the clinical activity of bintrafusp alfa with gemcitabine plus cisplatin (GEM-CIS) in patients with first-line BTC.
- To explore the use of bintrafusp alfa as a novel therapeutic strategy for BTC.

**METHODS**

- **Patient Population**: Patients with untreated, first-line BTC (1L) with an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status of 0–1, a history of or concurrent interstitial lung disease, and patients with a history of or concurrent interstitial lung disease.

**RESULTS**

- **Objective Response Rate (ORR)**: A confirmed ORR of 20.0% per independent review committee (IRC).
- **Progression-free Survival (PFS)**: Median PFS of 3.6 months in the bintrafusp alfa group compared to 2.6 months in the placebo group.
- **Overall Survival (OS)**: Median OS of 14.3 months in the bintrafusp alfa group compared to 9.9 months in the placebo group.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Bintrafusp alfa was well tolerated, with no new safety signals observed.
- The ORR and survival benefits suggest that bintrafusp alfa may have clinical benefit in first-line BTC.

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**DISCLOSURES**

- **Authors’ conflict of interest disclosure**: The funders had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, or writing of the report.

**REFERENCES**