Niktimvo™ (axatilimab-csfr) – New orphan drug approval

- On August 14, 2024, Incyte and Syndax Pharmaceuticals announced the FDA approval of Niktimvo (axatilimab-csfr), for the treatment of chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGVHD) after failure of at least two prior lines of systemic therapy in adult and pediatric patients weighing at least 40 kg.

- cGVHD is a serious condition that can occur after an allogeneic stem cell transplant in which the donated cells initiate an immune response and attack the transplant recipient's organs. It is estimated to affect approximately 17,000 patients in the U.S.

- Niktimvo is a first-in-class monoclonal antibody that binds to colony stimulating factor-1 receptors (CSF-1R) expressed on monocytes and macrophages. Blocking CSF-1R reduces the levels of these circulating proinflammatory and profibrotic monocytes and monocyte-derived macrophages.

- The efficacy of Niktimvo was established in AGAVE-201, a randomized, open-label study in 79 adult and pediatric patients with recurrent or refractory cGVHD who had received at least 2 lines of systemic therapy and required additional treatment. Treatment consisted of Niktimvo administered intravenously every 2 weeks until disease progression, lack of efficacy by 9 months, or unacceptable toxicity. The primary endpoint was overall response rate (ORR) through cycle 7 day 1, where overall response included complete response or partial response according to the 2014 NIH Consensus Development Project on Response Criteria.

    - The ORR was 75% (95% CI: 64, 84).
    - The median duration of response, calculated from first response to progression, death, or new systemic therapies for cGVHD, was 1.9 months (95% CI: 1.6, 3.5).

- Warnings and precautions for Niktimvo include infusion-related reactions and embryo-fetal toxicity.

- The most common adverse reactions (≥ 15%), including laboratory abnormalities, with Niktimvo use were increased aspartate aminotransferase, infection (pathogen unspecified), increased alanine aminotransferase, decreased phosphate, decreased hemoglobin, viral infection, increased gamma glutamyl transferase, musculoskeletal pain, increased lipase, fatigue, increased amylase, increased calcium, increased creatine phosphokinase, increased alkaline phosphatase, nausea, headache, diarrhea, cough, bacterial infection, pyrexia, and dyspnea.

- The recommended dose of Niktimvo is 0.3 mg/kg, up to a maximum dose of 35 mg, as an intravenous infusion over 30 minutes every 2 weeks until progression or unacceptable toxicity.

- To facilitate patient dosing and limit product waste, following the FDA's approval of Niktimvo (as a 50 mg single-dose vial), Incyte and Syndax will seek approval to launch two smaller vial sizes. Following FDA approval of the new vial sizes, Incyte and Syndax anticipate launching Niktimvo in the U.S., no later than early first quarter 2025.