ARTICLE

Clinical Studies

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Olaparib maintenance versus placebo in platinum-sensitive non-small cell lung cancer: the Phase 2 randomized PIPSeN trial

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BACKGROUND: Platinum-sensitivity is a phenotypic biomarker of Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase inhibitors (PARPi) sensitivity in histotypes where PARPi are approved. Approximately one-third of non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLC) are platinum-sensitive. The double-blind, randomized phase II PIPSeN (NCT02679963) study evaluated olaparib, a PARPi, as maintenance therapy for patients with platinum-sensitive advanced NSCLC.

METHODS: Chemonaïve patients with ECOG performance status of 0–1, platinum-sensitive, *EGFR*- and *ALK*-wild-type, stage IIIB-IV NSCLC were randomized (R) to receive either olaparib (O) maintenance or a placebo (P). The primary objective was progression-free survival (PFS) from R. Secondary objectives included overall survival (OS) and safety. With an anticipated hazard ratio of 0.65, 144 patients were required to be randomized, and approximately 500 patients enrolled.

RESULTS: The trial was prematurely terminated because anti-PD(L)1 therapy was approved during the trial recruitment. A total of 182 patients were enrolled, with 60 patients randomized: 33 and 27 in the O and P arms, respectively. Patient and tumor

characteristics were well-balanced between arms, except for alcohol intake (33% vs 11% in the O and P arms, respectively, p = 0.043). The median PFS was 2.9 and 2.0 months in the O and P arms, respectively (logrank p = 0.99). The median OS was 9.4 and 9.5 months in the O and P arms, respectively (p = 0.28). Grade \geq 3 toxicities occurred in 15 and 8 patients in O and P arms, with no new safety concerns.

CONCLUSION: PIPSeN was terminated early after enrollment of only 50% of the pre-planned population, thus being statistically underpowered. Olaparib maintenance did neither improve median PFS nor OS in this patient population.

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INTRODUCTION

Platinum-based doublet chemotherapy regimens have been the cornerstone of first-line treatment in advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) until the advent of immune checkpoint blockers, with a median overall survival (OS) of 8 months and objective response rates (ORR) of 15–27% [1]. This modest benefit prompted a search for additional treatment strategies, in combination or in the maintenance setting, including targeted therapies, antiangiogenics,

immune checkpoint blockers, or more recently, Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors. A first strategy consisted of continuation maintenance, as exemplified by the continuation of pemetrexed after 4 cycles of platinum doublet, which increased OS compared to best supportive care and became standard of care in non-squamous NSCLC [2, 3]. Another strategy consisted of switch maintenance, with the use of a drug not previously employed in the platinum-based induction setting, such as PARP inhibitors (PARPi) [4].

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418

PARPi act by two main mechanisms: (i) inhibiting the catalytic activity of the PARP enzymes (PARYlation), which play a key role in the repair of DNA single-strand breaks through base excision repair; and (ii) trapping PARP1 on the DNA, thereby stalling the replication forks during S-phase [5, 6]. Upon cell replication, unprocessed stalled replication forks eventually lead to DNA double-strand breaks (DSB), which are the most toxic cellular insult. In cells that are deficient in DSB repair (notably following mutations or loss-of-function of the homologous recombination repair (HRR) BRCA1/2 enzymes), the accumulation of DSB eventually causes cell death through synthetic lethality. Because platinum salts generate platinum adducts, which are handled by the same DNA repair pathways as DNA lesions caused by trapped PARP1, platinum-sensitivity is traditionally considered as a phenotypic biomarker for PARPi sensitivity. This suggests that PARPi may be beneficial to patients with platinum-sensitive diseases. Since concomitant administration of PARPi and platinum agents is not tolerable (with the exception of veliparib that has no trapping capabilities) [5, 7], post-platinum switch maintenance represents an attractive setting for these agents. Notably, PARPi have first shown efficacy as a maintenance therapy in advanced ovarian cancer, where they remarkably improved progression-free survival (PFS) in patients with platinum-sensitive disease [8-10]. Similarly, maintenance olaparib recently brought significant improvement in PFS (7.4 months vs. 3.8 months; hazard ratio 0.53) and ORR (23% vs. 12%) in patients with germline BRCAmutated metastatic pancreatic cancer that did not progress on platinum therapy [11].

We previously found that NSCLC preclinical models that are deficient in the Excision repair cross-complementation group 1 (ERCC1) DNA repair enzyme (defective in 20% of NSCLC) were exquisitely selectively sensitive to platinum salts and PARPi [12]. Based on this data, we hypothesized that maintenance PARPi may be beneficial for patients with chemo-naïve platinum-sensitive NSCLC. We therefore conducted an academy-sponsored rando-mized double-blind phase II study to evaluate the efficacy of the PARPi olaparib as a maintenance therapy in patients with platinum-sensitive advanced NSCLC (PIPSeN, NCT02679963). This trial started recruiting patients in 2016 and was prematurely stopped once immune-checkpoint inhibitors became standard of care in the first line setting of advanced NSCLC.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Study design and treatment

PIPSeN was a multicenter randomized double-blind phase II trial, which aimed at assessing the efficacy of olaparib versus placebo as a maintenance therapy after platinum-doublet therapy. The study was sponsored by Gustave Roussy; it involved one French center and the Spanish Lung Cancer Group, including 14 centers.

Eligible patients were required to be at least 18 years old, with an ECOG performance status of 0-1, and have a histologically confirmed diagnosis of advanced NSCLC (stage IIIB or IV according to AJCC 7th edition) without EGFR or ALK/ROS1 alterations. Other eligibility criteria included being chemonaïve for NSCLC and having adequate organ and bone marrow function. Full eligibility criteria are available in the trial protocol (Supplementary File 1). Patients initially received the standard-of-care: four to six 21-day cycles of any platinum-doublet therapy, excluding taxane-based doublets [13-15]. Patients displaying progressive disease or stable disease after induction chemotherapy were excluded from the trial and further optimally managed according to local practice. Patients with partial or complete response (based on RECIST v1.1) after 4-6 cycles of platinum-based chemotherapy were randomly assigned, in a one-to-one ratio, to receive maintenance olaparib or placebo. Random assignment was stratified by age, country, and histology. Olaparib or placebo was administered orally, at a dose of 300 mg twice a day in 28-day cycles, and started no later than 6 weeks after the last administration of chemotherapy. Treatment was administered until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity (Fig. 1). Crossover to olaparib was not allowed. After discontinuation of the trial intervention, patients received treatment according to local guidelines, at the investigators' discretion.

The study was approved by the institutional review board at all participating sites, by the French and Spanish regulatory authorities, and was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki. This study was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov with study reference number NCT02679963. All patients provided written informed consent that included provision of an archival tumor sample and collection of blood samples for future biomarker analyses.

End points and assessments

The primary objective was PFS, which was assessed from randomization until disease progression or death from any cause, whichever occurred first. Secondary objectives included OS and safety. OS was measured from patient randomization until death, regardless of the cause, or to last followup. Treatment efficacy was assessed by a chest- abdomen-pelvic CT-scan, every 2 cycles after randomization, according to RECIST v1.1. Adverse events (AEs) were graded according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for AEs Version 4.0 (NCI CTCAE v 4.0).

Statistical analysis

The calculation for the sample size aimed to achieve a true PFS hazard ratio of 0.65 (primary objective).Based on literature data available at the time of the trial design [2, 16–18], the median PFS from randomization for patients receiving olaparib or placebo were anticipated to be 4.6 and 3 months, respectively [19]. With a two-sided log-rank test at $\alpha = 0.20$ level (type I error) and 80% power, 114 subjects (97 events) were required to show a statistically significant difference for an anticipated true hazard ratio (HR) of 0.65. The median PFS was calculated for each arm of the trial, and the Logrank test was used to compare PFS between the two arms; Kaplan–Meier curves were used to describe PFS by trial arms. A Logrank



Fig. 1 Study design. Chemonaive patients with advanced non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who presented with partial or complete response after platinum-based chemotherapy were randomized between placebo and olaparib. CR complete response, PD progessive disease, PR partial response, SD stable disease.

p-value below 0.20, associated with a HR < 1, would have signaled a benefit from olaparib as compared to placebo.

Secondary analysis included safety, ORR, and OS, was assessed using Kaplan–Meier curves and compared using Logrank tests with a two-sided alpha of 0.20. The study of interaction between treatment effect on the main endpoints and the following patient characteristics was performed: (i) histology (squamous vs non-squamous), and (ii) smoking status, defined as non-smoker (less than 100 cigarettes in the whole life), current smoker, and ex-smoker (patient having stopped smoking >15 years ago). Two Cox models were computed to detect an interaction between treatment effect and histology, or treatment effect and smoking status, respectively.

RESULTS

Patients

Five hundred patients were initially required for enrollment and 144 randomized patients were needed to assess the trial's primary endpoint based on statistical hypotheses (HR PFS = 0.65). However, due to changes in the standard of care for NSCLC treatment and the introduction of anti-PD-(L)1 therapy in the first-line setting, the trial was prematurely closed in August 2019 after enrolling 180 patients. Among them, 60 were randomized: 33 patients were allocated to the olaparib arm and 27 to the placebo arm (Fig. 2). At the time of trial data cut-off, two patients were still receiving placebo, and none were on olaparib.

Baseline patient characteristics (Table 1) showed no significant differences between arms for age, sex, smoking status, histology, number of platinum cycles or the presence of brain metastases. Most patients were male, with a smoking history, and with stage IV NSCLC. Over 60% of the patients had adenocarcinoma. Significantly more patients in the olaparib group had a history of alcohol intake (11 vs 3, p = 0.043).

Treatment outcomes

Survival outcomes. All randomized patients were included in the intent-to-treat efficacy analysis. At the time of analysis, the median duration of follow-up was 39.3 months [Cl 95%: 27.3–46.0]. Median PFS was 2.9 and 2.0 months in the olaparib and placebo arms, respectively (p = 0.99) (Fig. 3a). PFS rates at 6, 12 and 24 months were 28%, 9% and 6% in the olaparib arm; and 22%, 18% and 9% in the placebo arm (Supplementary Table 1). Median OS was 9.4

and 9.5 months in the olaparib and placebo arms, respectively (p = 0.28) (Fig. 3b).

Response rate. Among the 60 patients evaluable for efficacy, six patients did not have any radiological evaluation: one was lost to follow-up, and the other five patients did not have radiological evaluation due to the worsening of their clinical condition; the latter were therefore considered as Progressive Disease. Response rates are depicted in Table 2. Two (6%) and three (11%) patients presented an objective response in the olaparib arm and placebo arm, respectively. Thirteen (41%) patients on olaparib and 7 (36%) patients on placebo presented stable disease at the first radiological assessment. Overall, the disease control rate at the first assessment was 47% (15 patients) and 37% (10 patients) in the olaparib and placebo arms, respectively.

Subgroup analysis. No statistically significant interaction was identified between the treatment effect (as measured by the PFS) and histology or smoking status. However, there was a trend suggesting that current smokers might benefit more from olaparib (HR = 0.51; 95% CI 0.20–1.30; p = 0.11) (Supplementary Table 2).

Safety profile

All patients who received at least one treatment dose were evaluated for safety. One patient randomized in the olaparib arm, who did not start investigational treatment, was excluded from the safety analysis. Treatment/placebo exposure was similar between arms. The median number of treatment cycles received by patients was two for both olaparib and placebo. A total of 20 (63%) patients in the olaparib arm and 8 (30%) in the placebo arm experienced a grade \geq 3 AE. AEs led to drug discontinuation in four patients: two in the olaparib arm (one patient had grade 3 anemia and diarrhea, and one patient had grade 3 vomiting) and two in the placebo arm (one patient had grade 3 migraine and one had grade 3 pulmonary infection). One death, deemed unrelated to the study drug, occurred in the olaparib arm (sepsis caused by lung infection). Table 3 lists serious AEs in both groups and Supplementary Table 3 shows all grade side effects. AEs were in line with the known safety profile of PARPi, with fatigue, anemia and nausea being the most common toxicities.



Fig. 2 CONSORT diagram of PIPSeN. Among 180 enrolled patients, 60 presented with partial response after platinum-based induction chemotherapy and were randomized between olaparib (n = 33) and placebo (n = 27).

Table 1. Patients' characteristics

	arm: Placebo N = 27	arm: Olaparib N = 33	Total N = 60	p-value (test of chi ²)
Age				
Median	65	62	63	
Range	47–82	53–86	47–86	
Gender				0.73
Male	23 (85%)	27 (82%)	50 (83%)	
Female	4 (15%)	6 (18%)	10 (17%)	
Previous cancer				0.26
No	26 (96%)	33 (100%)	59 (98%)	
Yes	1 (4%)	0	1 (2%)	
Alcohol abuse				0.043
No	24 (89%)	22 (67%)	46 (77%)	
Yes	3 (11%)	11 (33%)	14 (23%)	
Smoking history				0.28
Never been a smoker	2 (7.4%)	0	2 (3.3%)	
Ex-smoker	16 (59.3%)	21 (63.6%)	37 (61.7%)	
Current smoker	9 (33.3%)	12 (36.4%)	21 (35%)	
Median number of pack years				
Median	20	20	20	
Range	8–80	2–60	2–80	
Stage at diagnosis				0.84
Stage III-B	2 (7%)	2 (6%)	4 (7%)	
Stage IV	25 (93%)	31 (94%)	56 (93%)	
Histology				0.95
Adenocarcinoma	18 (67%)	20 (61%)	38 (63%)	
Squamous cell	7 (26%)	10 (30%)	17 (28%)	
Large cell	1 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (3%)	
Other	1 (4%)	2 (6%)	3 (5%)	
Number of metastasis				
Median	2	3	2	
Range	1–7	0–5	0–7	
Brain				0.70
No	21 (78%)	27 (82%)	48 (80%)	
Yes	6 (22%)	6 (18%)	12 (20%)	
Bone				0.31
No	19 (70%)	19 (58%)	38 (63%)	
Yes	8 (30%)	14 (42%)	22 (37%)	
Peripheral adenopathy				0.099
No	23 (85%)	22 (67%)	45 (75%)	
Yes	4 (15%)	11 (33%)	15 (25%)	
Liver				0.17
No	20 (74%)	29 (88%)	49 (82%)	
Yes	7 (26%)	4 (12%)	11 (18%)	
Median/mean number of induction cycles number				0.75
4	7 (26%)	6 (18%)	13 (22%)	
5	1 (4%)	1 (3%)	2 (3%)	
6	19 (70%)	26 (79%)	45 (75%)	

DISCUSSION

The PIPSeN trial investigated the activity of olaparib as a switch maintenance therapy in chemotherapy-naïve patients with advanced NSCLC, who achieved an objective response after 4–6 cycles of platinum-based chemotherapy. The shift in therapeutic standard in the first line setting of advanced NSCLC following the

advent of immune-checkpoint inhibitors led to the premature discontinuation of the trial. The final analysis included only half of the pre-planned patient population, thus being statistically underpowered. No signal of efficacy was detected when using olaparib as a maintenance therapy, with no improvement in PFS or OS in this patient population. The safety profile of olaparib was



Fig. 3 Treatment outcomes. a Progression-Free Survival; b Overall Survival.

similar to that observed in other patient populations, with predominantly gastrointestinal and hematological toxicity.

To date, all trials investigating PARPi in NSCLC have failed to show a significant benefit, despite various trial designs. Veliparib, a PARPi with no PARP trapping capabilities, has been compared to placebo in a phase III randomized trial, where it was associated with platinum doublet in treatment-naïve patients with advanced squamous NSCLC [20, 21]. This trial failed to show any difference in OS or PFS between arms [20]. However, the LP52 signature, which distinguishes adenocarcinoma vs non-adenocarcinoma tumors based on a 52-gene signature, identified a subgroup of patients who may derive benefit from veliparib with chemotherapy: mOS was more favorable with veliparib in the LP52-positive population (i.e., tumors with non-adenocarcinoma characteristics; median 14.0 v 9.6 months; HR, 0.66; 95% CI, 0.49–0.89). The phase II PIN trial (NCT01788332) randomized maintenance olaparib 300 mg bd versus placebo in patients with chemosensitive advanced NSCLC after 3–4 cycles of platinum-based chemotherapy. Like PIPSeN, PIN failed to demonstrate a statistically significant benefit of olaparib (PFS HR of 0.83 with a one-sided

Table 2. Response evaluation at first radiological assessment (n = 59)

	Olaparib arm (<i>n</i> = 32)			Placebo arm ($n = 27$)			
	Ν	%	IC 95%	Ν	%	IC 95%	
Objective response	2	6.3	[0.8–20.8]	3	11.1	[2.4–29.2]	
Disease control	15	46.9	[29.1–65.3]	10	37	[19.4–57.6]	
Complete response	0	0	-	0	0	-	
Partial response	2	6.3	[0.8–20.8]	3	11.1	[2.4–29.2]	
Stable disease	13	40.6	[23.7–59.4]	7	25.9	[11.1–46.3]	
Progression	17	53.1	[34.7–70.9]	17	63	[42.4-80.6]	

Table 3.	Serious Adverse events	(classified by SOC) - maximum	grade per o	cycle

		Olaparib (n = 32)		Placebo (n = 27)		
		Grade			Grade	
AE soc	ae_term	3	4	5	2	3
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Anemia	1(3%)	1(3%)			
Gastrointestinal disorders	Diarrhea	1(3%)				
	Rectal fistula					1(4%)
	Vomiting	1(3%)				
	Intestinal stoma obstruction		1(3%)			
Infections and infestations	Lung infection	2(6%)		1(3%)		
	Sepsis	1(3%)		1(3%)		
	Upper respiratory infection	1(3%)				
	Urinary tract infection	1(3%)				
	Vascular disorders - Other, specify					1(4%)
Investigations	Creatinine increased				1(4%)	
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Pain					1(4%)
Nervous system disorders	Edema cerebral	1(3%)				
	Headache					1(4%)
	Stroke				1(4%)	
	Nervous system disorders - Other, specify	1(3%)				
Renal and urinary disorders	Acute kidney injury	1(3%)				
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Infections and infestations - Other, specify					1(4%)
	Dyspnea	1(3%)				
Vascular disorders	Thromboembolic event					1(4%)
	Vascular disorders - Other, specify	1(3%)				

80% CI upper limit of 1.03; p = 0.23). However, after adjustment on histology and smoking status (never vs ever smoker), ITT Coxadjusted model showed a HR of 0.73 (one-sided 80% CI upper limit 0.91, one sided p-value = 0.11, which was considered statistically significant at the 0.2 level [22]), suggesting that PARPi may bring some benefit in platinum-sensitive NSCLC. In PIPSeN, age was initially chosen as a stratification factor, presuming that elderly patients may have a worse outcome, either due to comorbidities or poorer treatment tolerability which could limit the number of administered cycles of induction platinum-based chemotherapy or full dosing of PARPi. Subgroup analysis identified a trend for current smokers to derive more benefit from olaparib. Whether this is due to increased genomic instability or secondary mutations caused by tobacco exposure This calls for a meta-analysis on individual data of both PIN and PIPSeN, which may allow to better define the role of PARPi, and potentially smoking status, in this setting. It is also likely that not all platinumsensitive patients equally benefit from PARPi and that a more stringent molecular selection is needed. Notably, PARPi were evaluated in the non-randomized phase II Lung-MAP Substudy

S1400G, where patients with advanced platinum-sensistive and DDR-deficient squamous NSCLC received talazoparib as a monotherapy. The primary endpoint was objective response in patients harboring BRCA1, BRCA2, ATM, ATR, and PALB2 alterations. Patients had an ORR of only 4%, a mPFS of 2.4 months and mOS of 5.2 months, suggesting that these selection criteria were still insufficient to predict benefit from PARPi [23], or that tissue-specific characteristics (e.g., genetic or epigenetic background, limited drug penetration, etc.) may hamper PARPi activity in NSCLC. Currently, PARPi are being evaluated in NSCLC in combination with anti-PD-(L) 1 immunotherapy in multiple trials [24], based on the observation that PARPi elicit a cell-autonomous type I interferon cGAS-STING response in contexts where they also elicit synthetic lethality [25]. In the maintenance setting, these include the phase II ORION trial (NCT03775486), and the phase III KEYLYNK-006 (NCT03976323) and KEYLYNK-008 (NCT03976362) studies.

To date, PARPi have demonstrated their effectiveness as a monotherapy mostly in selected tumor types that harbor germline alterations in the HRR pathway and are platinum-sensitive [26, 27]. Since response to platinum (as opposed to stable disease only) is

traditionally used as a surrogate marker of PARPi sensitivity and it has been employed to select patients with ovarian cancer for maintenance therapy in trials that led to PARPi approval [10, 28, 29], we decided to exclude patients with disease stabilization from randomization, to better select the patient population, even if maintenance studies in NSCLC classically include all the non-progressing patients. To this point, the most significant benefit of PARPi has been noted in BRCA-altered ovarian, breast, prostate and pancreatic cancers [6, 11, 27, 30]. In other DDR defects, such as ATM alterations, PARPi benefit is less clear [30]. In the aforementioned histotypes, as opposed to lung cancer, HRR defects are bi-allelic and directly involved in their pathogenesis [30-32], a feature that is required for causing genomic instability [33]. Also, in these cancer types, the most frequently altered DDR gene is BRCA [31, 32], while in NSCLC, ERCC1 defects predominate (20% of cases), followed by ATM (3.5%) and BRCA2 alterations (2% of cases) [32]. ERCC1 mutations predict sensitivity to PARPi in vitro [12], but result in predominant nucleotide excision repair and interstrand crosslink repair defects, thereby leading to a less profound synthetic lethality than canonical HRR defects. Also, BRCA alterations may simply be incidental events unrelated to the pathogenesis of lung cancer, being more prevalent amongpatients with a heavy smoking history [34]. As NSCLC frequently displays high TMB and a smoking genomic signature (rather than BRCAness signature), DDR alterations may occur as a consequence of genomic instability, as passenger or subclonal events, rather than driver events. A more stringent molecular selection is therefore likely required to identify NSCLC patients who may benefit from PARPi. Further, other molecular biomarkers, such as PARP1 or SLFN11 expression [35, 36], would also need to be assessed to better select patients. Although some translational studies were initially planned in this pragmatic academic clinical trial, the very limited number of collected tumor samples unfortunately precluded from any statistically relevant biomarker investigation.

The limitations of the PIPSeN trial include its underpowers and absence of molecular selection. Indeed, its rationale was mainly based on targeting ERCC1 defects with PARPi, for which no reliable biomarker exists. This is due to the presence of four closely-related isoforms, of which only one is functional [37]; these isoforms cannot be distinguished by available antibodies [38] and molecular screening by RNA-Seg was not routinely done at the time of trial design. Future translational studies on biological samples collected from patients treated with PARPi should interrogate biomarkers of efficacy, including biallelic BRCA alterations, BRCAness signatures, HRD loss, ERCC1 or composite scores. Also, patients with ATM alterations might more likely benefit from ATR inhibitors [39]. Notably, in the phase II HUDSON trial (NCT03334617), the ATR inhibitor ceralasertib combined with durvalumab showed promising results in 66 ATM-mutant or -WT patients with advanced NSCLC who previously received chemotherapy and immunotherapy, with an ORR of 16.7%, a median PFS of 6 months and median OS of 15.9 months [40]. A phase III trial is currently ongoing (NCT05450692).

CONCLUSIONS

The PIPSeN trial prematurely terminated and was statistically underpowered. Olaparib maintenance did not improve median PFS nor median OS in this subset of patients with platinumsensitive NSCLC. Further translational studies are warranted to identify which molecular subset of NSCLC patients might truly benefit from PARPi.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Original data could be made available upon request for research purposes on a caseby-case basis, in a pseudonymized way and under current GDPR policies, so that patient protection is fully ensured.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

SPV and AG: Principal/sub-Investigator of Clinical Trials for Abbvie, Adaptimmune, Aduro Biotech, Agios Pharmaceuticals, Amgen, Argen-X Bvba, Arno Therapeutics, Astex Pharmaceuticals, Astra Zeneca Ab, Aveo, Basilea Pharmaceutica International Ltd, Bayer Healthcare Ag, Bbb Technologies Bv, Beigene, Blueprint Medicines,

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ETHICS APPROVAL AND CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

PIPSeN was granted central approval by the French Regulatory Authority ANSM under the reference 150127A12, on 10 April 2015, and Ethics Committee CPP lle de France 8 on 10 Feb 2015. In Spain, PIPSeN was approved by the Agencia Española del Medicamento y Productos Sanitarios under the reference MUH/AEC, and the EC of Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol. Each enrolled patient provided informed consent as described in the manuscript and Supplementary Materials.

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424