Press Release

EMA Validates Type II Variation Application for PADCEV™ (enfortumab vedotin) plus Keytruda® (pembrolizumab) in Cisplatin-Eligible Patients with Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer

TOKYO, March 23, 2026 – Astellas Pharma Inc. (TSE: 4503, President and CEO: Naoki Okamura, "Astellas") today announced that the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has validated for review a Type II Variation Application for PADCEV™ (enfortumab vedotin), a Nectin-4 directed antibody-drug conjugate, in combination with Keytruda® (pembrolizumab), a PD-1 inhibitor, as neoadjuvant treatment (before surgery), and then continued after radical cystectomy (surgery) as adjuvant treatment (after surgery), for adults with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) who are eligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy.

The application is supported by results from the Phase 3 EV-304 clinical trial (also known as KEYNOTE-B15), which demonstrated that neoadjuvant and adjuvant enfortumab vedotin plus pembrolizumab reduced the risk of tumor recurrence, progression, or death by 47% and risk of death by 35% compared with standard of care neoadjuvant gemcitabine and cisplatin chemotherapy.[1]

At the time of surgery, 55.8% of patients treated with the combination achieved a pathological complete response (pCR rate), compared with 32.5% of patients treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy.[1] Efficacy benefits were generally consistent across all pre-defined subgroups, including age, gender, PD-L1 status, clinical stage and geographic region.[1] The safety profile of the combination was consistent with prior experience, and no new safety signals were observed.[1]

In Europe, bladder cancer is diagnosed in more than 224,000 people annually,[2] with MIBC representing approximately 30% of cases.[3] Despite surgery, approximately half of patients with MIBC experience recurrence.[4]

In December 2025, the EMA also validated a Type II Variation Application for the combination as neoadjuvant treatment, followed by adjuvant treatment after radical cystectomy, for adult cisplatin-ineligible patients with MIBC. Regulatory reviews for both the cisplatin-eligible and cisplatin-ineligible populations are ongoing.

Astellas has already reflected the impact from this acceptance in its financial forecast of the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2026.

About PADCEV (enfortumab vedotin)
PADCEV (enfortumab vedotin) is a first-in-class antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) that is directed against Nectin-4, a protein located on the surface of cells and highly expressed in bladder cancer.[5] Nonclinical data suggest the anticancer activity of enfortumab vedotin is due to its binding to Nectin-4-expressing cells, followed by the internalization and release of the anti-tumor agent monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE) into the cell, which result in the cell not reproducing (cell cycle arrest) and in programmed cell death (apoptosis).[5]

Enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab or pembrolizumab and bera hyaluronidase alfa-pmph is approved as neoadjuvant treatment and then continued after cystectomy as adjuvant treatment, for the treatment of adult patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) who are ineligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy.

Additionally, enfortumab vedotin plus pembrolizumab is approved for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer (la/mUC) regardless of cisplatin eligibility in the United States, Japan, and a number of other countries around the world. In the European Union, the combination is approved for the treatment of adult patients with la/mUC who are eligible for platinum-containing chemotherapy. Enfortumab vedotin is also approved as a single agent for the treatment of adult patients with la/mUC who have previously received a PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor and platinum-containing chemotherapy or are ineligible for cisplatin-containing chemotherapy and have previously received one or more prior lines of therapy.

About the EV-304/KEYNOTE-B15 Trial
The EV-304 trial is an ongoing, open-label, randomized, controlled, Phase 3 study evaluating neoadjuvant and adjuvant enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab versus neoadjuvant chemotherapy (gemcitabine and cisplatin) in patients with MIBC who are eligible for cisplatin-based chemotherapy. Patients were randomized to receive either neoadjuvant and adjuvant (before and after surgery) enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab (arm A) or neoadjuvant chemotherapy (arm B). Curative-intent surgery (cystectomy) was performed in both arms.[6] Enfortumab vedotin in combination with pembrolizumab was administered as a planned total of 9 cycles of enfortumab vedotin and 17 cycles of pembrolizumab split before and after surgery.

The primary endpoint of this trial is EFS, defined as the time from randomization to the first occurrence of any of the following events: progression of disease that precludes radical cystectomy (RC) or failure to undergo RC in participants with residual disease, gross residual disease left behind at the time of surgery, local or distant recurrence based on blinded independent central review (BICR) or death due to any cause. Key secondary endpoints include OS and pCR rate.[6]

For more information on the global EV-304 trial, go to clinicaltrials.gov.

About Astellas
Astellas is a global life sciences company committed to turning innovative science into VALUE for patients. We provide transformative therapies in disease areas that include oncology, ophthalmology, urology, immunology and women's health. Through our research and development programs, we are pioneering new healthcare solutions for diseases with high unmet medical need. Learn more at www.astellas.com.

About the Pfizer, Astellas and MSD Collaboration

Seagen and Astellas previously entered a clinical collaboration agreement with MSD to evaluate the combination of Seagen's and Astellas' PADCEV (enfortumab vedotin) and MSD's KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) in patients with muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) who are not eligible for or declined cisplatin-based chemotherapy. Pfizer Inc. successfully completed its acquisition of Seagen on December 14, 2023. KEYTRUDA is a registered trademark of MSD, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA (known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada).

Cautionary Notes

In this press release, statements made with respect to current plans, estimates, strategies and beliefs and other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements about the future performance of Astellas. These statements are based on management's current assumptions and beliefs in light of the information currently available to it and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. A number of factors could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: (i) changes in general economic conditions and in laws and regulations, relating to pharmaceutical markets, (ii) currency exchange rate fluctuations, (iii) delays in new product launches, (iv) the inability of Astellas to market existing and new products effectively, (v) the inability of Astellas to continue to effectively research and develop products accepted by customers in highly competitive markets, and (vi) infringements of Astellas' intellectual property rights by third parties. Information about pharmaceutical products (including products currently in development) which is included in this press release is not intended to constitute an advertisement or medical advice.

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