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Trastuzumab deruxtecan vs ramucirumab plus paclitaxel in second-line treatment of patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2–positive (HER2+) unresectable and/or metastatic gastric cancer or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma: Primary analysis of the randomized, phase 3 DESTINY-Gastric04 study

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On behalf of the DESTINY-Gastric04 investigators

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DESTINY Gastric04

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Trastuzumab Deruxtecan or Ramucirumab plus Paclitaxel in Gastric Cancer

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Plain Language Summary

Why did we perform this research?

- Trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) is a type of anticancer drug called an antibody-drug conjugate that is designed to target human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2; a protein expressed on the surface of some cancer cells) and is approved for use in several solid cancers.[1] This study was designed to investigate the efficacy of T-DXd compared with the current recommended second-line treatment for metastatic gastric cancer that expresses HER2 (ie, that are HER2-positive).

How did we perform this research?

- Patients who had gastric cancer that was confirmed as expressing HER2 from a recent sample of their cancer were eligible for enrollment into this phase 3 clinical trial. Patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to 1 of 2 treatment groups. One group received T-DXd while the other group received ramucirumab plus paclitaxel. Patients were followed up throughout the trial to monitor their progress.

What were the findings of this research and what are the implications?

- Patients who were receiving T-DXd showed a statistically significant and meaningful improvement in overall survival and longer duration before cancer progression over patients who were receiving ramucirumab plus paclitaxel. No new side effects or safety concerns were identified with T-DXd. The results demonstrated that T-DXd is a promising therapy choice to treat metastatic HER2-positive gastric cancer that has progressed on first-line therapy.

Where can I access more information?

- To learn more about the phase 3 DESTINY-Gastric04 trial please visit https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT04704934

HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.

1. Enhertu (fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki). Prescribing information. Daiichi Sankyo, Inc; 2024.

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