Encorafenib (Braftovi®) in combination with binimetinib (Mektovi®) for the treatment of advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

General inform	nation						
Drug descriptio	on [1]						
Encorafenib (Braftovi®) is an oral, selective, reversible small-molecule RAF kinase inhibitor, with a long d reversible inhibitor of MEK1 and MEK2 activation.	Encorafenib (Braftovi®) is an oral, selective, reversible small-molecule RAF kinase inhibitor, with a long dissociation half-life of >30 hours. Binimetinib (Mektovi®) is an oral, ATP-uncompetitive, reversible inhibitor of MEK1 and MEK2 activation.						
Indication [2	, 3]						
Encorafenib (Braftovi®) in combination with binimetinib (Mektovi®) is indicated for the treatment of ad	ult patients with advanced NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation.						
Incidence	e						
In Austria, in 2022, a total of 5,203 patients were newly diagnosed with cancer of the trachea, bronch in women [4].	nia and lung. The age-standardised ¹ incidence rate was 68.0/100,000 in men and 48.8/100,000						
✤ BRAF mutations are detected in 1-2% of all patients with NSCLC. About half of these are V600 mutat	tions, the vast majority of which are V600E, rarely V600G [5].						
Current treatm	nent [5]						
 The following information regarding the treatment of NSCLC with BRAF V600 is available from Onkopedia: In previously untreated patients, the BRAF inhibitor dabrafenib resulted in a remission rate of 64% and a median overall survival of 24.6 months in a single-arm phase II study in combination with the MEK inhibitor trametinib. In patients pretreated with chemotherapy, the remission rate was 63%. In indirect comparison, the rate of severe adverse events is lower than with chemotherapy. Data from randomised trials are not available. Dabrafenib/trametinib can be used in first- or second-line therapy for BRAFV600 mutations. For other point mutations outside the V600 position, the situation is complex because kinase-inactivating mutations also occur. In this case, a molecular tumour board should be consulted Direct comparisons versus immunochemotherapy are not available. Tumours with BRAF V600E may respond to immunotherapy, so chemo-immunotherapy is also a reasonable option. 							
Regulatory s	tatus						
EMA [2, 3]	FDA [6-8]						
<u>Braftovi®</u>	<u>Braftovi®</u>						
Approval status for this indication : On 25 July 2024, the CHMP adopted a positive opinion, recommending a change to the terms of the marketing authorisation for Braftovi®.	Approval status for this indication : On 11 October 2023, the FDA approved encorafenib (Braftovi®) with binimetinib (Mektovi®) for adult patients with metastatic NSCLC with a						
The CHMP adopted a new indication as follows:	BRAF V600E mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test.						
 Encorafenib in combination with binimetinib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with advanced NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation. The FDA also approved the FoundationOne CDx (tissue) and FoundationOne Liquid (plasma) as companion diagnostics for encorafenib with binimetinib. 							
Other indications:	Other indications: Braftovi® is indicated						
 Encorafenib in combination with binimetinib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with a BRAF V600 mutation. 	 in combination with binimetinib, for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with a BRAF V600E or V600K mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test. 						



¹ European Standard Population 2013.

	Encorafenib in combination with cetuximab, is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC) with a BRAF V600E mutation, who have received prior systemic therapy	 in combination with cetuximab, for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic CRC with a BRAF V600E mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test, after prior therapy.
The CHM	Mektovi® I status for this indication: On 25 July 2024, the CHMP adopted a positive opinion, nding a change to the terms of the marketing authorisation for Mektovi®. P adopted a new indication as follows: Binimetinib in combination with encorafenib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with advanced NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation. dications: Binimetinib in combination with encorafenib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with advanced NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation.	Mektovi® Approval status for this indication: On 11 October 2023, the FDA approved encorafenib (Braftovi®) with binimetinib (Mektovi®) for adult patients with metastatic NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test. The FDA also approved the FoundationOne CDx (tissue) and FoundationOne Liquid CDx (plasma) as companion diagnostics for encorafenib with binimetinib. Other indications: Mektovi® is indicated ♦ in combination with encorafenib, for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma with a BRAF V600E or V600K mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test.
	Manufactu	irer
Braftovi®	and Mektovi [®] are manufactured by Pierre Fabre.	
	Costs [9]	
	vi® hard capsules 50 mg = € 447.44 (ex-factory price)	
	vi® hard capsules 50 mg = € 447.44 (ex-factory price) vi® film tablets 15 mg = € 2,013.46 (ex-factory price)	
	vi® hard capsules 50 mg = € 447.44 (ex-factory price)	utions ² [7, 8]
84 Mekto	vi® hard capsules 50 mg = € 447.44 (ex-factory price) vi® film tablets 15 mg = € 2,013.46 (ex-factory price) Warnings and precai Braftovi® New primary malignancies, cutaneous and non-cutaneous • Can occur. Monitor for malignancies and perform dermatologic evaluations before, wh Tumour promotion in BRAF wild-type tumours • Increased cell proliferation can occur with BRAF inhibitors. Cardiomyopathy • Assess left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) before initiating treatment with Braftovia	utions ² [7, 8] - hile on therapy, and following treatment discontinuation.
84 Mekto	 vi® hard capsules 50 mg = € 447.44 (ex-factory price) vi® film tablets 15 mg = € 2,013.46 (ex-factory price) Warnings and precat Braftovi® New primary malignancies, cutaneous and non-cutaneous Can occur. Monitor for malignancies and perform dermatologic evaluations before, where the promotion in BRAF wild-type tumours Increased cell proliferation can occur with BRAF inhibitors. Cardiomyopathy Assess left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) before initiating treatment with Braftovi® The safety of Braftovi® in combination with binimetinib has not been established in p Hepatotoxicity Monitor liver function tests before and during treatment with Braftovi® and binimetini 	utions ² [7, 8] hile on therapy, and following treatment discontinuation. ® and binimetinib, and after one month of treatment, then every 2 to 3 months thereafter. atients with LVEF below 50%.
84 Mekto	 vi® hard capsules 50 mg = € 447.44 (ex-factory price) vi® film tablets 15 mg = € 2,013.46 (ex-factory price) Warnings and precat Braftovi® New primary malignancies, cutaneous and non-cutaneous Can occur. Monitor for malignancies and perform dermatologic evaluations before, wf Tumour promotion in BRAF wild-type tumours Increased cell proliferation can occur with BRAF inhibitors. Cardiomyopathy Assess left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) before initiating treatment with Braftovi The safety of Braftovi® in combination with binimetinib has not been established in p Hepatotoxicity 	utions ² [7, 8] hile on therapy, and following treatment discontinuation. [®] and binimetinib, and after one month of treatment, then every 2 to 3 months thereafter. atients with LVEF below 50%. hib and as clinically indicated.

² Chapter "Warnings and precautions" refers to the FDA label information.

- Withhold Braftovi® for QTc of 500 ms or greater.
- * Embryo-foetal toxicity
 - Can cause foetal harm. Advise females with reproductive potential of potential risk to the foetus and to use effective non-hormonal method of contraception.
- * Risks associated with Braftovi® as a single agent
 - If binimetinib is temporarily interrupted or permanently discontinued, reduce the dose of Braftovi® as recommended.
- * Risks associated with combination treatment
 - Braftovi® is indicated for use as part of a regimen in combination with binimetinib or cetuximab.

<u>Mektovi®</u>

- * New primary malignancies, cutaneous and non-cutaneous
 - Can occur when Mektovi® is used in combination with encorafenib. Monitor patients for new malignancies prior to initiation of treatment, during treatment, and after discontinuation of treatment.
- * Cardiomyopathy
 - Assess LVEF before initiating treatment, after one month of treatment, then every 2 to 3 months thereafter. The safety of Mektovi® has not been established in patients with LVEF below 50%.

* Venous thromboembolism

• Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism can occur.

* Ocular toxicities

- Serous retinopathy, retinal vein occlusion and uveitis have occurred. Perform an ophthalmologic evaluation at regular intervals and for any visual disturbances.
- ✤ Interstitial lung disease (ILD)
 - Assess new or progressive unexplained pulmonary symptoms or findings for possible ILD.

✤ Hepatotoxicity

- Monitor liver function tests before and during treatment with Mektovi® and encorafenib and as clinically indicated.
- * Rhabdomyolysis
 - Monitor creatine phosphokinase and creatinine periodically and as clinically indicated.
- * Haemorrhage
 - Major haemorrhagic events can occur in patients receiving Mektovi® and encorafenib.
- * Embryo-foetal toxicity
 - Can cause foetal harm. Advise females with reproductive potential of potential risk to the foetus and to use effective contraception.

Study characteristics [1, 10]										
Trial name	n	Intervent	Comparator (C)	PE	Median follow-up	Characteristics	Biomarker	Funding	Publication(s)	
PHAROS NCT03915951	98 ³	oral encorafenib 45 + binimetinib 45 m 28-day c	-	ORR by IRR	NA	ongoing ⁴ , open- label, single-arm, phase II study	-	Pfizer	PHAROS [1]	
Inclusion criteria⁵			Exclusion criteria			Patient char	Patient characteristics at baseline (n=98)			
ALK fusion oncogene of ALK fusion oncogene of			umentation of any of the following: EGFR mutation, or ROS1 rearrangement. of systemic therapy in the advanced/metastatic setting.			 Median age, (range): 70 (47-86) Male sex: 47% Ethnicity: 				

³ 59 patients were treatment-naive and 39 patients were previously treated.

⁴ Estimated study completion date is 12/2024.

⁵ For detailed in-and exclusion criteria, please see trial protocol.

 Histologically confirmed diagnosis of NSCLC that 	Previous treatment with any BRAF inhibitor or MEK inhibitor prior to	• White: 88%
is currently Stage IV (M1a M1b, M1c- AJCC 8th	screening and enrollment.	• Asian: 7%
edition).	Receipt of anticancer medications or investigational drugs within the	• Black: 3%
 Presence of a BRAFV600E mutation tumour tissue 	following intervals before the first administration of study treatment:	American Indian: 1%
or blood as determined by a local laboratory	• \leq 14 days for chemotherapy, targeted small-molecule therapy, radiation	Unknown: 1%
assay.	therapy, immunotherapy, or antineoplastic biologic therapy.	 ECOG PS:
 Prior to enrollment, the investigator must obtain 	• ≤ 14 days or 5 half-lives (minimum of 14 days) for investigational agents	• 0: 27%
adequate tumour tissue for submission to a	or devices.	• 1: 73%
central laboratory for confirmation of BRAFV600	• Palliative radiation therapy must be complete 7 days prior to the first dose	 Smoking status
mutation status.	of study treatment.	Current: 13%
 Patients who are either treatment-naïve, OR who 	♦ Major surgery \leq 6 weeks prior to start of study treatment.	Former: 57%
have received	◆ Patient has not recovered to \leq Grade 1 from toxic effects of prior therapy	• Never: 30%
first-line platinum-based chemotherapy OR	and/or complications from prior surgical intervention before starting study	 BRAF V600 status
• First-line treatment with an anti-PD-1/PD-L1	treatment.	 V600E: 100%
inhibitor given alone, or in combination with	Current use of a prohibited medication, as described in Protocol, or use of a	 V600D: 1% (comutation with V600E)
platinum-based chemotherapy, or in	prohibited medication \leq 1 week prior to the start of study treatment.	 Method of local BRAF testing
combination with immunotherapy with or	Impairment of gastrointestinal function or disease which may significantly	• PCR: 26%
without platinum-based chemotherapy.	alter the absorption of oral study treatment.	Tissue NGS: 72%
 Presence of measurable disease based on RECIST 	Impaired cardiovascular function or clinically significant cardiovascular	Plasma NGS: 1%
v1.1.	diseases, including any of the following:	 Tumour histology
 ECOG performance status of 0 or 1. 	• History of acute myocardial infarction, acute coronary syndromes ≤ 6	Adenocarcinoma: 97%
 Adequate bone marrow function is characterised 	months prior to start of study treatment.	Squamous cell carcinoma: 2%
by the following at screening:	 Congestive heart failure requiring treatment (NYHA Grade ≥ 2); 	• Other: 1%
 ANC ≥ 1.5 × 109/L; 	 LVEF < 50% as determined by MUGA or ECHO. 	 Brain metastases
• Platelets \geq 100 × 109/L;	• Uncontrolled hypertension defined as persistent systolic blood pressure ≥	• No: 92%
 Haemoglobin ≥ 8.5 g/dL 	150 mmHg or diastolic blood pressure ≥ 100 mmHg despite optimal	• Yes: 8%
✤ Adequate hepatic and renal function characterised	therapy.	 Prior systemic treatment for metastatic
by the following at screening:	Clinically significant cardiac arrhythmias.	disease: 40%
 Total bilirubin ≤ 1.5 × ULN 	 Triplicate average baseline QTcF interval ≥ 480 ms or a history of 	Immunotherapy: 24%
• ALT and AST $\leq 2.5 \times$ ULN, or $\leq 5 \times$ ULN in	prolonged QT syndrome.	 Monotherapy PD-(L)1: 12%
presence of liver metastases;	✤ History of thromboembolic or cerebrovascular events ≤ 12 weeks prior to the	 Combination PD-(L)1: 12%
• Serum creatinine ≤ 1.5 × ULN; or calculated	first dose of study treatment.	Chemotherapy: 18%
creatinine clearance \geq 50 mL/min by	 History or current evidence of RVO or current risk factors for RVO; history of 	 Prior radiotherapy:
Cockcroft-Gault formula; or estimated	retinal degenerative disease.	• No: 73%
glomerular filtration rate > 50	 Concurrent neuromuscular disorder that is associated with the potential of 	• Yes: 27%
mL/min/1.73m2.	elevated CK.	
 Able to swallow, retain and absorb oral 	 Evidence of active noninfectious pneumonitis or history of interstitial lung 	
medications.	disease.	
 Willingness and ability to comply with scheduled 	 Evidence of HBV or HCV infection. 	
visits, treatment plan, laboratory tests and other	Known history of a positive test for HIV or known AIDS.	
study procedures.	 Active infection requiring systemic therapy. 	
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 Female patients of childbearing potential as described in Appendix, must have a negative serum βHCG test result. Female patients of childbearing potential must agree to use methods of contraception that are highly effective or acceptable, as described in Appendix, and to not donate ova from Screening until 30 days after the last dose of study treatment. Male patients must agree to use methods of contraception that are highly effective or acceptable, as described in Appendix 1, and to not donate sperm from Screening until 90 days after the last dose of study drug. Patients with symptomatic brain metastasis, leptomeningeal disease or other active CNS metastases. Concurrent or previous other malignancy within 2 years of study entry, except curatively treated basal or squamous cell skin cancer, prostate intraepithelial neoplasm, carcinoma in-situ of the cervix, Bowen's disease and Gleason ≤ 6 prostate cancer. Known sensitivity or contraindication to any component of study treatment (binimetinib and encorafenib), or their excipients. Pregnancy or breastfeeding or patients who plan to become pregnant during the duration of the study. Other severe, acute or chronic medical or psychiatric condition(s) or laboratory abnormality that may increase the risk associated with study participation or study reatment administration or that may interfere with the interpretation of study results and, in the judgment of the Investigator, would make the patient an inappropriate candidate for the study. 						
	Efficacy	Safety (n=98)				
Data cutoff 22 September 2022Treatment-naïve patients:ORR by IRR: 75% (95% Cl, 62-85); CR: n=9; PR: n=35Median time to response: 1.9 months (range, 1.1-19.1)Median DOR by IRR: NE (95% Cl, 23.1-NE)Durable responses lasting \geq 12 months: 59%DCR after 24 weeks: 64% (95% Cl, 51-76)Median duration of follow-up for PFS by IRR: 18.2 monthsMedian PFS by IRR: NE (95% Cl, 15.7-NE)Deaths at the time of data cutoff: 29%Median OS: NEPreviously treated patients:ORR: 46% (95% Cl, 30-63); CR: n=4; PR: n=14Median time to response by IRP: 1.7 months (range 1.7)		All-causality AEs: 99% TRAEs of any grade: 94% TRAEs grade 38% TRAEs grade 4: 3% TRAEs leading to permanent: 15% Serious TRAEs: 14% Deaths: 31% ⁶				
Median time to response by IRR: 1.7 months (range,1.2 Median DOR by IRR: 16.7 months (95% Cl, 7.4-NE) Durable responses lasting ≥12 months: 33% DCR after 24 weeks: 41% (95% Cl, 26-58) Median duration of follow-up for PFS by IRR: 12.8 mo Median PFS by IRR: 9.3months (95%Cl, 6.2-NE) Deaths at the time of data cutoff: 33%						

⁶ The primary reasons for death were disease progression (24%), AE (2%), or other causes (4%). One patient died due to intracranial haemorrhage, which was assessed as treatment related by the investigator.

Median OS: N	E														
					P	atient-repo	orted outcome	25							
Evaluation of p	patient-	-reporte	d outcomes is	not provided in PH	IAROS trial.										
					ES	MO-MCBS	version 1.1 [1	1]							
Scale	Int.	Form	MG ST	MG	HR (95% (CI)	Score	PM	Toxicity	QoL	AJ	FM			
Original	NC	3	-	ORR: 46%	-	ORR ≥20%-<60% AND DoR ≥9 months			s 3	-	-	-	3		
				The adapted	ESMO-MCBS scale w	as not applied	due to the low le	vel of evidence (single-	arm study).						
					Risk of b	ias - study	level (case sei	ries) [12]				_			
1.			2.	3.	4.		5.	6.	7.		8.		9.		
Was the hypothesis/ aim/ objective of the study clearly stated?		collec	re the cases cted in more one centre?	Were patients recruited consecutively?	Were the eligibility criteria (inclusion and exclusion criteria) for entry into the study clearly stated?	Did participants enter the study at similar point in the disease?		Was the intervention clearly described?	Were additic intervention (co-interventi clearly describ	tions Were relevant outcome measures established a priori?		Were outcome assessors blinded to the intervention that patients received?			
yes			yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes		yes yes		yes no		no
10.			11.	12.	13.		14.	15.	16.		17. 18.		17. 1		18.
Were the relevant outcomes measured using appropriate objective/ subjective methods?		outcor befo	the relevant nes measured re and after ervention?	Were the statistical tests used to assess the relevant outcomes appropriate?	Was the length of follow-up reported?		ss to follow-up ported?	Did the study provide estimates of random variability in the data analysis of relevant outcomes?	Were adver events report	se of the	e the conclusions e study supported by results?	com inter sou suppo	re both npeting rest and urce of ort for the reported?		
yes			yes	yes	yes		no	yes	yes		unclear ⁷		yes		
						Overall risk o	f bias: moderate								
						Ongoing	trials [13]								
NCT number/trial name Description							Estimated study completion date								
NCT03915951 / PHAROS Please see above.							12/2024								
Open-label, phase 2 Study with a safety lead-in part investigating the efficacy, safety and pharmacokinetics of encorafenib and binimetinib combination in BRAF V600E mutated Chinese patients with metastatic NSCLC who are BRAF- and MEK inhibitor treatment-naïve.							05/2025								
NCT04526782 / ENCO-BRAF Phase 2 Study of the BRAF inhibitor encorafenib in combination with the MEK inhibitor binimetinib in patients with BRAFV600E- mutant metastatic NSCLC. 03/2026						/2026									
						Available	assessments								
					riefing "Encorafenib v E, CDA-AMC and G-B		b for treating met	astatic BRAF V600 mut	ant non-smal	-cell lung ca	ncer" [14].				

⁷ The trial is currently ongoing.

Other aspects and conclusions

- In July 2024, the CHMP adopted a new indication for binimetinib (Mektovi®) in combination with encorafenib (Braftovi®) for the treatment of adult patients with advanced NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation. In October 2023, the FDA approved Braftovi® with Mektovi® for adult patients with metastatic NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation, as detected by an FDA-approved test.
- ◆ PHAROS (NCT03915951) is an ongoing, open-label, single-arm, phase II study evaluating the efficacy and safety of encorafenib plus binimetinib in patients with BRAFV600E-mutant metastatic NSCLC. Patients aged ≥18 years with histologically confirmed stage IV or recurrent NSCLC, measurable disease on the basis of RECIST 1.1, and an ECOG PS of 0 or 1 were included in the study. Patients who had prior treatment with a BRAF or MEK inhibitor, other driver alterations, untreated symptomatic brain metastasis, or leptomeningeal disease were excluded.
- The primary endpoint was confirmed ORR by IRR. In treatment-naïve patients, ORR by IRR was 75% (95% CI, 62-85) and in previously treated patients 46% (95% CI, 30-63).
- Patient-reported outcomes are not evaluated in PHAROS trial.
- The original ESMO-MCBS was applied, resulting in a final adjusted magnitude of clinical benefit of 3. The adapted ESMO-MCBS scale was not applied due to the low level of evidence (single-arm study).
- The risk of bias was considered moderate.
- Sesides PHAROS, two further ongoing phase 2 trials were identified, assessing the combination of encorafenib and binimetinib in patients with BRAF V600E-mutant NSCLC.
- More robust data is required to determine the role of the assessed treatment option for patients with advanced NSCLC with a BRAF V600E mutation. This includes final analysis data from the PHAROS trial, additional phase 3 data and, not least, patient-reported outcome data.

First published: 08/2024

Abbreviations: AE=adverse event, AIDS=acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, AJ=adjustment, AJCC=American Joint Committee on Cancer, ALK=anaplastic lymphoma kinase, ALT=alanine aminotransferase, ANC=absolute neutrophil count,AST=aspartate aminotransferase, BRAF=v-Raf murine sarcoma viral oncogene homolog B, C=comparator, CDA-AMC=Canada's Drug Agency, CHMP=Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, CI=confidence interval, CNS=central nervous system, CR=complete response, DOR=duration of response, ECHO=echocardiogram, ECOG PS=Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status, EGFR=epidermal growth factor receptor, EMA=European Medicines Agency, 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, HBV=hepatitis B virus, HCV=hepatitis C virus, HIV= human immunodeficiency virus, HR=hazard ratio, I=intervention, ICER=Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, ILD=interstitial lung disease, Int.=intention, IRR=independent radiology review, LVEF=left ventricular ejection fraction, MEK=mitogen-activated protein kinase MG=median gain, MUGA=multi-gated acquisition, n=number of patients, NA=not available, NE=not evaluable, NGS=next-generation sequencing, NICE=National Institute for Health Care Excellence, NSCLC=non-small cell lung cancer, NYHA= New York Heart Association, ORR=objective response rate, OS=overall survival, PCR=polymerase chain reaction, PD-1=programmed cell death protein 1, PD-L1=programmed cell death protein ligand 1, PE=primary endpoint, PFS=progression-free survival, PM=preliminary grade, PR=partial response, QoL=quality of life, RECIST v1.1=Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors version 1.1, SAE=serious adverse event, ST=standard treatment, TRAE=treatment-related adverse event, ULN=upper limit of normal

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