



# Valemetostat Tosilate: First Approval

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## Abstract

Valemetostat tosilate (valemetostat; EZHARMIA<sup>®</sup>), a selective dual inhibitor of histone-lysine N-methyltransferases enhancer of zeste homolog 1 and 2 (EZH1/2), is being developed by Daiichi Sankyo Company, Ltd for the treatment of various haematological malignancies and solid tumours, including types of non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL). Valemetostat was approved in Japan in September 2022 for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory adult T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma (R/R ATL), a subtype of NHL. This article summarizes the milestones in the development of valemetostat leading to this first approval for R/R ATL.

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## Valemetostat (EZHARMIA<sup>®</sup>): Key Points

A selective dual inhibitor of EZH1/2 that is being developed by Daiichi Sankyo for the treatment of various haematological malignancies and solid tumours

Received its first approval on 26 September 2022 in Japan

Approved for the treatment of patients with R/R ATL

## 1 Introduction

Epigenetic regulators of gene expression are an emerging new target class for cancer therapy, and numerous epigenetic therapies are currently in clinical development [1,

2]. Enhancer of zeste homolog 1 and 2 (EZH1 and EZH2) are alternative subunits of polycomb repressive complex 2 (PRC2) and initiate chromatin folding via tri-methylation of the 27th lysine residue of histone H3 (H3K27), resulting in repression of genes associated with tumour suppression and cell differentiation [3–6]. Epigenomic studies of chromatin and transcription regulation have shown that inappropriate H3K27me3 deposition [resulting from a gain-of-function (GOF) mutation of *EZH2* and/or overexpression of *EZH2*] is a key determinant of the abnormal transcriptome and has been implicated in the development and progression of a range of solid tumours and lymphomas, including non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL) [4–6]. Other preclinical studies have shown that *EZH1* is also involved in abnormal H3K27 methylation and compensates for loss of *EZH2* after exposure of cells to *EZH2* inhibition in vitro [5].

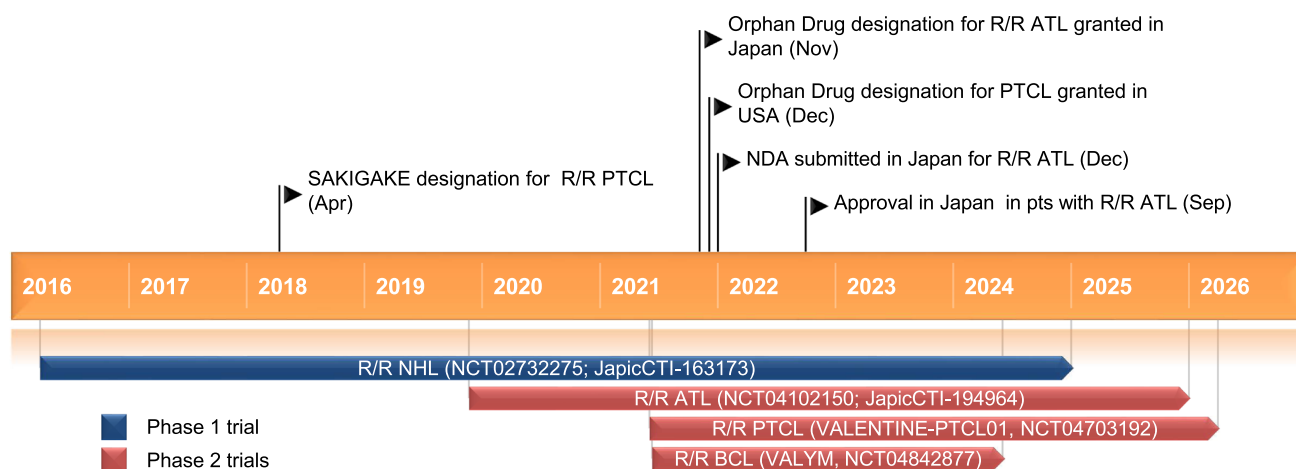
Among NHL subtypes, the most rare, aggressive and difficult to treat include adult T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma (ATL) [arises from T cells infected with human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1)], peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL), and B-cell lymphomas [7]. First-line treatment for these lymphoma subtypes is multiagent chemotherapy; however, the response to treatment is not durable, relapse is common and the prognosis is generally poor [3, 7–9]. Thus, there is a need for new treatment options.

Valemetostat tosilate (valemetostat; EZHARMIA<sup>®</sup>), an orally administered, selective dual inhibitor of both wild-type and mutated forms of *EZH2* and *EZH1* [10], has been developed by Daiichi Sankyo Company, Ltd for the treatment of cancers, and is being studied in NHL and a range of solid tumours. SAKIGAKE designation was granted in

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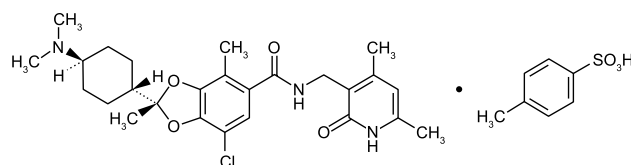
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Key milestones in the development of valemestostat for the treatment of non-Hodgkin lymphomas. *ATL* adult T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma, *BCL* B-cell lymphoma, *NDA* new drug application, *NHL* non-Hodgkin lymphoma, *PTCL* peripheral T-cell lymphoma, *R/R* relapsed/refractory

Japan in 2019 based on the preliminary results of a phase 1 trial of valemestostat in patients with NHL, including PTCL (NCT02732275) [11]. In September 2022, valemestostat was approved in Japan for the treatment of patients with relapsed or refractory (R/R) ATL [10, 12]. The approved dosage of valemestostat in patients with R/R ATL is 200 mg once daily on an empty stomach. Exposure to valemestostat ( $C_{max}$  and AUC) is reduced when it is administered with or after food; patients should therefore avoid taking the drug between 1 h before and 2 h after food.

Patients should be carefully monitored for myelosuppression during valemestostat treatment [10]. If adverse reactions (neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, anaemia or  $\geq$  grade 3 non-haematological toxicity) occur, treatment suspension is required until recovery. If the adverse reaction reappears after resumption of the same daily dose, treatment should again be suspended until recovery. After recovery, the administered dose should then be reduced by one step from the previous dose. Dose reduction due to adverse reactions should be limited to two levels, and the drug should be discontinued if a reduction to below 50 mg/day is required [10]. Exposure to valemestostat is increased when it is coadministered with drugs that are strong CYP3A and/or P-gp inhibitors, and valemestostat dosage reductions are required because of increased adverse reactions. In some instances, an appropriate reduction in the valemestostat dosage is not possible and coadministration should be avoided. Caution is required when valemestostat is coadministered with moderate CYP3A inhibitors (because of increased valemestostat exposure), strong or moderate CYP3A inducers (because of decreased valemestostat exposure) and P-gp substrates (exposure to P-gp substrate drugs may be increased) [10]. Clinical trials have not been conducted in patients with severe liver dysfunction. Contraception should be used during treatment and for a defined period after the last dose. Pregnant women should only be treated with



Chemical structure of valemestostat tosilate

valemestostat if the potential benefits outweigh the risks; embryofetal toxicity and teratogenicity have been reported in animal studies of valemestostat at exposures corresponding to  $\approx 0.05$  times clinical exposure in humans at the recommended dose. It is advisable not to breastfeed during treatment. Secondary malignancies, such as chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia and chronic leukaemia, have been reported in clinical studies and precursor B-cell acute leukaemia has been reported in paediatric neuroblastoma patients [10].

## 1.1 Company Agreements

In February 2021, Daiichi Sankyo entered into a research and development agreement with the Lymphoma Study Association (LYSA), the Lymphoma Academic Research Organization (LYSARC), and the CALYM Carnot Institute (LYSA-LYSARC-CALYM is a multidisciplinary community of the three organizations that conduct lymphoma research in France and Belgium). The strategic research collaboration is assessing valemestostat in B-cell malignancies, starting with a phase 2 study, and will build upon the ongoing phase 1 trial of valemestostat in patients with R/R NHL (i.e. study NCT02732275) [13]. In September 2017, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center entered into a multi-year research and development agreement with Daiichi Sankyo to accelerate development of acute myeloid leukemia therapies,

including valemetostat [14]; however, the clinical study (NCT03110354) was terminated due to slow patient accrual.

## 2 Scientific Summary

### 2.1 Pharmacodynamics

While the exact mechanism of action is unknown, it is thought that valemetostat inhibits the methylation activity of EZH1/2 [ $IC_{50}$  10.0 nM (EZH1) and 6.0 nM (EZH2)] in cell-free enzymatic assays [15], thereby inhibiting the methylation of the lysine residue at position 27 and other residues of histone H3 [10]. The decrease in histone methylation alters gene expression patterns associated with cancer pathways, enhances transcription of certain target genes, and reactivation of silenced genes results in decreased proliferation of EZH1/2-expressing cancer cells [15]. Preclinical research indicates that EZH1 and EZH2 play a role in haematological malignancy progression; in vitro, EZH1/2 dual inhibitors suppressed trimethylation of H3K27 in cells more strongly than EZH2 selective inhibitors [15, 16]. Valemetostat displayed antiproliferative effects in various haematological cancer cell lines [including various NHL cells ( $GI_{50}$  < 100 nM)] and clinical activity in a phase 1 trial in patients with R/R NHL (NCT02732275), regardless of EZH2 mutation status [16, 17]. While tazemetostat (a selective EZH2 inhibitor) and valemetostat significantly reduced global H3K27me3 levels in an in vitro study, ectopic EZH1/2 accumulation was evident after treatment with tazemetostat in several tumour suppressor gene loci, resulting in a partial reduction in H3K27me3 and reversal of the reactivation of silenced gene expression. In contrast, valemetostat treatment was not associated with ectopic enrichment of EZH1/2, and H3K27me3 levels remained depleted [18]. Valemetostat induced cell differentiation, growth inhibition and apoptosis in most subtypes of AML tested in vitro, with effects similar to those seen with genetic depletion of EZH1/2. However, a selective EZH2 inhibitor did not affect the growth and survival of AML cells to the same extent as valemetostat [19]. Oral administration of valemetostat reduced the number of leukaemia stem cells, impaired leukaemia progression and prolonged survival in AML mouse models and patient-derived xenograft models in a manner similar to the effect of genetic deletion of EZH1/2 [19].

In vitro, valemetostat showed antiproliferative activity against the TL-Om1 cell line derived from human ATL [10] and against the activated B-cell-like (ABC) and germinal center B-cell-like (GCB) subtypes of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) cells, and induced apoptosis in DLBCL cell lines, regardless of subtype. Valemetostat also suppressed the expression level of BCL6 protein (a key

oncogene in B cell lymphoma) in vitro [20]. Valemetostat blocked primary ATL cell survival in vitro and reduced in vivo tumour growth in ATL and DLBCL models [21]. Compared with an EZH2 selective inhibitor, various models of haematological malignancies (ATL, DLBCL, Burkitt lymphoma and PTCL) showed greater sensitivity (5.2- to  $\approx$ 200-fold) against valemetostat. No significant adverse effects were observed in normal T cells [21]. In a DLBCL tumour xenograft model, once daily oral administration of valemetostat 100 mg/kg was associated with almost complete tumour regression without weight loss; a lower dosage (25 mg/kg) slowed tumour growth [15]. Valemetostat also showed synergism with NHL and DLBCL standard-of-care treatments in vitro and in vivo [17, 20].

### 2.2 Pharmacokinetics

On day 15 after repeated administration of oral valemetostat 200 mg in the fasted state in a phase 2 study in 25 patients with R/R ATL (NCT04102150), the steady-state mean  $C_{max}$  of total valemetostat (2300 ng/mL) was achieved in a median 3.79 h,  $AUC_{24}$  was 20,800 ng·h/mL and the mean accumulation ratio for total valemetostat was 1.19 [3, 10]. Food has a significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of valemetostat. After administration of a single 200 mg dose of valemetostat in healthy adults, the ratio of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{\infty}$  values after a high fat meal to a fasting dose were 0.487 and 0.703, and those after a low fat meal to a fasting dose were 0.375 and 0.466, respectively [10]. Valemetostat is highly protein bound (94–95%) after administration of a 200 mg dose in healthy adults; valemetostat predominantly binds to human  $\alpha$ 1 acidic glycoprotein in vitro [10]. The apparent volume of distribution of total valemetostat at steady state was 268 L [3]. The human blood/plasma concentration ratios at low (300 ng/mL), medium (1,500 ng/mL) and high (5,000 ng/mL) concentrations in vitro were 0.58, 0.61 and 0.74, respectively [10].

Valemetostat is predominantly metabolized by CYP3A. After a single oral 200 mg dose of  $^{14}C$ -labelled valemetostat in healthy adults, the unchanged drug and an oxidized metabolite (CALZ-1809a) were detected in plasma. The ratio of the unchanged drug to  $AUC_{\infty}$  of total radioactivity in plasma was 54.6% and the  $AUC_{\infty}$  ratio of CALZ-1809a to the unchanged drug was 83.0% [10]. Valemetostat is mainly excreted in faeces; 79.8% of the total radioactivity excreted at up to 360 h after a single oral 200 mg dose of  $^{14}C$ -labelled valemetostat was detected in faeces and 15.6% was detected in urine. Unchanged valemetostat was excreted in both faeces (64.9%) and urine (10.0%) [10]. At steady state, the apparent oral clearance of total valemetostat was 58.1 L/h and the mean elimination half-life was 11.1 h [3].

After a single oral administration of valemestostat 50 mg in a US study (NCT04276662), the ratios of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{\infty}$  of unbound valemestostat in subjects with normal hepatic function to subjects with mild hepatic impairment were 0.706 and 1.19, respectively, and in subjects with normal hepatic function to subjects with moderate hepatic impairment were 0.813 and 1.25 [10].

Exposure to valemestostat is increased when coadministered with the strong CYP3A and P-gp inhibitor itraconazole and the moderate CYP3A inhibitor fluconazole in healthy adults (JapicCTI183902) [22]. The ratios of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{\infty}$  values after coadministration of valemestostat and itraconazole to administration of valemestostat alone were 2.92 and 4.19, while those after coadministration of valemestostat and fluconazole to administration of valemestostat alone were 1.61 and 1.58 [10, 22]. Exposure to valemestostat is decreased when coadministered with the strong CYP3A inducer rifampicin (JapicCTI205338) or with the moderate CYP3A inducer efavirenz. The ratios of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{\infty}$  values after coadministration of valemestostat

and rifampicin to administration of valemestostat alone in healthy adults were 0.417 and 0.286, while those after coadministration of valemestostat and efavirenz to administration of valemestostat alone were 0.666 and 0.575. In patients with R/R NHL, the ratios of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{last}$  values after coadministration of valemestostat and midazolam (a substrate of CYP3A) to administration of valemestostat alone were 0.926 and 0.861, while those after coadministration of valemestostat and digoxin (a P-gp substrate) to administration of valemestostat alone were 1.30 and 1.27 [10]. According to pharmacokinetic modelling, the ratios of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{\infty}$  values after coadministration of valemestostat and a strong CYP3A inhibitor to administration of valemestostat alone were predicted to be 2.13 and 2.67, the ratios of the geometric mean  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{96}$  values after coadministration of valemestostat and a P-gp inhibitor to administration of valemestostat alone were predicted to be 1.59 and 2.58 [10]. Valemestostat is a substrate of and inhibitor of P-gp; it is also a MATE1 and MATE2-K and inhibits MATE1 in vitro ( $IC_{50}$  0.548  $\mu$ mol/L) [10].

### Features and properties of valemestostat

Alternative names	DS-3201; DS-3201b; EZHARMIA; valemestostat tosylate; valemestostat tosilate; (R)-OR-S2
Class	Amides; amines; antineoplastics; benzodioxoles; chlorinated hydrocarbons; cyclohexanes; pyridones; small molecules
Mechanism of action	Enhancer of zeste homolog 1 protein inhibitors; enhancer of zeste homolog 2 protein inhibitors
Route of administration	Oral
Pharmacodynamics	Inhibits methylation activity of EZH1/2 [ $IC_{50}$ 10.0 nM (EZH1) and 6.0 nM (EZH2)], suppressing tri-methylation of H3K27; antiproliferative effects in haematological cancer cell lines [including various NHL cells ( $GI_{50} < 100$ nM)], regardless of EZH2 mutation status; significantly reduces global H3K27me3 levels and reactivates silenced gene expression; antiproliferative activity against the TL-Om1 cell line derived from human ATL, and the ABC and GCB subtypes of DLBCL cells; induces apoptosis in DLBCL cell lines, regardless of subtype; blocks primary ATL cell survival in vitro and reduces ATL and DLBCL tumour growth in vivo; synergism with NHL and DLBCL standard-of-care treatments in vitro and in vivo
Pharmacokinetics (total valemestostat at steady state; mean values unless stated)	$C_{max}$ 2300 ng/mL, median $T_{max}$ 3.79 h, $AUC_{24}$ 20,800 ng·h/mL, accumulation ratio 1.19, 94–95% protein bound, $V_z/F$ 68 L, $CL/F$ 58.1 L/h, $t_{1/2}$ 11.1 h. Predominantly metabolized by CYP3A; mainly excreted in faeces
Adverse events	
Most frequent	Thrombocytopenia, anaemia, alopecia, dysgeusia, lymphopenia, neutropenia, leukopenia
Of special interest	Thrombocytopenia
ATC codes	
WHO ATC code	L01 (antineoplastic agents)
EphMRA ATC code	L1 (antineoplastics)
Chemical name	(2R)-7-Chloro-2-[trans-4-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl]-N-[(4,6-dimethyl-2-oxo-1,2-dihydropyridin-3-yl)methyl]-2,4-dimethyl-1,3-benzodioxole-5-carboxamide mono(4-methylbenzenesulfonate)



### 2.3 Therapeutic Trials

Valmetostat 200 mg once daily showed promising efficacy in patients with R/R ATL in a phase 2 Japanese trial (NCT04102150) [3]. The primary endpoint was achieved, in that the centrally reviewed independent efficacy assessment committee (IEAC)-assessed overall response rate (ORR) was 48% (12/25 patients;  $p < 0.0001$ ). A complete response (CR) was seen in 20% of patients (5/25) and a partial response (PR) in 28% (7/25). 40% of patients (10/25) had stable disease (SD) and 12% (3/25) had relapse or disease progression (RD/PD). The ORR by disease subtype was 62.5% (10/16) for acute, 16.7% (1/6) for lymphoma, and 33.3% (1/3) for unfavourable chronic types. The tumour control rate (CR + PR + SD) was 88.0% (22/25 patients). In patients who had received prior treatment with mogamulizumab, the ORR was 45.8% (11/24 patients), while in those who were refractory to mogamulizumab the ORR was 50.0% (3/6). The median follow-up at data cut-off (24 April 2021) was 6.5 months. At data cut-off, the IEAC-assessed median time to response was 1.4 months and 8 patients were continuing to receive treatment; the IEAC-assessed median duration of response (DOR) had not been reached [3].

Eligible patients in this study were aged  $\geq 20$  years, had cytologically or pathologically diagnosed R/R ATL (acute, lymphoma, or unfavourable chronic types), antibody-confirmed HTLV-1 infection and had failed prior mogamulizumab therapy or, if mogamulizumab was contraindicated/not tolerated,  $\geq 1$  systemic therapy with cytotoxic chemotherapy. Patients who had received prior allogeneic or autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation as treatment for AST were excluded from the study because of potential worsening of graft-versus-host disease. At baseline, the median age was 69.0 years and patients had received a median three prior lines of therapy (24 of 25 participants had received prior treatment with mogamulizumab; one patient was CCR4 negative and was not eligible for mogamulizumab treatment). Valemetostat was administered under fasted conditions on continuous 28-day cycles until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. The valemetostat dosage was reduced to 100 mg/day in patients coadministered strong CYP3A or P-gp inhibitors and to 50 mg/day in those coadministered a strong CYP3A and P-gp inhibitor. The threshold ORR was 5%, because no established treatment exists for patients with R/R ATL, and the expected ORR was 30% based primarily on outcomes in a study of lenalidomide in R/R ATL [3].

Valmetostat showed promising clinical activity in the subset of patients with R/R ATL and R/R PTCL in a US and Japanese phase 1 trial in R/R NHL (NCT02732275) [4, 23]. In patients administered valemetostat 200 mg once daily in the dose expansion cohort, the ORR in the R/R ATL subset ( $n = 14$ ) was 57.1% (8/14 patients)

[investigator's assessment]. CR and PR were both 28.6% (4 of 14 patients each); 14.3% (2/14) of patients had SD and 21.4% (3/14) had PD. The median time to response was 8.14 weeks. After a median 23.07 weeks' follow up, median DOR and PFS were not estimable in this patient cohort. In the R/R PTCL subset ( $n = 44$ ), the ORR based on investigator's assessment was 54.5% (24/44 patients) [investigator's assessment]. CR and PR were both 27.3% (12 of 44 patients each), 11.4% (5/44) of patients had SD and 18.2% (8/44) had PD. The median time to response was 8.14 weeks. After a median 19.93 weeks' follow-up, the median DOR was 56.0 weeks and the median PFS was 52.0 weeks. At the time of data cut-off (2 November 2020), 6 patients with R/R ATL and 12 patients with R/R PTCL continued to be treated with valemetostat. [4, 23].

Eligible patients in this multiple ascending dose trial were aged  $\geq 18$  (USA) or  $\geq 20$  (Japan) years of age. The dose-escalation cohort were administered valemetostat 150–300 mg once daily and the dose expansion cohort (which was limited to patients with R/R PTCL or R/R ATL) were administered valemetostat 200 mg once daily. Treatment was administered under fasted conditions in continuous 28-day cycles until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. At baseline, the median age in patients with R/R ATL was 66.5 years and they had received a median of two prior treatments, including HSCT (in 2 of 14 patients). The median age in patients with R/R PTCL was 68.5 years and they had also received a median of two prior treatments, including HSCT (9 of 44 patients) [4, 23].

### 2.4 Adverse Events

The tolerability and safety profile of valemetostat 200 mg once daily was manageable in clinical trials [3, 4, 10]. Most (96%) patients in the Japanese phase 2 trial in patients with R/R ATL (NCT04102150;  $n = 25$ ) reported an adverse reaction [10]. The most frequent adverse reactions (any grade) were thrombocytopenia (80%; 20/25 patients), anaemia (44%; 11/25), alopecia (40.0%; 10/25), dysgeusia (36.0%; 9/25), lymphopenia (20%; 5/25), neutropenia (20.0%; 5/25) and leukopenia (20.0%; 5/25) [10]. Serious treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were reported in 32% (8/25) patients. Of the 20 patients who experienced thrombocytopenia (a prespecified AE of special interest), 3 experienced grade 4 thrombocytopenia (platelet count  $< 25 \times 10^9/L$ ) and 3 required dose modification (discontinuation, 1 patient; dose interruption, 2 patients). TEAEs led to dose reduction in 2 patients (8%) and dose interruption in 5 patients (20%). Two patients (8%) who had achieved SD discontinued study treatment due to adverse events. No treatment-related deaths occurred [3]. Secondary malignancies, including haematological malignancy, were not reported in this trial. The

## Key clinical trials of valemetostat

Drug(s)	Indication	Phase	Status	Location(s)	Sponsor/Collaborator	Identifier
Valemetostat	R/R ATL	2	Ongoing	Japan	Daiichi Sankyo	NCT04102150; JapicCTI-194964
Valemetostat	R/R PTCL	2	Ongoing	Global	Daiichi Sankyo	NCT04703192; EudraCT2020-004954-31; jRCT2071200095; VALENTINE-PTCL01
Valemetostat	R/R NHL (including BCL, ATL and PTCL)	1	Ongoing	Japan, USA	Daiichi Sankyo	NCT02732275; JapicCTI-163173
Valemetostat	R/R BCL	2	Ongoing	Belgium, France	The Lymphoma Academic Research Organisation; Daiichi Sankyo	NCT04842877; EudraCT2020-005225-81; VALYM
Valemetostat	AML or ALL	1	Terminated <sup>a</sup>	USA	Daiichi Sankyo	NCT03110354
Valemetostat, irinotecan	Recurrent SCLC	1/2	Ongoing	USA	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	NCT03879798
Valemetostat, ipilimumab	Metastatic prostate, urothelial, and renal cell cancers	1	Ongoing	USA	M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; National Cancer Institute	NCT04388852; NCI-2020-02916
Valemetostat	Malignant solid tumours <sup>b</sup>	1	Ongoing	Japan	National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo	jRCT2031190268 NCCH1904/MK007; ELEPHANT

AML acute myelogenous leukaemia, ALL acute lymphocytic leukaemia, ATL adult T-cell leukaemia/lymphoma, BCL B-cell lymphoma, NHL non-Hodgkin lymphoma, PTCL peripheral T-cell lymphoma, R/R relapsed/refractory, SCLC small cell lung cancer

<sup>a</sup>Terminated because of slow patient accrual

<sup>b</sup>In children, adolescents and young adults aged 3–29 years

median dose of valemetostat was 199.33 mg/day and the median duration of treatment was 4.3 months [3].

The most frequent adverse reactions occurring with valemetostat 200 mg once daily in patients with R/R ATL in pooled data from the Japanese phase 2 trial (NCT04102150;  $n = 25$ ) [3] and the 200 mg once daily cohort in the international phase 1 trial in patients with R/R NHL (NCT02732275;  $n = 14$ ) [4] were alopecia (40.5%) and dysgeusia (40.5%). Dry skin, rash, nausea, increased ALT and loss of appetite were each reported in 10% to  $\approx 20\%$  of patients, and diarrhoea, increased AST and fatigue were each reported in  $< 10\%$  of patients [10]. Other adverse reactions included thrombocytopenia (73.0%), anaemia (40.5%), neutropenia (27.0%), leukopenia (21.6%), lymphopenia (16.2%) and upper respiratory tract infection (5.4%) [10].

## 2.5 Ongoing Clinical Trials

In addition to the Japanese phase 2 trial in patients with R/R ATL (NCT04102150) and the Japanese/US phase 1 trial in R/R NHL (NCT02732275) discussed above, several other trials in R/R NHL are ongoing. These include the global phase 2 VALENTINE trial in R/R PTCL (NCT04703192) [24] and the French/Belgian phase 2 VALYM trial in R/R BCL conducted by the LYSARC (NCT04842877). Valemetostat is also being investigated several trials in patients with

solid tumours, including a US phase 1 trial of valemetostat in combination with ipilimumab in metastatic prostate, urothelial, and renal cell cancers (NCT04388852), a US phase 1/2 trial of valemetostat in combination with irinotecan in recurrent small cell lung cancer (NCT03879798) and a Japanese phase 1 trial of valemetostat monotherapy in patients aged 3–29 years with solid tumours (jRCT2031190268; ELEPHANT) [25].

## 3 Current Status

Valemetostat received its first approval on 26 September 2022 for the treatment of R/R ATL in Japan [12].

## Declarations

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**Authorship and Conflict of interest** During the peer review process the manufacturer of the agent under review was offered an opportunity to comment on the article. Changes resulting from any comments received were made by the authors on the basis of scientific completeness and accuracy. Susan J. Keam is a contracted employee of Adis International Ltd/Springer Nature, and declares no relevant conflicts of interest. All authors contributed to the review and are responsible for the article content.

**Ethics approval, Consent to participate, Consent to publish, Availability of data and material, Code availability** Not applicable.

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