

# Real-world data on effectiveness of trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) in Central Nervous System metastases (CNSm) in HER2+ previously treated metastatic breast cancer: subgroup analysis of REALITY-01 study

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## Background and objectives

Over the past decade, major therapeutic advances have significantly improved progression-free survival (PFS), overall survival (OS), and quality of life (QoL) in patients (pts) with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer (HER2+ mBC)<sup>1</sup>. However, as survival improves, central nervous system metastases (CNSm), including brain metastases (BM) and leptomeningeal disease (LMD), remain a major clinical concern in this population<sup>2-5</sup>.

T-DXd demonstrated substantial efficacy in HER2+ mBC after ≥2 lines of treatment (tt) in the DESTINY-Breast01 (DB-01) and DESTINY-Breast02 (DB-02) trials with a favourable benefit–risk profile. In DB-01, objective response rate (ORR) was 62%, mPFS was 19.4 mo, and OS was 29.1 mo<sup>6</sup>. In DB-02, ORR was 74.1%, mPFS was 16.7 mo, and OS was 35.7 mo<sup>7</sup>.

However, patients with CNSm remain under-represented in registrational randomised clinical trials. The management of CNSm remains challenging, highlighting the need for effective systemic therapies with intracranial activity.

Based on the results of DESTINY-Breast01, T-DXd became available in France on January 18, 2021 prior to Marketing Authorization (MA) through a Temporary Authorization for Use (Autorisation Temporaire d'Utilisation; ATU) program, allowing early access as monotherapy for eligible pts with HER2+ metastatic/unresectable (m/u) BC previously treated with ≥2 prior lines of anti-HER2 t.

This subgroup analysis of REALITY-01 study (n = 306) aims to fill gaps with real-world data for HER2+ m/u BC pts including CNSm pts with BM and/or LMD only with T-DXd tt.

## Conclusions

REALITY-01 confirms in a real-world setting that T-DXd is safe and effective in pts with HER2+ mBC, many of whom were heavily pretreated and had poor ECOG performance status, and that these benefits are also observed in pts with CNSm.

T-DXd demonstrated meaningful clinical activity in pts without and with CNSm:

- mPFS was comparable between pts without CNSm (18.7 mo) and those with CNSm (16 mo).
- Two-year OS rates were 68.7% (95% CI: 61.6–74.7) and 50.9% (95% CI: 39.7–60.0), respectively.

In the LMD-only subgroup (n = 18), T-DXd was initiated at full dose in all pts and showed clinically significant benefit in the majority of pts (with a low rate of treatment discontinuations), with a mPFS of 13.7 mo (95% CI: 9.7–15.4), a mOS of 21.3 mo (95% CI: 12.9–NE), and a 2-year OS rate of 41.9% (95% CI: 18.8–63.6). This study represents one of the largest real-world cohorts of pts with LMD treated with T-DXd.

In the BM-only subgroup (n = 57), T-DXd was also initiated at full dose in all pts and showed clinically significant benefit in the majority of pts (with a low rate of treatment discontinuations), with a mPFS of 17.9 mo, and a 2-year OS rate of 51.8% (95% CI: 38.1–64.0).

Overall, these results support T-DXd as a standard treatment option for pretreated HER2+ mBC pts, including those with BM and/or LMD, and reinforce its role in clinical practice.

## Methods

### A non-interventional, ambispective, longitudinal, open-label, multicentre, phase IV study

#### Main eligibility criteria:

- Adult patient (age ≥ 18 years (yrs)).
- HER2+ m/u BC, with at least 1 prior anti-HER2 treatment before T-DXd, previously treated by compassionate T-DXd or previously treated or planned to be treated by T-DXd, upon the investigator's decision.

**Dosage and duration of treatment according to the SmPC:** the recommended dosage for T-DXd was 5.4 mg/kg administered by intravenous perfusion every 3 weeks (21-day cycle) up to disease progression and/or toxicity.

**Primary outcome:** Safety of T-DXd in real-life conditions.

**Secondary outcomes:** Effectiveness of T-DXd in real-life conditions according to RECIST Version 1.1 (objective response rate defined as the response across all target lesions, survival outcomes at 24 months, and duration of response), description of T-DXd treatment over time.

## Results

### Patients' characteristics at T-DXd initiation

At the data cut-off (November 2024), 50 centres recruited 306 pts, with a median follow-up duration of 23.3 mo.

Among them, 29.1% (n = 89) had CNSm at T-DXd initiation. Of these pts:

- 20.2% (n = 18) had LMD only,
- 64.0% (n = 57) had BM only,
- 12.4% (n = 11) had both,
- 3 pts had CNSm of undetermined location.

Among the 89 pts with CNSm, CNS radiotherapy was delivered as stereotactic radiosurgery in 18.0% (n = 16), and as whole-brain radiotherapy in 3.4% (n = 3), while 78.7% (n = 70) did not receive radiotherapy. CNSm surgery was performed in 6.7% pts (n = 6). Among the 28 pts included with LMD, 10.7% (n = 3) received intrathecal treatment for LMD.

At T-DXd initiation, 29.2% (n = 26) of pts with CNSm presented CNSm-related symptoms (intracranial pressure, neurological disorders, others) (1 missing data).

The recommended T-DXd dose of 5.4 mg/kg was administered to 95.8% (n = 203) of pts without CNSm, 100.0% (n = 18) with LMD only, 100.0% (n = 57) with BM only, and 90.9% (n = 10) with LMD and BM.

Data were missing for 0.3% (n = 1) of pts.

Table 1. Patient characteristics at T-DXd initiation in subgroups	Total (SAS)	CNSm <sup>1</sup>		CNSm location <sup>2</sup>		
		No	Yes	LMD only	BM only	LMD + BM
<b>Number of patients</b>	<b>306</b>	212	89	18	57	11
<b>Age</b>						
Median age, yrs (min–max)	59 (27–90)	61 (29–89)	54 (27–90)	53 (27–79)	54 (31–90)	55 (28–67)
≥70 yr, n (%)	58 (19.0)	45 (21.2)	10 (11.2)	2 (11.1)	8 (14.0)	0
<b>ECOG status, n (%)</b>						
0–1	207 (67.6)	155 (73.1)	49 (55.0)	7 (38.9)	35 (61.4)	7 (63.6)
2–3	52 (17.0)	23 (10.9)	29 (32.5)	10 (55.5)	14 (24.6)	3 (27.3)
Missing	47 (15.4)	34 (16.0)	11 (12.5)	1 (5.6)	8 (14.0)	1 (9.1)
<b>Lines of anti-cancer systemic treatment for metastatic or locally advanced disease, n (%)</b>						
≥4	159 (52.0)	105 (49.5)	52 (58.4)	10 (55.6)	35 (61.4)	6 (54.5)
Missing	1 (0.3)	0	0	0	1 (1.8)	0
<b>Mean time between date of first T-DXd cycle and date of metastases/advanced disease diagnosis, mo (min–max)</b>	56.1 (2.2–250.9)	57.0 (4.6–250.9)	54.9 (2.2–198.6)	42.1 (10–111)	61.5 (2–199)	47.5 (7–127)

<sup>1</sup>5 missing data; <sup>2</sup>3 patients with CNS metastases of undetermined location.

### Abbreviations

ADR: adverse drug reaction; ATU: Autorisation Temporaire d'Utilisation (Temporary Authorization for Use); BC: breast cancer; BM: brain metastases; CNSm: central nervous system metastases; CR: complete response; DoR: duration of response; ECOG: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; FAS: full analysis set; HR: hazard ratio; LMD: leptomeningeal disease; MA: Marketing Authorization; mo: month; m/u: metastatic or unresectable; NE: not estimable; ORR: objective response rate; OS: overall survival; PD: progressive disease; PFS: progression-free survival; PR: partial response; pts: patients; QoL: quality of life; SAS: safety analysis set; SD: stable disease; SmPC: Summary of Product Characteristics; T-DXd: trastuzumab deruxtecan; tt: treatment.

## Safety and tolerability (SAS; n = 306)

Median duration of T-DXd treatment was 11.9 mo (range, 0.7–26.7).

Table 2. Occurrence of T-DXd-related ADRs in subgroups	Total (SAS)	CNSm		CNSm location		
		No	Yes	LMD only	BM only	LMD + BM
<b>Number of patients</b>	<b>306</b>	212	89	18	57	11
<b>Any ADR, n (%)</b>	<b>261 (85.3)</b>	<b>183 (86.3)</b>	<b>73 (82.0)</b>	<b>12 (66.7)</b>	<b>49 (86.0)</b>	<b>10 (90.9)</b>
Associated with dose reduction	50 (16.3)	32 (15.1)	17 (19.1)	2 (11.1)	12 (21.1)	3 (27.3)
Associated with study drug interruption	72 (23.5)	48 (22.6)	23 (25.8)	4 (22.2)	14 (24.6)	5 (45.5)
Associated with study drug discontinuation	34 (11.1)	22 (10.4)	12 (13.5)	2 (11.1)	10 (17.5)	0
Associated with an outcome of death	4 (1.3)	2 (0.9)	2 (2.2)	1 (5.6)	1 (1.8)	0
<b>Any grade ≥3 ADR, n (%)</b>	<b>115 (37.6)</b>	<b>73 (34.4)</b>	<b>40 (44.9)</b>	<b>8 (44.4)</b>	<b>28 (49.1)</b>	<b>4 (36.4)</b>
<b>Any Serious ADR, n (%)</b>	<b>30 (9.8)</b>	<b>15 (7.1)</b>	<b>15 (16.9)</b>	<b>4 (22.2)</b>	<b>9 (15.8)</b>	<b>2 (18.2)</b>

## Effectiveness (FAS; n = 292)

mPFS was 18.7 mo (95% CI: 15.2–21.4) for pts without CNSm and 16.0 mo (95% CI: 12.9–19.5) for pts with CNSm.

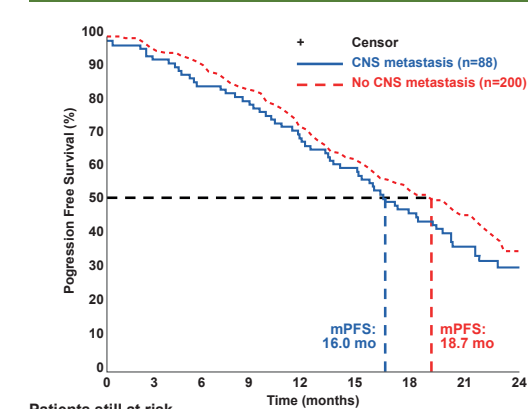
Among pts with LMD only, mPFS was 13.7 mo (95% CI: 9.7–15.4).

The 2-year OS rate was 68.7% (95% CI: 61.6–74.7) in pts without CNSm and 50.9% (95% CI: 39.7–60.0) in pts with CNSm.

In pts with only LMD, mOS was 21.3 mo (95% CI: 12.9–NE) and the 2-year OS rate was 41.9% (95% CI: 18.8–63.6).

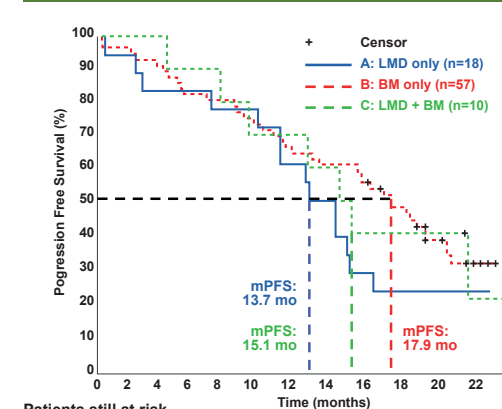
The median time to first CNS event or death was 25.7 mo (95% CI, 23.7–NE) in pts without CNSm at T-DXd initiation.

Figure 2. PFS in subgroups (with or without CNSm)



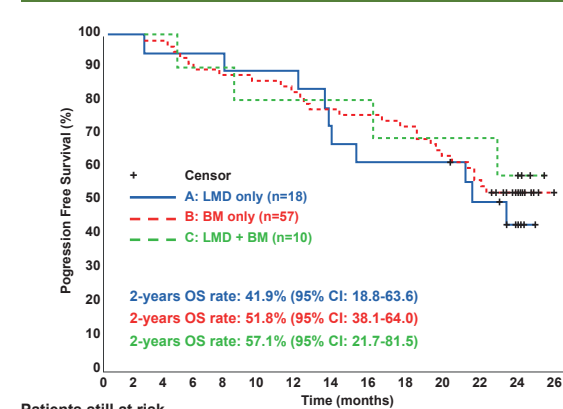
	88	80	73	66	56	48	36	24	5
CNSm	88	80	73	66	56	48	36	24	5
No CNSm	200	183	170	153	131	113	94	71	10

Figure 3. PFS in subgroups by CNSm location (LMD only, BM only, LMD + BM)



	18	17	15	14	13	11	9	5	4	3	3	0
LMD only	18	17	15	14	13	11	9	5	4	3	3	0
BM only	57	57	54	51	50	49	44	43	43	39	35	0
LMD + BM	10	10	10	9	8	7	6	4	4	3	3	1

Figure 4. OS in subgroups by CNSm location (LMD only, BM only, LMD + BM)



	18	18	17	17	16	15	12	11	11	11	10	8	3	0
LMD only	18	18	17	17	16	15	12	11	11	11	10	8	3	0
BM only	57	57	54	51	50	49	44	43	43	39	35	29	15	1
LMD + BM	10	10	10	9	8	8	8	8	6	6	6	4	0	0

Table 3. Best overall response rate, objective response rate and duration of response in subgroups

Table 3. Best overall response rate, objective response rate and duration of response in subgroups	Total (FAS)	CNSm <sup>3</sup>		CNSm location <sup>4</sup>		
		No	Yes	LMD only	BM only	LMD + BM
<b>Number of patients</b>	<b>292</b>	200	88	18	57	10
<b>Subjects with at least one on-treatment assessment, n (%)</b>	194 (66.4)	136 (68.0)	54 (61.4)	8 (44.4)	35 (61.4)	9 (81.8)
<b>Best Overall Response, n (%)</b>						
Complete Response (CR)	50 (25.8)	33 (24.3)	14 (25.9)	3 (37.5)	9 (25.7)	2 (22.2)
Partial Response (PR)	45 (23.2)	34 (25.0)	11 (20.4)	1 (12.5)	9 (25.7)	1 (11.1)
Stable Disease (SD)	62 (32.0)	47 (34.6)	15 (27.8)	2 (25.0)	7 (20.0)	6 (66.7)
Progressive Disease (PD)	8 (4.1)	6 (4.4)	2 (3.7)	1 (12.5)	1 (2.9)	0
Not Evaluable (NE)	29 (14.9)	16 (11.8)	12 (22.2)	1 (12.5)	9 (25.7)	0
<b>Duration of response<sup>5</sup> of CR or PR, mo</b>	13.4 (9.0–17.4)	13.3 (8.7–17.4)	14.1 (8.1–NE)	NE (5.4–NE)	17.3 (8.1–NE)	10.4 (3.2–NE)

<sup>4</sup>4 missing data; <sup>3</sup>3 patients with CNS metastases of undetermined location; <sup>5</sup>Censoring rules: if pts lost to follow-up, censor date will be last contact date available; if pts who have non-CNS progression or not known to have died at the end of study or at the date of cut-off, censor date will be the last disease evaluation date (i.e. date of last imaging).

### Disclosures

First Author: AstraZeneca, Invited Speaker, Institutional; Daiichi Sankyo, Invited Speaker, Institutional; Lilly, Invited Speaker, Institutional; Novartis, Invited Speaker, Institutional; Pfizer, Invited Speaker, Institutional; Seagen, Coordinating PI, Institutional, No financial interest.

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