Opdualag™ (nivolumab/relatlimab-rmbw) – New drug approval

- On March 18, 2022, Bristol Myers Squibb announced the FDA approval of Opdualag (nivolumab/relatlimab-rmbw), for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years of age or older with unresectable or metastatic melanoma.

- Opdualag is a fixed-dose combination product that contains nivolumab, a programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1) blocking antibody (previously approved as a single ingredient product under the brand name Opdivo®) and relatlimab, a novel lymphocyte activation gene-3 (LAG-3) blocking antibody.

    — LAG-3 and PD-1 are two distinct inhibitory immune checkpoints that are often co-expressed on tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes, thus contributing to tumor-mediated T-cell exhaustion.

- The efficacy of Opdualag was established in RELATIVITY-047, a randomized, double-blinded study in 714 patients with previously untreated metastatic or unresectable Stage III or IV melanoma. Patients were randomized to receive Opdualag or Opdivo until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. The major efficacy outcome measure was progression-free survival (PFS). Additional efficacy outcome measures were overall survival (OS) and overall response rate (ORR).

    — Median PFS was 10.1 months and 4.6 months for Opdualag and Opdivo, respectively (hazard ratio [HR] 0.75, 95% CI: 0.62, 0.92; p = 0.0055).
    — Median OS was not reached with Opdualag vs. 34.10 months for Opdivo (HR 0.80, 95% CI: 0.64, 1.01; not significant).
    — ORR was 43% (95% CI: 38, 48) and 33% (95% CI: 28, 38) for Opdualag and Opdivo, respectively.

- Warnings and precautions for Opdualag include severe and fatal immune-mediated adverse reactions; infusion-related reactions; complications of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; and embryo-fetal toxicity.

- The most common adverse reactions (≥ 20%) with Opdualag use were musculoskeletal pain, fatigue, rash, pruritus, and diarrhea. The most common laboratory abnormalities (≥ 20%) were decreased hemoglobin, decreased lymphocytes, increased aspartate aminotransferase, increased alanine aminotransferase, and decreased sodium.

- The recommended dosage of Opdualag for adult patients and pediatric patients 12 years of age or older who weigh at least 40 kg is 480 mg nivolumab and 160 mg relatlimab administered intravenously every 4 weeks until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity occurs.

    — The recommended dosage for pediatric patients 12 years of age or older who weigh less than 40 kg has not been established.

- Opdualag will be priced at $27,389 every 4 weeks.

- Bristol Myers Squibb launch plans for Opdualag are pending. Opdualag will be available as a single-dose vial containing 240 mg of nivolumab and 80 mg of relatlimab per 20 mL.