Quizartinib (Vanflyta®) in combination with standard cytarabine and anthracycline induction and cytarabine consolidation chemotherapy, followed by single-agent maintenance therapy for patients with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukaemia (AML)

General information [1]

Drug description

The active substance of Vanflyta® is quizartinib, a protein kinase inhibitor. Quizartinib, together with its major metabolite AC886, inhibits the receptor tyrosine kinase FLT₃ by preventing autophosphorylation of the receptor, thereby inhibiting further downstream FLT₃ receptor signalling and blocking FLT₃-ITD-dependent cell proliferation.

Indication

Quizartinib (Vanflyta®) is indicated in combination with standard cytarabine and anthracycline induction and standard cytarabine consolidation chemotherapy, followed by Vanflyta® single-agent maintenance therapy for adult patients with newly diagnosed AML that is FLT3-ITD positive.

Incidence [2]

The incidence of AML is approximately 3.7 cases per 100,000 population per year and increases with age with age-specific incidences exceeding 100 cases per 100,000 population in patients older than 70 years.

Current treatment [2]

- For the treatment of patients with FLT₃ mutation, Onkopedia recommends the following:
 - Patients with FLT3-ITD or FLT3-TKD mutation should receive midostaurin from day 8-21 of induction therapy.
 - According to data from a randomized placebo-controlled trial, midostaurin in combination with standard chemotherapy can significantly prolong both EFS, RFS, and OS in FLT3-mutated AML patients up to 60 years of age. Based on this study, midostaurin was approved by the EMA in 2017 for combination with standard induction chemotherapy, chemo consolidation, and as maintenance therapy for twelve 28-day cycles in patients with newly diagnosed FLT3-mutated AML.
 - Deviating from the study population (age 18-59 years), approval was granted without an upper age restriction.
 - Data for patients aged 60-70 years are available from a phase II study.
 - In patients for whom HSCT planned, midostaurin should be discontinued 48 hours prior to conditioning therapy.
 - When used concomitantly with strong inhibitors of CYP₃A₄ (e.g., ketoconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole, ritonavir, or clarithromycin), increased attention should be paid to toxicities, especially in patients aged >60 years, because of the risk of midostaurin level elevations.
 - Strong CYP₃A₄ inducers (e.g., carbamazepine, rifampicin, enzalutamide, phenytoin, St. John's wort) should not be given concomitantly because of the decrease in levels of midostaurin.

	Regulatory status						
EMA	FDA [3, 4]						
Approval status for this indication: On 14 September 2023, the CHMP adopted a positive opinion, recommending the granting of a marketing authorisation for the medicinal product Vanflyta®. UPDATE: Marketing authorisation issued on 06/11/2023	Approval status for this indication: On 20 July 2023, the FDA approved quizartinib (Vanflyta®) with standard cytarabine and anthracycline induction and cytarabine consolidation, and as maintenance monotherapy following consolidation chemotherapy, for the treatment of adult patients with newly diagnosed AML that is FLT3 ITD-positive, as detected by an FDA-approved test.						
The full indication is: ❖ Vanflyta® is indicated in combination with standard cytarabine and anthracycline induction and standard cytarabine consolidation chemotherapy, followed by Vanflyta® single-agent maintenance therapy for adult patients with newly diagnosed AML that is FLT3-ITD positive.	 ✓ Priority review ✓ Fast track designation ✓ Orphan drug designation Limitations of Use: Vanflyta® is not indicated as maintenance monotherapy following allogeneic HSCT; improvement in OS with Vanflyta® in this setting has not been demonstrated. 						
Vanflyta is available as 17.7 mg and 26.5 mg film-coated tablets. Other indications: none ✓ Medicine is under additional monitoring	FDA also approved LeukoStrat CDx FLT3 Mutation Assay as a companion diagnostic for Vanflyta®. Other indications: none						
	Manufacturer						



Vanflyta® is manufactured by Daiichi Sankyo Inc.

Costs

Currently, there is no cost information available.

Posology [5]

- Treatment with Vanflyta® should be initiated by a physician experienced in the use of anti-cancer therapies.
- Before taking Vanflyta®, AML patients must have confirmation of FLT3-ITD positive AML using a CE-marked in vitro diagnostic (IVD) medical device with the corresponding intended purpose. If a CE-marked IVD is not available, confirmation of FLT3-ITD positive AML should be assessed by an alternate validated test.
- ECGs should be performed, and electrolyte abnormalities should be corrected prior to initiation of treatment.
- Vanflyta® should be administered in combination with standard chemotherapy at a dose of 35.4 mg (2 × 17.7 mg) once daily for two weeks in each cycle of induction. For patients who achieve CR or CRi, Vanflyta® should be administered at 35.4 mg once daily for two weeks in each cycle of consolidation chemotherapy followed by Vanflyta® single-agent maintenance therapy initiated at 26.5 mg once daily. After two weeks the maintenance dose should be increased to 53 mg (2 × 26.5 mg) once daily if the QT interval corrected by Fridericia's formula (QTcF) is ≤ 450 ms. Single-agent maintenance therapy may be continued for up to 36 cycles.

Warnings and precautions [3, 5]

❖ Vanflyta® prolongs the QT interval

- Prior to Vanflyta® administration and periodically, perform electrocardiograms (ECGs), monitor for hypokalaemia or hypomagnesemia, and correct deficiencies.
- * Torsades de pointes and cardiac arrest have occurred in patients receiving Vanflyta®.
 - Do not administer Vanflyta® to patients with severe hypokalaemia, severe hypomagnesemia, or long QT syndrome.
- Do not initiate treatment with Vanflyta® or escalate the Vanflyta® dose if the QT interval corrected by Fridericia's formula (QTcF) is greater than 450 ms.
- Monitor ECGs more frequently if concomitant use of drugs known to prolong the QT interval is required.
- Reduce the Vanflyta® dose when used concomitantly with strong CYP3A inhibitors, as they may increase guizartinib exposure.

QT prolongation, torsades de pointes, and cardiac arrest

- Monitor electrocardiograms and levels of serum electrolytes.
- Reduce, interrupt, or permanently discontinue Vanflyta® as appropriate.

Infections in elderly patients

• Fatal infections have occurred more frequently with quizartinib in elderly patients (i.e., older than 65 years), compared to younger patients especially in the early treatment period. Patients older than 65 years of age should be closely monitored for the occurrence of severe infections during induction.

Embryo-foetal toxicity

- Vanflyta® can cause foetal harm.
- Advise females of reproductive potential and males with female partners of reproductive potential of potential risk to a foetus and to use effective contraception.
- In the U.S., Vanflyta® is available only through a restricted program called the Vanflyta® Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS).
- Patient card
 - The prescriber must discuss the risks of Vanflyta® therapy with the patient. The patient will be provided with the patient card with each prescription (included in the medicinal product pack).

Study characteristics [6-8]										
Trial name	n	Intervention (I)	Comparator (C)	PE	Median follow-up	Characteristics	Biomarker	Funding	Publication(s)	
QuANTUM-First NCTo2668653	539 (1:1)	Induction therapy¹ + quizartinib 40 mg or placebo	Induction therapy + quizartinib 40 mg or placebo	OS in the ITT population	39.2 months in both groups	randomised, double- blind, placebo- controlled,	FLT ₃ -ITD	Daiichi Sankyo	QuANTUM- First trial [7]	

During the first induction cycle, all patients received a standard 7 + 3 induction regimen with cytarabine 100 mg/m² per day (200 mg/m² per day allowed if institutional or local standard) by continuous intravenous infusion from day 1 to day 7 and anthracycline (daunorubicin 60 mg/m² per day or idarubicin 12 mg/m² per day) by intravenous infusion on days 1, 2, and 3. Patients were randomly assigned on day 7 to receive quizartinib or placebo. Patients with complete remission or complete remission with incomplete neutrophil or placebo to receive distandard consolidation with high-dose cytarabine plus quizartinib (40 mg per day orally) or placebo, allogeneic haematopoietic cell transplantation (allo-HCT), or both as consolidation therapy, followed by continuation of single-agent quizartinib or placebo for up to 3 years.



	orally once per day for 14	orally once pe	er day for 14			global phase 3 study					
	days	day	/S								
	Inclusion criteria ²		Exclusion criteria					Patient characteristics at baseline (I vs. C)			
* * * * * * * * * Inclusion *	Criteria – Randomization ≥18 years of age or the minimum legal adult age and secreening). Newly diagnosed, morphologically documented prim AML secondary to myelodysplastic syndrome or a my neoplasm, based on the WHO 2008 classification (at second person pers	ary AML or reloproliferative screening). ternal tandem narrow (allelic men as ce >50 mL/min, tion. ormal (ULN) syndrome or jugated saminase, and ts: potassium, pumin in case sium. If outside when negative nust have been ment, during last dose of r. If male, must ective birth and for 6 or cytarabine, e consolidation sion (CR) or CR	clas pos API fou bee Dia oth Pric Cra pro sup Pric Pric bef imr pro His for syn invo His nor soli	ignosis of APL, Fressification of APL, sitive leukaemia; pland treatment with and not to have AP and discontinued by a gnosis of AML select neoplasms. For treatment for AP and treatment with a proport. For treatment with a proport or treatment with a proport. For treatment with a proport of the and the	with translocation, to patients who underwe with all-trans-retinoic PL, were eligible (treated on the formal of the forest of the formal of the formal of the formal of the formal of th	ollowing allowances: cytosis with hydroxyurea, ystem (CNS) leukostasis, growth factor/cytokine FLT3-ITD inhibitors. drug or device within 30 days investigational or approved cion in other investigational ang cerebrospinal fluid positive commended for patients with extramedullary CNS equately treated ated in situ disease, or other evidence of disease for at least or disease, including any of the inute, unless the patient had a ms g QT syndrome (including	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	Median age: 56.0 (range 56.0 years (range, 20-75) Age ≥60 years: 40% vs. 44 Male sex: 46% vs. 45% ECOG PS:	91% vs. 94% lL: 9% vs. 6% 6 vs. 7% 74% vs. 71% 7% vs. 10% 6 vs. 11% 52% 6: 24% 35% vs. 36% 13% of AML: 0% vs. 51%		

² For detailed in- and exclusion criteria, please see Supplementary Appendix.



laboratory results, at the end of the induction phase, and must have been able to begin consolidation phase within 60 days of day 1 of the last induction cycle.

Inclusion Criteria - Continuation Phase

- Patients must have satisfied all of the following criteria to start the continuation phase and receive continuation therapy:
 - No active acute or grade ≥3 graft-versus-host disease (GVHD)
 - No initiation of therapy for active GVHD (prophylaxis was allowed) within 21 days
 - Confirmed <5% of blasts based on the most recent bone marrow aspirate, based on the local laboratory results. performed within 28 days before cycle 1 day 1 of continuation therapy
 - Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) >500/mm3 and platelet count >50,000/mm3 without platelet transfusion support within 24 hours before cycle 1 day 1 of continuation therapy
 - Able to have begun continuation phase within 60 days of day 1 of the last consolidation cycle received or within 180 days after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation.

- History of second (Mobitz II) or third-degree heart block (patients with pacemakers were eligible if they had no history of fainting or clinically relevant arrhythmias while using the pacemaker)
- History of uncontrolled angina pectoris or myocardial infarction within 6 months before screening
- History of New York Heart Association class 3 or 4 heart failure
- Left ventricular ejection fraction ≤45% or less than the institutional lower limit of normal per multigated acquisition scan or echocardiogram done within 30 days before randomization.
- Complete left bundle branch block.
- Active acute or chronic systemic fungal, bacterial, or viral infection not well controlled by antifungal, antibacterial, or antiviral therapy.
- Known active clinically relevant liver disease (e.g., active hepatitis B or active hepatitis C).
- ❖ Known history of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Patients should have been tested for HIV before randomization if required by local regulations or EC.
- History of hypersensitivity to any excipients in the guizartinib/placebo tablets.
- Women who were pregnant or breastfeeding
- Otherwise considered inappropriate for the study by the investigator.

Safety (I vs. C)

Data cutoff (13 August 2021); median follow-up: 39.2 months

Median OS: 31.9 months (95% CI 21.0-NE) vs. 15.1 months (13.2-26.2); HR for death 0.78 (95% CI 0.62-0.98); p=0.032

OS sensitivity analysis that censored patients who received allo-HCT at any time: HR 0.75 (95% CI, 0.56-1.01)

OS in a post-hoc subgroup analysis by age: HR 0.68 (95% CI, 0.49-0.95) in patients younger than 60 years; HR 0.91 (95% CI, 0.66-1.26) in patients aged ≥60 years.

Efficacy (I vs. C)

Event-free survival3: HR 0.92 (95% CI 0.75-1.11); p=0.24

EFS with the original protocol definition of lack of induction treatment success as not having composite CR by the end of induction up to day 56 (0.73, 0.59-0.90, p-nominal=0.0031; or lack of induction treatment success as not having CR by the end of induction up to day 56 (0.82, 0.67-1.00, pnominal=0.032)

CR: 54.9 (95% Cl, 48.7-60.9) vs. 55.4 % (95% Cl, 49.2-61.4)

CRi: 16.8% (95% Cl, 12.5-21.8) vs. 9.6% (95% Cl, 6.4–13.7)

CRc (CR+CRi): 71.6% (95% CI, 65.8-77.0) vs. 64.9% (95% CI, 58.9-70.6)

CR with FLT3-ITD MRD negativity: 20.1 % (95% Cl, 15.5-25.5) vs. 18.8% (95% Cl, 14.3-24.0) CR with FLT3-ITD MRD negativity: 10.8 % (95% Cl, 7.4-15.2) vs. 7.0% (95% Cl, 4.3-10.7) CRc with FLT3-ITD MRD negativity: 24.6 % (95% Cl, 19.6-30.2) vs. 21.4% (95% Cl,16.7-26.8)

CRc with FLT3-ITD MRD negativity: 13.8% (95% Cl, 9.9-18.5) vs. 7.4% (4.6-11.2)

Median duration of CR: 38.6 months (95% CI 21.9-NE) vs. 12.4 months (95% CI, 8.8-22.7); HR 0.62 (95% CI, 0.45-0.86)

AEs: n=264/265 (100%) vs. n=265/268 (99%)

Drug-related AEs: n=160/265 (60%) vs. n=97/268 (36%)

Grade ≥3 AEs (including grade 5): n=244/265 (92%) vs. n=240/268 (90%)

Drug-related grade ≥3 AEs (including grade 5): n=118/265 (45%) vs. n=65/268 (24%)

AEs associated with fatal outcome: n=30/265 (11%) vs. n=26/268 (10%)

Grade 5 infections and infestations: n=20/265 (8%) vs.

n=12/268 (4%)

Drug-related AEs associated with fatal outcome: n=4/265

(2%) vs. n=4/268 (1%)

Serious AEs: n=143/265 (54%) vs. n=123/268 (46%)

Drug-related serious AEs: n=41/265 (15%) vs. n=29/268

AEs associated with discontinuation: n=54/265 (20%) vs.

n=23/268 (9%)



³ Based on the definition of lack of induction treatment success as not having complete remission within 42 days from the start of the last induction cycle.

Relapse-free survival in patients with CR during induction: HR 0.61 (95% Cl, 0.44-0.85)

Median relapse-free survival: 39.3 months (22.6-NE) vs. 13.6 months (9.7-23.7)

Reduced cumulative incidences of relapse in patients with CR: 18.7% (95% CI, 12.7–25.6) vs. 34.9% (95% CI, 27.1–42.7) at 12 months and 31.2% (95% CI, 23.5–39.2) vs. 43.3% (95% CI, 34.9–51.3) at 24 months

Deaths within 30 days of study drug initiation: n=15/254 (6%) vs. n=9/268 (3%)

Deaths within 60 days of study drug initiation: n=20/265 (8%) vs. n=13/268 (5%)

11/2024

Patient-reported outcomes

According to the study protocol, subject reported QoL and symptoms as assessed with the EORTC QLQ-C₃o Questionnaire and general health status assessed using EuroQol (EQ-5D-5L) Questionnaire were defined as exploratory efficacy endpoints. Currently, results are not available.

					ESMO-N	ICBS of Haemat	ological Malignancies vers	sion 1.0 [9]						
Scale	Int.	Form	MG ST	MG HR (95% CI) Score co		Score calculatio	n	PM	Toxicity	QoL	AJ	FM		
Original	NC	2a	≥12 - <24 months	OS: +16.8	months	0.78 (0.62-0.98)) HR ≤ 0.70 AND gain ≥5	HR ≤ 0.70 AND gain ≥5 months		-	-	-	4	
						Risk	of bias (RCT) [10]							
Adequate generation of randomisation sequence			Adequate alloca concealmen			Blinding	·		her aspects which increase e risk of bias		ı	Risk of bias		
	yes low risk		yes low risk			yes ow risk	yes low risk		yes ⁴ high risk		High risk			
						On	going trials [11]							
NCT number/trial name Description									Estim	Estimated study completion date				
NCT0404	7641	A combination of cladribine, idarubicin, cytarabine and quizartinib for the treatment of patients with newly diagnosed or relapsed/refractory AML and high-risk MDS.									1L	12/2023		
NCT04128	8748		A phase I/II study of liposomal cytarabine and daunorubicin (CPX-351) in combination with quizartinib in patients with AML and high risk MDS.									12/2023		
NCTo4107727 A randomized phase II trial to compare the efficacy and safety of standard chemotherapy plus quizartinib vs. standard chemotherapy plus placebo in adult patients with newly diagnosed FLT3 wild-type AML.									bo	09/2024				
NCTa (60)	A phase I-II, multicentre, open-label clinical trial to assess the safety and tolerability of the combination of low-dose cytarabine or azacitidine, plus									US	11/2021			

Available assessments

NIHR published the Health Technology Briefing "Quizartinib with chemotherapy for FLT3-ITD positive acute myeloid leukaemia" in November 2021 [12].

venetoclax and quizartinib in newly diagnosed AML patients aged ≥60 years ineligible for standard induction chemotherapy.

- According to NICE, the appraisal "Quizartinib for induction, consolidation and maintenance treatment of newly diagnosed FLT3-ITD-positive acute myeloid leukaemia ID4042" is currently in progress [13].
- No assessments were identified via CADTH, ICER and G-BA.

NCT04687761

Other aspects and conclusions

- In September 2023, the CHMP adopted a positive opinion, recommending the granting of a marketing authorisation for Vanflyta®, indicated in combination with standard cytarabine and anthracycline induction and standard cytarabine consolidation chemotherapy, followed by Vanflyta® single-agent maintenance therapy for adult patients with newly diagnosed AML that is FLT3-ITD positive. Marketing authorisation was issued on o6 November 2023. This indication was also approved by the FDA in July 2023.
- ❖ QuANTUM-First (NCTo2668653) is a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, global phase 3 study, assessing the effect of quizartinib versus placebo on OS in patients with FLT3-ITD-positive newly diagnosed AML. Patients aged 18–75 years with primary newly diagnosed AML, or AML secondary to MDS or a myeloproliferative neoplasm, with an FLT3-ITD mutation and able to receive standard induction chemotherapy were eligible. Patients had to have a variant allelic frequency of 3% or more, an ECOG PS of o−2 and adequate cardiac, renal, and hepatic function at randomisation. Patients diagnosed with APL with t(15;17), BCR-ABL1-positive leukaemia, or AML secondary to previous chemotherapy were excluded.
- The primary endpoint of QuANTUM-First was OS. At a median follow-up of 39.2 months in both groups, median OS was 31.9 months (95% CI 21.0–NE) vs. 15.1 months (95% CI, 13.2–26.2); HR was 0.78 (95% CI 0.62–0.98); p=0.032
- Although defined as exploratory efficacy endpoint; patient-reported outcomes are currently not available.
- The ESMO-MCBS for Hamatological Malignancies was applied, resulting a final adjusted magnitude of clinical benefit grade 4.



⁴ The sponsor and the study steering committee designed the study. Data were collected by the investigators and monitored by the sponsor. The sponsor and all authors were responsible for data analysis and interpretation.

- The risk of bias was considered high, based on the sponsor's contribution to study design, data collection, analysis and interpretation.
- There was no ongoing phase 3 trial identified; however, 4 phase 1-2 trials, evaluating the role of guizartinib for the treatment of patients with newly diagnosed AML, were identified.
- In conclusion, the efficacy and safety results of the QuANTUM-First trial need to be substantiated by positive patient-reported outcomes and further phase 3 data.

First published: 10/2023 Last updated: 01/2024

Abbreviations: AE=adverse event, AJ=adjustment, AML=acute myeloid leukaemia, ANC= absolute neutrophil count, APL=acute promyelocytic leukaemia, ATRA=all-trans-retinoic acid, C=comparator, CADTH=Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency, CEBPA=CCAAT/enhancer binding protein alpha, CHMP=Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, CI=confidence interval, CNS=central nervous system, CR=complete response, CRi = complete remission with incomplete blood count recovery, ECG=electrocardiogram, EFS=event-free survival, EMA=European Medicines Agency, EORTC-QLQ-C3o = European Organization for the Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life Questionnaire, EQ-5D-5L= EuroQol Group 5-Dimension 5-Level questionnaire, ESMO-MCBS= European Society of Medical Oncology — Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale, FDA=Food and Drug Administration, FM=final magnitude of clinical benefit grade, G-BA=Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss, GVHD= Graft-versus-host disease, HR=hazard ratio, HSCT= hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, I=intervention, ICER=Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, ITD=internal tandem duplication, Int.=intention, MDS=Myelodysplastic Syndrome, MG=median gain, MRD= minimal residual disease, n=number of patients, NE=not estimable, NICE=National Institute for Health Care Excellence, NPM1=nucleophosmin 1, OS=overall survival, PE=primary endpoint, PFS=progression-free survival, PM=preliminary grade, QoL=quality of life, RFS=recurrence-free survival, SAE=serious adverse event, ST=standard treatment, TKD=tyrosine kinase domain, ULN=upper limit of normal, VAF=variant allelic frequency, WBC=white blood cell, WHO=World Health Organization

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