

Randomized phase I trial of adjuvant personalized cancer vaccine TG4050 in resected, locally advanced HNSCC patients (TG4050.02)

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Key Takeaway Points

1

**Adjuvant TG4050
personalized
vaccination is
feasible and safe in
locally advanced
HPV- resectable
HNSCC**

2

**TG4050 improves
DFS with no
recurrences in the
vaccinated arm after
a median follow-up
of 30 months**

3

**TG4050 induces
neoantigen-specific
CD8 T cell
responses that
persist after the end
of treatment**

Background

- **Standard of care for locally advanced HNSCC:**
 - Unresectable disease or organ-sparing: radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy
 - Resectable disease: surgery followed by radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy
- **Immunotherapy targeting PD1 is becoming standard of care in resectable disease:**
 - Neoadjuvant and adjuvant Pembrolizumab (KN-689 trial)
 - Adjuvant Nivolumab (NIVOPOSTOP trial)

Pignon et al. *Radiother Oncol* 2009; Bernier et al. *NEJM* 2004; Cooper et al. *NEJM* 2004; Uppaluri et al. *NEJM* 2025; Atkins et al. *ASCO* 2025; Bourhis et al. *ASCO* 2025

TG4050

- Viral-based **personalized cancer vaccine** using Modified Vaccinia Virus Ankara
- Specifically manufactured for a given patient based on the identification of **specific somatic mutations** using tumor sequencing
- Contains **up to 30 MHC class I and II predicted patient-specific neoantigen epitopes**
- Expected to induce tumor antigen-specific **T cell responses**

Bendjama & Quemeneur *Hum Vaccin Immunother* 2017

Study design (NCT04183166)

Selection criteria #1:

- Resectable HNSCC from oral cavity, oropharynx, larynx, hypopharynx
- HPV negative
- Stage III or IV

Selection criteria #2:

- Pathological stage III or IV
- Adjuvant therapy completed
- Disease-free @3 months post adjuvant therapy

Surgery

(chemo)radiation

3 months

Disease Assessment

R
1:1

Vaccine manufacturing

Stratification factors:

- Cisplatin (yes/no)
- Pathological stage (III/IV)
- Center

Key objectives:

- **Primary:** Safety
- **Secondary:** Feasibility
DFS
- **Exploratory:** Neoantigen specific response

Arm A:

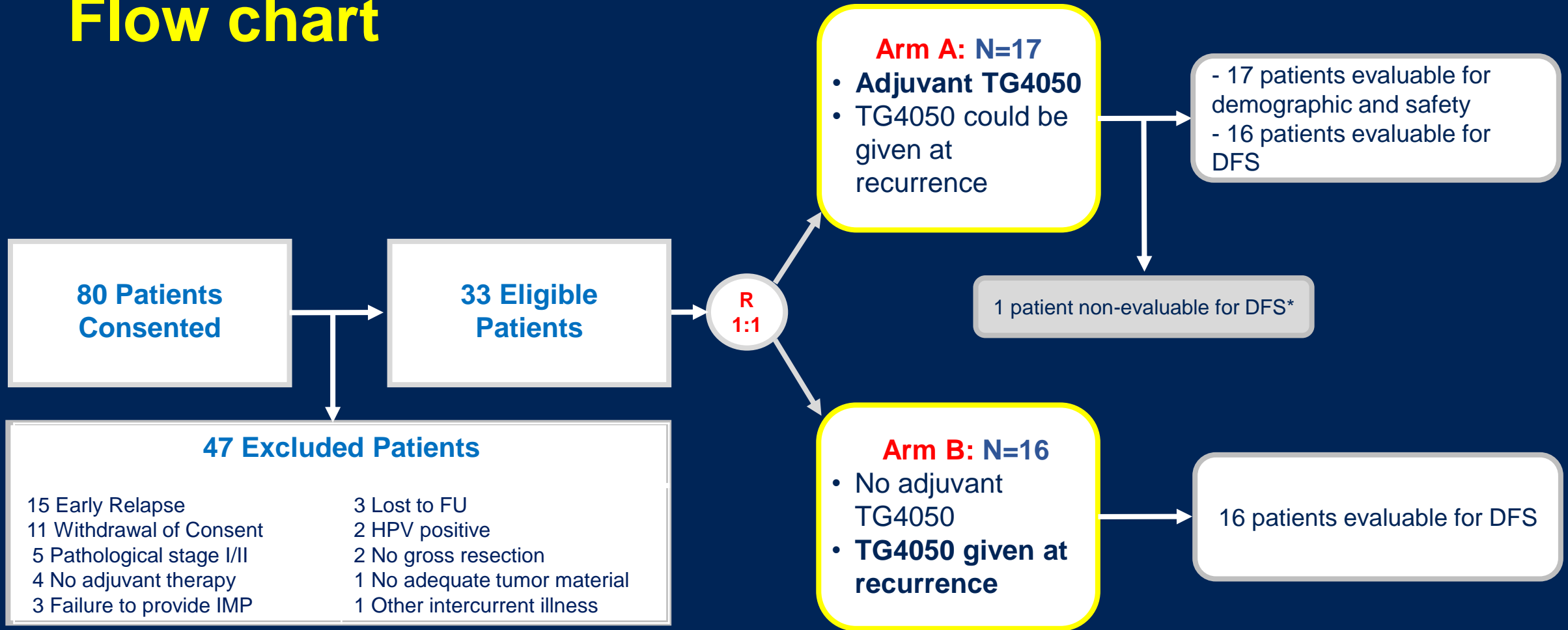
- Adjuvant TG4050
- TG4050 could be given at recurrence

6 injections qw followed by 14 injections q3w SC

Arm B:

- No adjuvant TG4050
- TG4050 given at recurrence

Flow chart



* **Minimum exposure not met:** Patient was diagnosed with locoregional recurrence after only 2 administrations of TG4050

Populations definition for statistical considerations

Population	Definition per protocol	Primary dataset	Total number of patients (A/B)
Full analysis set (FAS)	All randomized patients	Demographic and baseline characteristics	N=33 (17/16)
Safety population (SAF)	All randomized patients who received at least one injection of TG4050	Safety analysis	N=19 (17/2)
Per protocol (PP)	Minimum exposure before recurrence: Arm A: patients who completed their 6 weekly injections of TG4050 Arm B: patients who completed their 6 weeks FU	DFS	N=32 (16/16)

Patient characteristics

	Arm A (N=17)	Arm B (N=16)
Male / Female, n (%)	11 (65%) / 6 (35%)	13 (81%) / 3 (19%)
Age (years), median (range)	61 (26 – 79)	57 (47 – 74)
ECOG PS 0 / 1, n (%)	12 (71%) / 5 (29%)	9 (56%) / 7 (44%)
Primary tumor location		
Oral cavity	14 (82%)	10 (63%)
Oropharynx	2 (12%)	2 (13%)
Hypopharynx	1 (6%)	3 (19%)
Larynx	-	1 (6%)
Clinical stage, n (%)		
III	7 (41%)	3 (20%)
IVa	10 (59%)	13 (81%)
Pathological stage, n (%)		
I/II*	1 (6%)	1 (6%)
III	4 (24%)	3 (19%)
IVa	7 (41%)	5 (31%)
IVb	5 (29%)	7 (44%)
Concomitant cisplatin, n (%)	10 (59%)	9 (56%)

* The protocol was further amended to only include Pathological stage III and IV disease

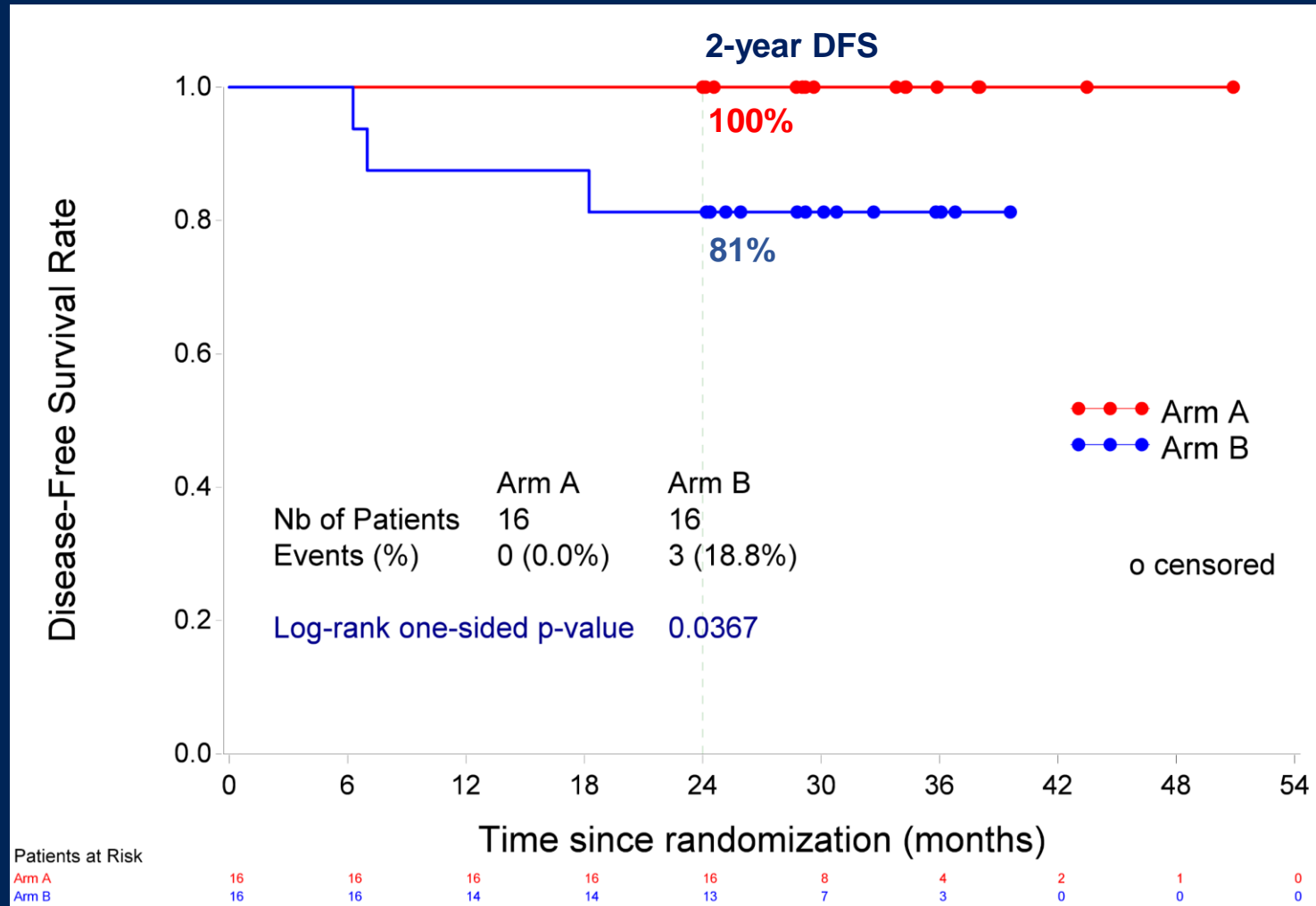
Pathological risk factors

	Arm A (N=17)	Arm B (N=16)
Extracapsular effraction, n (%)	5 (29%)	8 (50%)
Invaded margins, n (%)	4 (24%)	3 (19%)
Perineural infiltration, n (%)	13 (77%)	7 (44%)
4+ invaded lymph nodes, n (%)	2 (12%)	3 (19%)
No. of risk factors, n (%)		
0	3 (18%)	2 (13%)
1	5 (29%)	9 (56%)
2+	9 (53%)	5 (31%)

Safety

	Adjuvant TG4050 (N=17)	TG4050 at recurrence (N=3)
Patients with at least one AE related to TG4050, n (%)	16 (94%)	2 (67%)
Dose-limiting toxicity	0	0
SAE	0	0
Grade 3-5 AEs	0	0
Grade 1/2 AEs related to TG4050		
Injection site reaction	16 (94%)	1 (33%)
Rash	2 (12%)	0
Fatigue	2 (12%)	0
Influenza-like syndrom	2 (12%)	0
Diarrhoea	2 (12%)	0
Lymphopenia	0	1 (33%)
Headache	1 (6%)	0
Alkaline phosphatase increase	0	1 (33%)

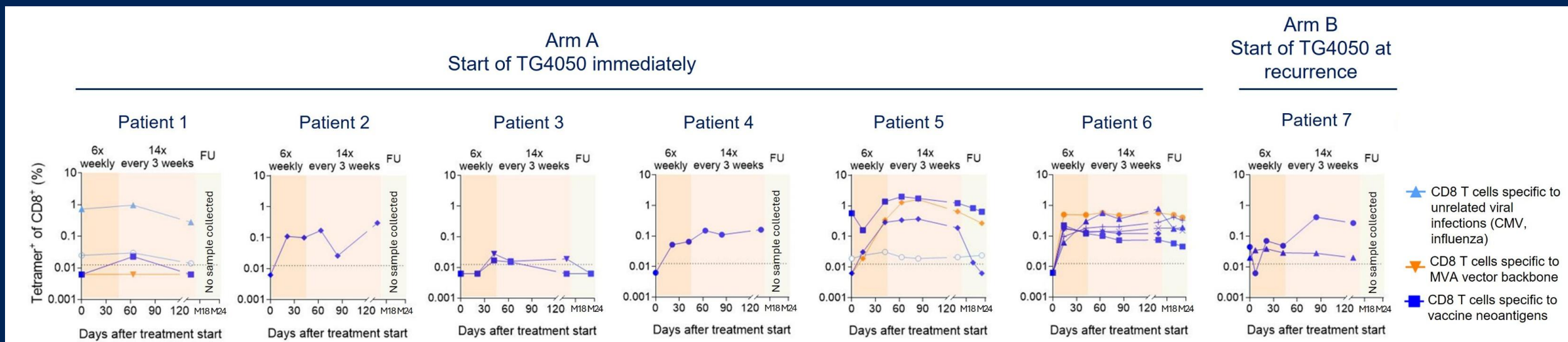
Efficacy



**Median FU of
30 months**

Immune response

- **Neoantigen-specific CD8 T cell responses** to multiple vaccine epitopes in the same patient with no evidence of antigen **immunodominance**
- **Persistence** of CD8 T cell responses over 1 year after the end of the treatment



Conclusions

Adjuvant personalized vaccination with TG4050 is feasible and safe in resectable HPV- locally advanced HNSCC patients, and induces long-lasting immune responses to vaccine neoantigens

Adjuvant personalized vaccination with TG4050 improves DFS with no recurrences in the vaccinated arm, supporting the ongoing randomized phase II part of the trial (last randomization expected for Q4 2025)

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