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Will Dostarlimab Become the New Rectal Cancer Drug of Choice?

Motupalli Sankeerth Kumar[1], Ponnaluri Lalitha[1], Seelam Victor John Wilson[1]

[1]Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D), KVSR Siddhartha College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract: ***Information on a recent clinical trial in the United States on a drug that has been shown to be nearly 100% effective against rectal cancer in the sample population.***

Keywords: Dostarlimab**,** Rectal cancer, new drug of choice

Monoclonal antibodies that disrupt the interaction between programmed cell death 1 (PD-1) and its ligand have ushered in a revolution in cancer immune cell treatment (PD-L1). DOSTARLIMAB is one such innovation. Dostarlimab (TSR-042) is a humanised anti-PD-1 monoclonal antibody that has been found to be effective against a variety of tumour types. The Food and Drug Administration gave dostarlimab-gxly (Jemperli, GlaxoSmithKline LLC) expedited approval for adult patients with mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) recurring or advanced solid cancers on August 17, 2021.

Dostarlimab-gxly is licensed for the treatment of adults with mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) cancer that has returned or progressed, such as:

• Endometrial cancer that was treated with platinum chemotherapy but did not work or is no longer working.
• Solid tumours that have worsened during or after previous therapy and are resistant to other treatments.

The drug's usual dosage is 500 mg every three weeks for doses one through four, given as an intravenous infusion lasting 30 minutes. The next dose is 1, 000 mg every 6 weeks, starting 3 weeks after dose 4. This indication has been approved based on the rate of tumour response and the duration of the response. Continued clearance for this indication could be conditional on a confirmatory trial verifying and describing clinical benefits (s).

The first clinical trial study to test Dostarlimab's efficacy against rectal cancer tumours was just completed in the United States. It's a work in progress, but thus far the results have been very promising. In The investigators discovered that every patient treated with this medicine in this study had successfully gone into remission. Only 12 patients were enrolled in the trial at the start, all of whom had tumours with genetic mutations such as mismatch repair deficiency (MMRd), which is found in a subset of approximately 5-10 percent of rectal cancer patients. The new investigational drug (dostarlimab) was given every three weeks for six months, with standard chemoradiotherapy and surgery to follow if tumours re-occurred. They found "clinical full response" in all 12 patients participated in the trial after a 6-month follow-up. MRI scans, PET scans, endoscopy, and biopsy, among other testing, revealed no signs of malignancies.

Mild to moderate side effects, such as rash, itching, fatigue, and nausea, were reported by three-quarters of the patients in the study, but no evidence of cancer re-growth was found in a single person with a median follow-up of one year.

The study is not yet finished because the reported results were just preliminary, and further research will be done in 30 people to get a complete picture of how safe and effective dostarlimab is in individuals with rectal cancer.

It is too soon to draw any conclusions, but if more studies show comparable findings, we may see the emergence of a new type of cancer therapy. If immunotherapy can be used to cure rectal cancer, eligible patients may no longer have to accept functional compromise to be treated.

Authors Profile

Motupalli Sankeerth Kumar
Email ID: emmanuelmotupalli[at]gmail.com

Ponnaluri Lalith
Email ID: lalithaponnaluri10[at]gmail.com

Seelam Victor John Wilson
Email ID: seelamvictor[at]gmail.com