FDA Approves Xalkori for Children With Systemic Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma

More than 80% of pediatric patients experienced complete remission in a small study.

January 18, 2021 By Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA approves crizotinib for children and young adults with relapsed or refractory, systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma

On January 14, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration approved crizotinib (Xalkori, Pfizer Inc.) for pediatric patients 1 year of age and older and young adults with relapsed or refractory, systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) that is ALK-positive. The safety and efficacy of crizotinib have not been established in older adults with relapsed or refractory, systemic ALK-positive ALCL.

Efficacy was evaluated in Study ADVL0912 (NCT00939770), a multicenter, single-arm, open-label trial in patients 1 to ≤21 years of age that included 26 patients with relapsed or refractory, systemic ALK-positive ALCL after at least one systemic treatment.

Patients received crizotinib 280 mg/m^2 (20 patients) or 165 mg/m2 (6 patients) orally twice daily until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. Patients were permitted to discontinue crizotinib to undergo hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.

Efficacy was based on objective response rate (ORR) and duration of response as assessed by an independent review committee. The ORR in the 26 patients was 88% (95% CI: 71, 96), with a complete remission rate of 81%. Of the 23 patients who achieved a response, 39% maintained response for at least 6 months, and 22% maintained response for at least 12 months.

Ocular toxicity (Grade 1 or 2 visual disorders) occurred in 65% of patients with ALCL, gastrointestinal toxicity occurred in 92%, and serious adverse reactions occurred in 35%, most often from neutropenia and infection. The most common adverse reactions (≥35%), excluding laboratory abnormalities, were diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, vision disorder, headache, musculoskeletal pain, stomatitis, fatigue, decreased appetite, pyrexia, abdominal pain, cough, and pruritus. Grade 3-4 laboratory abnormalities (≥15%) were neutropenia, lymphopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

The recommended crizotinib dosage for systemic ALCL is 280 mg/m^2 orally twice daily based on body surface area. Antiemetics are recommended prior to and during treatment with crizotinib in patients with ALCL.

Due to the risk of visual loss, ophthalmologic evaluations are recommended at baseline and serially thereafter, coupled with monthly assessments of visual acuity and visual symptoms.

View full prescribing information for Xalkori.

This review used the Assessment Aid, a voluntary submission from the applicant to facilitate the FDA's assessment. This application was granted priority review, breakthrough designation and orphan drug designation. A description of FDA expedited programs is in the Guidance for Industry: Expedited Programs for Serious Conditions-Drugs and Biologics.

Healthcare professionals should report all serious adverse events suspected to be associated with the use of any medicine and device to FDA's MedWatch Reporting System or by calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

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