

The Future of Cancer Immunotherapy: KOL Views Bring Opportunities into Sharp Focus

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Abstracts

There has been considerable media hype and clinical interest in cancer immunotherapy in recent years. Indeed, there is talk of late stage cancers such as melanoma and NSCLC being managed as chronic conditions with significant increases in life expectancy. There is even speak of a cure.

But what is the true state of cancer immunotherapy research? Can we really be sure that the promise of early-stage success will be seen in late-stage clinical trials? Importantly, what do leading clinicians think about the products and research and how do they see things playing out in the clinical setting?

Undoubtedly, few research developments in recent years have held such promise to provide game a game changing shift in the treatment of cancer. Ever since the launch of Dendreon's Provenge (sipuleucel-T) and, more recently BMS' checkpoint inhibitor Yervoy (ipilimumab), there has been growing knowledge and anticipation that we are on the cusp of a radical new era of cancer management. As one leading KOL puts it "this is nothing less than an explosion in the options for our patients"

Opportunities and challenges

Immediate research interest is focussed on the CTLA-4L, PD1 and PD-L1 classes, with many expected to market in the medium term in a battle between BMS, Merck, Roche and AZ among others. The PD-1 products have shown high-levels of efficacy in trials leading to hitherto unseen therapeutic outcomes in melanoma and NSCLC with the prospect of wider indications to follow as research advances.

But there are challenges too. The expected high costs of therapy will need to be

mitigated by the development and use of accurate diagnostic biomarkers – an area still lagging in significant progress. Moreover, current clinical trial protocols are felt to be inappropriate for assessing immunotherapeutics. The disappointing results from Dendreon's Provenge have brought into question the value and role cancer vaccines might play in the treatment mix, though research is ongoing.

It is still early days. How immunotherapeutics will be best utilised is still open to question, though application in combination with other agents and treatment regimes seems to yield the best results.

The bottom line here is that cancer immunotherapies will revolutionise cancer treatment and the fortunes of the companies who bring effective and safe products to the market.

Key benefits, features and insights

The cancer immunotherapy market is evolving rapidly. In this report, key stakeholders from the pharmaceutical industry, diagnostic biomarker developers, regulatory authorities and health payers will:

Gain access to the latest research developments and KOL expert views on current and future products and how they will fit into cancer treatment regimes with trends across a range of topics, from competitive strategy, clinical development, IP, and pricing

Appreciate the practical insights of practicing clinicians

Understand the regulatory issues which could negatively affect progress and why new clinical trial protocols are required

Be aware of the very latest clinical research results from ASCO 2014

Learn about the clinical benefits and challenges for CTLA-4L, PD1 and PD-L1 therapeutic approaches including efficacy and toxicity assessments

Understand how cancer vaccines may fit into the future market

Gain insight to the different types of combination therapies which are being examined to secure maximum therapeutic benefit

Key Features

The Future of Cancer Immunotherapy: KOL Views Bring Opportunities into Sharp Focus

Extensive examination of the therapeutic approaches and products in research

Detailed assessment of launched products

Current and extensive clinical trial status and results

Critical appraisal of research environment related to issues such intellectual property, pricing and biomarkers

Insightful commentary and opinions from leading KOLs

Key Insights

Which companies are leading the race to be first to market and with what products?

How might toxicity affect take up?

What type of patients will benefit most?

What challenges need to be overcome in the education of clinicians and patients?

How regulators need to develop their product review systems when assessing cancer immunotherapies

When will the price be too high: balancing the cost/benefit equation?

KOL Panel

Incisive questions. Expert answers. Critical insights

This report examines the key developments in cancer immunotherapy and examines the research and products that are the focus of attention. It includes from the most prominent cancer KOL's in Europe and the US whose knowledge and practical clinical experience and involvement means their insights and opinions need to be considered carefully by drug developers.

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