











# 6 Avelumab First-Line Maintenance for Advanced Urothelial Carcinoma: Results From the JAVELIN Bladder 100 Trial After $\geq 2$ Years of Follow-Up

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## ABSTRACT

*Clinical trials frequently include multiple end points that mature at different times. The initial report, typically based on the primary end point, may be published when key planned coprimary or secondary analyses are not yet available. Clinical Trial Updates provide an opportunity to disseminate additional results from studies, published in JCO or elsewhere, for which the primary end point has already been reported.*

Initial results from the phase III JAVELIN Bladder 100 trial (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT02603432](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02603432)) showed that avelumab first-line (1L) maintenance plus best supportive care (BSC) significantly prolonged overall survival (OS) and progression-free survival (PFS) versus BSC alone in patients with advanced urothelial carcinoma (aUC) who were progression-free after 1L platinum-containing chemotherapy. Avelumab 1L maintenance treatment is now a standard of care for aUC. Here, we report updated data with  $\geq 2$  years of follow-up in all patients, including OS (primary end point), PFS, safety, and additional novel analyses. Patients were randomly assigned 1:1 to receive avelumab plus BSC ( $n = 350$ ) or BSC alone ( $n = 350$ ). At data cutoff (June 4, 2021), median follow-up was 38.0 months and 39.6 months, respectively; 67 patients (19.5%) had received  $\geq 2$  years of avelumab treatment. OS remained longer with avelumab plus BSC versus BSC alone in all patients (hazard ratio, 0.76 [95% CI, 0.63 to 0.91]; 2-sided  $P = .0036$ ). Investigator-assessed PFS analyses also favored avelumab. Longer-term safety was consistent with previous analyses; no new safety signals were identified with longer treatment duration. In conclusion, longer-term follow-up continues to show clinically meaningful efficacy benefits with avelumab 1L maintenance plus BSC versus BSC alone in patients with aUC. An interactive visualization of data reported in this article is available.

## ACCOMPANYING CONTENT

-  [Data Supplement](#)
-  [Protocol](#)

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## INTRODUCTION

In the phase III JAVELIN Bladder 100 trial, avelumab first-line (1L) maintenance plus best supportive care (BSC) significantly prolonged overall survival (OS) and progression-free survival (PFS) versus BSC alone in patients with advanced urothelial carcinoma (aUC) who were progression-free after 1L platinum-containing chemotherapy.<sup>1</sup> The results led to the approval of avelumab 1L maintenance in various countries and its inclusion as standard of care in international treatment guidelines with level 1 evidence.<sup>2-4</sup> We report updated trial data with  $\geq 2$  years of follow-up in all patients (19.5 additional months from the initial analysis).

## METHODS

### Study Design

The design of JAVELIN Bladder 100 (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: [NCT02603432](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02603432)) has been described previously.<sup>1</sup> Eligible patients had locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma and were progression-free after 4-6 cycles of 1L chemotherapy (cisplatin and/or carboplatin plus gemcitabine). After a 4-10-week interval from last chemotherapy dose, patients were randomly assigned 1:1 to receive avelumab plus BSC (avelumab arm) or BSC alone (control arm), stratified by visceral/nonvisceral metastatic disease site at chemotherapy initiation and response/stable

**TABLE 1. Baseline Characteristics**

| Characteristic   | All Patients (N = 700)      |                     |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
|  | Avelumab Plus BSC (n = 350) | BSC Alone (n = 350) |
| Age, years, median (range)                                       | 68.0 (37.0-90.0)            | 69.0 (32.0-89.0)    |
| Sex, No. (%)   |                             |                     |
| Male   | 266 (76.0)                  | 275 (78.6)          |
| Female   | 84 (24.0)                   | 75 (21.4)           |
| Race, No. (%)  |                             |                     |
| White  | 232 (66.3)                  | 238 (68.0)          |
| Asian  | 75 (21.4)                   | 81 (23.1)           |
| Other  | 43 (12.3)                   | 31 (8.9)            |
| Pooled geographic region, No. (%)                                |                             |                     |
| Europe   | 214 (61.1)                  | 203 (58.0)          |
| North America  | 12 (3.4)                    | 22 (6.3)            |
| Asia   | 73 (20.9)                   | 74 (21.1)           |
| Australasia  | 34 (9.7)                    | 37 (10.6)           |
| Rest of the world  | 17 (4.9)                    | 14 (4.0)            |
| ECOG PS, No. (%)   |                             |                     |
| 0  | 213 (60.9)                  | 211 (60.3)          |
| ≥1   | 137 (39.1)                  | 139 (39.7)          |
| PD-L1 status at baseline, No. (%) <sup>a</sup>                   |                             |                     |
| Positive   | 189 (54.0)                  | 169 (48.3)          |
| Negative   | 139 (39.7)                  | 131 (37.4)          |
| Unknown  | 22 (6.3)                    | 50 (14.3)           |
| 1L chemotherapy regimen, No. (%)                                 |                             |                     |
| Gemcitabine plus cisplatin                                       | 183 (52.3)                  | 206 (58.9)          |
| Gemcitabine plus carboplatin                                     | 147 (42.0)                  | 122 (34.9)          |
| Gemcitabine plus cisplatin or carboplatin <sup>b</sup>           | 20 (5.7)                    | 20 (5.7)            |
| Not reported   | 0                           | 2 (0.6)             |
| Best response to 1L chemotherapy, No. (%)                        |                             |                     |
| CR   | 90 (25.7)                   | 89 (25.4)           |
| PR   | 163 (46.6)                  | 163 (46.6)          |
| SD   | 97 (27.7)                   | 98 (28.0)           |
| Metastatic disease site when initiating 1L chemotherapy, No. (%) |                             |                     |
| Visceral   | 191 (54.6)                  | 191 (54.6)          |
| Nonvisceral <sup>c</sup>   | 159 (45.4)                  | 159 (45.4)          |
| Site of primary tumor, No. (%)                                   |                             |                     |
| Upper tract (renal pelvis or ureter)                             | 106 (30.3)                  | 81 (23.1)           |
| Lower tract (bladder, urethra, or prostate gland)                | 244 (69.7)                  | 269 (76.9)          |

Abbreviations: 1L, first-line; BSC, best supportive care; CR, complete response; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease.

<sup>a</sup>PD-L1+ status was defined as PD-L1 expression in ≥25% of tumor cells or in ≥25% or 100% of tumor-associated immune cells if the percentage of immune cells was >1% or ≤1%, respectively (VENTANA SP263 assay).

<sup>b</sup>Patients who switched platinum regimens while receiving 1L chemotherapy.

<sup>c</sup>Nonvisceral includes patients with locally advanced disease in addition to patients with only nonvisceral disease, including bone metastasis.

disease with chemotherapy. Treatment continued until patient withdrawal, confirmed progression, unacceptable toxicity, or other criteria for discontinuation occurred.

### End Points

The primary end point was OS, assessed from random assignment in the overall and PD-L1+ (Ventana SP263 assay) populations. Secondary end points included PFS and objective response per RECIST version 1.1 by investigator assessment and safety. Statistical methodology is reported in the Data Supplement (online only). Because the trial met its objective in the initial analysis (data cutoff: October 21, 2019),<sup>1</sup> updated analyses are considered exploratory, and all P values are descriptive.

The trial was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and the Good Clinical Practice guidelines, defined by the International Council of Harmonisation. All patients provided written consent. The Protocol (online only), amendments, and informed consent forms were approved by an institutional review board or independent ethics committee at each trial site.

## RESULTS

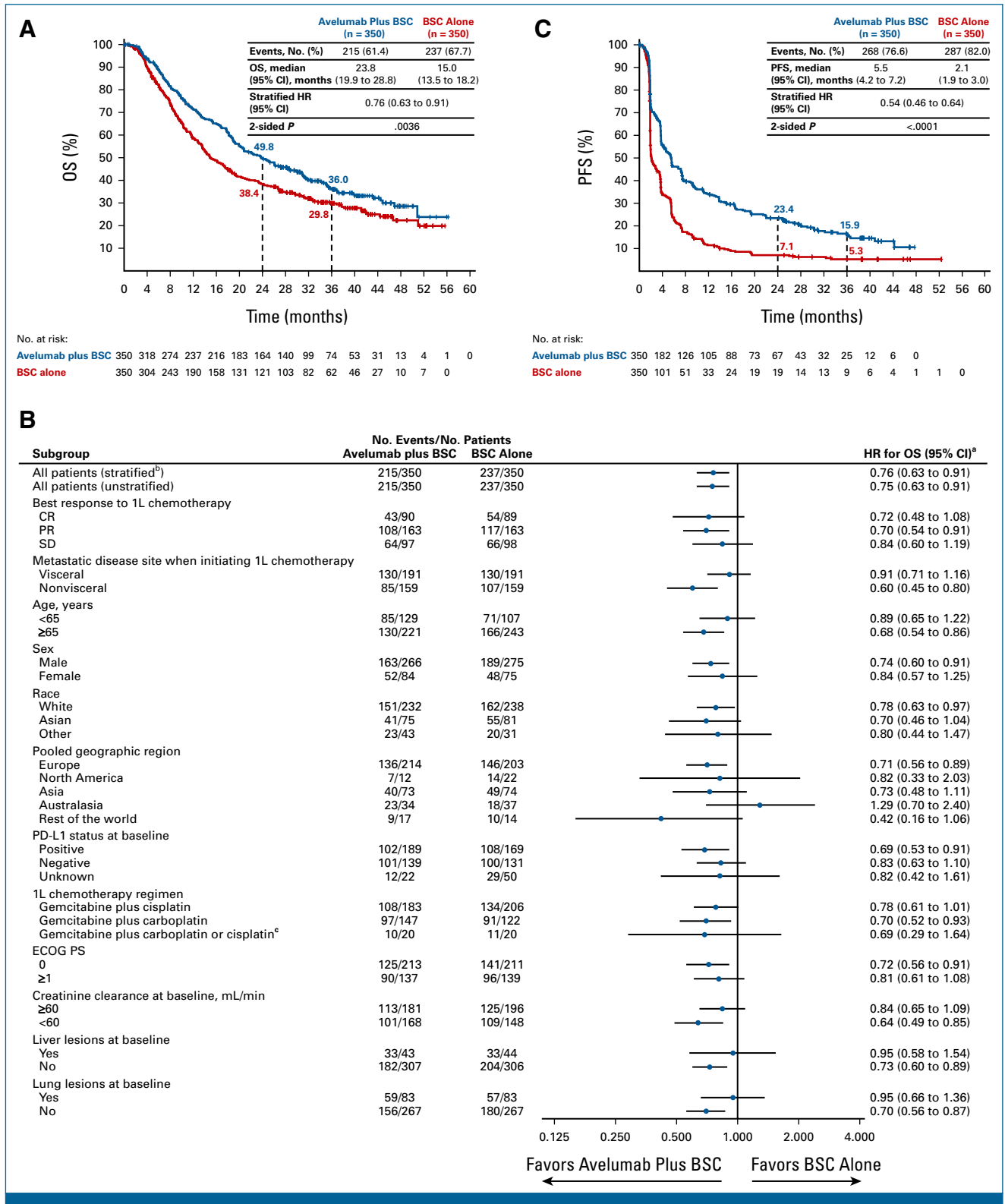
### Patients

Overall, 700 patients were randomly assigned to the avelumab (n = 350) or control (n = 350) arm; 189 of 328 (57.6%) and 169 of 300 (56.3%) patients evaluable for PD-L1 status had PD-L1+ tumors, respectively. Baseline characteristics were balanced between arms (Table 1).

At data cutoff (June 4, 2021), the median follow-up in the avelumab and control arms was 38.0 and 39.6 months (≥2 years in all patients) and treatment was ongoing in 43 (12.3%) and 10 (2.9%) patients, respectively. Reasons for treatment discontinuation are presented in the Data Supplement. The median duration of avelumab treatment (defined as treatment exposure until data cutoff without adjustment for ongoing treatment/censoring) was 5.8 months (range, 0.5-49.7); 67 patients (19.5%) received ≥2 years of avelumab treatment.

### Efficacy

In the overall population, OS was prolonged with avelumab versus control (Fig 1A); the median OS was 23.8 months (95% CI, 19.9 to 28.8) versus 15.0 months (95% CI, 13.5 to 18.2), respectively (hazard ratio [HR], 0.76 [95% CI, 0.63 to 0.91]; 2-sided P = .0036); 2-year OS rates were 49.8% (95% CI, 44.3 to 55.0) versus 38.4% (95% CI, 33.2 to 43.7), respectively. OS analyses also favored avelumab across subgroups, including those defined by chemotherapy regimen and best response to chemotherapy (Fig 1B and Data Supplement). To account for variability between geographic regions, subgroup data were analyzed using an empirical Bayesian



**FIG 1.** Efficacy analyses showing (A) Kaplan-Meier estimate of OS in the overall population, (B) forest plot of OS subgroup analysis, and (C) Kaplan-Meier estimate of investigator-assessed PFS in the overall population. (B) Unless otherwise stated, all analyses are unstratified, and analyses in subgroups with unreported or unknown creatinine clearance or 1L chemotherapy regimen are not shown because of the small number of patients in these subgroups. <sup>a</sup>HRs and CIs were calculated using a Cox proportional hazards model. <sup>b</sup>Stratified by best response to 1L chemotherapy (CR or PR v SD) and metastatic disease site when initiating 1L chemotherapy (visceral v nonvisceral). <sup>c</sup>Patients who switched platinum regimens while receiving 1L chemotherapy. 1L, first-line; BSC, best supportive care; CR, complete response; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease.

shrinkage estimator; using this method, HRs for geographic subgroups were similar (Data Supplement).<sup>5,6</sup> Restricted mean survival time (prespecified analysis) showed a benefit with avelumab versus control (Data Supplement).

Investigator-assessed PFS was also prolonged with avelumab versus control (Fig 1C and Data Supplement). The median PFS was 5.5 months (95% CI, 4.2 to 7.2) versus 2.1 months (95% CI, 1.9 to 3.0), respectively (HR, 0.54 [95% CI, 0.46 to 0.64]; 2-sided *P* < .0001); 2-year PFS rates were

23.4% (95% CI, 18.9 to 28.3) versus 7.1% (95% CI, 4.5 to 10.4), respectively.

Rates of investigator-assessed confirmed objective response and disease control were higher with avelumab versus control (Data Supplement). Among responders, the median duration of response was 28.4 months (95% CI, 15.9 to 42.3) in the avelumab arm (n = 50) and 26.9 months (95% CI, 4.4 to not estimable) in the control arm (n = 14). Among all randomly assigned patients, the restricted mean duration of response

**TABLE 2.** Summary Showing Subsequent Anticancer Drug Therapy (second line or later) by Treatment Arm and Reasons for Discontinuation and Geographic Region in Patients Who Discontinued Study Treatment in Subgroups Who Did or Did Not Receive Subsequent Anticancer Drug Therapy

| Parameter   | Avelumab Plus BSC       | BSC Alone               |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| All patients  | n = 350                 | n = 350                 |
| Study treatment ongoing, No. (%)                                  | 43 (12.3)               | 10 (2.9)                |
| Discontinued and received subsequent drug therapy, No. (%)        | 185 (52.9)              | 252 (72.0)              |
| PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitor   | 40 (11.4)               | 186 (53.1)              |
| FGFR inhibitor  | 10 (2.9)                | 13 (3.7)                |
| Any other drug  | 177 (50.6) <sup>a</sup> | 156 (44.6) <sup>b</sup> |
| Discontinued and did not receive subsequent drug therapy, No. (%) | 122 (34.9)              | 88 (25.1)               |
| Died by data cutoff, No. (%)                                      | 68 (19.4)               | 60 (17.1)               |
| Time from end of treatment to death, months, median (range)       | 2.56 (0-40.6)           | 2.35 (0-26.3)           |
| Patients who discontinued study therapy because of PD             | n = 209                 | n = 275                 |
| Received subsequent drug therapy, No. (%)                         | 158 (75.6)              | 225 (81.8)              |
| PD-1 or PD-L1 inhibitor   | 27 (12.9)               | 166 (60.4)              |
| FGFR inhibitor  | 10 (4.8)                | 11 (4.0)                |
| Any other drug  | 151 (72.2)              | 139 (50.5)              |

| Parameter  | Avelumab Plus BSC           |                       | BSC Alone                   |                       |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | Received Subsequent Therapy | No Subsequent Therapy | Received Subsequent Therapy | No Subsequent Therapy |
| Patients who discontinued study treatment for any reason | n = 185                     | n = 122               | n = 252                     | n = 88                |
| Reason for discontinuation, No. (%)                      |                             |                       |                             |                       |
| PD   | 158 (85.4)                  | 51 (41.8)             | 225 (89.3)                  | 50 (56.8)             |
| AE   | 15 (8.1)                    | 33 (27.0)             | 1 (0.4)                     | 1 (1.1)               |
| Withdrawal of consent                                    | 9 (4.9)                     | 14 (11.5)             | 14 (5.6)                    | 17 (19.3)             |
| Death  | 0                           | 8 (6.6)               | 0                           | 14 (15.9)             |
| Physician decision                                       | 2 (1.1)                     | 9 (7.4)               | 5 (2.0)                     | 2 (2.3)               |
| Global health deterioration                              | 1 (0.5)                     | 2 (1.6)               | 4 (1.6)                     | 1 (1.1)               |
| Other reason <sup>c</sup>                                | 0                           | 5 (4.1)               | 3 (1.2)                     | 3 (3.4)               |
| Geographic region, No. (%)                               |                             |                       |                             |                       |
| Europe   | 123 (66.5)                  | 64 (52.5)             | 152 (60.3)                  | 44 (50.0)             |
| North America  | 6 (3.2)                     | 6 (4.9)               | 15 (6.0)                    | 7 (8.0)               |
| Asia   | 36 (19.5)                   | 26 (21.3)             | 53 (21.0)                   | 20 (22.7)             |
| Australasia  | 14 (7.6)                    | 17 (13.9)             | 24 (9.5)                    | 11 (12.5)             |
| Rest of the world  | 6 (3.2)                     | 9 (7.4)               | 8 (3.2)                     | 6 (6.8)               |

Abbreviations: AE, adverse event; BSC, best supportive care; FGFR, fibroblast growth factor receptor; PD, progressive disease.

<sup>a</sup>The most common other drugs received were gemcitabine (n = 87), carboplatin (n = 66), paclitaxel (n = 60), vinflunine (n = 46), and cisplatin (n = 37).

<sup>b</sup>The most common other drugs received were gemcitabine (n = 67), paclitaxel (n = 59), carboplatin (n = 48), cisplatin (n = 28), and vinflunine (n = 22).

<sup>c</sup>Includes eligibility criteria no longer met, loss to follow-up, nonadherence with study drug, and others.

was 2.8 months (95% CI, 1.5 to 4.0) longer with avelumab versus control (Data Supplement).<sup>7,8</sup>

### Subsequent Therapy

Subsequent anticancer drug therapy (second-line or later) was received by 185 patients (52.9%) in the avelumab arm and 252 (72.0%) in the control arm, including a PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor in 40 (11.4%) and 186 (53.1%), respectively (Table 2). In patients who discontinued study therapy because of progressive disease, 158 of 209 (75.6%) in the avelumab arm versus 225 of 275 (81.8%) in the control arm received a subsequent anticancer drug therapy, including a PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor in 27 (12.9%) versus 166 (60.4%).

In patients with no subsequent anticancer therapy, 36 of 122 patients in the avelumab arm and 10 of 88 in the control arm were confirmed alive at data cutoff.

### Safety

In avelumab-treated patients (n = 344), treatment-emergent adverse events (AEs) of any grade (treatment-related or -unrelated) occurred in 338 (98.3%), including grade  $\geq 3$  AEs in 185 (53.8%; Data Supplement). In patients with  $\geq 12$  months of avelumab treatment (n = 118), any-grade AEs occurred after  $\geq 12$  months in 102 (86.4%), including grade  $\geq 3$  AEs in 56 (47.5%). The most common AEs are shown in the Data Supplement.

In all avelumab-treated patients, any-grade treatment-related AEs (TRAEs) occurred in 269 (78.2%), including grade  $\geq 3$  TRAEs in 67 (19.5%). The most common TRAEs at the initial analysis<sup>1</sup> and additional TRAEs with longer-term follow-up are shown in the Data Supplement. Any-grade TRAEs occurred after  $\geq 12$  months in 59 of 118 patients (50.0%), including grade  $\geq 3$  TRAEs in 14 (11.9%; Data Supplement). TRAEs occurring after  $\geq 12$  months led to discontinuation of avelumab in 12 patients (10.2%) and death in one patient (attributed to immune-mediated nephritis by investigator). Any-grade immune-related AEs occurred after  $\geq 12$  months in 27 patients (22.9%), including grade  $\geq 3$  immune-related AEs in 5 (4.2%).

### Digital Dashboard

An interactive visualization of data reported in this article is available.<sup>9</sup>

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### DISCUSSION

Longer-term results from JAVELIN Bladder 100 continue to show prolonged OS and PFS with avelumab 1L maintenance plus BSC versus BSC alone in the overall population and across various subgroups.<sup>1</sup> To our knowledge, JAVELIN Bladder 100 remains the only phase III trial to report significant improvement in OS in the 1L setting in patients with aUC since trials that established the efficacy of platinum-containing chemotherapy.<sup>1,10-13</sup>

OS was prolonged with avelumab despite 72.0% of patients in the control arm receiving subsequent anticancer drug therapy, including PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors (53.1%). In real-world clinical practice, only 30%-40% of patients are able to receive second-line therapy<sup>14-17</sup>; although more patients may receive subsequent therapy in the maintenance setting, a significant proportion do not receive subsequent therapy even in studies where crossover is available.<sup>18,19</sup> In addition, in this global trial population, anti-PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors may not have been available for second-line therapy in some countries. The HR point estimate for OS in this longer-term analysis was closer to 1 compared with the initial analysis, which may have been influenced by subsequent therapy. However, the CIs for both analyses substantially overlap, indicating that OS benefits with avelumab 1L maintenance remained consistent with additional follow-up.

The results confirm the long-term safety profile of avelumab 1L maintenance, with 19.5% of patients receiving  $\geq 2$  years of treatment and a low overall rate of discontinuation because of TRAEs (10.2%). No new safety signals were identified. Rates of TRAEs occurring after  $\geq 12$  months were modest versus rates of overall TRAEs, and most were low grade, suggesting that long-term avelumab treatment is feasible and manageable. Previously reported patient-reported outcomes from this trial also indicated tolerability.<sup>20</sup> This is particularly important because patients with aUC tend to be older and have associated comorbidities.<sup>21</sup>

In conclusion, longer-term results from JAVELIN Bladder 100 further support the recommendation of avelumab 1L maintenance as standard of care for patients with aUC that has not progressed with 1L platinum-containing chemotherapy, with level 1 evidence.<sup>2-4</sup>

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## PRIOR PRESENTATION

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## AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Disclosures provided by the authors are available with this article at DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.22.01792>.

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## CLINICAL TRIAL INFORMATION

[NCT02603432](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02603432)

## DATA SHARING STATEMENT

Upon request, and subject to review, Pfizer will provide the data that support the findings of this study. Subject to certain criteria, conditions and exceptions, Pfizer may also provide access to the related individual deidentified participant data. See <https://www.pfizer.com/science/clinical-trials/trial-data-and-results> for more information.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

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**Manuscript writing:** All authors

**Final approval of manuscript:** All authors

**Accountable for all aspects of the work:** All authors

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**AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST****Avelumab First-Line Maintenance for Advanced Urothelial Carcinoma: Results From the JAVELIN Bladder 100 Trial After ≥2 Years of Follow-Up**

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