

DREAMM-9: Phase I Study of Belantamab Mafodotin Plus Standard of Care in Patients With Transplant-Ineligible Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma

S. Z. USMANI, MD¹, M. MIELNIK, MD², Y. KOH, MD³, A. ALONSO ALONSO, MD⁴, X. LELEU, MD, PHD⁵, H. QUACH, MD⁶, C. MIN, MD⁷, W. JANOWSKI, MD⁸, A. ABDALLAH, MD, PHD⁹, M. GARG, MD, FRCP, FRCPATH¹⁰, I. SANDHU, MD, FRCP¹¹, E. M. OCIO SAN MIGUEL, MD, PHD¹², A. ORIOL, MD¹³, P. RODRIGUEZ-OTERO, MD, PHD¹⁴, K. RAMASAMY, MBBS, MRCP, FRCPATH, PHD¹⁵, K. WEISEL, MD¹⁶, B. BESEMER, MD¹⁷, M. CAVO, MD¹⁸, X. L. ZHOU, MD, PHD¹⁹, M. C. KAISERMANN, MD, PHD²⁰, C. M. BEGO MARQUES²¹, D. WILLIAMS, MSc²⁰, F. CARRENO, PHD²⁰, B. E. KREMER, MD, PHD²⁰, I. V. GUPTA, MD²⁰, M. HUS, MD, PHD²

1 Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA | 2 Department of Hematooncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Medical University of Lublin, Poland | 3 Seoul National University Hospital, Seoul, South Korea | 4 Hospital Quirón Madrid, Madrid, Spain | 5 CHU de Poitiers, Poitiers, France | 6 St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia | 7 The Catholic University of Korea Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, Seoul, South Korea | 8 Calvary Mater Newcastle, Newcastle, Australia | 9 University of Kansas, Kansas City, KS, USA | 10 Leicester Royal Infirmary, Leicester, UK | 11 University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada | 12 Hospital Universitario Marqués de Valdecilla (IDIVAL), Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain | 13 Institut Català d'Oncologia and Institut Josep Carreras - Hospital Universitari Germans Trias i Pujol (HUGTP), Badalona, Spain | 14 Department of Hematology, Clínica Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona, Spain | 15 Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford, UK | 16 University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany | 17 University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany | 18 IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna, Istituti di Ematologia "Seragnoli", Università degli Studi di Bologna, Bologna, Italy | 19 GlaxoSmithKline, Waltham, MA, USA | 20 GlaxoSmithKline, Upper Providence, PA, USA | 21 GlaxoSmithKline, Barcelona, Spain

INTRODUCTION

The combination of bortezomib, lenalidomide and dexamethasone (VRd) as a standard of care (SOC) for transplant-ineligible newly diagnosed multiple myeloma (TI NDMM) has been further supported by the Phase 3 SWOG S0777 trial in patients with TI NDMM where a ≥VGPR of 75% and ORR of 90% were observed (with 7 years of follow-up).^{1,2}

Ongoing development of novel therapies and combinations strive to improve survival outcomes beyond what is expected from SOC (median progression-free survival of 43 months with VRd).¹

Belantamab mafodotin (belamaf) has a multimodal mechanism of action that eliminates multiple myeloma cells via direct cytotoxicity as well as by a systemic anti-MM tumour immune response.³⁻⁵

Enhanced anti-myeloma activity has been demonstrated in preclinical work when belamaf has been combined with bortezomib or lenalidomide, providing rationale for this treatment combination.^{3,6}

An earlier presentation given at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting 2021 of data from the DREAMM-9 study of belamaf combined with VRd in 36 patients with TI NDMM showed encouraging efficacy, with deep responses of ≥VGPR achieved in at least half of all patients in each cohort (50-100%).⁷

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this study is to further evaluate the safety and tolerability of belamaf combined with VRd in up to 8 cohorts and up to 160 patients with TI NDMM, and to establish the recommended Phase III dose. We report the preliminary findings of belamaf + VRd for 5 cohorts with different dosing regimens.

METHODS

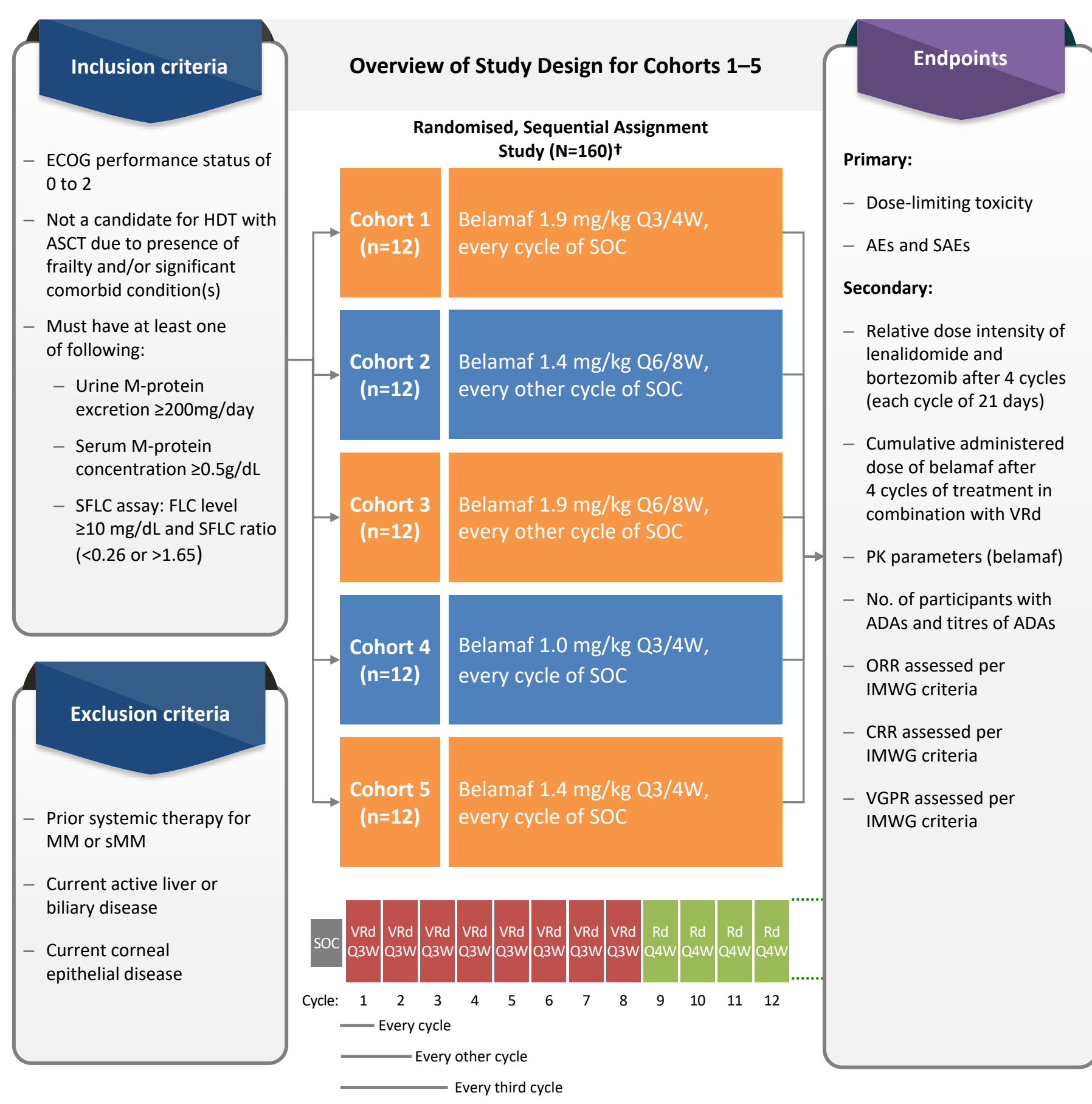
Patient Population

DREAMM-9 (NCT04091126) is an ongoing Phase I, open-label, randomised, dose and schedule evaluation study of belamaf + VRd in patients with TI NDMM. A detailed study design for Cohorts 1–5 is shown in **Figure 1**, data for Cohorts 6–8* are not yet mature.

Belamaf is given with VRd Q3/Q4W until Cycle 8, and with Rd Q4/8W thereafter.

After evaluation of safety data for Cohort 1, Cohorts 2–5 were opened in parallel and enrolled patients were randomised 1:1:1:1.

Figure 1. Study Design



RESULTS

Patient Population

At data cut-off, 7 December 2021, 64 patients with TI NDMM have been randomised in this study; 12 patients in each of Cohorts 1–3, 15 in Cohort 4, and 13 in Cohort 5. Demographic data for these patients are presented in **Table 1**.

- 55% (n=35) of the total study population was male, and patients had a median age of 73 years.
- 33% of patients (n=21) in the total study population were International Staging System (ISS) stage I and 59% of patients (n=38) were stage II or III.
- 17% of patients (n=11) in the total study population had high-risk cytogenetics (consisting of one or more of the following cytogenetic abnormalities: t(4;14), t(14;16), del17p).

Table 1. Demographics, Baseline Disease, and Clinical Characteristics for Patients Treated with Belamaf + VRd						
	Cohort 1 belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q3/4W +VRd n=12	Cohort 2 belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q6/8W +VRd n=12	Cohort 3 belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q6/8W +VRd n=12	Cohort 4 belamaf 1.0 mg/kg Q3/4W +VRd n=15	Cohort 5 belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q3/4W +VRd n=13	Total population N=64
Age, median (range), years	72.5 (63–77)	73.0 (69–80)	73.0 (69–78)	73.0 (51–85)	74.0 (65–88)	73.0 (51–88)
18 to <65 years, n (%)	2 (17)	0	0	2 (13)	0	4 (6)
65 to <75 years, n (%)	5 (42)	8 (67)	8 (67)	10 (67)	7 (54)	38 (59)
≥75 years, n (%)	5 (42)	4 (33)	4 (33)	3 (20)	6 (46)	22 (34)
Sex, n (%)						
Male	8 (67)	6 (50)	6 (50)	7 (47)	8 (62)	35 (55)
Race, n (%)						
White	10 (83)	10 (83)	8 (67)	12 (80)	11 (85)	51 (80)
Black/African American	0	0	0	1 (7)	0	1 (2)
Asian	2 (17)	2 (17)	4 (33)	2 (13)	2 (15)	12 (19)
ISS disease stage, n (%)						
Stage I	2 (17)	3 (25)	4 (33)	6 (40)	6 (46)	21 (33)
Stage II	6 (50)	5 (42)	6 (50)	7 (47)	3 (23)	27 (42)
Stage III	3 (25)	4 (33)	1 (8)	1 (7)	11 (85)	11 (17)
Unknown	1 (8)	0	1 (8)	1 (7)	2 (15)	5 (8)
Genetics, Amp (1q), n (%)	1 (8)	1 (8)	3 (25)	4 (27)	4 (31)	13 (20)
Cytogenetic abnormalities, n (%)						
High risk	4 (33)	1 (8)	2 (17)	1 (7)	3 (23)	11 (17)
Other	8 (67)	11 (92)	10 (83)	14 (93)	10 (77)	53 (83)
Myeloma immunoglobulin, n (%)						
IgA	5 (42)	3 (25)	0	4 (27)	4 (31)	16 (25)
IgG	7 (58)	8 (67)	12 (100)	11 (73)	7 (54)	45 (70)
None	0	1 (8)	0	2 (15)	3 (23)	3 (5)
Light chain, n (%)						
Kappa	7 (58)	6 (50)	10 (83)	11 (73)	9 (69)	43 (67)
Lambda	3 (25)	5 (42)	2 (17)	4 (27)	4 (31)	18 (28)
Extramedullary disease, n (%)						
Yes	3 (25)	1 (8)	1 (8)	0	0	5 (8)
Median number of belamaf cycles (range)	6.0 (2–11)	3.0 (1–5)	3.5 (2–6)	4.5 (1–11)	5.0 (1–7)	NA
Median belamaf dose intensity, mg/kg/cycle (range)	0.54 (0.3–1.9)	1.40 (1.3–1.6)	1.72 (1.1–1.9)	1.0 (1.0–1.0)	1.19 (1.0–1.4)	NA

Data cut-off: 7 December 2021. Baseline characteristics are shown for all patients who were randomised and does not exclude patients who were randomised but not treated.

*High-risk cytogenetics defined as t(4;14), t(14;16), del17p.

Belamaf, belantamab mafodotin; ISS, International Staging System; NA, not available; Q3/4W, every 3 weeks for Cycle 1–8 and every 4 weeks afterwards; Q6/8W, every 6 weeks for Cycle 1–8 and every 8 weeks afterwards; SOC, standard of care: bortezomib, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone in Cycle 1–8 followed by lenalidomide and dexamethasone from Cycle 9 onwards; VRd, bortezomib, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone.

Safety

There were no new safety signals reported for belamaf in combination with VRd.

Across Cohorts 1–4, all patients experienced adverse events (AEs) related to study treatment (**Table 2**).

Table 2. Safety Data* and Duration of Follow-Up for Patients Treated With Belamaf + VRd Across Cohorts					
	Cohort 1 Belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q3/4W VRd n=12	Cohort 2 Belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q6/8W VRd n=12	Cohort 3 Belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q6/8W VRd n=12	Cohort 4 Belamaf 1.0 mg/kg Q3/4W VRd n=15	Cohort 5 Belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q3/4W VRd n=13
Any AEs	12 (100)	12 (100)	12 (100)	14 (100)	13 (100)
Thrombocytopenia	7 (58)	7 (58)	5 (42)	6 (43)	4 (31)
Constipation	8 (67)	5 (42)	3 (25)	6 (43)	5 (38)
Diarrhea	6 (50)	3 (25)	4 (29)	4 (29)	4 (31)
Peripheral sensory neuropathy	2 (17)	7 (58)	7 (58)	1 (7)	2 (15)
Treatment-related AEs	12 (100)	12 (100)	12 (100)	14 (100)	11 (85)
Grade ≥3 AEs	12 (100)	12 (100)	11 (92)	11 (79)	9 (69)
Grade 3 or 4 AEs related to belamaf	8 (67)	5 (42)	3 (25)	5 (36)	4 (31)
AEs leading to permanent discontinuation of study treatment†	3 (25)	3 (25)	2 (17)	3 (21)	1 (8)
AEs leading to dose reduction	12 (100)	10 (83)	10 (83)	7 (50)	4 (31)
AEs leading to reduction of belamaf	4 (31)	0	2 (17)	0	2 (15)
AEs leading to reduction of bortezomib	8 (67)	4 (33)	7 (58)	4 (29)	2 (15)
AEs leading to reduction of lenalidomide	5 (42)	6 (50)	4 (33)	4 (29)	3 (23)
AEs leading to dose delay/interruption	12 (100)	12 (100)	11 (92)	13 (93)	11 (85)
AEs leading to delay of belamaf	10 (83)	5 (42)	3 (25)	7 (50)	7 (54)
AEs leading to delay of bortezomib	11 (92)	7 (58)	8 (67)	8 (57)	7 (54)
AEs leading to delay of lenalidomide	11 (92)	6 (50)	8 (67)	6 (43)	5 (38)
AEs leading to delay of dexamethasone	7 (58)	8 (67)	3 (25)	3 (21)	5 (38)
Any SAEs	11 (92)	6 (50)	7 (58)	4 (29)	4 (31)
Treatment-related SAEs	6 (50)	1 (8)	2 (17)	2 (14)	3 (23)
Fatal SAEs	1 (8)	1 (8)	1 (8)	0	0
Treatment-related fatal SAEs	0	0	0	0	0
Duration of follow-up (months), median (range; IQR)	17.4 (7.3–23.1; 15.2–19.3)	5.9 (4.8–11.3; 5.1–7.6)	6.1 (4.4–11.5; 5.2–7.5)	4.7 (0.1–11.7; 3.2–6.6)	5.8 (0.8–9.7; 4.3–7.5)

*Safety data excluding ocular AEs which are presented separately in Table 3. †One patient in Cohort 1 withdrew from study due to an AE of lung adenocarcinoma; 2 patients from Cohorts 3 and 4 had a fatal SAE caused by COVID-19 infection and 1 patient from Cohort 3 had a fatal SAE caused by non-MM cancer; 1 patient in Cohort 3 withdrew from study due to an AE of prostate adenocarcinoma and 1 patient in Cohort 5 experienced a fall and withdrew the study due to deteriorating condition related to SAE.

AE, adverse event; belamaf, belantamab mafodotin; IQR, interquartile range; Q3/4W, every 3 weeks for Cycle 1–8 and every 4 weeks afterwards; Q6/8W, every 6 weeks for Cycle 1–8 and every 8 weeks afterwards; SAE, severe adverse event; SOC, standard of care: bortezomib, lenalidomide and dexamethasone in Cycle 1–8 followed by lenalidomide and dexamethasone from Cycle 9 onwards; VRd, bortezomib, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone.

The most common AEs leading to dose modification were thrombocytopenia, neutropenia and ocular events.

Grade ≥3 ocular events per the Keratopathy and Visual Acuity (KVA) scale ranged from 50–83% across Cohorts (**Table 3**).

Ocular AEs related to belamaf led to dose delays in ≥40% of patients across all cohorts and dose reductions in at most 1 (8%) patient per cohort (**Table 3**).

No patients had a permanent treatment discontinuation related to belamaf-induced ocular AEs.

Table 3. Summary of Ocular Events Across Cohorts					
	Cohort 1 belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q3/4W n=12	Cohort 2 belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q6/8W n=12	Cohort 3 belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q6/8W n=12	Cohort 4 belamaf 1.0 mg/kg Q3/4W n=14	Cohort 5 belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q3/4W n=13
Ocular events					
Any event, n (%)*	12 (100)	12 (100)	12 (100)	12 (86)	12 (92)
Grade ≥3 ocular events per KVA scale†, n (%)					
Grade ≥3 keratopathy	9 (75)	4 (33)	3 (25)	7 (50)	5 (39)
Grade ≥3 visual acuity	10 (83)	7 (58)	4 (33)	3 (21)	6 (46)
Grade ≥3 ocular AEs leading to dose reduction of belamaf	1 (8)	0	1 (8)	0	1 (8)
Grade ≥3 ocular AEs leading to belamaf dose delay	10 (83)	7 (58)	5 (42)	7 (50)	9 (69)
Median time to onset of Grade ≥3 ocular event (range), days	67.5 (39–106)	106.0 (64–197)	114.0 (84–246)	72.0 (42–145)	62.0 (22–113)
Worse case post baseline, n (%)					
≥3 line decline in BCVA (better eye)	6 (50)	3 (25)	0	1 (7)	3 (23)
≥3 line decline in BCVA (worse eye)	9 (75)	5 (42)	3 (25)	2 (14)	5 (38)

*There were no permanent discontinuations of belamaf due to ocular AEs. †KVA scale for ocular events uses both ophthalmic examination findings and visual acuity for grading of events.

AE, adverse event; BCVA, best corrected visual acuity; belamaf, belantamab mafodotin; ISS, International Staging System; KVA, Keratopathy and Visual Acuity; Q3/4W, every 3 weeks for Cycle 1–8 and every 4 weeks afterwards; Q6/8W, every 6 weeks for Cycle 1–8 and every 8 weeks afterwards; SOC, standard of care: bortezomib, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone in Cycle 1–8 followed by lenalidomide and dexamethasone from Cycle 9 onwards.

Efficacy

Preliminary data on efficacy of belamaf combination treatments are encouraging.

ORR ranged from 80–100% across cohorts, with at least 67% of patients in each cohort achieving ≥VGPR (**Table 4**).

Table 4. Efficacy Data for Patients Treated With Belamaf + VRd					
Clinical response	Cohort 1 belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q3/4W +VRd n=12	Cohort 2 belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q6/8W +VRd n=12	Cohort 3 belamaf 1.9 mg/kg Q6/8W +VRd n=12	Cohort 4 belamaf 1.0 mg/kg Q3/4W +VRd n=15	Cohort 5 belamaf 1.4 mg/kg Q3/4W +VRd n=13
ORR, n (%; 95% CI)	12 [100; 73.5–100]	11 [92; 61.5–99.8]	12 [100; 73.5–100]	12 [80; 57.2–98.2]	12 [92; 64.0–99.8]
sCR, n (%)	6 (50)	1 (8)	0	3 (20)	2 (15)
CR, n (%)	3 (25)	0	2 (17)	2 (13)	1 (8)
VGPR, n (%)	2 (17)	9 (75)	7 (58)	5 (33)	8 (62)
Median time (months) to VGPR (95% CI)	2.8 (0.7–3.5)	2.1 (0.8–4.9)	2.9 (0.8–3.5)	2.7 (1.4–3.3)	2.2 (0.8–3.0)
≥VGPR†, n (%; 95% CI)	11 [92; 61.5–99.8]	10 [83; 51.6–97.9]	9 [75; 42.8–94.5]	10 [67; 41.9–91.6]	11 [85; 54.6–98.1]
MRD negativity*, n (%; 95% CI)	10 [91; 58.7–99.8] 10 patients tested	2 [20; 2.5–55.6] 6 patients tested	1 [11; 0.3–48.2] 4 patients tested	2 [20; 2.5–55.6] 4 patients tested	2 [18; 2.3–51.8] 3 patients tested
PR, n (%)	1 (8)*	1 (8)	3 (25)	2 (13)	1 (8)
SD, n (%)	0	1 (8)	0	0	0
NE, n (%)	0	0	0	1 (7)	1 (8)