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Lisocabtagene Maraleucel in Relapsed/Refractory Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL): Primary Analysis of the MCL Cohort From TRANSCEND NHL 001, a Phase I Multicenter Seamless Design Study

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Abstract

PURPOSE: Report primary analysis results from the mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) cohort of the phase I seamless design TRANSCEND NHL 001 (NCT02631044) study.

PATIENTS AND METHODS: Patients with relapsed/refractory MCL after 2 lines of prior therapy, including Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor (BTKi), alkylating agent, and CD20-targeted agent, received lisocabtagene maraleucel (liso-cel) at a target dose level of 50×10^6 (DL1) or 100×10^6 (DL2) CAR⁺ T cells. Primary endpoints were adverse events, dose-limiting toxicities, and objective response rate (ORR) by independent review committee per Lugano criteria.

RESULTS: Of 104 leukapheresed patients, liso-cel was infused into 88. Median (range) number of prior lines of therapy was 3 (1–11) with 30% receiving 5 prior lines of therapy, 73% of patients were aged 65 years, 69% had refractory disease, 53% had BTKi refractory disease, 23% had *TP53* mutation, and 8% had secondary central nervous system lymphoma. Median (range) on-study follow-up was 16.1 months (0.4–60.5). In the efficacy set (n=83; DL1+DL2), ORR was 83.1% (95% CI, 73.3%–90.5%) and complete response (CR) rate was 72.3% (95% CI, 61.4%–81.6%). Median duration of response was 15.7 months (95% CI, 6.2–24.0) and progression-free survival was 15.3 months (95% CI, 6.6–24.9). Most common grade 3 treatment-emergent adverse events were neutropenia (56%), anemia (37.5%) and thrombocytopenia (25%). Cytokine release syndrome (CRS) was reported in 61% of patients (grade 3/4, 1%; grade 5, 0), neurological events (NE) in 31% (grade 3/4, 9%; grade 5, 0), grade 3 infections in 15%, and prolonged cytopenia in 40%.

CONCLUSION: Liso-cel demonstrated high CR rate and deep, durable responses with low incidence of grade 3 CRS, NE, and infections in patients with heavily pretreated relapsed/ refractory MCL, including those with high-risk, aggressive disease.

INTRODUCTION

Patients with mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) who experience disease progression after treatment with covalent Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors (BTKi) have historically poor outcomes with subsequent therapy, including conventional chemotherapy (objective response rates [ORR], ~30%; median overall survival [OS], 6–10 months). ^{1–3} Recent studies have demonstrated improved outcomes after treatment with the chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy brexucabtagene autoleucel; however, treatment-related toxicity is high. ⁴ As outcomes decline with successive lines of therapy, ⁵ a continued unmet need exists for treatments that achieve deep (ie, high complete response [CR] rates) and

durable responses with a favorable safety profile in patients with relapsed/refractory (R/R) MCL, including high-risk, aggressive disease.

Lisocabtagene maraleucel (liso-cel) is an autologous, CD19-directed, 4-1BB CAR T-cell product composed of CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ CAR⁺ T cells that has demonstrated rapid and durable efficacy with low rates of severe cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and neurological events (NE) across multiple R/R B-cell malignancies. ^{6–11}

Here, we report primary analysis results from the MCL cohort of TRANSCEND NHL 001 (TRANSCEND; NCT02631044).

METHODS

Study Design and Participants

TRANSCEND is a phase I, open-label, multicenter, multicohort, seamless design study evaluating the safety, antitumor activity, and cellular kinetics of liso-cel in adult patients with R/R B-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma. ⁶ The MCL cohort of TRANSCEND (TRANSCEND-MCL) enrolled adults (age 18 years) with positron emission tomography (PET)-positive MCL per Lugano 2014 critera, ¹² with diagnosis confirmed with cyclin D1 expression or evidence of t(11;14) by cytogenetics, fluorescence in situ hybridization, or polymerase chain reaction. Eligible patients had R/R disease after 2 prior lines of therapy, including a BTKi, alkylating agent, and CD20-targeted agent. Patients who had moderate renal and cardiac dysfunction, secondary central nervous system (CNS) lymphoma, or received prior autologous or allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) were eligible. Full eligibility criteria are available in the Data Supplement.

Procedures

Patients underwent leukapheresis for manufacture of liso-cel. Bridging chemotherapy was allowed during liso-cel manufacturing for disease control at the investigator's discretion; reconfirmation of PET-positive disease by investigator assessment was required before receiving lymphodepleting chemotherapy (fludarabine 30 mg/m² and cyclophosphamide 300 mg/m² intravenously daily for 3 days). Liso-cel was administered 2-7 days later as two sequential intravenous infusions of CD8⁺ and CD4⁺ CAR⁺ T cells at a total target dose of 50×106 CAR+ T cells (dose level [DL] 1) or 100×106 CAR+ T cells (DL2). TRANSCEND-MCL followed the seamless design principle, consisting of dose-finding, dose-expansion, and dose-confirmation phases. ^{13,14} For the purpose of dose-finding decisions, DLs were assessed for safety based on probability of dose-limiting toxicities (DLT) and activity based on probability of CR per investigator assessment in patients in dose-finding and doseexpansion phases. The recommended dose for TRANSCEND-MCL (DL2) was administered during dose-confirmation. Additional details are available in the Data Supplement. Patients who achieved a CR after liso-cel infusion and subsequently had progressive disease could receive retreatment with liso-cel. Outpatient administration of liso-cel was allowed at the investigator's discretion.

Endpoints and Assessments

Primary endpoints included frequency and severity of adverse events (AE), probability of DLTs, and ORR, defined as the proportion of patients who achieved a best overall response of CR or partial response (PR). The key secondary endpoint was CR rate; additional secondary endpoints included duration of response (DOR), progression-free survival (PFS), OS, cellular kinetic parameters, health-related quality of life (QOL), and hospitalizations. Response was evaluated by PET/computed tomography per Lugano 2014 criteria¹² based on independent review committee (IRC) assessment. Analyses in prespecified patient subgroups were performed for the primary and secondary efficacy endpoints.

Disease status and survival were assessed at visits approximately 29, 60, 90, 180, 270, 365, 545, and 730 (end of study) days after liso-cel infusion. Survival was assessed after day 730 in a long-term follow-up study (NCT03435796; Data Supplement). To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, post hoc sensitivity analyses were conducted for time-to-event endpoints censoring for patients who died because of COVID-19 (Data Supplement). ^{15–17}

AEs, including NEs, were graded per the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.03, except for CRS, which was graded using the Lee 2014 criteria. ¹⁸ The treatment-emergent AE (TEAE) period was defined as the time from initiation of liso-cel administration through and including 90 days after liso-cel administration. NEs were defined as investigator-identified neurological AEs related to liso-cel.

Additional information on endpoints and assessments for safety, patient-reported outcomes (PRO), cellular kinetics, and pharmacodynamics are summarized in the Data Supplement.

Statistical Analysis

The prespecified analysis sets are described in Supplementary Table A1. All analysis sets included patients across dose-finding, dose-expansion, and dose-confirmation phases except the DLT-evaluable set, which included patients across dose-finding and dose-expansion phases only. Efficacy outcomes are reported for the leukapheresed (intent to treat) set, the efficacy set (patients with PET-positive disease per IRC who received liso-cel at DL1+DL2), and the primary analysis set (PAS; patients in the efficacy set who received liso-cel at DL2 and received 2 prior lines of systemic therapy, including an alkylating agent, BTKi, and CD20-targeted agent (Supplementary Table A1). AEs are reported for the liso-cel-treated set. DLTs are reported in the DLT-evaluable set.

Primary (ORR) and key secondary (CR rate) endpoint hypothesis testing was based on hierarchical procedure (Data Supplement p14) and conducted on the PAS. Time-to-event endpoints were summarized with medians and 95% confidence intervals (CI) using the Kaplan-Meier method.

RESULTS

Patients

Between March 28, 2016, and February 10, 2022, 104 patients were enrolled in TRANSCEND-MCL and underwent leukapheresis. Of those, 92 received CAR T cells (9 patients died before infusion and 3 no longer met eligibility criteria). Eighty-eight patients received liso-cel (liso-cel-treated set) at 13 study sites in the United States (Data Supplement) and 4 received nonconforming product (Fig 1). Median time from leukapheresis to liso-cel availability and liso-cel infusion was 24.5 days (range, 17–80) and 39 days (range, 28–489), respectively. Six patients received DL1 and 82 received DL2 at a median dose of 49.9 (range, 46–54) and 99.6 (range, 62–103) ×10⁶ CAR⁺ T cells, respectively. At data cutoff (January 19, 2023), median on-study follow-up was 16.1 months (range, 0.4–60.5).

Median age was 68.5 years (range, 36–86; age 75 years, n=18 [20%]; 66 (75%) patients had Ki-67 proliferation index 30%; 27 (31%) had blastoid morphology; 20 (23%) had *TP53* mutation; and 7 (8%) had secondary CNS lymphoma at baseline (Table 1; Supplementary Table A2). Median number of prior lines of systemic therapy was 3 (range, 1–11) with 26 (30%) patients having received 5 and 29 (33%) previously receiving HSCT. Sixty-one (69%) patients had refractory disease; 47 (53%) had disease refractory to prior BTKi therapy and 36 (41%) had disease that progressed during or after receiving BTKi therapy. Fifty-eight (66%) patients received bridging therapy during liso-cel manufacturing.

Efficacy

The primary and key secondary endpoints of ORR and CR rate in the PAS (n=74) were met at 86.5% (n=64; 95% CI, 76.5–93.3; P<.0001) and 74.3% (n=55; 95% CI, 62.8–83.8; P < .0001), respectively. Response rates in the efficacy set (n=83) were consistent with an ORR of 83.1% (n=69; 95% CI, 73.3–90.5) and CR rate of 72.3% (n=60; 95% CI, 61.4– 81.6). Median time to first CR or PR was 0.95 months (range, 0.7–3.0). In the efficacy set, ORR and CR rates were consistent across prespecified patient subgroups, including those with high-risk disease such as TP53 mutation, secondary CNS lymphoma, and blastoid morphology (Fig 2A-2B). Median DOR was 15.7 months (95% CI, 6.2-24.0) after a median follow-up of 22.8 months (95% CI, 16.7–23.0) (Fig 3A; Supplementary Fig A1A). DOR in patients with Ki-67 30%, TP53 mutation, and blastoid morphology are shown in Supplementary Fig A2. Median PFS was 15.3 months (95% CI, 6.6–24.9) after a median follow-up of 23.5 months (95% CI, 17.7-23.8) (Fig 3B; Supplementary Fig A1B), and median OS was 18.2 months (95% CI, 12.9-36.3) after a median follow-up of 24.0 months (95% CI, 23.7–24.2) (Fig 3C; Supplementary Fig A1C). In patients who achieved CR, median OS was 36.3 months (95% CI, 15.7–NR). In the leukapheresed set (n=104), ORR was 70.2% (95% CI, 60.4–78.8) and CR rate was 61.5% (95% CI, 51.5–70.9). Efficacy outcomes in all efficacy-assessed sets are shown in Supplementary Tables A3-A4.

Most patients (75%) were treated during the COVID-19 pandemic; 7 patients died because of COVID-19, including 6 who were in ongoing CR. In the COVID-19 sensitivity analyses (efficacy set, n=83), median DOR was 17.5 months (95% CI, 7.6–24.0), median PFS was

17.8 months (95% CI, 7.6–24.9), and median OS was 24.8 months (95% CI, 15.7–not reached) (Table 2; Supplementary Table A5).

Safety

Seventy-six (86%) patients experienced grade 3 TEAEs (Table 3; Supplentary Tables A6–A7), most commonly cytopenias. Forty-seven (53%) patients had serious TEAEs (Supplementary Table A8); the only serious TEAE to occur in >5 patients was CRS (n=21 [24%]). Thirty-four (39%) patients had serious TEAEs considered related to liso-cel.

TEAEs of special interest are summarized in Table 4 and Supplementary Table A9. Anygrade CRS was reported in 54 (61%) patients; there was 1 (1%) grade 4 event and no grade 3 or 5 CRS events (Supplementary Table A10). Median time to onset and resolution of CRS was 4.0 days (range, 1–10) and 4.0 days (range, 1–14), respectively. Any-grade NEs were reported in 27 (31%) patients (Supplementary Table A11). Seven (8%) patients had grade 3 NEs and 1 (1%) had grade 4 NE. No grade 5 NEs occurred. Median time to onset and resolution of NEs was 8.0 days (range, 1-25) and 5.0 days (range, 1-45), respectively. For CRS and/or NE management, 11 (12.5%) patients received tocilizumab only, 6 (7%) received corticosteroids only, and 12 (14%) received both tocilizumab and corticosteroids. No macrophage activation syndrome was reported. Grade 3 infections occurred in 13 (15%) patients and prolonged cytopenias (grade 3 at day 29) in 35 (40%) patients. Of patients with prolonged cytopenia and laboratory results after day 29, 4/4 (100%) with anemia, 18/21 (86%) with neutropenia, and 22/27 (81%) with thrombocytopenia had recovered to grade 2 within 90 days after liso-cel infusion. Tumor lysis syndrome (TLS) was reported in 2 (2%) patients and hypogammaglobulinemia in 6 (7%) patients. Three (3%) patients had second primary malignancies of pancreatic cancer, basal cell carcinoma of the skin, and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin (n=1 each).

Among 31 patients evaluable for DLTs in the dose-finding (n=17) and dose-expansion (n=14) phases, 2 (6%) patients had 3 DLTs at DL2 (1 patient with high tumor burden experienced grade 5 TLS and 1 patient experienced grade 3 neutropenia and grade 4 thrombocytopenia [Supplementary Tables A12–A15]). No maximum tolerated dose was identified.

A total of 46 deaths occurred in the liso-cel-treated set. Most patients (n=29) died because of disease progression and 7 died because of COVID-19 (only 1 was considered treatment emergent) (Supplementary Table A16). Four (5%) patients had grade 5 TEAEs; 3 were considered related to liso-cel (cryptococcal meningoencephalitis, lung infection [COVID-19 pneumonia], TLS [DLT noted above]) and 1 was considered unrelated to liso-cel (cardiopulmonary arrest).

Thirteen (15%) patients were treated in the outpatient setting; of those, 12 were hospitalized for AEs after receiving liso-cel. Median time from liso-cel infusion to initial hospitalization was 4 days (range, 2–10) and median duration of initial hospitalization was 6.5 days (range, 2–43). One patient was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). For the 75 patients treated in the inpatient setting, median duration of hospitalization from liso-cel infusion was 11 days (range, 2–31). Five patients were admitted to the ICU.

Cellular Kinetics and Pharmacodynamics

Seventy-nine of 88 (90%) patients in the liso-cel-treated set had available data for cellular kinetic parameters. The median time to maximum liso-cel transgene levels was 10 days after infusion (Supplementary Table A17). Median maximum transgene level (C_{max}) was 29,335 copies/µg and area under the curve for transgene levels from 0 to 28 days after infusion (AUC_(0-28d)) was 288,557 days×copies/µg. Higher expansion (C_{max} and AUC_(0-28d)) was associated with higher CR rate; longer DOR; longer PFS; and higher incidence of any-grade CRS, any-grade NEs, and grade 3 NEs (Supplementary Table A18). Persistence of the liso-cel transgene was detected at month 12 in 23/33 (70%) patients and at month 24 in 6/17 (35%) patients (Supplementary Table A19). Most patients (51/88 [58%]) had CD19⁺ B-cell aplasia at baseline, and after liso-cel infusion, the frequency of B-cell aplasia increased to 98% (60/61 patients) at month 2 then decreased to 73% (24/33 patients) at month 12 (Supplementary Table A20). Immunoglobulin G serum levels <500 mg/dL were 40% (35/87 patients) at baseline, increased to 68% (38/56 patients) at month 6 after infusion, and were 64% at month 12 (27/42 patients) and 24 (14/22 patients).

Elevated levels of serum amyloid A, granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor, interferon gamma, interleukin (IL)-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, and C-reactive protein were associated with any-grade CRS; only elevated IL-2 was associated with any-grade NE (Supplementary Table A21). Median time from liso-cel infusion to peak cytokine levels ranged from 4 to 8 days for all cytokines except for IL-4 and decreased by day 29 (Supplementary Figs A3–A4). None were associated with grade 3 NE. As it occurred in only 1 patient, grade 3 CRS could not be assessed.

PROs

Completion rates are shown in Supplementary Fig A5. Clinically meaningful improvement (Supplementary Table A22) was observed in the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire-Core 30 items fatigue, global health status/QOL, and physical functioning domains by month 2 and remained consistent thereafter; pain was stable through month 12. The EQ-5D-5L visual analog scale demonstrated sustained clinically meaningful improvement by month 2 through 18. Results of all PRO domains are included in Supplementary Figs A6–A7.

DISCUSSION

TRANSCEND-MCL enrolled patients with R/R MCL post-BTKi, and the primary and key secondary endpoints were met in the PAS (ORR, 86.5%; CR rate, 74.3%), with consistent results in the efficacy set. Responses were rapid (median time to CR or PR, 0.95 months) and durable (median DOR, 15.7 months; median PFS, 15.3 months; median OS, 18.2 months). Importantly, liso-cel treatment was associated with low incidences of grade 3 CRS (1%), NEs (9%), and infections (15%).

Patients with MCL whose disease is relapsed or refractory to BTKi therapy have limited treatment options. Currently, two new therapies are available. ^{19,20} Pirtobrutinib, a noncovalent, reversible BTKi, was approved in the United States for patients with R/R MCL

after 2 lines of systemic therapy, including a BTKi. 20,21 In clinical practice, pirtobrutinib monotherapy is often used in patients with indolent, relapsed disease and low tumor burden, as single-agent response rate is adequate but not very high (ORR, 58%; CR rate, 20%). 20,22 To date, the only CAR T-cell therapy approved in MCL is brexucabtagene autoleucel, which targets CD19 with CD28 co-stimulation. ZUMA-2 assessed the efficacy and safety of brexucabtagene autoleucel in patients with R/R MCL after prior BTKi, demonstrating an ORR of 93% and a CR rate of 67% in the first 60 patients with 7 months of followup. ⁴In the ~3 year follow-up analysis, the 30-month OS rate was 60.3%.²³ Although brexucabtagene autoleucel has shown high efficacy, substantial toxicity has been reported; in the ZUMA-2 study, 15% of patients had grade 3 CRS, 31% had grade 3 NEs, and 32% had grade 3 infections.

There is an urgent need for CAR T-cell therapy options with low incidence of CRS, NEs, and infections. With a favorable benefit/risk profile and consistent responses in high-risk patient populations (eg, high Ki-67 proliferation index, *TP53* mutations, blastoid morphology, secondary CNS lymphoma), liso-cel may help to address this unmet clinical need. The results from TRANSCEND-MCL support liso-cel as a potential new treatment option for R/R MCL, including populations in which toxicity is a significant concern (eg, patients with older age or comorbidities), as this study included patients that have historically been underrepresented or excluded from clinical trials. Furthermore, the safety profile of liso-cel may provide opportunity for outpatient treatment and combination therapy with other targeted and immunotherapies.

The ZUMA-2 study excluded patients who received >5 prior lines of therapy, whereas TRANSCEND-MCL included patients who received 2 prior lines of therapy with no upper limit. The median PFS in TRANSCEND-MCL was 15.3 months and median OS was 18.2 months, indicating that patients who relapsed after treatment with liso-cel had very short survival. For many patients in the study, liso-cel was their last treatment. It is likely that the inclusion of patients with such a high number of prior lines of therapy in TRANSCEND-MCL may have impacted efficacy outcomes, and treatment in earlier lines could improve outcomes in R/R MCL. The data from TRANSCEND-MCL highlight the importance of further studies with longer follow-up to guide real-world experiences.

Another urgent unmet need exists for patients with secondary CNS lymphoma; when disease metastasizes to the CNS in patients with R/R MCL, treatment options are limited and prognosis is poor. ²⁴ TRANSCEND-MCL included 7 patients with secondary CNS lymphoma. Among these patients, response rates (ORR, 85.7%; CR rate, 85.7%) were comparable with the overall population. Despite the small sample size, these data are encouraging and provide the first prospective clinical trial data supporting the use of CAR T-cell therapy for patients with R/R MCL and secondary CNS lymphoma.

CAR T-cell therapies continue to evolve in R/R MCL. Both brexucabtagene autoleucel and liso-cel target CD19; however, alternative targets are being explored such as BAFF-R and ROR1. ^{25,26} Additionally, bispecific antibodies are emerging as a new therapeutic modality, including glofitamab. ^{27,28} Studies are still ongoing, and the clinical activity of these therapies has not yet been fully established.

This study was limited by the single-arm design. Additionally, the small sample size precludes definitive conclusions in some subgroups, including patients with secondary CNS lymphoma. The study population also included patients who had high-risk features, including a wide range of prior therapies and those with *TP53* mutations, which may have influenced efficacy results.

The current study expands knowledge about CAR T-cell therapy and the clinical landscape of R/R MCL in patients with aggressive disease and high-risk features, including those with older age and moderate comorbidities. These results support liso-cel as a potential new treatment option for R/R MCL, particularly in patients for whom limited therapies are available.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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CONTEXT SUMMARY

Key Objective

Continued unmet need exists for therapies that achieve deep and durable responses (ie, high and sustained complete response [CR] rates) with a favorable benefit/risk profile in relapsed/refractory (R/R) mantle cell lymphoma (MCL), especially for patients with high-risk, aggressive disease. Lisocabtagene maraleucel (liso-cel), an autologous, CD19-directed, 4–1BB CAR T-cell product, has demonstrated efficacy and manageable safety profile across R/R B-cell malignancies. We report primary analysis results from the MCL cohort of TRANSCEND NHL 001.

Knowledge Generated

In this primary analysis, liso-cel resulted in rapid and durable CR with consistently high ORR and CR rates in patients with heavily pretreated R/R MCL across prespecified patient subgroups, including those with high-risk disease characteristics (eg, TP53 mutation and secondary central nervous system lymphoma). Liso-cel demonstrated favorable benefit/risk profile with low incidence of grade 3 cytokine release syndrome and neurological events.

Relevance

Lisocabtagene maraleucel represents a novel treatment option for patients with mantle cell lymphoma refractory to BTK inhibition, including patients with CNS involvement. Given the favorable toxicity profile, future studies should evaluate this treatment earlier in the disease course.

Relevance statement written by Dr. Friedberg



Fig 1.

Patient disposition and analysis sets (CONSORT). ^aNonconforming product was manufactured for 2 patients who did not receive CAR T cells due to death (n=1) and no longer meeting eligibility criteria (n=1). ^bSeven patients died because of disease progression, 1 because of an AE, and 1 because of other reasons (sepsis and pneumonia). ^cOne patient was ineligible due to second primary malignancy before LDC and 2 patients remained in ongoing CR after receipt of bridging therapy. ^dDefined as any product wherein one of the CD8 or CD4 cell components did not meet one of the requirements to be considered liso-cel but was considered appropriate for infusion. AE, adverse event; BTKi, Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; CR, complete response; DL, dose level; IRC, independent review committee; ITT, intent to treat; LDC, lymphodepleting chemotherapy; liso-cel, lisocabtagene maraleucel; PET, positron emission tomography.

Α

	Evaluable patients (n)	Patients with objective response (n)		ORR (95% CI)
Age, years ≥65 ≤65 ≥75 <75	60 23 16 67	52 17 15 54		86.7 (75.4-94.1) 73.9 (51.6-89.8) 93.8 (69.8-99.8) 80.6 (69.1-89.2)
Sex Female Male	20 63	19 50		95.0 (75.1–99.9) 79.4 (67.3–88.5)
Prior HSCT Yes No	27 56	22 47		81.5 (61.9-93.7) 83.9 (71.7-92.4)
Secondary CNS lymphoma Yes No	7 76	6 63		85.7 (42.1-99.6) 82.9 (72.5-90.6)
Response to last therapy Refractory Relapsed	58 25	45 24		77.6 (64.7-87.5) 96.0 (76.9-99.9)
Chemotherapy response Refractory Sensitive	24 59	16 53		66.7 (44.7-84.4) 89.8 (79.2-96.2)
Prior BTKi exposure Refractory to BTKi Not refractory to BTKi	45 35	34 32		75.6 (60.5-87.1) 91.4 (76.9-98.2)
Ki-67 proliferation status <30% ≥30% Unknown	14 62 7	10 53 6		71.4 (41.9-91.6) 85.5 (74.2-93.1) 85.7 (42.1-99.6)
TP53 mutation status Yes No Not tested Indeterminate	19 32 29 3	17 28 22 2		89.5 (66.9-98.7) 87.5 (71.0-96.5) 75.9 (56.5-89.7) 66.7 (9.4-99.2)
Blastoid morphology Yes No Not tested	27 45 11	19 41 9		70.4 (49.8-86.2) 91.1 (78.8-97.5) 81.8 (48.2-97.7)
sMIPI risk category Low risk Intermediate/high risk	34 49	30 39		88.2 (72.5-96.7) 79.6 (65.7-89.8)
LDH ≥ULN, U/L <uln, l<="" td="" u=""><td>39 44</td><td>33 36</td><td></td><td>84.6 (69.5-94.1) 81.8 (67.3-91.8)</td></uln,>	39 44	33 36		84.6 (69.5-94.1) 81.8 (67.3-91.8)
SPD ≥Median cm ² <median cm<sup="">2</median>	38 40	29 36		76.3 (59.8-88.6) 90.0 (76.3-97.2)
Bridging therapy Yes No	54 29	44 25		81.5 (68.6-90.7) 86.2 (68.3-96.1)
		0	10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100	
			Objective Response Rate (95% CI)	

В

	Evaluable	Patients		OD mate (05% OI)
Age, years	patients (ii)	with the (ii)		CK Table (95% CI)
≥65 ≤65 ≥75 <75	60 23 16 67	45 15 11 49		75.0 (62.1-85.3) 65.2 (42.7-83.6) 68.8 (41.3-89.0) 73.1 (60.9-83.2)
Sex Female Male	20 63	17 43		85.0 (62.1-96.8) 68.3 (55.3-79.4)
Prior HSCT Yes No	27 56	22 38	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	81.5 (61.9-93.7) 67.9 (54.0-79.7)
Secondary CNS lymphoma Yes No	7 76	6 54	F	85.7 (42.1-99.6) 71.1 (59.5-80.9)
Response to last therapy Refractory Relapsed	58 25	38 22		65.5 (51.9-77.5) 88.0 (68.8-97.5)
Chemotherapy response Refractory Sensitive	24 59	13 47		54.2 (32.8-74.4) 79.7 (67.2-89.0)
Prior BTKi exposure Refractory to BTKi Not refractory to BTKi	45 35	29 28		64.4 (48.8-78.1) 80.0 (63.1-91.6)
Ki-67 proliferation status <30% ≥30% Unknown	14 62 7	8 47 5		57.1 (28.9-82.3) 75.8 (63.3-85.8) 71.4 (29.0-96.3)
TP53 mutation status Yes No Not tested Indeterminate	19 32 29 3	11 27 20 2		57.9 (33.5–79.7) 84.4 (67.2–94.7) 69.0 (49.2–84.7) 66.7 (9.4–99.2)
Blastoid morphology Yes No Not tested	27 45 11	17 37 6		63.0 (42.4-80.6) 82.2 (67.9-92.0) 54.5 (23.4-83.3)
sMIPI risk category Low risk Intermediate/high risk	34 49	28 32		82.4 (65.5–93.2) 65.3 (50.4–78.3)
LDH ≥ULN, U/L <uln, l<="" td="" u=""><td>39 44</td><td>28 32</td><td>· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·</td><td>71.8 (55.1-85.0) 72.7 (57.2-85.0)</td></uln,>	39 44	28 32	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	71.8 (55.1-85.0) 72.7 (57.2-85.0)
SPD ≥Median cm ² <median cm<sup="">2</median>	38 40	24 33		63.2 (46.0-78.2) 82.5 (67.2-92.7)
Bridging therapy Yes No	54 29	38 22		70.4 (56.4-82.0) 75.9 (56.5-89.7)
		0	10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 CR Rate (95% CI)	

Fig 2.

Forest plots of ORR (A) and CR rate (B) per IRC by prespecified subgroups (efficacy set). Response was evaluated by PET/computed tomography according to the Lugano 2014 criteria¹² based on IRC assessment. ORR was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved a best response of CR or PR from the time of liso-cel infusion until disease progression, end of study, the start of another anticancer therapy, or HSCT. ORR and two-sided 95% exact Clopper-Pearson CI are shown in panel A. CR rate was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved a best response of CR from the time of liso-cel infusion until disease progression, end of study, the start of another anticancer therapy, or HSCT. CR rate and two-sided 95% exact Clopper-Pearson CI are shown in panel B. BTKi, Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; CI, confidence interval; CNS, central nervous system; CR, complete response; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IRC, independent review committee; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; liso-cel, lisocabtagene maraleucel; ORR, objective response rate; PET, positron emission tomography; PR, partial response; sMIPI, simplified mantle cell lymphoma International Prognostic Index; SPD, sum of the product of perpendicular diameters; *TP53*, tumor protein 53.



Fig 3.

Kaplan-Meier curves of DOR (A), PFS (B), and OS (C) (efficacy set). ^aReverse Kaplan-Meier method was used to obtain median follow-up and its 95% CI. DOR was defined as the time from first response to progressive disease or death; PFS was defined as the time from liso-cel infusion to progressive disease or death; OS was defined as the time from liso-cel infusion to death. CI, confidence interval; DOR, duration of response; liso-cel, lisocabtagene maraleucel; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

Table 1.

Demographics and Baseline Characteristics (liso-cel-Treated Set)

	Liso-cel-Treated Set (N
Age, years	
Median (range)	68.5 (36–86)
65, No. (%)	64 (73)
75, No. (%)	18 (20)
Male, No. (%)	67 (76)
Race, No. (%)	
White	77 (87.5)
Other	8 (9)
Unknown	3 (3)
Ethnicity, No. (%)	
Hispanic or Latino	4 (5)
Not Hispanic or Latino	81 (92)
Unknown	3 (3)
ECOG PS at screening, No. (%)	
0	48 (55)
1	40 (45)
sMIPI score, No. (%) ^a	
Low risk (0–3)	36 (41)
Intermediate risk (4–5)	44 (50)
High risk (6)	8 (9)
LDH before LDC, U/L	
Median (range)	233.5 (78–4651)
ULN U/L, No. (%)	39 (44)
SPD per IRC before LDC, cm ²	
Median (range)	13.9 (0.7–93.8)
Median cm ² , No. (%)	38 (43)
CrCl before LDC, mL/min	
Median (range)	79.7 (39.9–195.7)
60, No. (%) ^b	68 (78)
LVEF at screening, %	
Median (range)	60 (45-88)
40% to <50%, No. (%)	5 (6)
Ki-67 proliferation fraction, %	
Median (range)	60 (5–95)

	Liso-cel-Treated Set (N=88
30, No. (%)	66 (75)
TP53 mutation, No. (%)	
Yes	20 (23)
No	34 (39)
Indeterminate	4 (5)
Not done	30 (34)
Blastoid morphology, No. (%)	
Yes	27 (31)
No	48 (55)
Not done	13 (15)
Complex karyotype, No. (%)	
Yes	26 (30)
No	35 (40)
Indeterminate	4 (5)
Not done	23 (26)
Median (range) prior lines of systemic therapy ^C	3 (1–11)
1 prior line of systemic therapy, No. (%) d	3 (3)
2 prior lines of systemic therapy, No. (%)	28 (32)
3 prior lines of systemic therapy, No. (%)	19 (22)
4 prior lines of systemic therapy, No. (%)	12 (14)
5 prior lines of systemic therapy, No. (%)	26 (30)
Prior HSCT, No. (%)	29 (33)
Allogeneic	6 (7)
Autologous	26 (30)
Prior BTKi, No. (%) ^d	83 (94)
Prior ibrutinib	65 (74)
Prior acalabrutinib	29 (33)
Prior zanubrutinib	2 (2)
Prior pirtobrutinib/loxo-305	6 (7)
Prior venetoclax, No. (%)	23 (26)
Prior alkylating agent, No. (%)	88 (100)
Prior bendamustine, No. (%)	55 (62.5)
Refractory or relapsed disease, No. (%) ^e	
Refractory	61 (69)
Relapsed	27 (31)
Disease refractory to BTKi, No. $(\%)^f$	47 (53)

	Liso-cel-Treated Set (N=88)
Secondary CNS lymphoma at liso-cel infusion, No. (%)	7 (8)
Received bridging therapy, No. (%)	58 (66)
Systemic treatment only	41 (71)
Radiotherapy only	3 (5)
Both	14 (24)

NOTE. All percentages are rounded to whole numbers except those with ".5%."

Abbreviations: BTKi, Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitor; CNS, central nervous system; CR, complete response; CrCl, creatinine clearance; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HSCT, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; IRC, independent review committee; LDC, lymphodepleting chemotherapy; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; liso-cel, lisocabtagene maraleucel; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; MCL, mantle cell lymphoma; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; sMIPI, simplified mantle cell lymphoma International Prognostic Index; SPD, sum of the product of perpendicular diameters; *TP53*, tumor protein 53; ULN, upper limit of normal.

^aScore used in patients with MCL to assess risk on the basis of age, ECOG PS, LDH, and white blood cells.

^bPercentages are based on the number of patients with non-missing results.

^CBridging anticancer therapy for disease control was not counted as a prior systemic regimen unless the outcome was CR.

^dThree patients received 1 prior line of therapy and 5 did not receive prior treatment with a BTKi. The original study protocol enrolled patients with 1 prior lines of systemic treatment and the protocol was later amended to require 2 previous lines of systemic treatment, including a BTKi, an alkylating agent, and anti-CD20 agent.

^eRelapsed versus refractory disease was defined as a best response of CR versus a best response of PR, SD, or PD to the last systemic treatment or HSCT with curative intent.

f Any response to BTKi less than PR.

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Sensitivity Analyses of Time-to-Event Endpoints Censored for Patients Who Died Because of COVID-19 While in Ongoing CR (Efficacy Set)

	Efficacy Set (n=83)	CUVID-19 Sensitivity Analysis in the Efficacy Set ⁴⁴ $(n=83)$
DOR		
Median (95% CI), b months	15.7 (6.2–24.0)	17.5 (7.6–24.0)
Continued response at 12 months, % (95% CI)	52.9 (40.1–64.2)	60.4 (47.1–71.4)
Continued response at 18 months, % (95% CI)	42.7 (29.9–54.9)	48.8 (34.8–61.4)
DOR follow-up, median (95% CI), $^{\mathcal{C}}$ months	22.8 (16.7–23.0)	22.6 (16.2–22.8)
PFS		
Median (95% CI), b months	15.3 (6.6–24.9)	17.8 (7.6–24.9)
PFS rate at 12 months, % (95% CI)	52.8 (40.6–63.6)	60.0 (47.5–70.5)
PFS rate at 18 months, % (95% CI)	43.9 (31.8–55.4)	49.9 (36.9–61.7)
PFS follow-up, median (95% CI), c months	23.5 (17.7–23.8)	18.2 (12.4–23.7)
SO		
Median (95% CI), ^b months	18.2 (12.9–36.3)	24.8 (15.7–NR)
OS rate at 12 months, % (95% CI)	61.8 (50.2–71.4)	68.2 (56.5–77.3)
OS rate at 18 months, % (95% CI)	50.8 (39.2–61.2)	56.0 (43.9–66.6)
OS follow-up, median (95% CI), c months	24.0 (23.7–24.2)	23.8 (23.6–24.2)

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on-free survival.

 2 Patients in ongoing response who died because of COVID-19 were censored in these analyses.

 $b_{\rm Kaplan-Meier}$ method was used to obtain two-sided 95% CIs.

 C Reverse Kaplan-Meier method was used to obtain the median follow-up and its 95% CI.

Table 3.

Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events (liso-cel-Treated Set)

	Liso-cel-Treat	ed Set (N=88)
	Any Grade	Grade 3
Any TEAE, ^{<i>a</i>} No. (%)	88 (100)	76 (86)
Most common TEAEs (15%), No. (%)		
CRS	54 (61)	1 (1)
Neutropenia	52 (59)	49 (56)
Anemia	39 (44)	33 (37.5)
Fatigue	31 (35)	2 (2)
Thrombocytopenia	26 (30)	22 (25)
Hypokalemia	21 (24)	7 (8)
Headache	20 (23)	0
Decreased appetite	18 (20)	4 (5)
Nausea	16 (18)	2 (2)
Diarrhea	15 (17)	0
Hypophosphatemia	15 (17)	8 (9)
Peripheral edema	15 (17)	1 (1)
Pyrexia	15 (17)	0
Confusional state	14 (16)	2 (2)

NOTE. All percentages are rounded to whole numbers except those with ".5%."

Abbreviations: CRS, cytokine release syndrome; liso-cel, lisocabtagene maraleucel; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

^aTEAE period was defined as the time from initiation of liso-cel administration through study day 90. Adverse events occurring after the initiation of a subsequent therapy or liso-cel retreatment were not considered TEAEs.

Table 4.

Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events of Special Interest (liso-cel-Treated Set)

	Liso-cel-Treated Set (N=88
CRS ^a	
Any grade, No. (%)	54 (61)
Grade 1/2	53 (60)
Grade 3	0
Grade 4	1 (1)
Grade 5	0
Median (range) time to onset, days	4.0 (1-10)
Median (range) time to resolution, days	4.0 (1–14)
NEs ^b	
Any grade, No. (%)	27 (31)
Grade 1/2	19 (22)
Grade 3	7 (8)
Grade 4	1 (1)
Grade 5	0
Median (range) time to onset, days	8.0 (1-25)
Median (range) time to resolution, days	5.0 (1-45)
Tocilizumab and/or corticosteroid use for CRS and/or NEs, C No. (%)	
Tocilizumab and/or corticosteroids	29 (33)
Tocilizumab only	11 (12.5)
Corticosteroids only	6 (7)
Both tocilizumab and corticosteroids	12 (14)
Tocilizumab and/or corticosteroid use for CRS, ^d No. (%)	
Tocilizumab and/or corticosteroids	24 (27)
Tocilizumab only	15 (17)
Corticosteroids only	1 (1)
Both tocilizumab and corticosteroids	8 (9)
Tocilizumab and/or corticosteroid use for NEs, ^e No. (%)	
Tocilizumab and/or corticosteroids	15 (17)
Tocilizumab only	1 (1)
Corticosteroids only	14 (16)
Both tocilizumab and corticosteroids	0
Other AESIs, No. (%)	
Grade 3 infections	13 (15)
Hypogammaglobulinemia	6 (7)
Tumor lysis syndrome	2 (2)
Second primary malignancy ^f	3 (3)

	Liso-cel-Treated Set (N=88)
Macrophage activation syndrome	0
Infusion-related reaction	2 (2)
Autoimmune disorders	0
Prolonged cytopenia ^g	35 (40)
Grade 3 decreased hemoglobin at the day 29 study visit	4 (5)
Recovered to grade 2 by the day 90 study visit ^{h}	4 (5)
Grade 3 decreased platelets at the day 29 study visit	28 (32)
Recovered to grade 2 by the day 90 study visit ^{h}	22 (25)
Grade 3 decreased neutrophils at the day 29 study visit	21 (24)
Recovered to grade 2 by the day 90 study visit ^{h}	18 (20)

NOTE. All percentages are rounded to whole numbers except those with ".5%."

Abbreviations: AESI, adverse event of special interest; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; liso-cel, lisocabtagene maraleucel; NE, neurological event.

^aCRS was graded based on Lee 2014 grading criteria. ¹⁸

^bNEs were defined as investigator-identified neurological adverse events related to liso-cel.

 C Two (2%) patients were treated with another immunosuppressive agent (siltuximab, anakinra, or etanercept) and 3 (3%) patients received vasopressors for management of CRS and/or NEs.

 d One (1%) patient was treated with another immunosuppressive agent (siltuximab, anakinra, or etanercept) and 2 (2%) patients received vasopressors for management of CRS.

^eTwo (2%) patients were treated with another immunosuppressive agent (siltuximab, anakinra, or etanercept) and 1 (2%) patient received vasopressors for management of NEs.

^fIncluded events of pancreatic cancer, basal cell carcinoma of the skin, and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin (n=1 each).

^gProlonged cytopenias were defined as grade 3 laboratory result of anemia, neutropenia, or thrombocytopenia not resolved at the day 29 study visit.

hRecovery data are presented for patients who had laboratory results after day 29 (decreased hemoglobin, n=4; decreased platelets, n=27; decreased neutrophils, n=21). Percentages are calculated out of the liso-cel-treated set (n=88).

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