



Balstilimab alone or in combination with zalifrelimab as second-line treatment for patients with previously treated recurrent/metastatic cervical cancer: a randomized, placebo-controlled phase II trial (RaPiDS/GOG-3028)

Leslie M. Randall¹, David M. O'Malley², Camille Gunderson Jackson³, Robert L. Coleman⁴, John L. Hays², Kathleen N. Moore³, R. Wendel Naumann⁵, Rodney P. Rocconi⁶, Brian M. Slomovitz⁷, Krishnansu S. Tewari⁸, Marek Ancukiewicz⁹, Waldo Ortuzar Feliu⁹, and Bradley J. Monk¹⁰

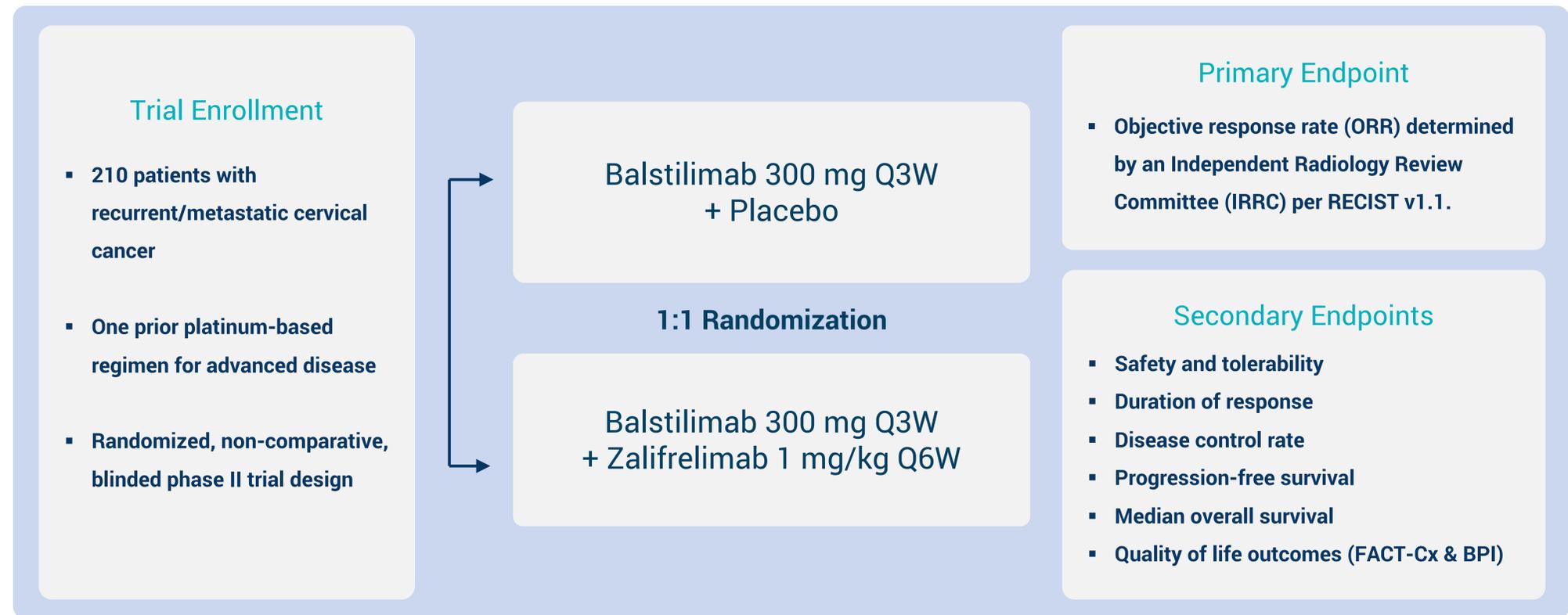
¹Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23298 US; ²Division of Gynecologic Oncology, The Ohio State University/James Comprehensive Cancer Center, Columbus, OH 43210 US; ³Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Stephenson Oklahoma Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK 73104, US; ⁴Department of Gynecologic Oncology and Reproductive Medicine, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX 77030, US; ⁵Department of Gynecologic Oncology, Levine Cancer Institute, Charlotte, NC 28204, US; ⁶Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of South Alabama Mitchell Cancer Institute, Mobile, AL 36604, US; ⁷Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Miami, Miami, FL 33136, US; ⁸Division of Gynecologic Oncology, University of California, Irvine Medical Center, Orange, CA 92868, US; ⁹Clinical Development, Agenus Inc., Lexington, MA 02421, US; ¹⁰Division of Gynecologic Oncology, Arizona Oncology (US Oncology Network), University of Arizona & Creighton University, Phoenix, 85016 US

Background

- Targeting the programmed death 1 (PD-1)/programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) immune checkpoint pathway has provided an important advance for the treatment of patients with advanced cervical cancer,¹ yet opportunities exist to improve current outcomes.² Amongst these, dual blockade of PD-1 and cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated protein 4 (CTLA-4) represents an attractive therapeutic approach, given that this is an effective strategy in other tumor types.³
- Balstilimab (AGEN2034; anti-PD-1) demonstrated meaningful and durable single-agent activity in previously-treated patients with metastatic, persistent, or recurrent cervical cancer in a large phase II trial (NCT03104699).⁴ Notably, responses were observed in PD-L1+ patients as well as those with PD-L1- tumor expression. Responses also occurred in patients whose tumors were of squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma origin.
- Balstilimab plus zalifrelimab (AGEN1884; anti-CTLA-4) was evaluated in a parallel, independent study in a similarly selected patient population (NCT03495882). The combination provided improved clinical benefit over monotherapy, as evidenced by higher relative response rates and longer response duration, as well as a manageable safety profile.⁴ Again, clinical activity was seen irrespective of PD-L1 tumor status or histology.
- Taken together, these findings demonstrate that both single-agent balstilimab and the balstilimab/zalifrelimab combination are effective and well tolerated as second-line treatment for advanced/metastatic cervical cancer and may represent promising new options for patients in this disease setting.

Study Design

- RaPiDS is a Randomized Phase II study assessing the safety and efficacy of balstilimab (anti-PD-1), both as monotherapy and in combination with zalifrelimab (anti-CTLA4), in patients with cervical cancer who relapsed after platinum-based therapy for advanced (recurrent/metastatic) disease (Second-line)
- A planned total of 210 patients will be randomized 1:1 to:
 - Arm 1: Balstilimab 300 mg administered IV on Day 1 of a 3-week cycle (Q3W)
 - Arm 2: Balstilimab 300 mg Q3W plus zalifrelimab 1 mg/kg administered IV on Day 1 of a 6-week cycle (Q6W)
- Patients may receive treatment for up to 24 months (or until progression, unacceptable toxicity, or withdrawal from the trial)



Key inclusion criteria

- Women ≥ 18 years of age
- Histologically or cytologically confirmed diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, or adenosquamous carcinoma of the cervix
- Has relapsed after a platinum-based (first-line) regimen for advanced (recurrent, unresectable, or metastatic) disease
- Measurable disease i.e., at least 1 target lesion per RECIST v1.1.
- ECOG performance status of 0 or 1
- Have adequate hematologic, renal, and hepatic function

Key exclusion criteria

- Diagnosis of clear cell carcinoma, minimal deviation adenocarcinoma, gastric type adenocarcinoma, or mesonephric carcinoma
- Prior treatment with an immune checkpoint inhibitor
- More than 1 systemic treatment regimen for advanced cervical cancer
- Known severe hypersensitivity reactions to fully human monoclonal antibodies
- Active, or history of, autoimmune disease requiring immunosuppressive systemic treatment within 2 years of start of trial treatment
- Received systemic corticosteroid therapy ≤ 7 days prior to 1st dose of study treatment

References: 1. Liu, Y et al. *Front Pharmacol.* 2019; 10:65; 2. Boussios, S et al. *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol.* 2016; 108:164-174; 3. Rotte, A. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res.* 2019; 38:255; 4. O'Malley, DM et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2020;31:S1164–S1165