

PRTH-101, a Discoidin Domain Receptor 1 (DDR1)-Binding Monoclonal **Antibody for Treatment of Thymic Cancers**

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ABSTRACT

Surgery is the primary therapy for thymic cancers, and chemotherapy and immunotherapy for relapsed disease leave considerable room for improvement. DDR1 is a collagen-binding receptor tyrosine kinase expressed by epithelial cells; it is overexpressed on cancer cells and modulates the peritumoral stroma. Thymic epithelial cancers have among the highest levels of DDR1 expression. DDR1 has been implicated in driving cancer invasion, progression, and immune exclusion. DDR1 binding produces highly aligned collagen fibers (Sun et al., Nature 2021) that impede effector CD8⁺ T cell movement into the tumor epithelium, preventing the generation of an inflamed phenotype that is conducive to an effective immune response.

PRTH-101, a monoclonal antibody that binds DDR1, is in a Phase 1 clinical trial as a single agent and together with pembrolizumab. An RP2D has been defined based on pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic results, as no dose-limiting toxicities were observed as a single agent or in combination. Forty-five patients have been dosed and 11 remain on trial. Eight patients with thymic cancers have been treated with encouraging early clinical and pharmacodynamic results.

BACKGROUND

DDR1 Expression is Associated with Highly Ordered Collagen and Exclusion of Immune Cells from Tumors; PRTH-101 Blocks Collagen Binding



- Tumor DDR1 expression is associated with collagen alignment and immune exclusion
- Collagen binding leads to DDR1 receptor clustering, induction of pDDR1, and signaling
- Overexpressed in many cancers and fibrosis, and associated with poor survival
- DDR1 kinase inhibition targeted in cancers
- Results largely underwhelming
- Currently no other DDR1 inhibitors in clinical development
- PRTH-101 binds to the extracellular domain of DDR1, blocking collagen binding



Tumors use collagen structures to evade the immune system

Adapted from Ray et al., Curr. Opin. Cell. Biol., 2021



Time after surgery, mo Adapted from Chen et al., JAMA Netw Open, 2021

Highly Structured Collagens are Prognostic and Predictive in Cancer



High DDR1 Expression is Observed in Multiple Tumor Types





DDR1 is Associated with Resistance to PD-L1 Inhibitor Therapy

- Secondary analyses of DDR1 expression using published data from the IMvigor210 trial (bladder cancer; NCT02108652) were conducted (You, et al. J Natl. Cancer Inst. 2022)
- Patients with high DDR1 scores who were treated with atezolizumab showed poor overall survival
- DDR1 scores were significantly higher in patients with stable disease or partial disease, compared to patients with complete response for partial response
- DDR1-high patients exhibited a non-T cell-inflamed phenotype
- The data suggest a high DDR1 score may predict lack of response to PD-1/PD-L1-targeted therapy

RESULTS



Study Summary (as of 1 October 2024)

Eligibility

- Metastatic or unresectable measurable solid malignancy for which no established therapy is of benefit, or has been declined by the patient
- ECOG performance status 0 -1; no significant co-morbid illness
- Prior PD-1/ PD-L1 therapy permissible; no prior ICI Adverse Events AE \geq Grade 3 or > G2 myocarditis or pneumonitis. Immune-mediated AEs must have resolved to G1, except vitiligo, well-controlled endocrinopathies, or G2 peripheral neuropathy.
- No uncontrolled CNS disease, hepatocellular cancer, sarcoma, or GBM

Status

High DDR1 Expression is Significantly Associated with **TGF**β Signaling in Thymic Tumors



The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) was queried for associations between an 80-gene TGF^β pathway activation signature and DDR1 gene expression.

PRTH-101-001 Clinical Trial Design

- 45 subjects enrolled (enrollment complete for Phase 1a and Phase 1b); 11 ongoing
- Median Age: 63 (range 25-83); Sex : M=28, F =17
- Prior Therapies: median = 4 (range 1-8); prior immunotherapy = 17
- Tumor Diagnoses:
 - CRC = 17; Thymic Carcinoma = 10; PDAC = 6, NSCLC = 3; ovarian, SCCHN, thyroid = 2; bladder, SCLC, renal = 1
- Time on study : median = 6 weeks (range < 3 to 63)
- Dose limiting Toxicities = 0 (2 G2 infusion reactions)
- Phase 1c dose determined (1200 mg); dosing initiated for thymic cohort
- Projected completion of thymic cohort enrollment: Q1 2025

Status of Thymic Patients Treated with PRTH-101

Treatment Duration (months)



p<0.0015 with Bonferroni correction

(Sher et al., SITC 2022.1461)

Reduction in Tumor Size Following Treatment with 1600 mg PRTH-101; **Visual Improvement of Cutaneous Metastases**

67-year-old male with metastatic thymic carcinoma (chest wall, lung, rib metastases) Progression on prior treatments (carboplatin/paclitaxel, CX-072, AN4005, pemetrexed)



6-wk scan

Screening

12-wk scan

CONCLUSIONS

- DDR1 is highly expressed in thymic cancers and other tumor types.
- DDR1 inhibition may facilitate tumor infiltration of T cells by disrupting collagen in the extracellular matrix of tumors and ameliorate clinical resistance to immune checkpoint inhibitors.
- PRTH-101 is a monoclonal antibody that blocks the interaction of collagen with DDR1 in the extracellular domain.
- PRTH-101 testing has shown no nonclinical toxicities or dose-limiting clinical toxicities in initial Phase 1 testing. The Phase 1c dose is 1200 mg.
- Phase 1 testing has shown early evidence of clinical benefit of PRTH-101 in thymic epithelial cancers.

The Sponsor and Investigators are grateful to the patients and their families for their participation in this trial.

Drs. Eder, Schürpf, and Macdonald are employees of Incendia Therapeutics. Drs. Clifton and Dillon are former employees of Incendia Therapeutics. No other author has any affiliation with Incendia Therapeutics.

