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How does ZYNYZ work?

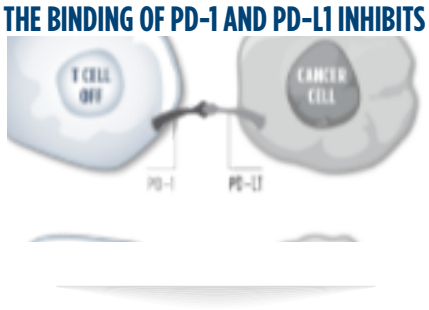
ZYNYZ® (retifanlimab-dlwr) is a programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1)–blocking antibody indicated for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic or recurrent locally advanced Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC).[1]

This indication is approved under accelerated approval based on tumor response rate and duration of response. Continued approval for this indication may be contingent upon verification and description of clinical benefit in confirmatory trials.[1]

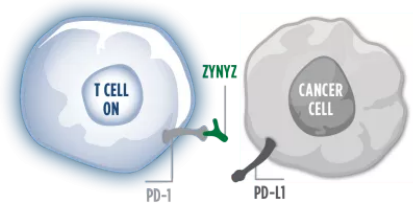
ZYNYZ is a PD-1 inhibitor[1]

- The PD-1 pathway can contribute to the induction and maintenance of immune tolerance within the tumor microenvironment[2]
- The binding of the PD-1 ligands (PD-L1 and PD-L2) to the PD-1 receptor found on T-cells inhibits T-cell activation, proliferation, and cytokine production[1,2]
- PD-1 inhibitors, like ZYNYZ, block the PD-1 pathway to enhance T-cell–mediated anticancer immunity[1,2]

WITHOUT ZYNYZ, THE BINDING OF PD-1 AND PD-L1 INHIBITS T-CELL ACTIVITY[1,2]



WITH ZYNYZ, RECEPTOR–LIGAND connection is blocked, potentiating T-cell activity[1,2]



PD-1 inhibitors, like ZYNYZ, prevent cancer cells from using the PD-1 pathway to avoid detection by the immune system.[1]

References: 1. ZYNYZ Prescribing Information. Wilmington, DE: Incyte Corporation. **2.** Han Y, Liu D, Li L. PD-1/PD-L1 pathway: current researches in cancer. *Am J Cancer Res.* 2020;10(3):727-742.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Severe and Fatal Immune-Mediated Adverse Reactions

Important immune-mediated adverse reactions listed may not be inclusive of all possible severe and fatal immune-mediated reactions.

Immune-mediated adverse reactions, which may be severe or fatal, can occur in any organ system or tissue, can occur at any time after starting or discontinuing treatment with a PD-1/PD-L1–blocking antibody, and can affect more than one body system simultaneously.

Monitor patients closely for symptoms and signs that may be clinical manifestations of such reactions. Early identification and management of immune-mediated adverse reactions are essential to ensure safe use of PD-1/PD-L1–blocking antibodies. Evaluate liver enzymes, creatinine, and thyroid function at baseline and periodically during treatment. If suspected, initiate appropriate workup to exclude alternative etiologies, including infection. Institute medical management promptly, including specialty consultation as appropriate.

Withhold or permanently discontinue ZYNYZ depending on severity. In general, if ZYNYZ requires interruption or discontinuation, administer systemic corticosteroid therapy (1-2 mg/kg/day prednisone or equivalent) until improvement to ≤ Grade 1. Then, initiate corticosteroid taper and continue to taper over at least 1 month. Consider administration of other systemic immunosuppressants in patients whose adverse reactions are not controlled with corticosteroids.

Immune-Mediated Pneumonitis

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated pneumonitis. Immune-mediated pneumonitis occurred in 3% (13/440) of patients, including fatal (0.2%), Grade 3 (0.9%), and Grade 2 (1.4%) reactions. Pneumonitis led to permanent discontinuation of ZYNYZ in 1 patient and withholding in 0.9%.

MERCK EX1153
Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC v. The Johns Hopkins University
IPR2024-00623

Systemic corticosteroids were required in 77% (10/13) of patients. Pneumonitis resolved in 10 of the 13 patients.

Immune-Mediated Colitis

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated colitis. Cytomegalovirus infections/reactivations have occurred in patients with corticosteroid-refractory immune-mediated colitis treated with PD-1/PD-L1–blocking antibodies. In cases of corticosteroid-refractory colitis, consider repeating infectious workup to exclude alternative etiologies.

Immune-mediated colitis occurred in 1.6% (7/440) of patients, including Grade 4 (0.2%), Grade 3 (0.2%), and Grade 2 (0.7%). Colitis led to permanent discontinuation of ZYNYZ in 1 patient and withholding in 0.9%.

Systemic corticosteroids were required in 71% (5/7) of patients. Colitis resolved in 4/7 patients.

Immune-Mediated Hepatitis

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated hepatitis. Immune-mediated hepatitis occurred in 3% (13/440) of patients, including Grade 4 (0.2%), Grade 3 (2.3%), and Grade 2 (0.5%). Hepatitis led to permanent discontinuation of ZYNYZ in 1.4% of patients and withholding in 0.9%.

Systemic corticosteroids were required in 85% (11/13) of patients. Hepatitis resolved in 6/13 patients.

Immune-Mediated Endocrinopathies

Adrenal Insufficiency

ZYNYZ can cause primary or secondary adrenal insufficiency. For ≥ Grade 2 adrenal insufficiency, initiate symptomatic treatment per institutional guidelines, including hormone replacement as clinically indicated. Withhold or permanently discontinue ZYNYZ depending on severity.

Adrenal insufficiency occurred in 0.7% (3/440) of patients, including Grade 3 (0.5%) and Grade 2 (0.2%). ZYNYZ was permanently discontinued in no patients and was withheld for 1 patient with adrenal insufficiency.

All patients required systemic corticosteroids. Adrenal insufficiency resolved in 1 of the 3 patients.

Hypophysitis

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated hypophysitis. Hypophysitis can present with acute symptoms associated with mass effect such as headache, photophobia, or visual field cuts, and can cause hypopituitarism. Initiate hormone replacement as clinically indicated. Withhold or permanently discontinue ZYNYZ depending on severity.

Hypophysitis occurred in 0.5% (2/440, both Grade 2) of patients. No patients discontinued or withheld ZYNYZ due to hypophysitis.

All patients required systemic steroids. Hypophysitis resolved in 1 of the 2 patients.

Thyroid Disorders

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated thyroid disorders. Thyroiditis can present with or without endocrinopathy. Hypothyroidism can follow hyperthyroidism. Initiate hormone replacement or medical management of hyperthyroidism as clinically indicated. Withhold or permanently discontinue ZYNYZ depending on severity.

Thyroiditis occurred in 0.7% (3/440, all Grade 1) of patients. No patients discontinued or withheld ZYNYZ due to thyroiditis. Thyroiditis resolved in 1 of the 3 patients.

Hypothyroidism

Hypothyroidism occurred in 10% (42/440) of patients receiving ZYNYZ, including Grade 2 (4.8%). No patients discontinued due to hypothyroidism. ZYNYZ was withheld in 0.5% of patients.

Systemic corticosteroids were required for 1 patient, and 79% (33/42) of patients received endocrine therapy.

Hyperthyroidism

Hyperthyroidism occurred in 6% (24/440) of patients receiving ZYNYZ, including Grade 2 (2.5%).

ZYNYZ was not discontinued in any patient and was withheld in 1 patient. Systemic corticosteroids were required for 13% (3/24) of patients, and 46% (11/24) of patients received endocrine therapy.

Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus, Which Can Present with Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Monitor patients for hyperglycemia or other signs and symptoms of diabetes. Initiate treatment with insulin as clinically indicated. Withhold ZYNYZ depending on severity.

Type 1 diabetes mellitus occurred in 0.2% (1/440) of patients, including Grade 3 (0.2%) adverse reactions.

Immune-Mediated Nephritis with Renal Dysfunction

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated nephritis. Immune-mediated nephritis occurred in 1.6% (7/440) of patients receiving ZYNYZ, including Grade 4 (0.5%), Grade 3 (0.7%), and Grade 2 (0.5%). Nephritis led to permanent discontinuation of ZYNYZ in 0.9% of patients and withholding in 1 patient.

Systemic corticosteroids were required in 57% (4/7) of patients. Nephritis resolved in 3/7 patients.

Immune-Mediated Dermatologic Adverse Reactions

ZYNYZ can cause immune-mediated rash or dermatitis. Bullous and exfoliative dermatitis, including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms, and toxic epidermal necrolysis, has occurred with PD-1/PD-L1–blocking antibodies. Topical emollients and/or topical corticosteroids may be adequate to treat mild to moderate non-exfoliative rashes. Withhold or permanently discontinue ZYNYZ depending on severity.

Immune-mediated skin reactions occurred in 8% (36/440) of patients, including Grade 3 (1.1%) and Grade 2 (7%). Immune-mediated dermatologic adverse reactions led to permanent discontinuation of ZYNYZ in 1 patient and withholding in 2.3% of patients.

Systemic corticosteroids were required in 25% (9/36) of patients. Immune-mediated dermatologic adverse reactions resolved in 75% (27/36) of patients.

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