

Liposomal Irinotecan: Adis Evaluation

Clinical Considerations

- Liposomal formulation developed to improve pharmacological properties relative to conventional irinotecan
- Approved in combination with fluorouracil, leucovorin and oxaliplatin (NALIRIFOX) for first-line therapy of metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma in adults
- NALIRIFOX prolongs OS and PFS over standard care (gemcitabine + nab-paclitaxel) in first-line therapy of patients with mPDAC
- Generally manageable safety profile

Plain Language Summary

Background and rationale

- Pancreatic adenocarcinoma is an invasive tumour arising from the pancreas. Generally, symptoms are non-specific in the early stages of disease, meaning the pancreatic adenocarcinoma is often diagnosed in later stages having spread to distant sites (advanced/metastatic disease)
- Liposomal irinotecan (Onivyde®), also known as liposomal pegylated irinotecan, is a liposomal formulation of the topoisomerase-1 inhibitor irinotecan
- Encapsulation in liposomes aims to improve the activity and tolerability of irinotecan by protecting the drug in circulation and improving delivery to tumours

Clinical findings

- When given to adults with metastatic pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (mPDAC) in a clinical trial, a combination of liposomal irinotecan, fluorouracil, leucovorin and oxaliplatin (NALIRIFOX) improved survival outcomes compared with the established first-line therapy combination of gemcitabine plus nanoparticle albumin bound paclitaxel (nab-paclitaxel)
- NALIRIFOX had a generally manageable safety profile

Conclusion

Although further analyses will help position the liposomal irinotecan-containing regimen NALIRIFOX in first-line treatment of metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma, current evidence indicates that it is a useful addition to treatment options in this patient population.

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