A RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED PHASE 2 STUDY OF THE EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF FARLETUZUMAB (MORAB-003) IN COMBINATION WITH WEEKLY PACLITAXEL IN SUBJECTS WITH PLATINUM-RESISTANT OR REFRACTORY RELAPSED OVARIAN CANCER


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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Farletuzumab (MORAB-003) is a humanized monoclonal antibody that binds to the folate receptor alpha (FRA) which is over-expressed in most epithelial ovarian cancers (EOC), but largely absent on normal tissue. The expression of FRA is known to relate to the malignant potential of the cancer. Farletuzumab has been shown to suppress phosphorylation of proteins by the Lyn kinase (a member of the src family of kinases). It inhibits tumor growth in preclinical xenograft models of ovarian cancer, in addition to being active in antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) and complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) assays.1 It showed signs of efficacy as a single agent in a phase 1 study in subjects with advanced platinum refractory/resistant EOC.2 In this phase 1 study, as well as in a subsequent phase 2 study, farletuzumab demonstrated a favorable safety profile. Weekly low dose paclitaxel (80mg/m2) shows promise as a single agent in platinum refractory/resistant EOC with an overall response rate of about 21% and a median duration of remission of 3 months.3,4 In a xenograft model, synergy between taxane and farletuzumab has been demonstrated.5 In this study, we are comparing the efficacy of farletuzumab when combined with paclitaxel in platinum refractory/resistant EOC.

METHODS: 126 subjects with platinum resistant/refractory non-mucinous EOC receive paclitaxel 80mg/m2 for 12 weeks, then in 4-week cycles with Week 4 being a rest week.6 The primary endpoint is progression free survival.

Figure 1. Farletuzumab’s proposed bimodal mechanism of anti-tumor activity

Figure 2. Study Schema

CONCLUSION

This study will address the question as to whether the addition of farletuzumab to current weekly paclitaxel therapy for platinum resistant ovarian cancer improves efficacy.

RESULTS

• Study is ongoing.
• 134 subjects have been enrolled (1 May 2010).
• Enrolled is projected to be completed by June, 2011

REFERENCES