Phase II open-label, multi-centre study of bemcentinib (BGB324), a first-in-class selective AXL inhibitor, in combination with pembrolizumab in patients with advanced NSCLC.

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Background & objective

NCT03184571: Phase II clinical trial of selective AXL inhibitor bemcentinib and pembrolizumab

bemcentinib,

pembrolizumak

Simon-like two stage design enrolling up to 48 patients

2nd line advanced adeno NSCLC

- measurable disease
- fresh tissue biopsy PDL1 all comers

Key inclusion and exclusion criteria

- Histopathologically or cytologically documented Stage IV adenocarcinoma NSCLC Has disease progression on or after a prior platinum-containing chemotherapy
- Measurable disease as defined by RECIST 1.1
- Provision of suitable fresh tumour tissue for the analysis of AXL kinase and

Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance score 0 or 1

Assessments - efficacy & safety • Response was assessed every 9 weeks per RECIST v1.1

- Adverse events were assessed by CTCAE v4.03 Safety-evaluable: ≥1 dose of study treatment as of
- data cutoff 17 May 2018 Recruitment into Part One has been completed

 PD-L1 and AXL expression per IHC Soluble protein biomarkers by liquid biopsy Immune cell popoulations by multi-spectral imaging

No prior therapy with an immunomodulatory agent

No recent or ongoing systemic steroid therapy

DCR, DoR, PFS, Survival at 12 months, response by biomarker expression

Not received more than one prior line of chemotherapy for advanced or metastatic adenocarcinoma of the lung

No symptomatic central nervous system (CNS) metastases and/or carcinomatous meningitis

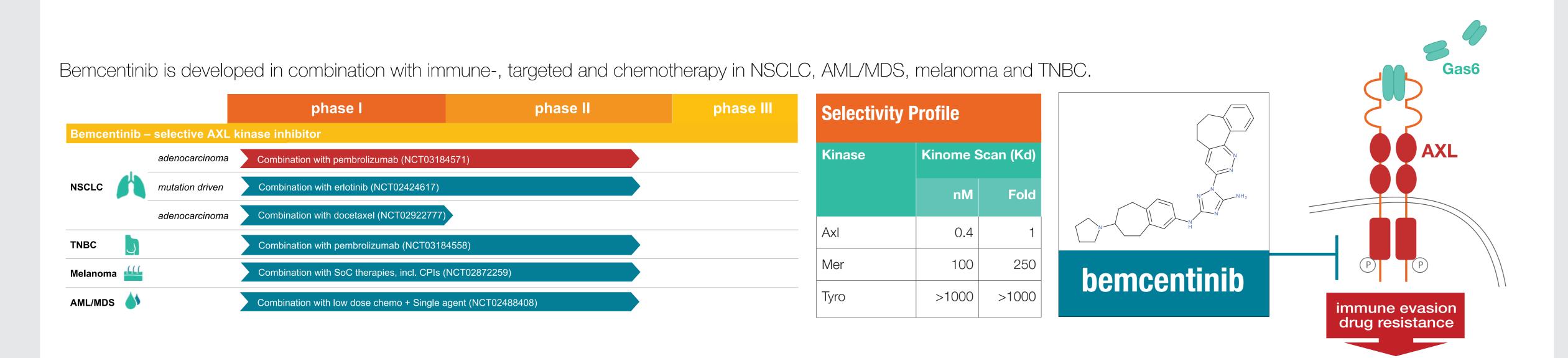
Interim

analysis

Final

analysis

Bemcentinib (BGB324): selective, oral small molecule inhibtor of AXL in phase II clinical testing



Study rationale

anti PD-1 therapies in second line metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)

- Pembrolizumab as a single agent is indicated for the treatment of patients with metastatic NSCLC with disease progression on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy and whose tumors express ≥1% PD-L1 • In a randomised phase II/III trial of pembrolizumab vs docetaxel for previously treated, PD-L1-positive, advanced NSCLC (KEYNOTE-010, Herbst et al) pembrolizumab was found to - prolong OS in patients with PD-L1 ≥1%
- 1 year survival was 18% and 30% in patients with ≥1% and ≥50% PD-L1, respectively Novel combination treatment strategies are needed to improve efficacy of pembrolizumab

AXL receptor tyrosine kinase and selective AXL inhibitor bemcentinib

- AXL is a receptor tyrosine kinase expressed on tumour and immune cells and a member of the TAM family (Tyro-AXL-Mer) of kinases • AXL is overexpressed in response to a hostile tumour microenvironment and drives a tumour survival programme: - AXL drives immune escape
- anti-tumour therapy resistance
- AXL is a negative prognostic factor in a multitude of cancers including NSCLC
- Bemcentinib, a first-in-class highly selective inhibitor of AXL, has been shown to improve the efficacy of checkpoint blockade in murine pre-clinical models of NSCLC by - improving anti tumour response when given in combination with immune checkpoint inhibitors compared to checkpoint inhibitors alone - supporting an anti-tumour cytokine profile - leading to increased tumour immune cell infiltration

First stage completed enrollment: Preliminary interim analysis of RECIST evaluable patients to date, study remains ongoing

Patients

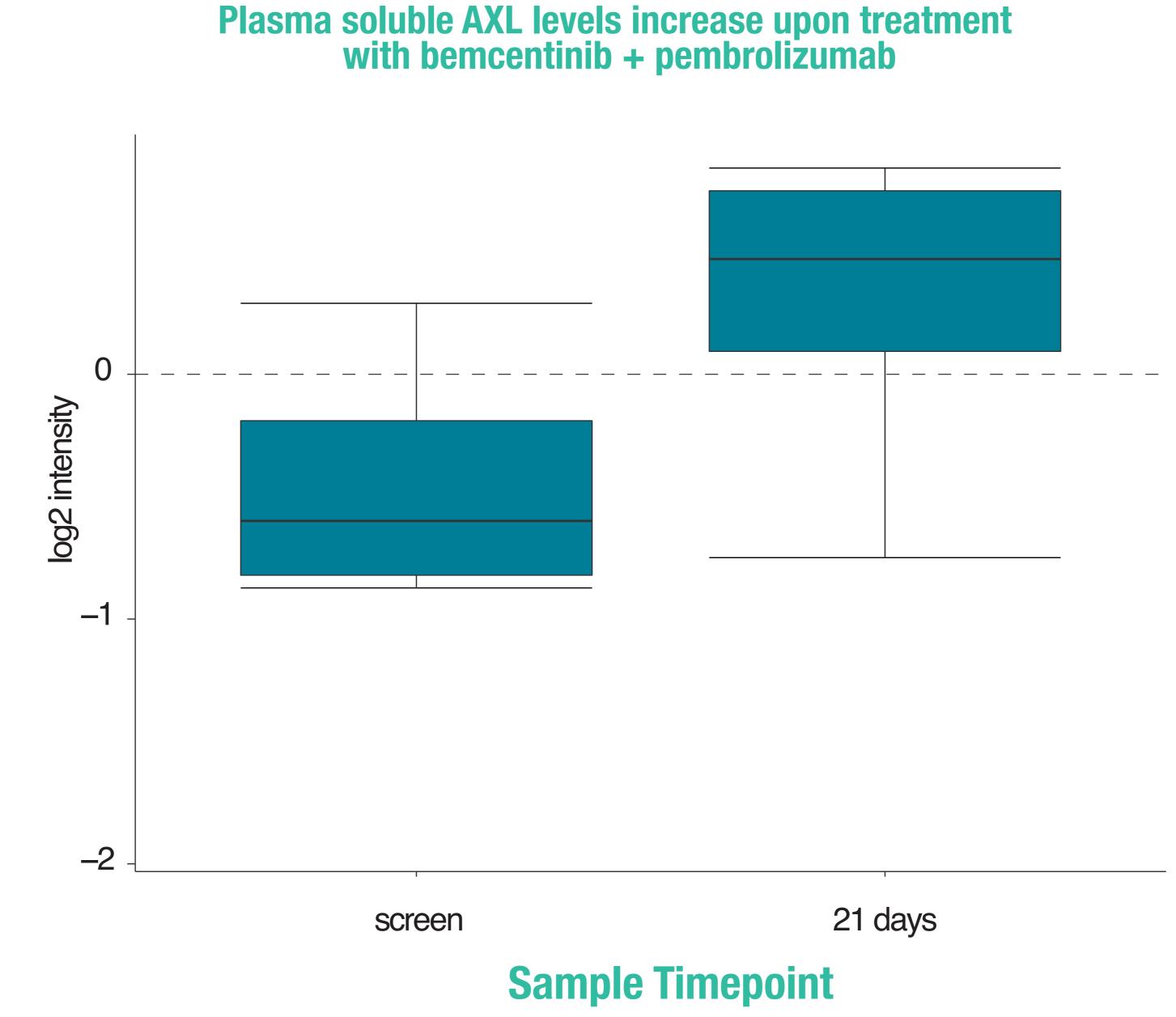
Table 1: Baseline demographics

Age, median (range)	64 (51 - 77)
ECOG at screen, median (range)	1 (0 - 2)
0	6 (25%)
1	10 (41.7%)
2	8 (33.3%)
# previous treatments treatments, median (range)	1 (0 - 1)
Best response to most recent treatment, n (%)	
PR/CR	6 (25%)
SD	9 (37.5%)
PD	8 (33.3%)
Other/unknown	1 (4.2%)
Mutations, n (%)	
KRAS	3 (12.5%)
TP53 and ERBB2	1 (4.2%)
none	19 (79.2%)
Metastases, n (%)	
Liver	4 (18.2%)
bone	5 (22.7%)
adrenal	3 (13.6%)
CNS / Spinal	1 (4.5%)
pancreas	1 (4.5%)
kidnov	1 (1 5%)

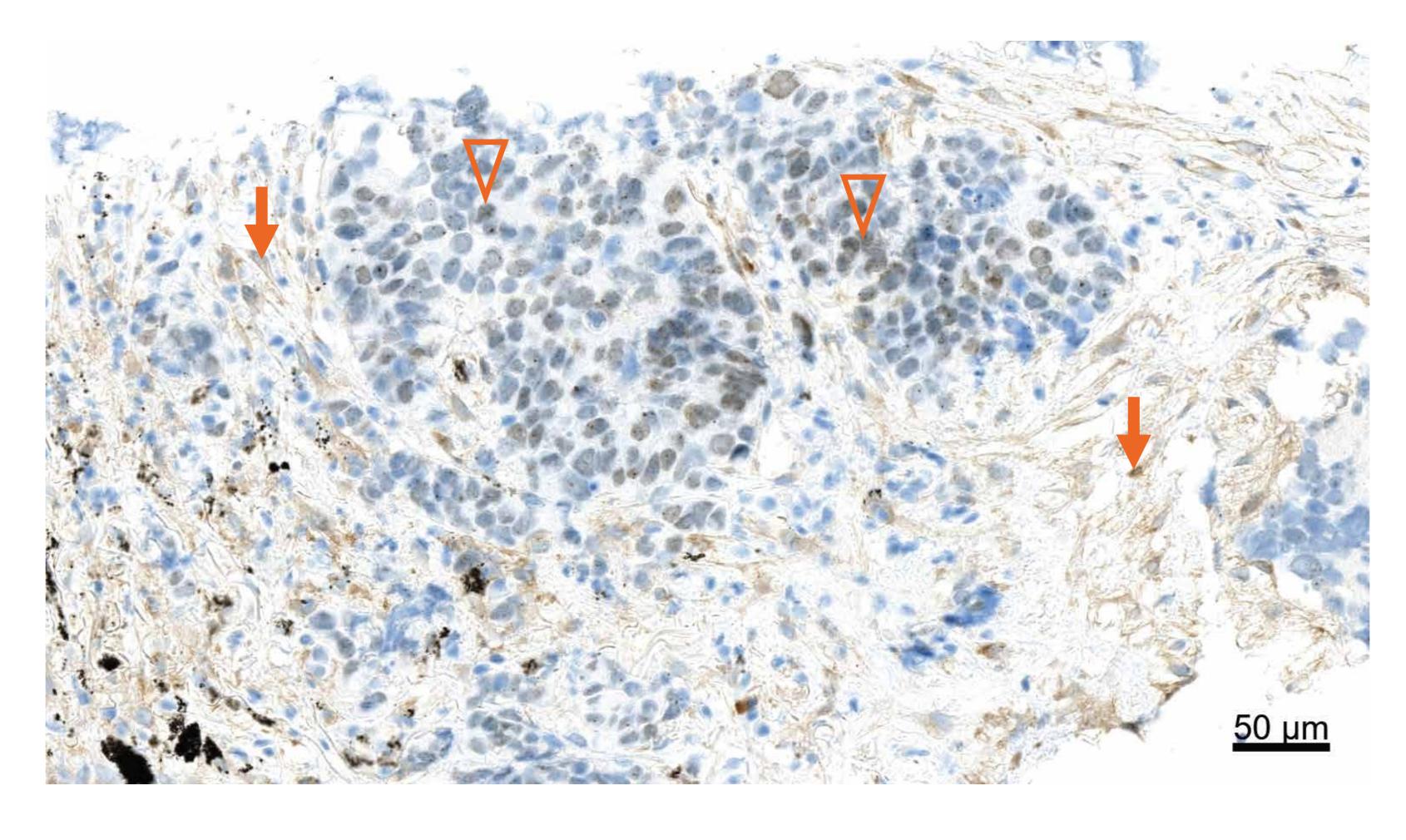
Table 2: Treatment emerging adverse events related to either bemcentinib, pembrolizumab or both

1
2
3
8
-
1
_
2
17

Pharmacodynamics



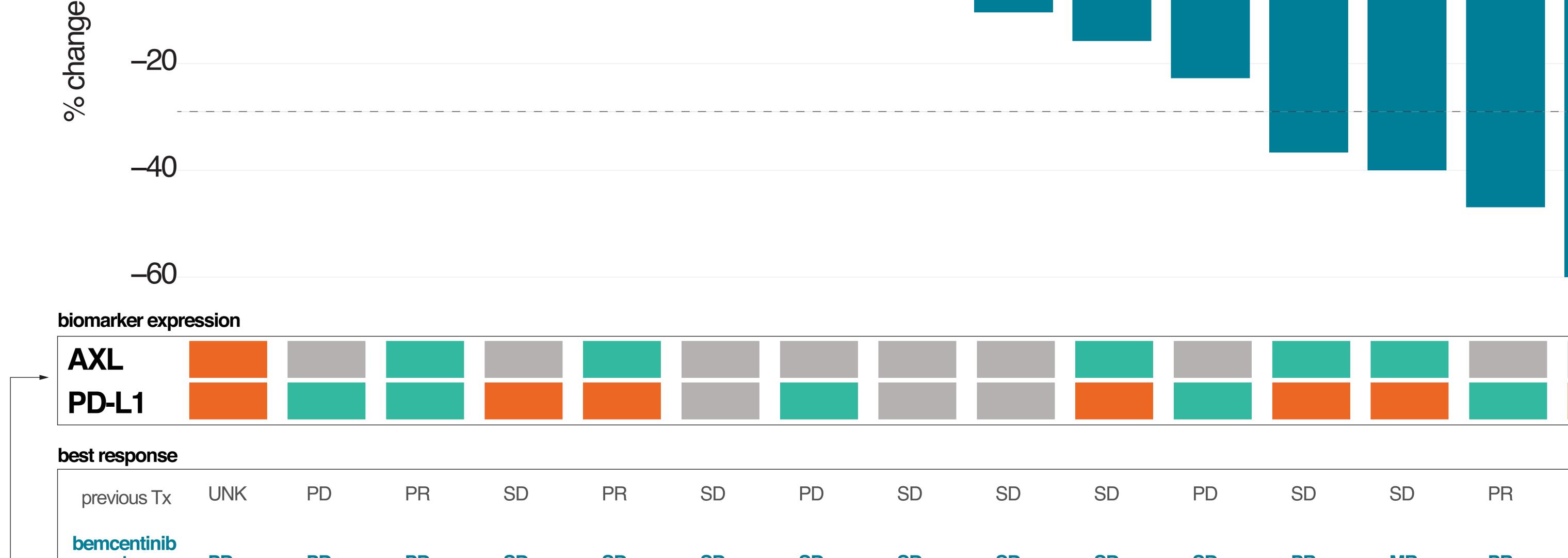
AXL expression by immunohistochemistry



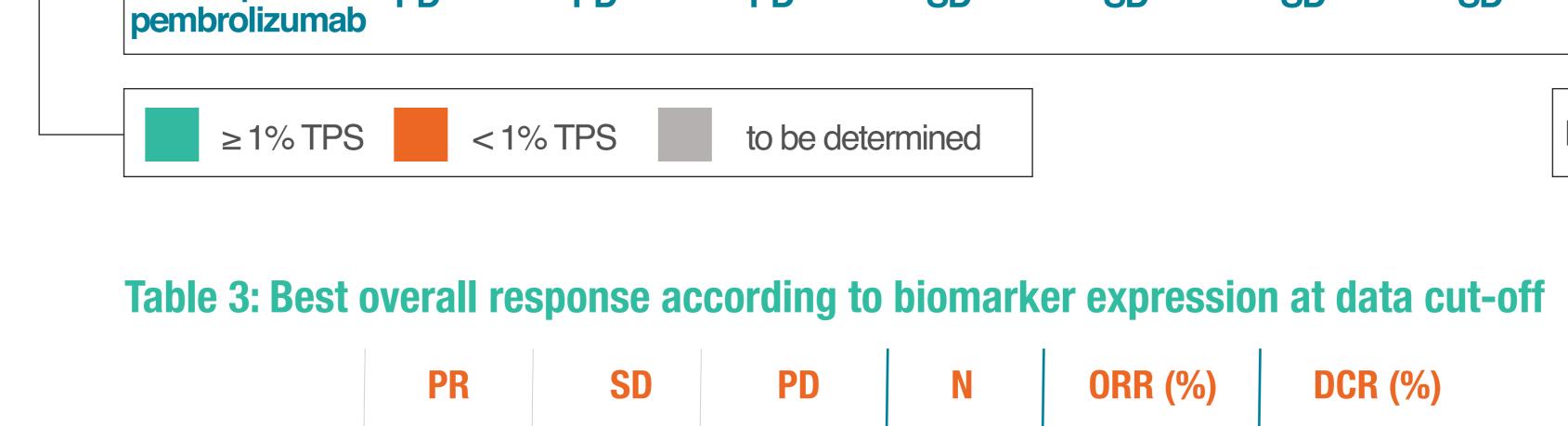
Anti-AXL staining of tumour cells was observed (open arrowheads). Additionally a mainly weak to moderate cytoplasmic staining of stromal cells was seen (arrows).

Efficacy assessment in RECIST evaluable patinets to date - includes patients who are remaining on treatment





Best percentage change from baseline in target lesions in RECIST evaluable patients to date (analysis includes ongoing patients)



Methods: Plasma protein biomarker levels were measured using the DiscoveryMap v3.3 panel (Myriad RBM) at pre-dose and at C2D1. Bioinformatics analysis was carried out by Fios Genomics. Comparisons were performed on the QC-passed and normalised Myriad datasets. Sum target lesions were assessed as per RECIST v1.1. AXL IHC was performed by Indivumed on pre-treatment FFPE samples using a BerGenBio proprietary immunohistochemistry assay (Davidsen et al). PD-L1 status was determined using a 1% cutoff by IHC using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent, Carpinteria, CA, USA). Scoring was recorded as percentage of PD-L1-positive tumor cells over total tumor cells in the denominator (TPS).

PR: partial response, MR: mixed response (new lesion), SD: stable disease, PD: progressive disease

References

Herbst et al: Lancet (2015 Garon et al: **NEJM** (2015) Kang *et al*: **Ann Onc** (2017) Davidsen et al: AACR (2018)

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Conclusions

- The combination of bemcentinib and pembrolizumab exhibits promising activity
- Response to treatment was most marked in tumours that were PD-L1 negative and AXL positive
- Soluble AXL demonstrates potential as an enrichment strategy

PD-L1 ≤ 1%

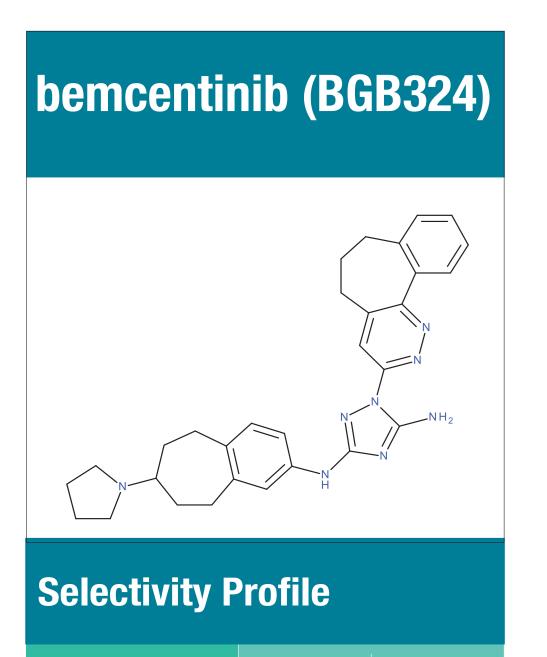
The incidence of Grade ≥3 treatment-related adverse events was low

Analysis of anti-leukaemic activity, predictive biomarker candidates, immune activation and pharmakodynamics in R/R AML and MDS in response to treatment with bemcentinib (BGB324), a first-in-class selective AXL inhibitor, in a phase II open-label, multi-centre study

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Ph I/II trial in R/R AML and MDS to evaluate safety and efficacy of bemcentinib (BGB324)

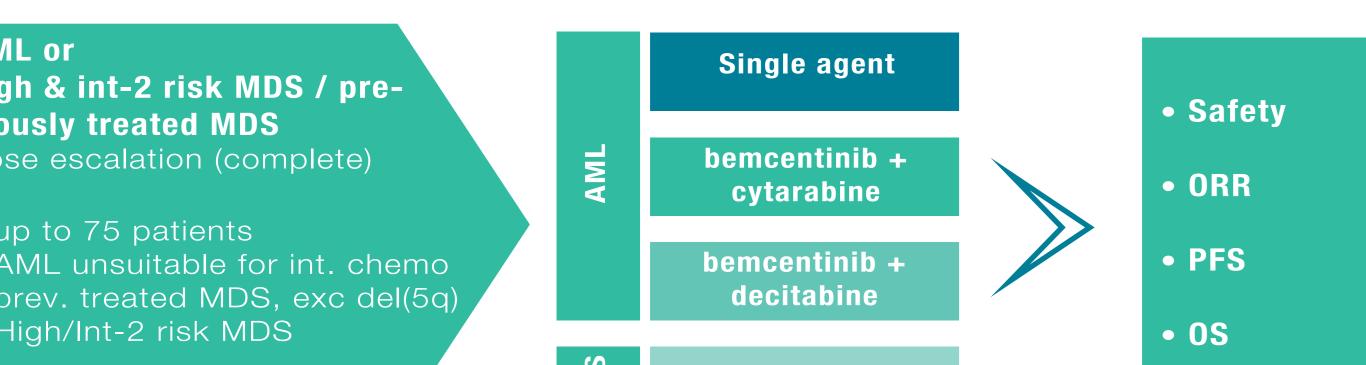
Bemcentinib, first-in-class, highly selective orally bioavilable AXL inhibitor in phase II



Bemcentinib (BGB324) is a first-in-class, oral selective inhibitor of the RTK AXL currently in ph II clinical development across several cancer types. ÁXL overexpression has been established as an independent negative prognostic factor in AML whereas AXL inhibition via bemcentinib has shown anti- leukaemic activity and immune activation in pre-clinical models of AML and other cancers.

Bemcentinib clinical development

Bemcentinib is being explored as a mono-therapy and in combination with immune-, targeted and chemo-therapy in AM-L/MDS, NSCLC, TNBC and melanoma across six phase II clinical trials.



BGBC003 (NCT02488408): Phase I/II trial in R/R AML and MDS

AML or MDS (interm-2 and high-risk) patientss received bemcentinib monotherapy in this two part 3+3 dose escalation and cohort expansion study.

BGBC003 demographics

Age (yrs)		Type of cancer			
Median	74	R/R AML	32		
Range	51 - 85	MDS	5		
Gender		# Prior thera	pies		
Male	22	Median	2 0 - 6		
Female	15	Range			

Caucasian

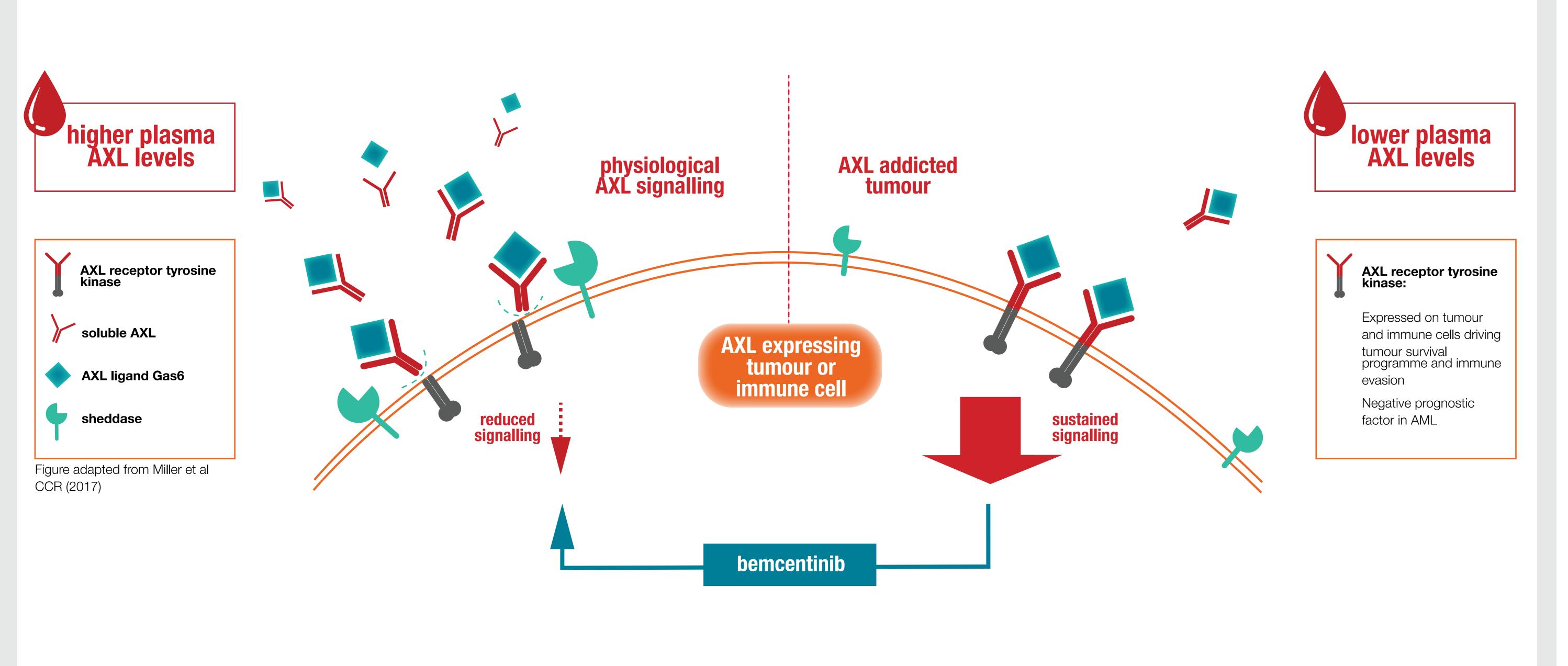
African American

Ethnicity

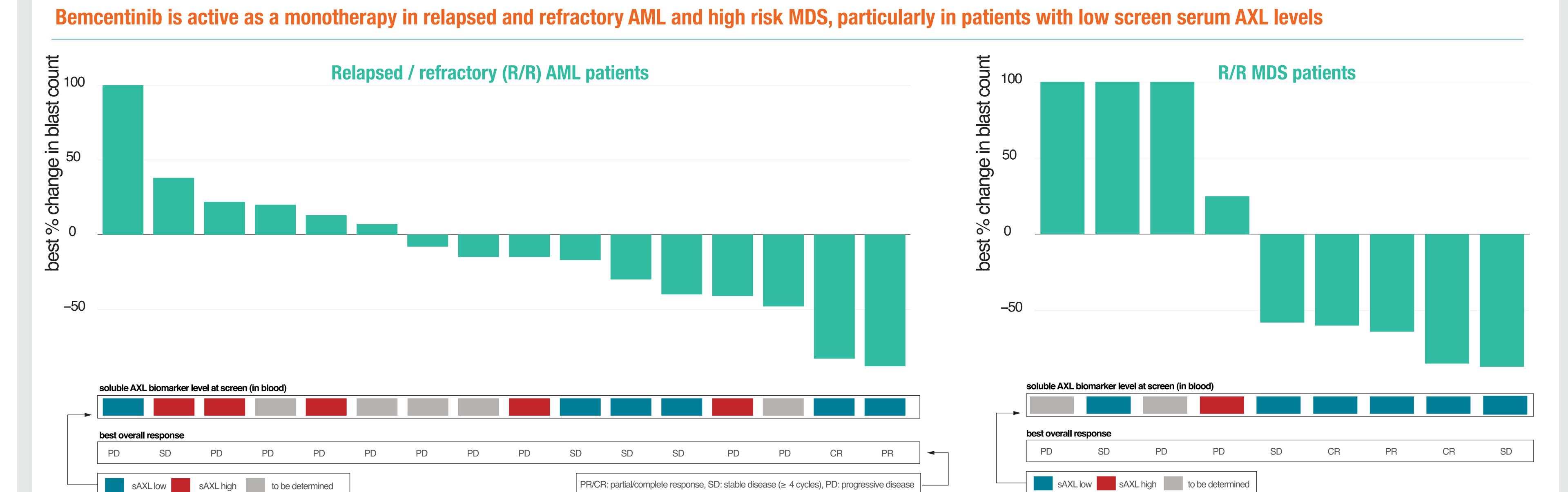
Safety: TEAEs experienced by > 1 patient

Treatment-related AEs	All grades (n=24)	Grade 3 (n=24)
Total number of treatment-related AEs	34	12
Total number of subjects with AEs	13	7
Gastrointestinal disorders	17	6
Investigations	4	2
Blood and lymphatic disorders	3	2
Nervous system disorders	3	1
Fatigue	2	1
Metabolism and nutrition	2	0
Cardiac disorders	1	1
Eye disorders	1	0
Skin disorders	1	0

AXL receptor tyrosine kinase drives tumour survival programme, is negatively regulated by receptor shedding



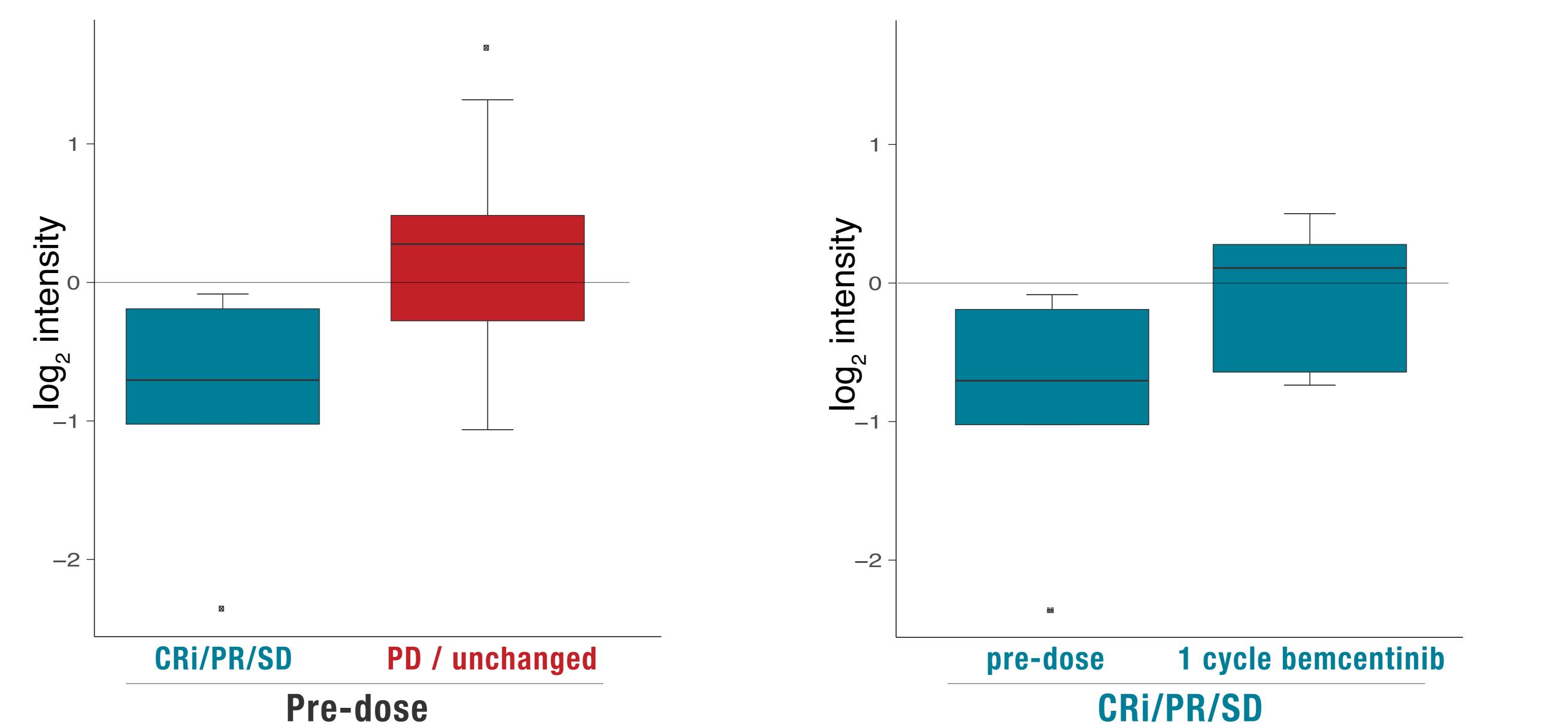
Blood and bone marrow plasma levels of AXL correlate with patient benefit



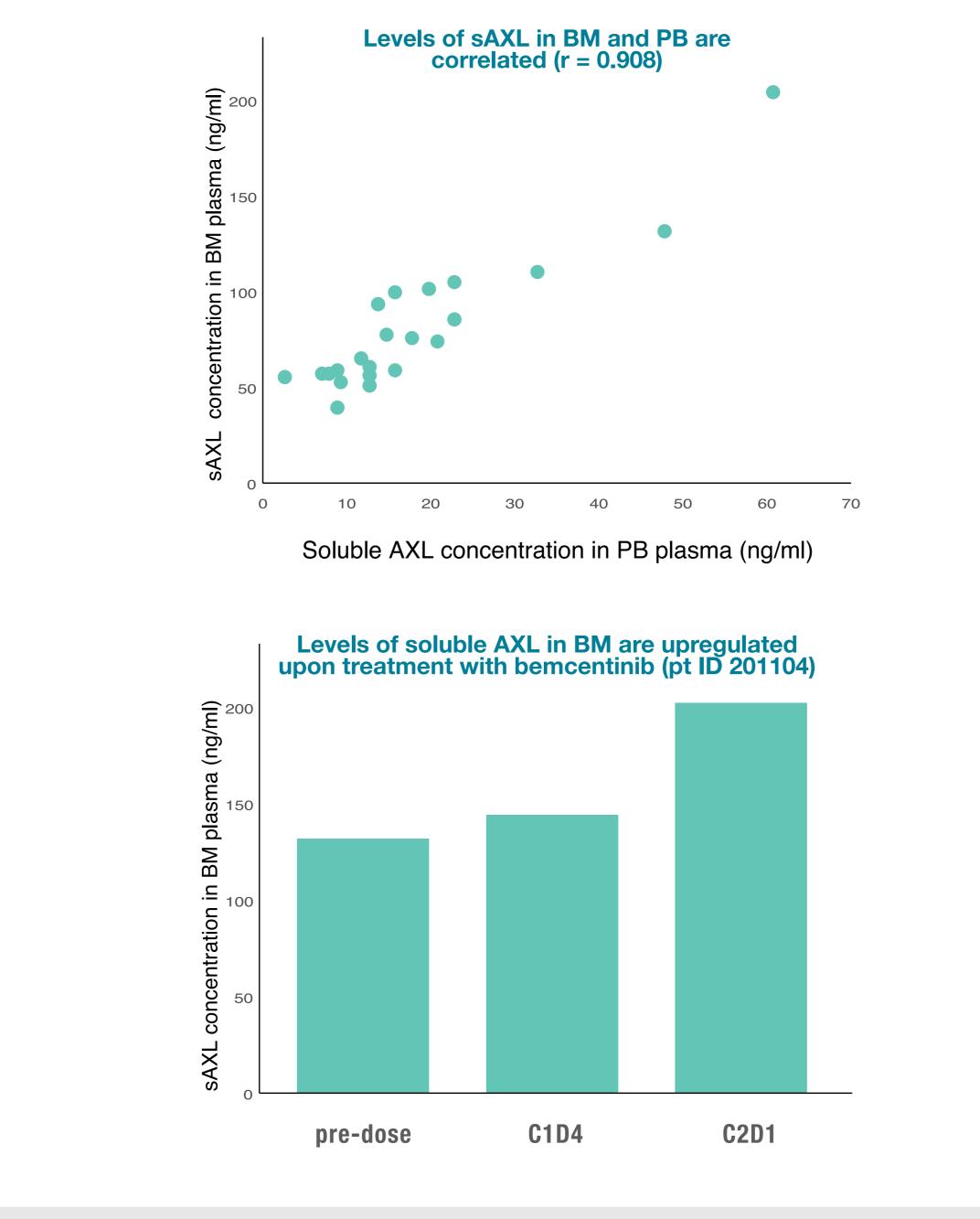
Response assessment per soluble AXL biomarker (measured at screen in blood)

		PD	SD	PR	CR	N	ORR (%)	CBR (%)
AML+ MDS	sAXL high	6	1			7	0	17
MDS	sAXL low	1	6	3	3	13	46	92
AML	sAXL high	5	1			6	0	17
AIVIL	sAXL low	1	3	2	1	7	43	86
MDS	sAXL high	1				1	0	0
- יייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייי	sAXL low		3	1	2	6	50	100

Blood plasma levels of soluble AXL (sAXL) are decreased at screen in patients experiencing benefit, levels increase in response to treatment with bemcentinib



Blood and BM plasma levels of sAXL are correlated & sAXL levels are elevated in BM plasma upon treatment



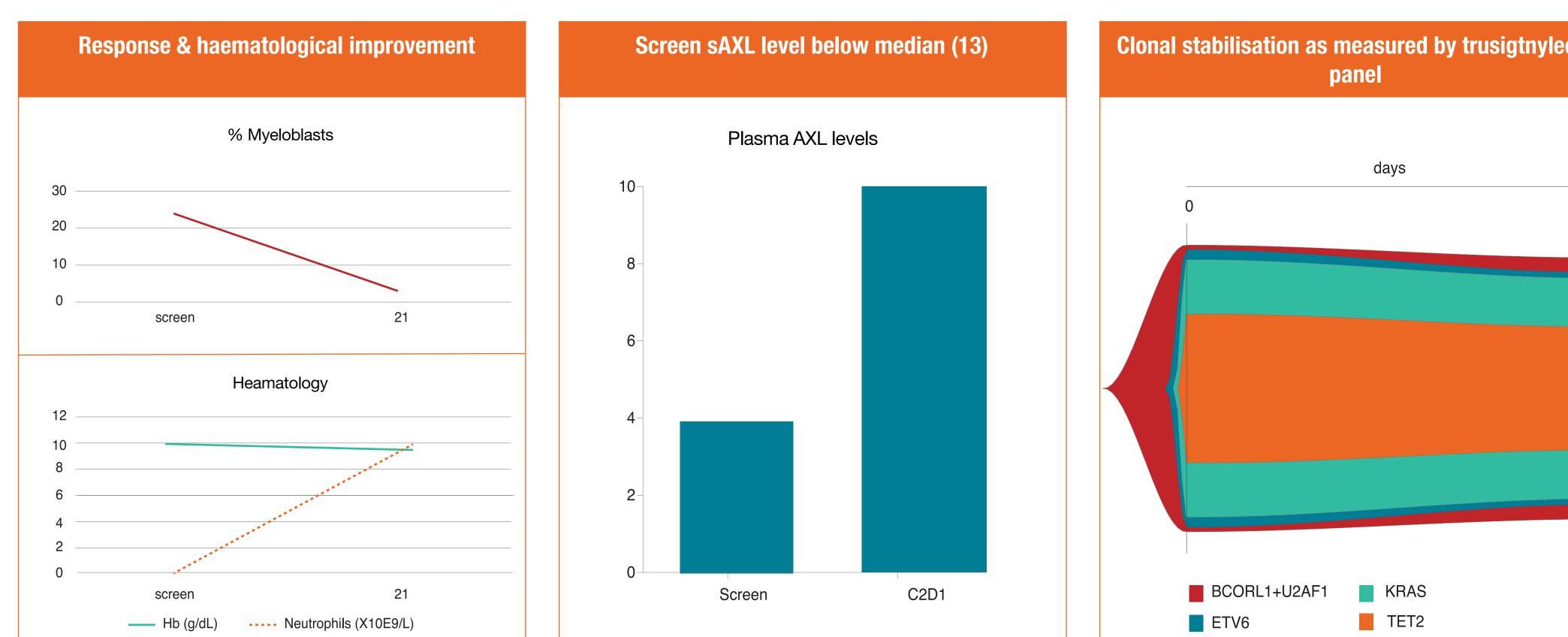
Pharmacodynamic analyses indicate target inhibition & immune activation

Patient case study

Pt 101-106: relapsed AML, PR on monotherapy bemcentinib

- 68 yo male, white AML patient
 Previously relapsed on azacytidine and melphalan
 PR at C2D1







Serum AXL levels were identified as predictive for patient benefit with an - at time of data cutoff - ORR of 46% and CBR of 92%, respectively, in R/R AML and MDS patients with low serum AXL at screen.

Monotherapy treatment with the selective AXL inhibitor bemcentinib was well tolerated. Treatment emerging adverse events were mainly low grade and reversible.

Primary completion expected for 2018.

Methods

Blood soluble AXL measurements: The DiscoveryMap panel (Myriad RBM) was used to measure blood plasma protein biomarker levels in patients with matched samples available for pre-dose and after one cycle of treatment to identify CDx candidates modulated in response to bemcentinib. Protein measurements were normalised by calculating the ratio between individual protein levels and the mean of each protein across all samples, before log2-transformation. An assessment of potential confounding factors (gender, age, type of cancer, ethnicity, pre-treatment history, mutation status) was carried out.

Statistical hypothesis testing utilised normalised data as inputs and linear modelling with subsequent Bayesian analysis to identify proteins that are significantly different between sample groups as well as the magnitude of difference (i.e. up- vs. down-regulation). The Bioconductor package limma was used (Ritchie, 2015).

The comparisons tested were: (1) Pts experiencing benefit (CRi, PR, SD) vs. non-responders (PD / unchanged) at pre-dose; (2) paired timepoint comparison, all samples; (3) paired timepoint comparison, pts experiencing benefit; (4) paired timepoint comparison, non-responders.

evels of soluble AXL, a predictive biomarker cadidate for treatment with bemcentinib, were measured in patient peripheral blood (PB) plasma as well as bone marrow (BM) plasma using a custom ELISA assay. Tested timepoints inlouded pre-dose, after four days of treatment and after one cycle of treatment.

Contact

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Acknowledgements

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A randomized phase lb/ll study of the selective small molecule AXL inhibitor bemcentinib (BGB324) in combination with either dabrafenib/trametinib or pembrolizumab in patients with metastatic melanoma.

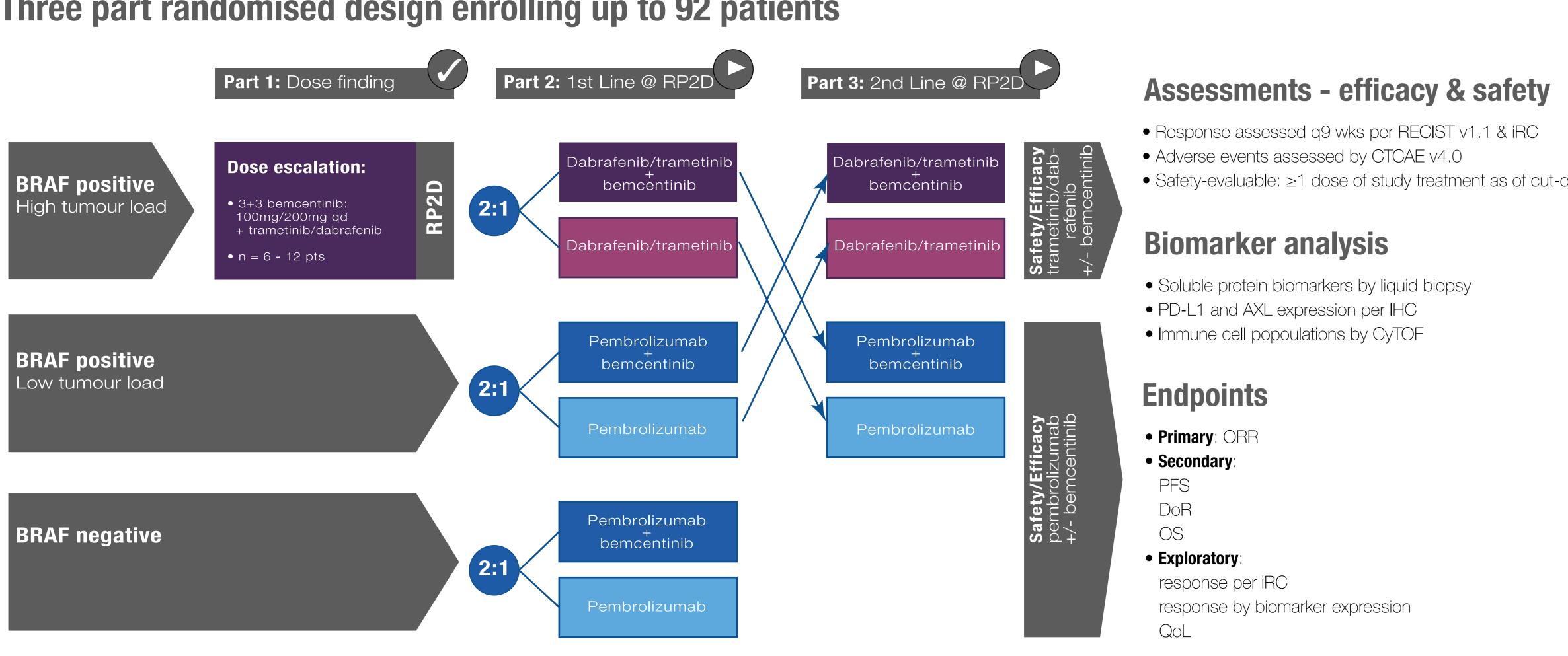
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Background & objective

NCT02872259: Ph I/II randomised trial of selective AXL inhibitor bemcentinib in MM patients

Three part randomised design enrolling up to 92 patients

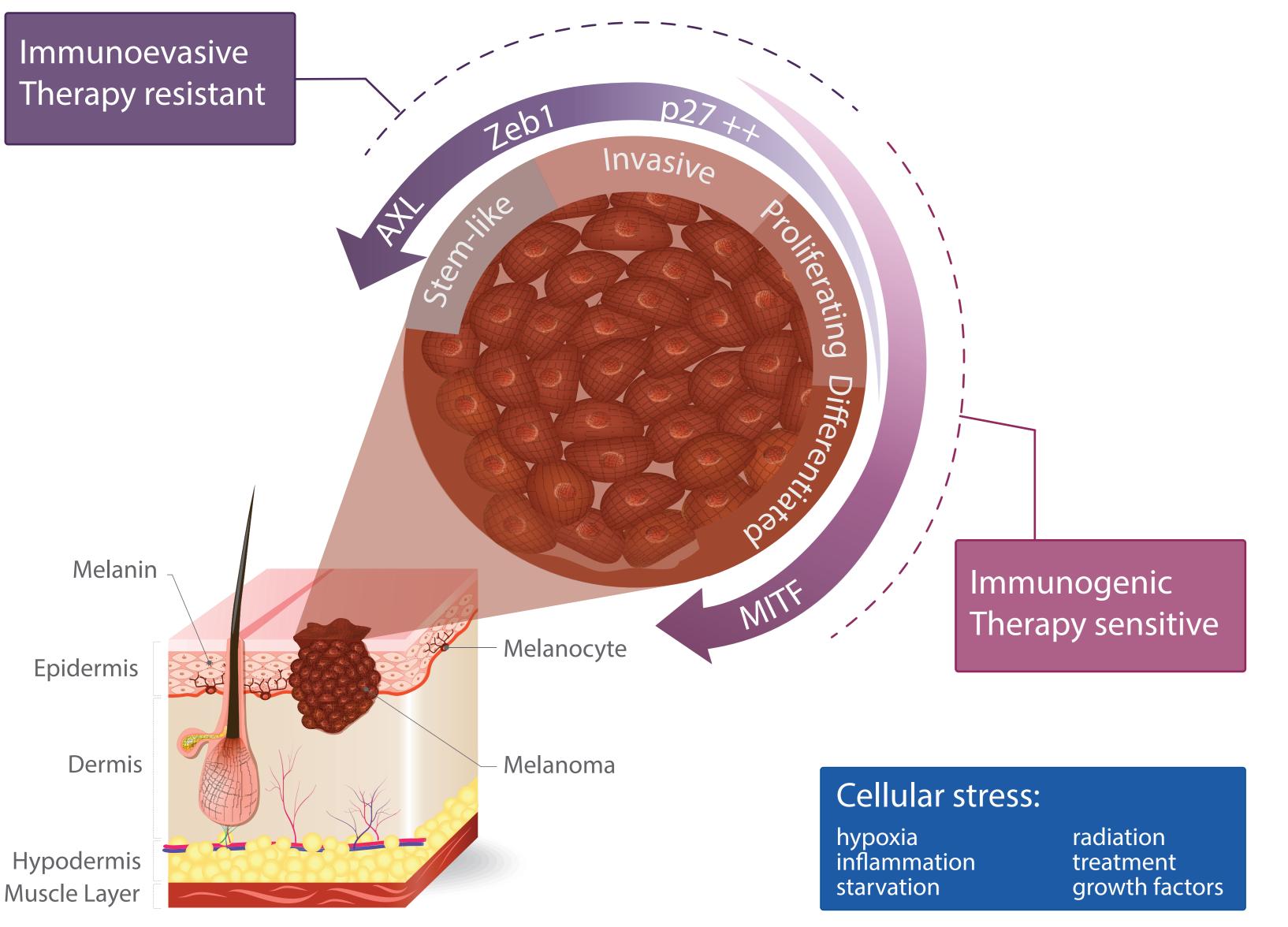


Key inclusion and exclusion criteria

- ECOG score 0 to 2 at screening

Study rationale

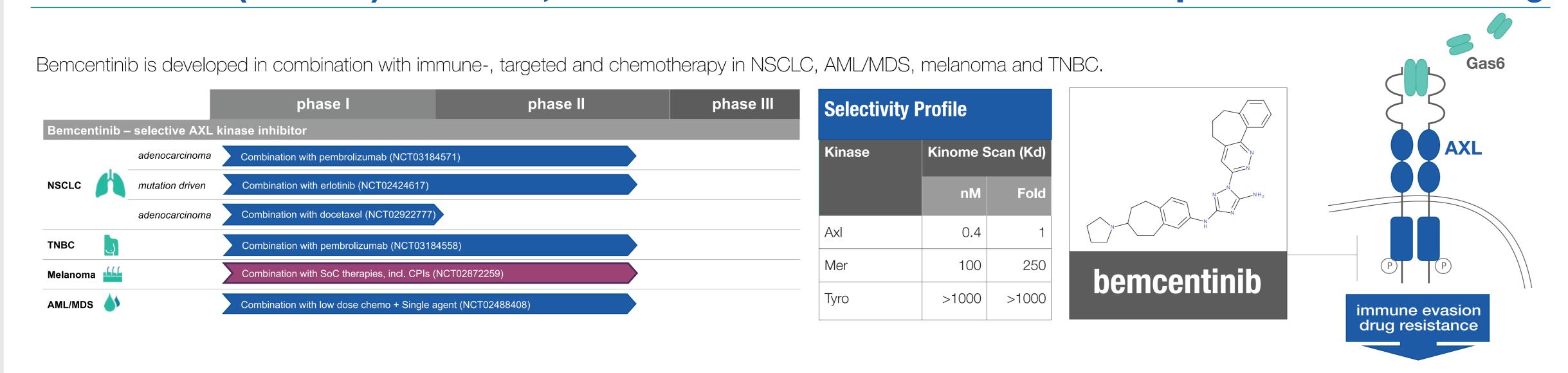
The drug resistant low MITF/ high AxI melanoma phenotype is associated with an immune suppressive microenvironment.



Upregulation of the Axl kinase has been associated with reduced response to anti-PD-1 therapy. The drug resistant low MITF/ high Axl melanoma phenotype has been associated with an immune suppressive micro-environment. AxI is a key negative feedback regulator of the innate immune response and attenuates macrophage, dendritic and natural killer (NK) cell activity. Hence, AXL signaling contributes to both tumor intrinsic and microenvironmental immune suppression mechanisms.

AxI dependent cell plasticity signaling pathways confer resistance to inhibitors of BRAF/MEK. Melanomas display either a high E-cadherin/high MITF-M expression on the one hand, or high N-cadherin/high AxI expression on the other. The low MITF/high AXL phenotype is linked to drug-resistance and common among mutant BRAF and NRAS melanoma cell lines. Interestingly, AxI-mediated resistance to BRAF and MEK targeting agents could be predicted by soluble AxI receptor in patient blood samples.

Bemcentinib (BGB324): selective, oral small molecule inhibitor of AXL in phase II clinical testing



First part completed, RP2D established: Preliminary interim analysis of RECIST evaluable patients to date, study remains ongoing

Patients

Table 1: Baseline demgraphics

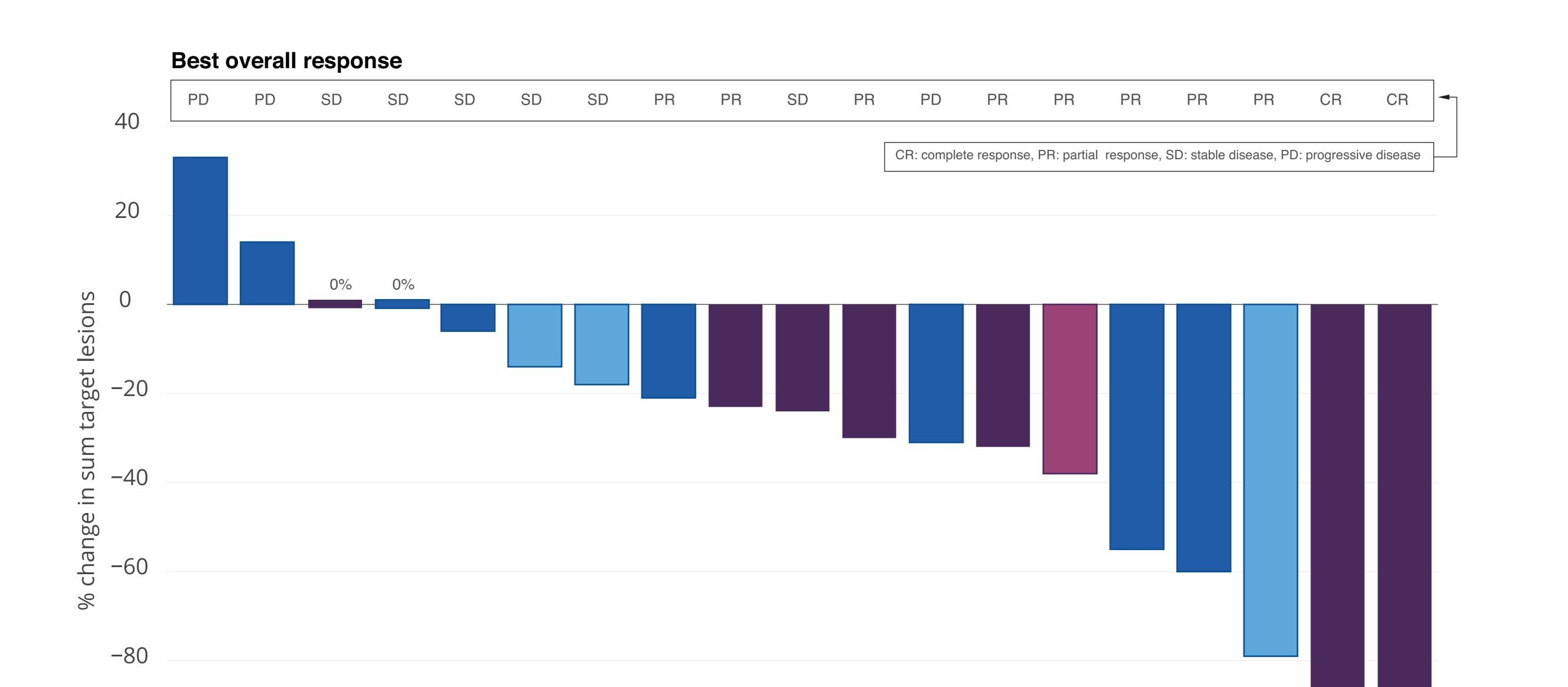
Age, median (range)	65 (34 - 79)
LDH (U/L), median (range)	236 (134 - 3523)
≥ ULN	8 (42%)
< ULN	11 (58%)
Gender, n (%)	
female	9 (47%)
male	10 (53%)
Mutations, n (%)	
BRAF	12 (63%)

Table 2: Treatment emerging adverse events - related and non-related to study treatment

Skin & subcutaneous tissue disorders		
Rash	9	2
Gastrointestinal disorders		
Diarrhea	8	0
Constipation	4	0
General & administration site disorders		
Influenza like illness	4	0
Mucositis	8	0
Pyrexia	9	0
Fatigue	11	0
Peripheral oedema	5	0
Nervous sytem disorders		
Headache	2	0
Musculoskeletal & CT disorders		
Arthralgia	2	0
Metabolism & nutrition disorders		
Reduced appetite	3	0
Nausea	7	0
Respiratory disorders		
Dry cough	2	0
Lung embolus	2	2
Investigations		
Weight loss	2	0
Increased QTc	2	0
Increased CPK	2	0
Increased AST/ALT	4	1

Preliminary efficacy assessment in RECIST evaluable patients to date - includes patients who are remaining on treatment

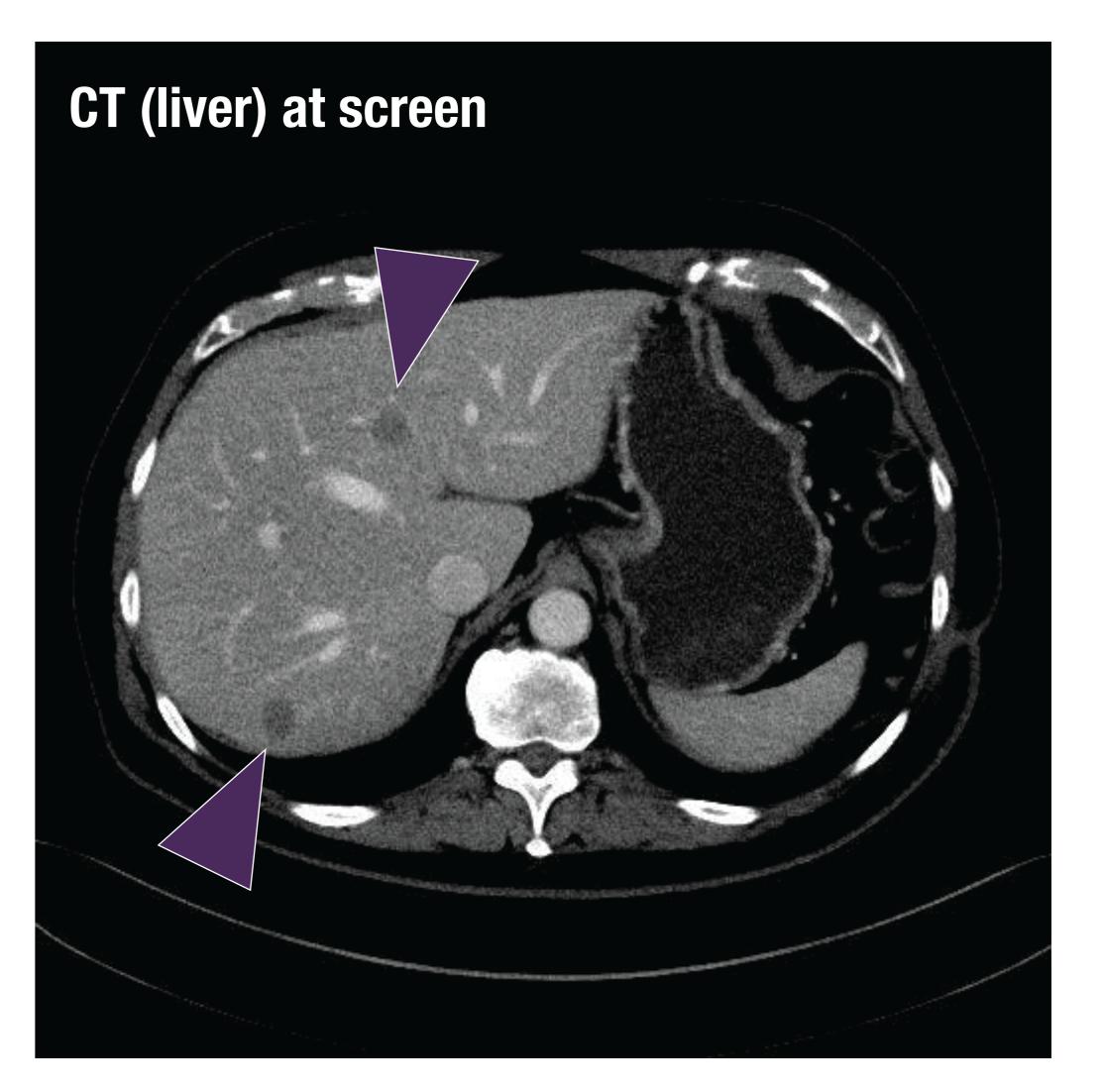
Best percentage change from baseline in target lesions in RECIST evaluable patients to date

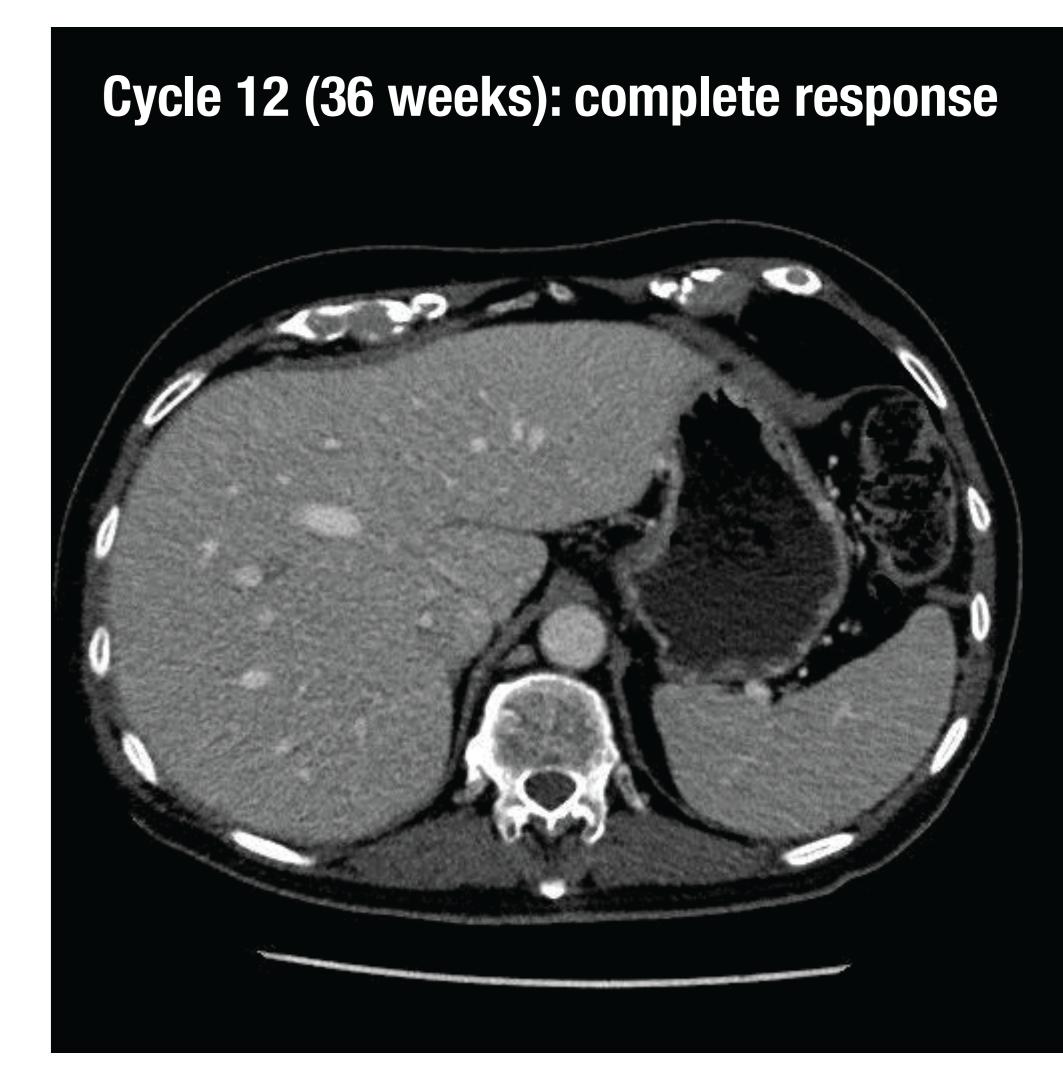


Example CR on bemcentinib + dabrafenib/trametinib

A 68 year old male was randomised to receive 200 mg/daily bemcentinib + standard dabrafenib/trametinib. At screening the patient had multiple metastases to the liver and the lungs.

At cycle 12, he had a complete response.

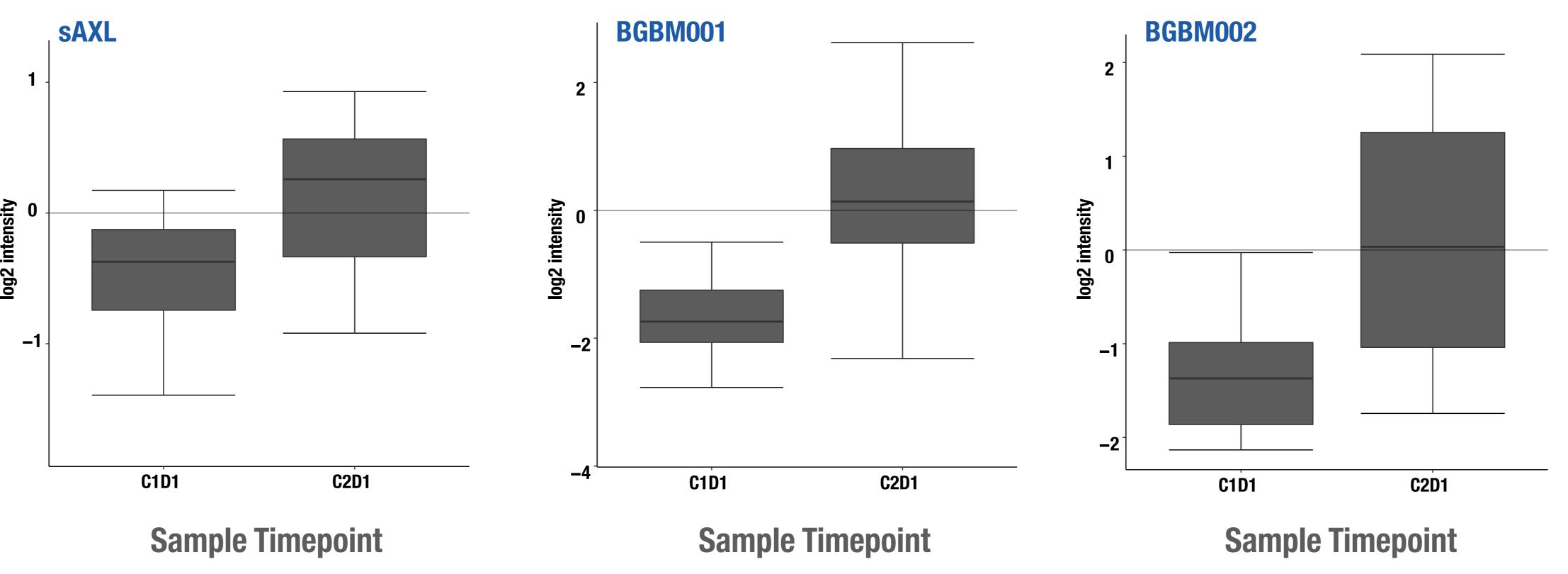




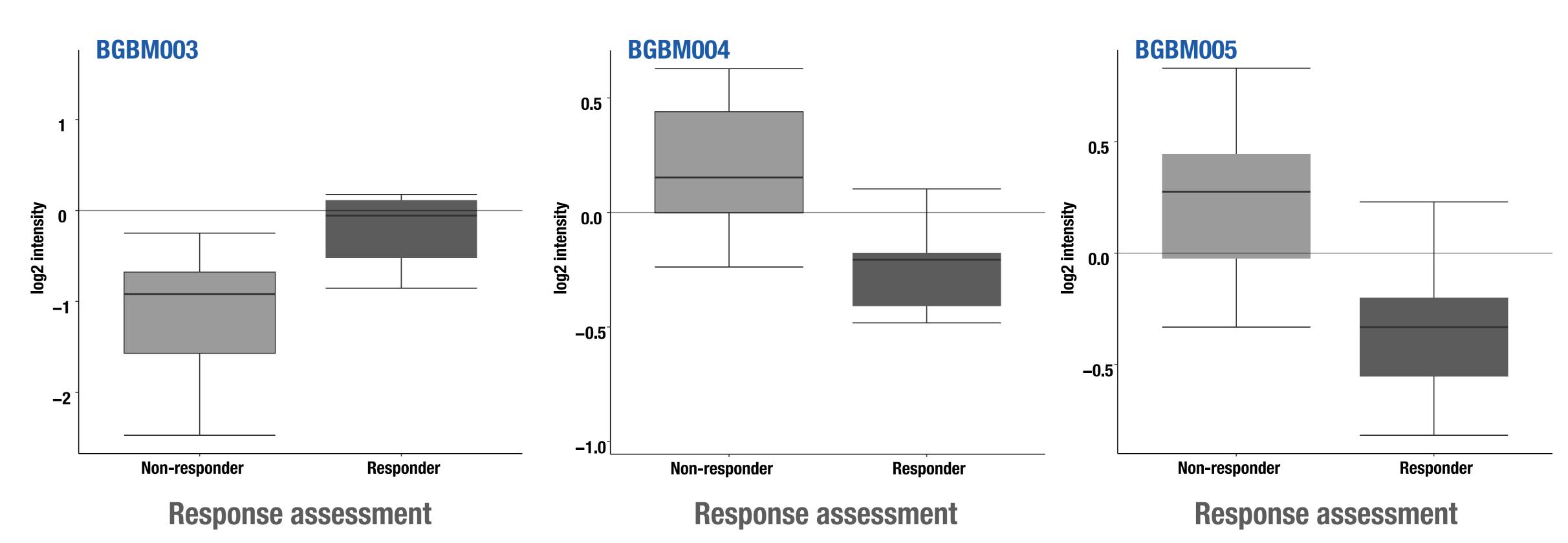
Biomarkers

Pharmacodynamics: Serum AXL, serum biomarkers BGBM001 & BGBM002 levels increase upon treatment with bemcentinib

bemcentinib + pembro pembro monotherapy bemcentinib + D/T



Predictive biomarker candidates: Serum biomarkers BGBM003, BGBM004 & BGBM005 are predictive for patient benefit from combination treatment with bemcentinib



All grades Grade ≥ 3

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Contact

Conclusions

Significant positive response was observed in the majority of patients.

Blood based biomarkers that predict response have been identified.

All treatment combinations were well tolerated.

Safety, efficacy & biomarker performance will continue to be explored.

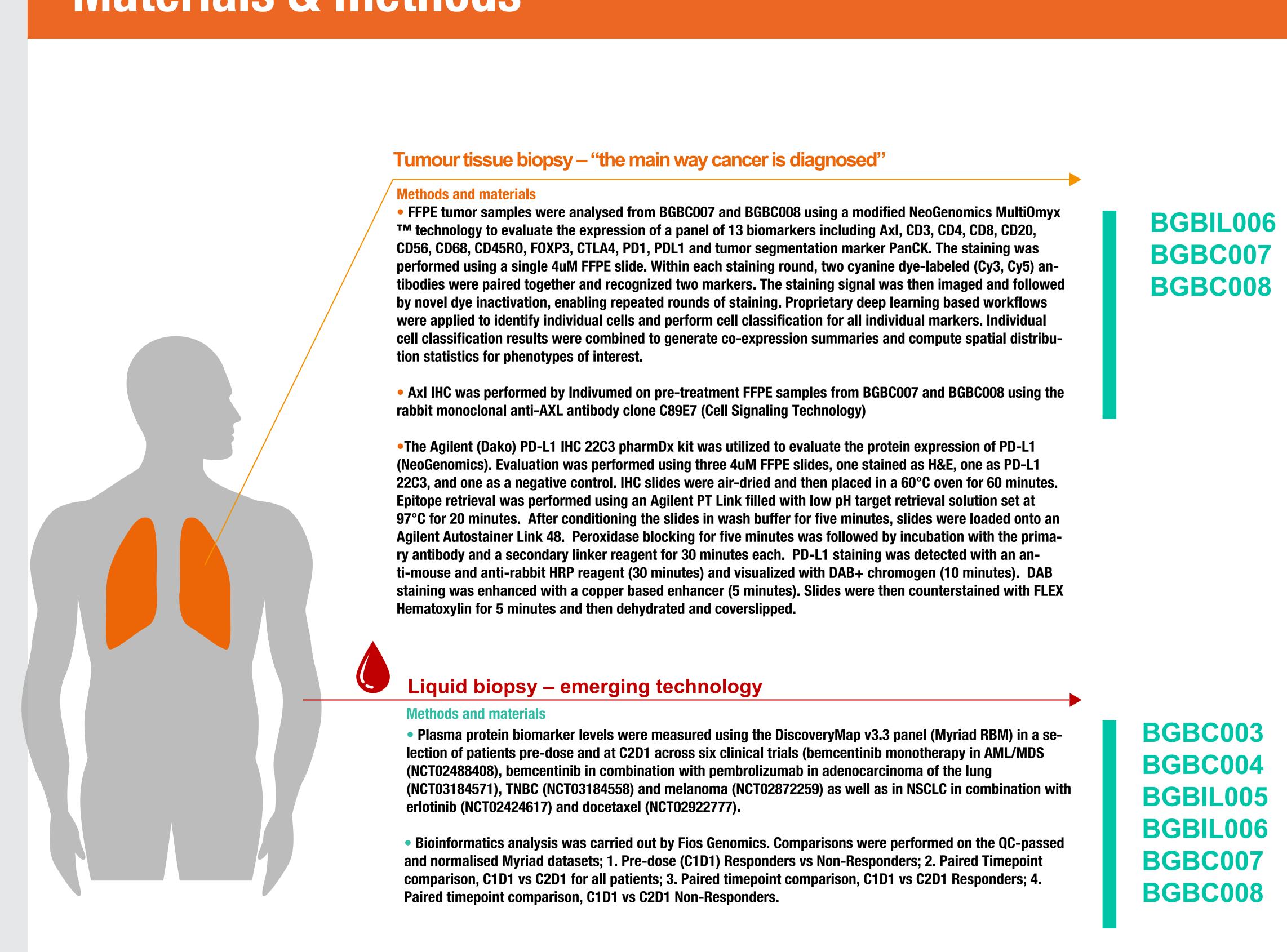
Identification of predictive and pharmacodynamic biomarkers associated with the first-in-class selective AXL inhibitor bemcentinib across multiple phase II clinical trials

Robert J Holt, David Micklem, Anthony Brown, Murray Yule, Oddbjørn Straume, Sonja Loges, James Lorens; BerGenBio, Bergen, Norway; Department of Oncology, Hematology, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany

cut-off for patient stratification is presented.

Materials & methods

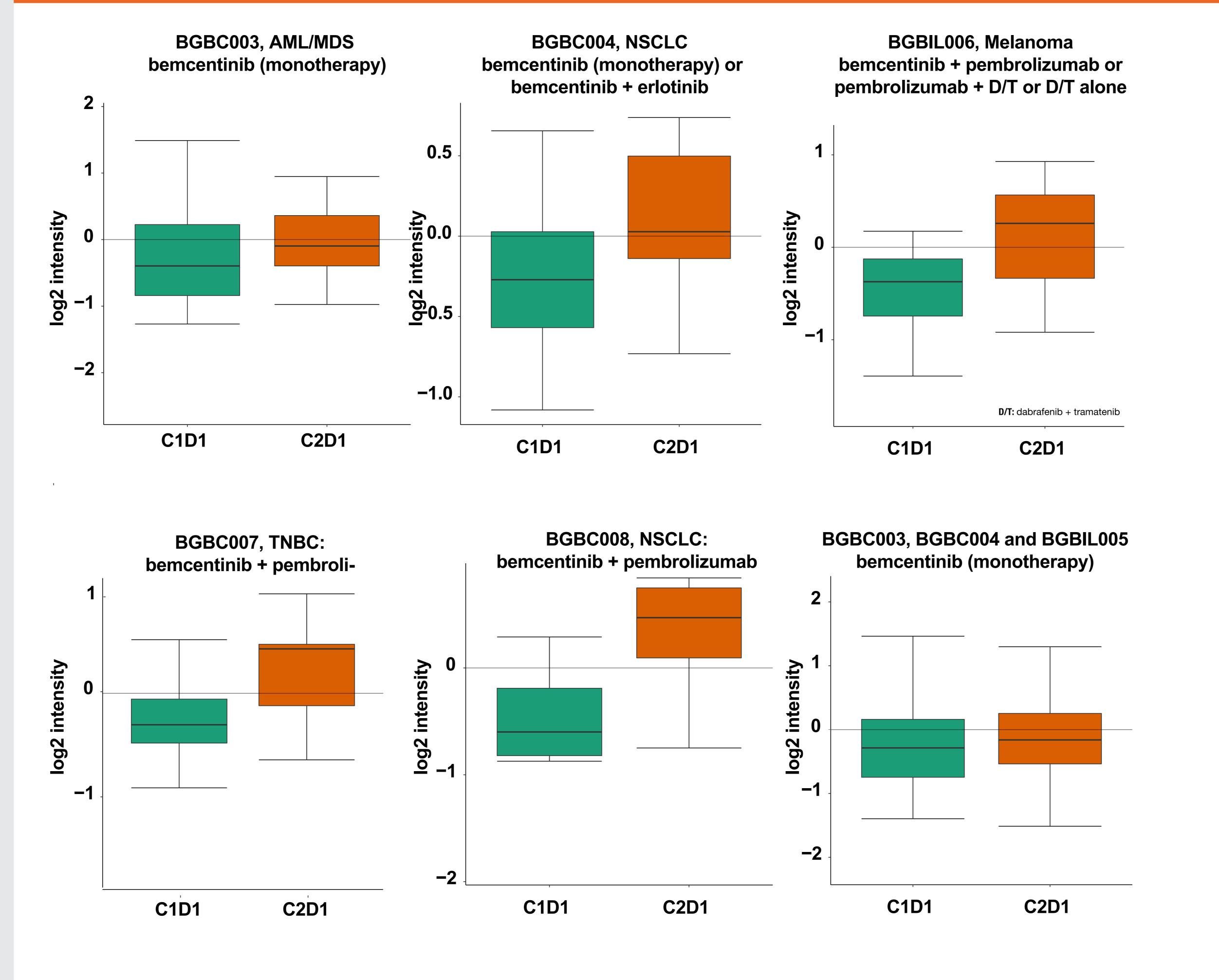
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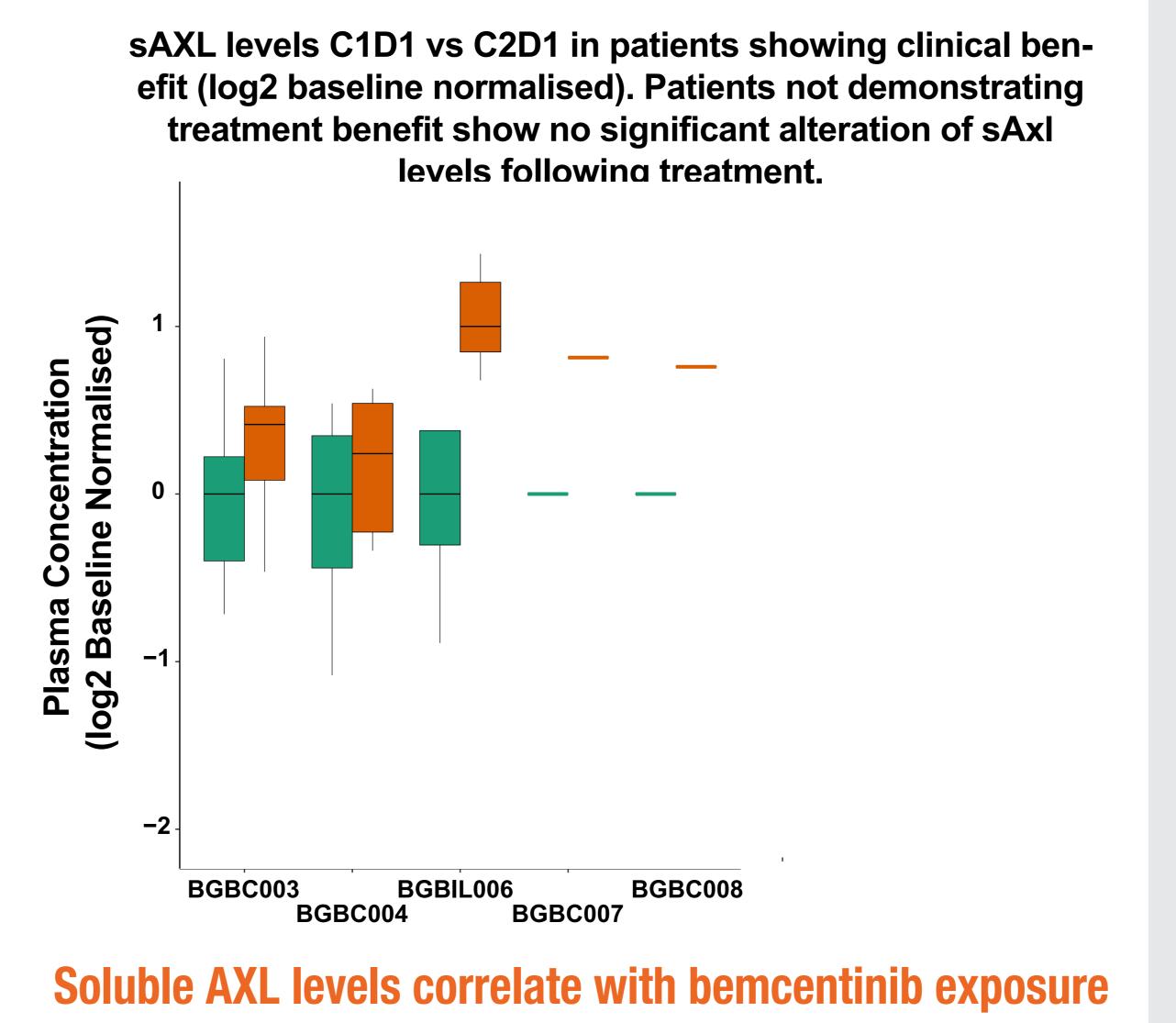


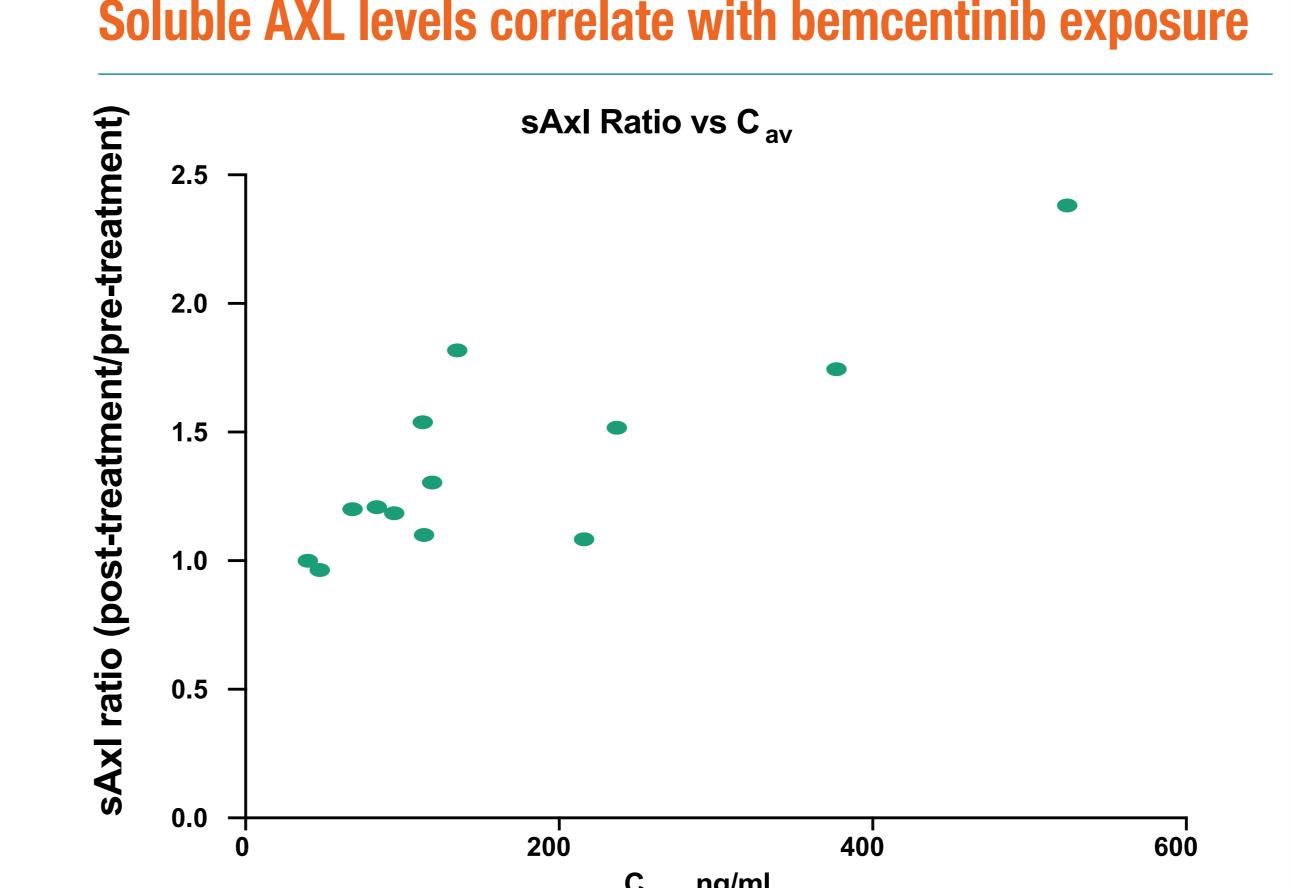
| Identification of soluble AXL biomarkers which are predictive of patient benefit in AML/MDS | | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit across several bemcentinib trials | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit across several bemcentinib trials | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit across several bemcentinib trials | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit across several bemcentinib trials | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit across several bemcentinib trials | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit in both neilland across several bemcentinib trials | BGBM004: A soluble protein biomarker found to be predictive of patient benefit in both neilland across several bemcentinib trials

member of the TNF superfamily

Soluble AXL levels increase following treatment with bemcentinib

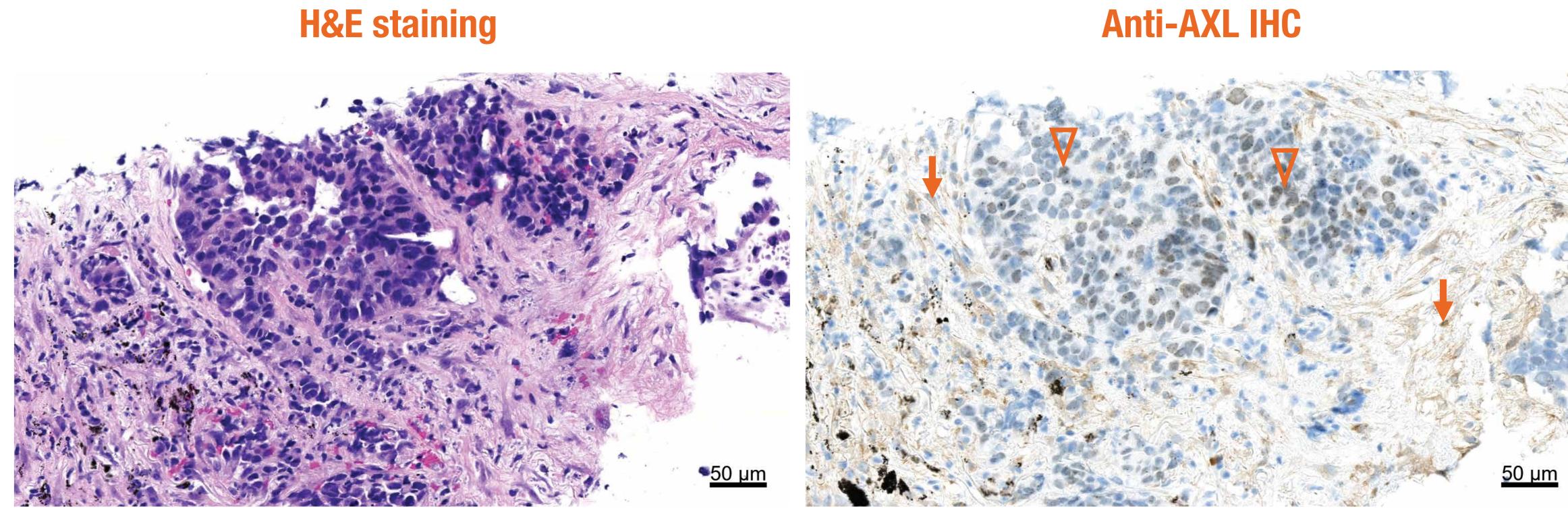




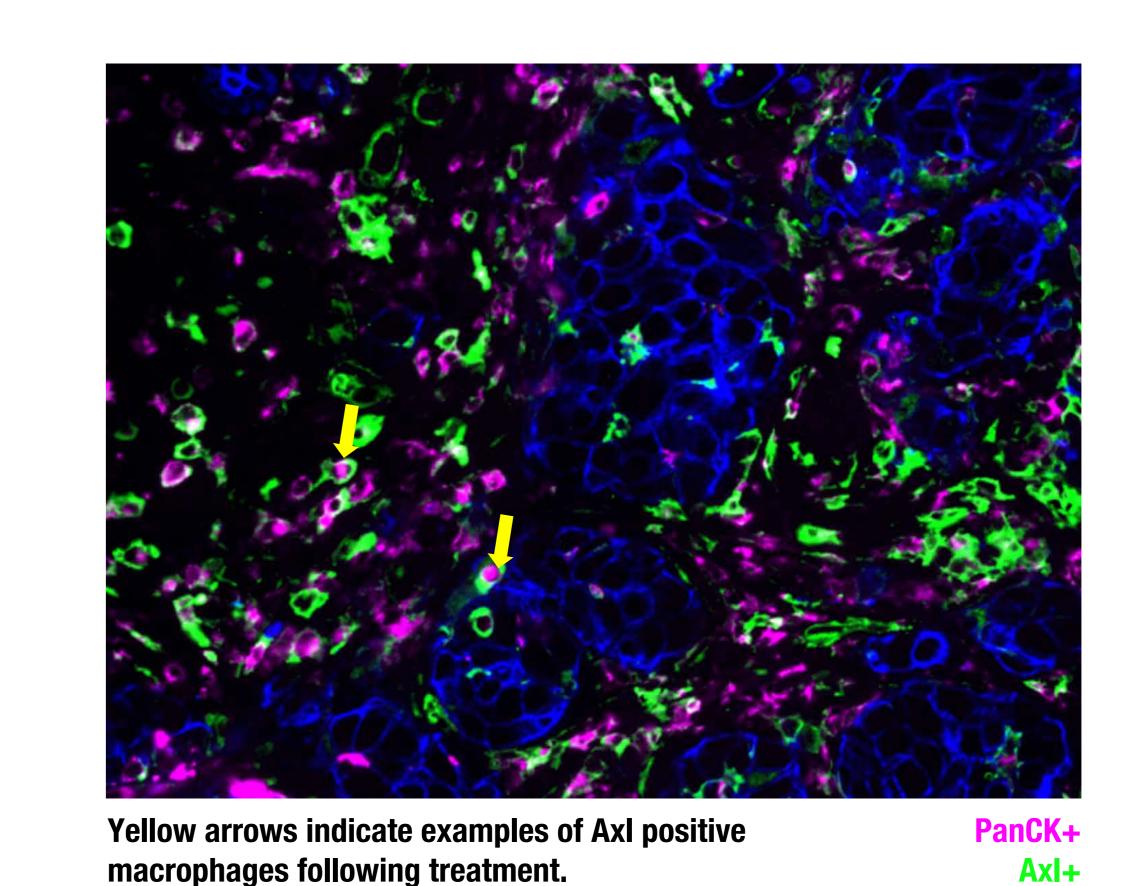


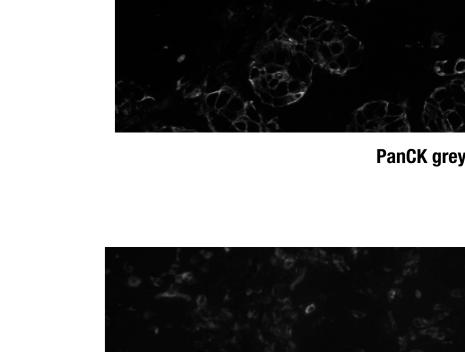
Tissue biomarkers

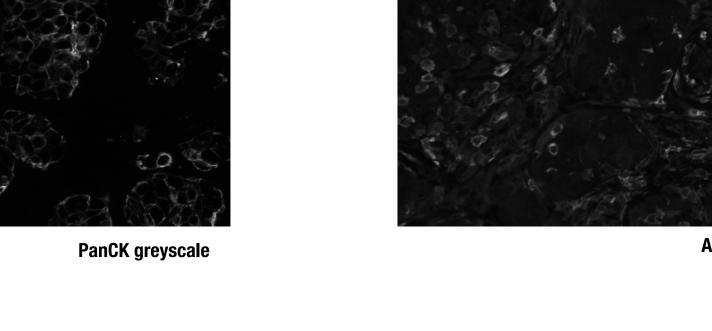




Anti-AXL staining of tumour cells was observed (open arrowheads). Additionally a mainly weak to moderate cytoplasmic staining of stromal cells was seen (arrows







Axl is present in both tumor & tumor infiltrating immune cells
 A significant proportion

 A significant proportion of AxI expressing cells are macrophages

Conclusions

- sAxl is predictive of patient benefit from bemcentinib monotherapy in AML/MDS
- Other predictive markers have been identified across multiple disease indications
- sAxl increases following bemcentinib treatment in all indications including monotherapy and combinations
- sAxl levels correlate with bemcentinib exposure
- A predictive AXL IHC method is under development
- Axl is expressed in tumor infiltrating macrophages

Acknowledgements

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