

Molecularly matched targeted therapy: a promising approach for refractory metastatic melanoma

Emily Connell, Émilie Gerard, Bénédicte Oules, Florence Brunet-Possenti, Anouck Lamoureux, Hugo Bonnefille, Sorilla Mary-Prey, Ana Carrasquilla, Stéphane Mouret, Nora Kramkimel, et al.

▶ To cite this version:

Emily Connell, Émilie Gerard, Bénédicte Oules, Florence Brunet-Possenti, Anouck Lamoureux, et al.. Molecularly matched targeted therapy: a promising approach for refractory metastatic melanoma. Oncologist, 2024, 29 (9), pp.e1180-e1188. 10.1093/oncolo/oyae085 . hal-04885378

HAL Id: hal-04885378 https://amu.hal.science/hal-04885378v1

Submitted on 14 Jan 2025

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.



Distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial 4.0 International License

Molecularly matched targeted therapy: a promising approach for refractory metastatic melanoma

Emily Connell^{1,2}, Émilie Gerard³, Bénédicte Oules⁴, Florence Brunet-Possenti^{5,},

Anouck Lamoureux⁶, Hugo Bonnefille⁷, Sorilla Mary-Prey³, Ana Carrasquilla⁸, Stéphane Mouret⁹,

Nora Kramkimel⁴, Candice Lesage¹⁰, Pierre-Emmanuel Stoebner⁷, Axel Bartoli¹¹,

Sandrine Monestier^{1,2}, Florian Correard¹², Audrey Gros¹³, Arnaud Jeanson^{2,14}, L'Houcine Ouafik¹⁵,

Caroline Gaudy-Marqueste^{1,2}, Pascale Tomasini^{2,14}, Julie Charles⁹,

Mona Amini-Adle⁸, Nausicaa Malissen^{*,1,2,1}; The Group of Cutaneous Oncology of the French Society of Dermatology

¹Dermatology and Skin Cancer Department, Aix Marseille University, APHM, CRCM Inserm U1068, CNRS U7258, Marseille, France ²Department of Early Phase Cancer Trial Center (CEPCM) "CLIP2," Aix Marseille University, APHM, Marseille, France

³Dermatology Department, CHU de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

⁴Dermatology Department, Cochin Hospital, Paris, France

⁵Dermatology Department, Bichat Claude-Bernard Hospital, Paris, France

⁶Dermatology Department, Montpellier Cancer Institute, Montpellier, France

⁷Dermatology Department, Montpellier Cancer Institute, M

⁸Dermatology Department, Leon Bérard Cancer Center, Lyon, France

⁹Dermatology Department, CHU Grenoble Alpes, University Grenoble Alpes, INSERM U 1209, CNRS UMR 5309, Institut for Advanced Biosciences, Grenoble, France

¹⁰Dermatology Department, CHU de Montpellier, Montpellier, France

¹¹Radiology Department, Aix Marseille University, APHM, CERIMED, Marseille, France

¹²Pharmacy Department, Aix Marseille University, APHM, Marseille, France

¹³Tumor Biology and Tumor Bank Department, University Hospital of Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France

¹⁴Multidisciplinary Oncology and Therapeutic Innovations Department, Aix Marseille University, CNRS, INSERM, CRCM, APHM, Marseille, France

¹⁵Oncobiology Department, Aix Marseille University, APHM, CNRS, INP, Inst Neurophysiopathol, Marseille, France

*Corresponding author: Nausicaa Malissen, Service de Dermatologie et Cancérologie Cutanée, Aix Marseille University, Hôpital La Timone, 264 Rue de Saint Pierre, 13385 Marseille, France (nausicaa.malissen@ap-hm.fr).

Abstract

Background: Only a fraction of patients with metastatic melanoma derive durable benefit from approved treatments. The clinical impact of personalized medicine strategies for melanoma, apart from *BRAF*, *NRAS*, or *CKIT* targeting, has rarely been reported.

Materials and Methods: By means of the Group of Cutaneous Oncology of the French Society of Dermatology, we retrospectively included all patients with advanced melanoma aged 18 years and older for whom molecular testing identified one or more actionable molecular alterations and who accordingly received molecularly matched therapy. We excluded patients with only *BRAF*, *NRAS*, or *CKIT* alterations and patients who received molecularly matched therapy for less than 15 days.

Results: We included 26 patients with a median follow-up of 8 months (1-54), a median age of 63 years (24-89), and a sex ratio of 2.7. These patients had been heavily pretreated, and 64% had elevated LDH levels. The disease control rate was 38%, with 4 cases of partial response (overall response rate: 15%) and 6 of stable disease for at least 6 months. The median duration of treatment was 3.1 months (0.9-13.5). Among patients with disease control, the median duration of control was 6.6 months (2.6-13.5) and 3 cases were ongoing at the end of the study. Patients with controlled disease had *GNA11*, *MAP2K1*, *FYCO1-RAF1*, *HRAS*, *ATM*, *CCND1*, *MDM2/CDK4*, and *CDKN2A/NRAS* alterations.

Conclusions: High-throughput sequencing followed by matched targeted therapy is a promising approach for patients with advanced melanoma refractory to approved treatments.

Key words: melanoma; precision medicine; targeted therapy; refractory melanoma; molecularly matched therapy; actionable molecular alteration.

Received: 20 September 2023; Accepted: 26 March 2024.

© The Author(s) 2024. Published by Oxford University Press.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial License (https://creativecommons.org/ licenses/by-nc/4.0/), which permits non-commercial re-use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited. For commercial re-use, please contact reprints@oup.com for reprints and translation rights for reprints. All other permissions can be obtained through our RightsLink service via the Permissions link on the article page on our site—for further information please contact journals.permissions@oup.com.

Implications for Practice

There is still an unmet medical need for most patients with metastatic melanoma since only a fraction benefit from approved treatments. The objective of this study was to evaluate the clinical benefit of personalized medicine strategies, excluding those targeting only *BRAF*, *NRAS*, or *CKIT* alterations, in advanced melanoma patients. In this heavily pretreated population, molecularly matched strategies achieved a 38% disease control rate. This study suggests that high-throughput sequencing followed by matched targeted therapy is a promising approach for patients with advanced melanoma refractory to approved treatments.

Introduction

The prognosis of patients with metastatic melanoma has dramatically improved in recent years with the introduction of 2 therapeutic strategies. BRAF and MEK inhibitors are small molecules that block the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway, which is constitutively activated by recurrent *BRAF V600* mutations in 45% of patients with melanoma.¹ In addition, monoclonal antibodies against the immune checkpoints cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 (CTLA4) and programmed death 1 (PD-1) can restore an efficient and durable antitumor immunity, even following treatment discontinuation.

In the metastatic setting, BRAF and MEK inhibitors have been shown to lead to a rapid and strong response, but the benefit is often limited by a high rate of secondary resistance, with a 5-year progression-free survival (PFS) of 19% for the dabrafenib plus trametinib combination.² The combination of ipilimumab and nivolumab (2 immune checkpoint blockade) reached a 36% 5-year PFS in one study.³ Therefore, only a fraction of patients derive durable benefit, and there is still an unmet medical need for most patients with metastatic melanoma.

Cancer precision medicine is an emerging strategy enabled by the increased accessibility to tumor genomic sequencing technologies. International and European pantumor recommendations have been published about next-generation sequencing (NGS)-based results interpretation in cancer.^{4,5} For melanoma, in addition to BRAF, NRAS, and CKIT, molecular testing is performed using melanoma-specific panels^{6,7} or nonmelanoma-specific large genomic panels, tissue DNA, or circulating tumor DNA. Whole-exome sequencing studies have demonstrated that among all cancers, melanoma has one of the highest rates of somatic mutations.8 Different large series using NGS custom melanoma-specific panels of 35-64 genes have revealed at least one alteration in 85%-87% of samples.^{6,9} The clinical impact of targeting actionable molecular alterations outside of BRAF, NRAS, and CKIT, has rarely been reported in melanoma, either in basket trials¹⁰ or small retrospective cohorts.6,11,12

Our objective was to evaluate the clinical benefit of molecularly matched therapy following a molecular test identifying one or more actionable molecular alterations (and excluding only *BRAF*, *NRAS*, or *CKIT* alterations) in patients with advanced melanoma.

Materials and methods

Study design

MELtarget was a French national multicentric retrospective study conducted in France through the Group of Cutaneous Oncology of the French Society of Dermatology. This study was approved by the local IRB (PADS22-184). Informed consent was obtained from each surviving participant. For deceased patients, the investigators checked whether the patients had expressed their opposition in writing during their lifetime.

We retrospectively included all metastatic or unresectable melanoma patients aged 18 years and older for whom a molecular test identified 1 or more actionable molecular alterations and who received molecularly matched therapy between 2018 and 2022. We excluded patients with only *BRAF*, *NRAS*, or *CKIT* alterations and patients who received molecularly matched therapy for less than 15 days.

The collected data included age, sex, primary melanoma characteristics, number and type of previous systemic treatments received, and prognostic factors at treatment initiation. We also collected molecular test results, including the type of sample used (tumor DNA or circulating tumor DNA), exact gene panel performed, type of alteration identified, variant allele frequency, and tumor mutational burden (TMB), when available. The following data were collected up to the end of the study: matched targeted therapy introduced, treatment plan, tumor board or molecular tumor board validation, tolerance according to CTCAE v5.0, treatment duration and dose adaptations, imaging results before and during treatment, reasons for treatment cessation, ensuing lines received, and status and date of latest follow-up.

Actionable molecular alterations

A gene alteration was defined as molecularly actionable if it had been defined as targetable by a tumor board or a molecular tumor board.

Accessibility of matched targeted therapies

Treatments approved for other indications were given using French exceptional access measures. Nonapproved therapeutics were accessed as follows: tipifarnib access was temporarily possible through an exceptional measure named "Accès Précoce" by the French national agency called ANSM (Agence Nationale de Sécurité du Médicament et des Produits de Santé); for siremaldin, patients were treated in the MEGAMOST phase 2 study, as promoted by the Centre Leon Berard, Lyon, France.

Response criteria

Response was evaluated using RECIST 1.1 criteria.¹³

Treatment duration was calculated from the date of molecularly matched therapy introduction to the date of treatment cessation.

Follow-up of patients was calculated from the date of molecularly matched therapy introduction to the date of death or loss to follow-up.

Progression-free survival (PFS) was defined as the time from the initiation of molecularly matched therapy introduction to disease progression or death from any cause. Overall survival (OS) was defined as the time from the initiation of molecularly matched therapy introduction to death from any cause.

The disease control rate (DCR) was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved a partial response, complete response, or stable disease for at least 6 months.

The overall response rate (ORR) was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved a partial response or complete response.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism v9. Survival curves were generated using the Kaplan-Meier method to estimate the probability of survival.

The Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the TMB between patients with disease control and patients without disease control. A P-value <.05 was considered to indicate statistical significance, and P values were computed by default using 2-tailed tests.

Results

Our multicentric cohort was composed of 26 heavily pretreated patients with metastatic melanoma

We included 26 patients from 8 French oncodermatology centers with an 8-month (1-54) median follow-up. Table 1 summarizes the clinical characteristics of the patients. The median age at inclusion was 63 years (24-89), with 19 men (73%) and 7 women (27%). The primary melanoma type was cutaneous for 18/26 patients (70%); 2 patients had primary uveal melanoma, 3 had mucosal melanomas, and 3 had melanomas of unknown origin. Only 12% of patients had the *BRAF*^{V600E} mutation, and 19% had *NRAS* mutation; no *CKIT* alterations were found. At treatment initiation, 27% of patients had Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG)—Performances Status 2 or above, and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) levels were above the upper limit in 64% of the patients (Table 1).

Most patients (24/26, 92%) received 2 or more previous lines of systemic treatment. Apart from patient 14 (Figure 1; Table 2) who did not receive any previous line of treatment due to the severity of brain involvement and who required a salvage-targeted therapy strategy, all other patients had at least received a regimen based on anti-PD-(L)1 (only 1/25 received atezolizumab, an anti-PD-L1) and 73% an anti-CTLA4 treatment. All patients who carried the BRAF^{V600E} mutation had received a BRAF/MEK inhibitor combination, which failed. In addition, more than half of the patients had received at least one line of treatment with an investigational agent within a clinical trial, which failed (Table 1).

The MAP kinase pathway was the top targeted pathway, followed by the cell cycle pathway

Due to the different availability of molecular tests across centers, molecular testing was performed on tissue DNA for most patients (16/26) and on circulating tumor DNA for 7/26 patients; 3 patients had both (Figure 2). The median number of genes covered by the molecular test used to identify actionable molecular alterations was 324 (22-324), including 4 tests (15%) using a restricted and nondedicated panel of less than 40 genes.

 Table 1. Clinical characteristics of our cohort of patients with metastatic melanoma that received matched targeted therapy.

Variables	Number of patients (%)
Cohort	26 (100%)
Median age at inclusion (range)	63 (24-89)
Sex	
Male	19 (73%)
Women	7 (27%)
Primary melanoma type	
Cutaneous	18/26 (70%)
Uveal	2/26 (8%)
Mucosal	3/26 (11%)
Unknown	3/26 (11%)
Presence of a classical melanoma alteration	l
BRAF	3/26 (12%)
NRAS	5/26 (19%)
CKIT	0/26 (0%)
Previous lines of systemic treatments receiv	red
None	1 (4%)
1	1 (4%)
2	9 (34%)
≥3	15 (58%)
Previous line of treatment received includin	ng at least a regimen based
Anti-PD-(L)1	25/26 (96%)
Anti-CTLA4	20/26 (73%)
BRAF/MEK inhibitors	3/26 (12%)
Chemotherapy	8/26 (31%)
Developmental agents	14/26 (54%)
ECOG (PS) at inclusion	
0 or 1	18 (69%)
≥2	7 (27%)
Unknown	1 (4%)
Number of metastatic sites at inclusion	
<3	6/26 (23%)
≥3	20/26 (77%)
Metastatic specific localizations history	
Brain metastases	11/26 (42%)
Liver metastases	10/26 (38%)
LDH levels at treatment initiation	
Normal	9/25 (36%)
Abnormal	16/25 (64%)
<2N	11/15 (73%)
≥2N	5/15 (33%)
Unavailable	1/26 (4%)
Matched targeted therapy selected by a mo	lecular tumor board
Yes	23/26 (92%)

Abbreviations: LDH: lactate dehydrogenase, ECOG (PS): Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (Performance Status).

Four patients (P2, P6, P10, and P26) had 2 concurrent targetable molecular alterations. Overall, 30 targetable alterations were detected: 17/30 (57%) affected the MAP kinase pathway, 6/30 (20%) affected the cell cycle pathway, 3/30 (10%) affected the receptor tyrosine A



Figure 1. Matched targeted therapy outcomes. (A) Duration of matched targeted therapy received. In this swimmer plot, each bar represents 1 of the 26 patients with metastatic melanoma. The dotted line split patients with disease control (above) and patients without disease control (under). Among the 10 patients with disease control: 4 had a partial response (patients 6, 8, 9, and 10) and 6 had a stable disease of at least 6 months. (B) Radiological response of patient number 6 at baseline (on the left images) and at 3 months of treatment (on the right images) on adrenal (upper pictures) and retroperitoneal localizations (lower pictures). (C) Metabolic response of patient number 8 at baseline (upper picture) and at 3 months of treatment (lower picture). (D) Clinical response of patient number 9 on cutaneous and subcutaneous metastases at baseline (a and b) and at 1.5 months of treatment (c and d).

kinase pathway (RTK), 2/30 (6.5%) affected the PIK3CA pathway, and 2/30 (6.5%) affected the BRCA spectrum (Figure 2).

MAP kinase pathway alterations were targeted using trametinib for 10 patients with GNA11 mutation (n = 4),

MAP2K1 mutation (n = 3), *NF1* loss (n = 1), *FYCO1-RAF1* fusion (n = 1), and *KRAS* amplification (n = 1), while tipifarnib was given for an *HRAS* mutation (n = 1) and sunitinib for a *CBL* mutation (n = 1). For cell cycle pathway alterations, abemaciclib was given for patients with a

Table 2. Detailed molecular alterations, molecular matched therapy introduced accordingly, and responses to treatment.

Patients	Genetic alterations	Genetic alterations Variant allele Treatment received frequency (%)		Best RECIST 1.1 response obtained	Treatment duration (months)
1	GNA11 ^{Q209L}	Е	Trametinib + pembrolizumab	SD	13.5
2	ATM (deletion exons 39-46); BRAF ^{V600E}	22; 75	Olaparib + dabrafenib + trametinib	SD	11.0
3	Fusion FYCO1-RAF1	E	Ttrametinib + nivolumab	SD	9.7
4	CDK4-MDM2 amplification	NA	Siremadlin + ribociclib	SD	7.4
5	GNA11 ^{R183C}	E	Trametinib + deticene	SD	6.7
6	CDKN2A loss; NRAS ^{Q61R}	NA; 8	Ribociclib + binimetinib	PR	6.4
7	HRAS ^{Q61R}	8	Tipifarnib	SD	6.3
8	CCND1 amplification	NA	Palbociclib	PR	4.8
9	MAP2K1 ^{E203K}	31	Trametinib	PR	4.6
10	CDKN2A loss; NRAS ^{Q61R}	NA; 37	Ribociclib + binimetinib	PR	2.6
11	CCND1 amplification	NA	Siremadlin + ribociclib	SD	5.1
12	GNA11 ^{Q209L}	E	Trametinib + fotemustine	PD	4.8
13	PIK3CA ^{E545K}	28	Alpelisib	PD	3.3
14	MET Exon 14	E	Cabozantinib	PD	3.1
15	MAP2K1 l103_K104del	48	Trametinib + dabrafenib (RD)	PD	3.1
16	EMSY amplification	NA	Olaparib	PD	3.0
17	NF1 loss exon 1-8	NA	Trametinib + pembrolizumab	PD	2.8
18	CDKN2A/B-p16INK4a W15*	7	Abemaciclib	PD	2.3
19	KRAS amplification	NA	Trametinib + pembrolizumab	PD	2.3
20	GNA11 ^{Q209L}	1	Trametinib	PD	1.8
21	CBL^{R540} ; CBL^{R559}	1; 1	Sunitib	PD	1.8
22	MAP2K E102_l103del	31	Trametinib + dabrafenib (RD)	PD	1.8
23	PTEN ^{G127}	31	Everolimus	PD	1.4
24	ALK^{R1120W}	23	Alectinib	PD	1.4
25	$EGFR^{V765M}$	E	Afatinib	PD	1.1
26	CDKN2A loss, BRAF ^{V600E}	NA; 75	Palbociclib + dabrafenib + trametinib	PD	1.0

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable, E: equivocal, PD: progressive disease, PR: partial response, SD: stable disease; dabrafenib RD: dabrafenib at reduced dosage to prevent skin adverse events.

CDKN2A/B mutation (n = 1), palbociclib for patients with a CDKN2A deletion (n = 1), a combination of ribociclib and binimetinib for patients with concurrent loss of CDKN2A and NRAS mutations (n = 2), and siremaldin and ribociclib for patients with CCND1 amplification (n = 1) or MDM2/CDK4 amplification (n = 1). EGFR, ALK, and MET mutations were targeted using afatinib (n = 1), alectinib (n = 1), and cabozantinib (n = 1), respectively. A PIK3CA mutation was targeted with alpelisib (n = 1) and a PTEN mutation was targeted with everolimus (n = 1). Finally, the BRCA spectrum (ATM deletion and EMSY amplification) was targeted with olaparib in 2 patients, in combination with dabrafenib and trametinib in one patient who had just experienced relapse after rechallenge with this therapy (Table 2).

Sequencing-based matched targeted therapy was selected by a molecular tumor board for 23/26 patients (88%) and by a tumor board for all patients (100%). For 6 of the 26 patients (23%) from 1 center, the tumor board decided to add molecularly matched treatment while continuing the previous line of treatment as a strategy to overcome confirmed resistance to anti-PD-1 treatment (n = 4) or chemotherapy with dacarbazine (n = 1) or fotemustine (n = 1; Figure 1A).

This personalized strategy elicited a DCR of 38%

The DCR was 38%, with 4 cases of partial response and 6 of stable disease for at least 6 months. The median duration of treatment was 3.1 months (0.9-13.5). Among patients with disease control, the median duration of control was 6.6 months (2.6-13.5), and 3 cases were ongoing at the end of the study (Figure 1A). Images of the radiological, metabolic, and clinical responses of patients 6, 8, and 9 are presented in Figure 1B-1D. The median overall survival was 9.1 months (Supplementary Figure S1). Patients with controlled disease (patients 1-10) had GNA11 (n = 2); MAP2K1, FYCO1-RAF1, HRAS, ATM, CCND1, and MDM2/CDK4 or CDKN2A/NRAS (n = 2) alterations (Table 2).

Most patients reported mild adverse events related to their molecularly matched therapy

No side effects were reported for 5/26 patients (19%), and CTCAE grade 1 and 2 adverse events were reported for 11/26 patients (42%). They included cutaneous toxicity (n = 10), digestive tract toxicity (n = 5), and hematologic toxicity (n = 3), as well as drug-induced hepatitis

Molecular alterations																										
Patients	P1	P2	Р3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15	P16	P17	P18	P19	P20	P21	P22	P23	P24	P25	P26
Patients																										
MAP kinase pathway																										
BRAF V600E																										
HRAS mutation																										
MAP2K1 mutation																						ш				
CBL mutation																					ш					\vdash
NRAS mutation	m					ш																				
NET loss																										
EYCO1-BAE1 fusion											-															
FLT3 amplification																										
MITF amplification																										
MYC amplification																										
BRAF amplification																										
KRAS amplification																										
Cell Cycle pathway			r –		r –	r –				_	-	r –	r –	_			_			r –		r –	r –			
CCND1 amplification				-	-		-														-	-	-		-	
CCND3 amplification																										\square
MDM2 amplification																										
CDK4 amplification																										
PI3K pathway																										
PTEN mutation																										
PIK3CA mutation																										
RTKs pathway										_	_			_												
PDGFRA mutation																										
AGER mutation																										
FRBB3 amplification																										
BRCA spectrum			I		I	I						I	1							I		I	1			
TP53 mutation																										
ATM mutation																										
ATM deletion																										
EMSY amplification																										
RAD51 mutation																										
Telomerase maintenance		-			_	_		-	r –	_			ı —				_		-		-	_		_	-	_
IERT promoteur mutation																										
			1	1	1	1	1	1	1		-	1	r –							1	<u> </u>	1	r –			
APC loss																										
CTNNB1 mutation																										
Methylation																										
IDH1 mutation																										
Autres				1				1	1																	
LYN amplification																										$ \square$
FGF19 amplification											-															
FGF4 amplification																	_									
KDM54 amplification																-										
FOXP1 amplification							-	-	-				1						-		-		1		-	
MCL1 amplification																										
MLL2 truncation																										
NUTM2B deletion																										
ALK mutation																										
AR mutation																										
CTCF mutation																										$ \square$
MUTYH mutation											-															
BAR1 mutation										_	-															
DNMT34 mutation											-															
PBRM1 mutation																										
COL1A1 mutation																										
GATA3 mutation																										
PRPF40B mutation																										
HNF1A mutation																										
												l	Leger	nd: arge nole nole nole	ted i culai culai culai	mole ralte ralte	ecula eratio eratio	r alte on fo on fo on fo	erati ound ound ound	on in tu in bl both	mor ood in ti	tissu biop: ssue	ue sy e and	bloc	od	

Patients with disease control Patients without disease control

Figure 2. Molecular coalterations among our patients with metastatic melanoma who received matched targeted therapy. Each column represents one patient (P).

for 1 patient and pulmonary toxicity for 1 patient. Three patients (12%) experienced severe grade 3 adverse events, namely, dropped head syndrome under trametinib,

pancytopenia under palbociclib, and drug-induced diabetes and cardiac left ventricular ejection fraction deterioration leading to treatment cessation under alpelisib.

Disease control was observed even in patients with poor prognosis

With caution due to the small number of patients included in our study, we observed disease control in 2 patients with an ECOG performance status greater than or equal to 2 and in 4 patients with elevated LDH levels, including 2 patients with LDH levels 2 times the upper reference limit (Supplementary Tables S1 and S2).

No significant differences were found between patients with disease control and patients without disease control regarding the existence of molecular coalterations and tumor mutational burden levels.

Most patients (81%) had 1 or more molecular coalterations in addition to those targeted by the molecularly matched therapy. Among the 5 patients for whom only 1 molecular alteration was identified and targeted, 4 did not derive any benefit (Figure 2).

Similarly, we wondered whether the tumor mutational burden (TMB) affects therapeutic response and observed no significant difference in the TMB between patients with disease control (mean = 7.1 mutations/Mb) and patients without disease control (mean = 14 mutations/Mb; P = .3639).

Discussion

In our multicentric and retrospective cohort, we observed an unexpected 38% DCR using a personalized medicine strategy to target tumor actionable molecular alterations in 26 heavily pretreated patients with unresectable metastatic melanoma.

The cohort characteristics were representative of patients refractory to available therapies except for the sex ratio in favor of men (2.7), which is usually balanced in melanoma, and for the low number of *BRAF*-mutant patients (12%), for whom we made the assumption that broad tumor sequencing is less common. Patients with poor prognosis included 2 with primary uveal melanoma and 3 with primary mucosal melanoma, both of which are known to be associated with poor outcomes.

The 38% DCRs and 15% ORRs indicate that 60% of the patients who benefited from the strategy had a stable outcome of at least 6 months.

This DCR is in line with the 30% clinical benefit lasting ≥ 6 months reported by Shoushtari et al,¹² who analyzed clinical and treatment data from 27 patients with rare targetable drivers who prospectively underwent sequencing in the Memorial Sloan Kettering MSK-Impact project and received genomically matched therapies. Most of the treatments received were mostly MEK and ERK inhibitors for *RAS* alterations and *BRAF* class II alterations and TRK inhibitors for *NTRK* fusions.

These numbers are also in line with those of a retrospective cohort of 33 patients treated with trametinib for pretreated *NRAS*-mutated melanoma which reported an 18% ORR and 49% DCR with a 6.8 months median duration of response.¹⁴ In the Shoushtari study and in our cohort of patients, the clinical outcomes of rare targetable drivers are of interest despite the small number of patients included and treated.

The durable disease control obtained with the combination of olaparib, dabrafenib, and trametinib in a patient with concurrent *ATM* deletion and the *BRAF*^{V600E} mutation is striking. The 11 months of stable disease achieved were unlikely due to dabrafenib and trametinib rechallenge since this patient had just experienced failure of a 3-month rechallenge with BRAF

and MEK inhibitors before olaparib introduction. A few recently published case reports also showed high response rates to olaparib in patients with homologous recombination deficiency. Interestingly, this was the case for mutations involving the DNA damage response pathway (DDR)^{15,16} or despite the absence of mutations in DDR genes.¹⁷

In addition, 2 remarkable partial responses were described for 2 patients with concurrent *CDKN2A* loss and the *NRAS*^{Q61R} mutation who received ribociclib combined with cobimetinib combination which is in line with a recently published phase Ib/II trial reporting a 32.5% response rate in this specific population.¹⁸

Finally, 1 of our 3 patients with *MAP2K1* (*MEK1*) mutation achieved a partial response to trametinib. One explanation is that *MEK1*^{E203K}, which was also successfully targeted in the Shoushtari et al cohort,¹² is sensitive to feedback inhibition of *RAF*, in contrast to insertion-deletion mutations in the *MAP2K1* inhibitory domain from amino acids 98-113.¹⁹

Despite these encouraging results, our study has numerous limitations due to its retrospective nature, the small number of patients included and the heterogeneity of available NGS panels and sequencing strategies between centers. Since personalized medicine is not a standard of care for patients with melanoma, despite the inclusion of patients through a national network of skin cancer specialists, the number of included patients was low. It was therefore impossible to obtain homogenous profiling strategies to assess broad tumor sequencing output in refractory metastatic melanoma. Finally, we chose to exclude patients treated for less than 15 days to avoid patients who did not receive treatment for a long enough time to be evaluated, even though some targeted therapies are able to provide rapid and strong responses.

In conclusion, personalized strategies are a promising approach for treating patients with refractory metastatic melanoma because of the importance of improving access to molecular testing, molecular tumor boards, and matched targeted therapies. In the future, prospective cohorts are needed to better define these strategy outcomes among upcoming metastatic melanoma strategies.

Author contributions

Emily Connell: collection of data, data analysis and interpretation, manuscript writing. Émilie Gerard: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Bénédicte Oules: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Florence Brunet-Possenti: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Anouck Lamoureux: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Hugo Bonnefille: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Sorilla Mary-Prey: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Ana Carrasquilla: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Stéphane Mouret: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Nora Kramkimel: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Candice Lesage: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Pierre-Emmanuel Stoebner: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Axel Bartoli: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Sandrine Monestier: data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Florian Correard: data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Audrey Gros: provision of study material or patients, final approval of manuscript. Arnaud Jeanson: conception and design, data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. L'Houcine Ouafik: data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Caroline Gaudy-Marqueste: conception and design, data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Pascale Tomasini: conception and design, data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Julie Charles: conception and design, provision of study material or patients, data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Mona Amini-Adle: conception and design, provision of study material or patients, data analysis and interpretation, final approval of manuscript. Nausicaa Malissen: conception and design, provision of study material or patients, collection of data, data analysis and interpretation, manuscript writing, final approval of manuscript.

Funding

The authors declare no funding.

Conflicts of interest

E.C. has no conflict of interest. E.G. has received fees from MSD, BMS, Pierre Fabre, Sanofi (speaker honoraria, financial support for congress participation). B.O. declares having received meeting invitations from Novartis, Abbvie, and Bristol Myers Squibb. F.B.P. declares having received advisory fees from Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck and Novartis. A.L. has received fees from Novartis, BMS, MSD, Pierre Fabre, SANOFI (speaker honoraria, boards participation, or financial support for congress participation). H.B. has received fees from Novartis (financial support for congress participation). S.M.P declares being investigator and having received meeting invitations from Bristol Myers Squibb, and MSD. A.C. has no conflict of interest. S.M. has no conflict of interest. N.K. has no conflict of interest. C.L. has received grants for boards or congresses from BMS, MSD, Novartis, Pierre Fabre Oncology, Sanofi. P.E.S. and A.B have no conflict of interest. S.M. received advisory fee from BMS and Sanofi, payment for lectures or meeting invitations from Novartis, BMS, Sanofi, Pierre Fabre Oncology and MSD. FC reports personal fees from Novartis, BMS, MSD and Pierre Fabre outside the submitted work. A.G. has no conflict of interest. A.J. has no conflict of interest. L.O. declares having received advisory fees from AMGEN SAS, Janssen Cilag, Astrazeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Lilly France, payment for lectures and meeting invitations from Myriads Genetics SAS, Janssen Cilag, Astrazeneca. C.G. has received honoraria from BMS France, Blue Print, MSD Oncology, Pierre Fabre, Consulting or advisory role for Pierre Fabre and travel and accommodations expenses for Pierre Fabre, BMS France and MSD Oncology. P.T. had a consulting or advisory role for Roche, AZ, BMS, Takeda, Amgen and travel and accommodations expenses for BMS and Amgen. J.C. has no conflict of interest. M.A.A. has received fees from BMS, Pierre Fabre, Sanofi (consultant and speaker honoraria, financial support for congress participation). N.M. declares having received advisory fees from Abbvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen Cilag and Novartis, payment for lectures and meeting invitations from Pierre Fabre

Oncology, Novartis, Bristol Myers Squibb, Sanofi, Abbvie, Leo Pharma, L'Oréal and MSD.

Data availability

The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

Supplementary material.

Supplementary material is available at The Oncologist online.

References

- Ascierto PA, Kirkwood JM, Grob JJ, et al. The role of BRAF V600 mutation in melanoma. *J Transl Med*. 2012;10(85):85. https://doi. org/10.1186/1479-5876-10-85
- Robert C, Grob JJ, Stroyakovskiy D, et al. Five-year outcomes with dabrafenib plus trametinib in metastatic melanoma. N Engl J Med. 2019;381(7):626-636. https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1904059
- Larkin J, Chiarion-Sileni V, Gonzalez R, et al. Five-year survival with combined nivolumab and ipilimumab in advanced melanoma. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;381(16):1535-1546. https://doi.org/10.1056/ NEJMoa1910836
- Li MM, Datto M, Duncavage EJ, et al. Standards and guidelines for the interpretation and reporting of sequence variants in cancer: a joint consensus recommendation of the Association for Molecular Pathology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and College of American Pathologists. J Mol Diagn. 2017;19(1):4-23. https://doi. org/10.1016/j.jmoldx.2016.10.002
- Pascual J, Attard G, Bidard FC, et al. ESMO recommendations on the use of circulating tumour DNA assays for patients with cancer: a report from the ESMO Precision Medicine Working Group. Ann Oncol. 2022;33(8):750-768. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. annonc.2022.05.520
- Louveau B, Jouenne F, Têtu P, et al. A melanoma-tailored next-generation sequencing panel coupled with a comprehensive analysis to improve routine melanoma genotyping. *Target Oncol.* 2020;15(6):759-771. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11523-020-00764-4
- Diefenbach RJ, Lee JH, Menzies AM, et al. Design and testing of a custom melanoma next generation sequencing panel for analysis of circulating tumor DNA. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2020;12(8):2228. https:// doi.org/10.3390/cancers12082228
- Hodis E, Watson IR, Kryukov GV, et al. A landscape of driver mutations in melanoma. *Cell.* 2012;150(2):251-263. https://doi. org/10.1016/j.cell.2012.06.024
- de Unamuno Bustos B, Murria Estal R, Pérez Simó G, et al. Towards personalized medicine in melanoma: implementation of a clinical next-generation sequencing panel. *Sci Rep.* 2017;7(1):495. https:// doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-00606-w
- Le Tourneau C, Delord JP, Gonçalves A, et al.; SHIVA investigators. Molecularly targeted therapy based on tumour molecular profiling versus conventional therapy for advanced cancer (SHIVA): a multicentre, open-label, proof-of-concept, randomised, controlled phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2015;16(13):1324-1334. https://doi. org/10.1016/S1470-2045(15)00188-6
- Park C, Kim M, Kim MJ, et al. Clinical application of next-generation sequencing-based panel to BRAF wild-type advanced melanoma identifies key oncogenic alterations and therapeutic strategies. *Mol Cancer Ther.* 2020;19(3):937-944. https://doi.org/10.1158/1535-7163.MCT-19-0457
- Shoushtari AN, Chatila WK, Arora A, et al. Therapeutic implications of detecting MAPK-activating alterations in cutaneous and unknown primary melanomas. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2021;27(8):2226-2235. https://doi.org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-20-4189
- 13. Eisenhauer EA, Therasse P, Bogaerts J, et al. New response evaluation criteria in solid tumours: revised RECIST guideline (version

1.1). Eur J Cancer. 2009;45(2):228-247. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. ejca.2008.10.026

- 14. Salzmann M, Pawlowski J, Loquai C, et al. MEK inhibitors for pre-treated, NRAS-mutated metastatic melanoma: a multi-centre, retrospective study. *Eur J Cancer.* 2022;166:24-32. https://doi. org/10.1016/j.ejca.2022.02.008
- 15. Khaddour K, Ansstas M, Visconti J, Ansstas G. Mutation clearance and complete radiologic resolution of immunotherapy relapsed metastatic melanoma after treatment with nivolumab and olaparib in a patient with homologous recombinant deficiency: any role for PARP inhibitors and checkpoint blockade? *Ann Oncol.* 2021;32(2):279-280. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. annonc.2020.10.602
- 16. Lau B, Menzies AM, Joshua AM. Ongoing partial response at 6 months to olaparib for metastatic melanoma with somatic PALB2 mutation after failure of immunotherapy: a case report.

Ann Oncol. 2021;32(2):280-282. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. annonc.2020.11.006

- 17. Khaddour K, Ansstas M, Ansstas G. Clinical outcomes and longitudinal circulating tumor DNA changes after treatment with nivolumab and olaparib in immunotherapy relapsed melanoma with detected homologous recombination deficiency. *Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud.* 2021;7(5):a006129. https://doi.org/10.1101/ mcs.a006129
- Schuler M, Zimmer L, Kim KB, et al. Phase Ib/II trial of ribociclib in combination with binimetinib in patients with NRAS-mutant melanoma. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2022;28(14):3002-3010. https://doi. org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-21-3872
- Gao Y, Chang MT, McKay D, et al. Allele-specific mechanisms of activation of MEK1 mutants determine their properties. *Cancer Discov.* 2018;8(5):648-661. https://doi.org/10.1158/2159-8290. CD-17-1452