

Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of MDNA11, a Long-acting IL-2 Superkine, as Single Agent and in Combination with Pembrolizumab in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors

Minh D. To¹, Rosemina Merchant¹, Hardeep Kataria¹, Melissa Coello¹, Michael J. Chisamore², Arash Yavari¹ and Fahar Merchant¹

¹Medicenna Therapeutics, Toronto, ON, Canada; ²Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA



Key Findings

- MDNA11 is a next-generation, long-acting, 'β-enhanced not-α' IL-2 superkine
- MDNA11 shows compelling single-agent activity in CPI-resistant tumors
- MDNA11 in combination with pembrolizumab demonstrated clinical activity in tumor types that do not typically respond to CPI
- Serum exposure of MDNA11 is consistent across repeated dosing cycles in combination with pembrolizumab
- Consistent with its design, MDNA11 induces dose-dependent, sustained expansion of CD8⁺ T and NK cells with minimal Treg expansion, as monotherapy & combined with pembrolizumab
- MDNA11 promotes increases in effector and memory CD8⁺ T cells subsets, providing the potential for enhanced tumor killing and durable anti-tumor responses
- Increase in stem-like CD8⁺ T cells is associated with clinical benefit

MDNA11: A Long-acting 'β-enhanced Not-α' IL-2 Superkine

Engineered to overcome key limitations of high dose IL-2

Superior selectivity with enhanced 'β-only' pharmacology

Improved PK profile



Abolished α binding

Enhanced β binding

↑ half life

↑ tumor and tumor-draining lymph node accumulation

Enhanced β-binding + Non-α binder + Albumin-fusion → Superior Anti-cancer Response

Potentiate activation of CD8⁺ T & NK cells Reduce stimulation of Tregs & improve safety Half-life extension and increase tumor exposure

MDNA11 demonstrated a favorable safety profile and promising anti-tumor activity as a single agent and in combination with pembrolizumab (Yavari et al., Melanoma Bridge 2024; To et al., SITC 2024)

Study Design

ABILITY-1: FIH Trial of MDNA11 in Advanced Solid Tumors

ABILITY-1: A Beta-only IL-2 ImmunoTherapy Study (NCT05086692)

Parts 1 and 2: MDNA11 Dose Escalation/Evaluation (Phase 1)

Part 1 Monotherapy in advanced solid tumors progressed on SoC

Part 2 Combination with pembrolizumab in advanced solid tumors

- 3-30 µg/kg cohorts no DLT, Q2W
- 60 µg/kg cohort* no DLT, Q2W
- 90 µg/kg cohort no DLT, Q2W RDE
- 120 µg/kg cohort no DLT, Q2W/Q3W

Parts 3 and 4: MDNA11 Dose Expansion (Phase 2)

Part 3 Monotherapy in advanced solid tumors progressed on SoC

Part 4 Combination with pembrolizumab in advanced solid tumors

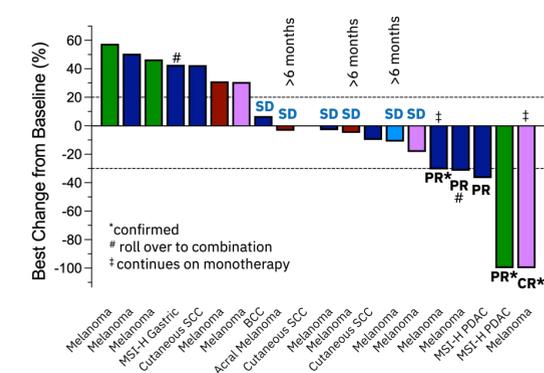
- MSI-H / dMMR Cohort
- TMB-H Cohort
- Cutaneous Melanoma Cohort anti-PD(L)1 experienced
- Virally Associated Tumor Cohort
- MSI-H / dMMR Cohort
- TMB-H Cohort
- Cutaneous Melanoma Cohort anti-PD(L)1 naïve
- Gynecological Cancer Cohort

Enrolling at 120 µg/kg Q3W in Monotherapy & Combination

*lowest dose with observed objective response

MDNA11 Shows Monotherapy Clinical Activity in Patients Refractory to CPI

Best response on Phase 2 eligible, CPI resistant patients treated with MDNA11 ≥ 60µg/kg



Objective Response Rate (ORR):

- > 5/20 (25%) [95% CI: 6-44]
- 1 Complete Response
- 4 Partial Responses

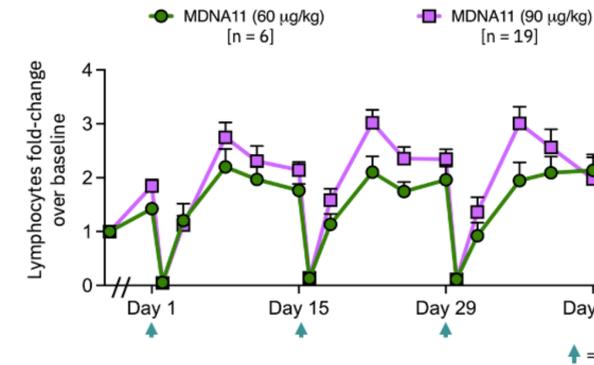
Clinical Benefit Rate:

- > 8/20 (40%)
- 1 Complete Response
- 4 Partial Responses
- 6 Stable Disease, including 3 for > 6 months

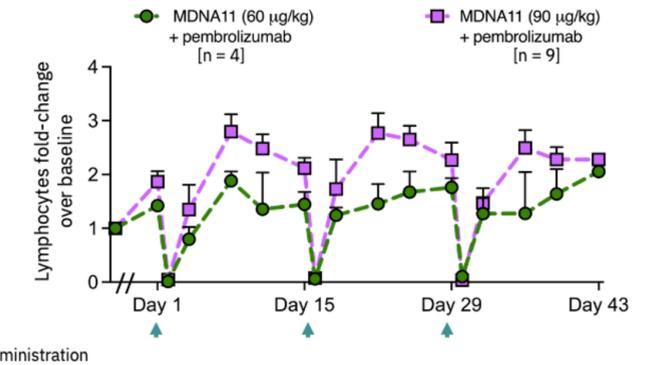
Data cut-off: November 18, 2024

Dose-dependent Lymphocyte Expansion Sustained with Repeat Dosing

MDNA11 Monotherapy



MDNA11 + Pembrolizumab

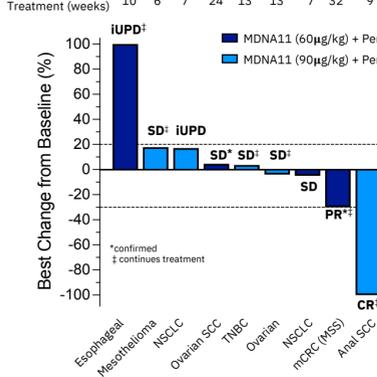


Lymphocyte counts elevated above baseline for >14 d after each MDNA11 dose whether given as single agent or in combination with pembrolizumab

MDNA11 is dosed at Q2W; 400mg of pembrolizumab is administered Q6W. Data represents mean ± SEM

MDNA11 + Pembrolizumab Shows Clinical Activity in Less Immunologically Responsive Tumor Types

Duration of Treatment (weeks)



CR in 70 yr M with anal SCC

- Progressed on 2 prior lines of treatment (1L capecitabine/mitomycin + radiation; 2L carboplatin/paclitaxel)

Confirmed PR in 52 yr F with MSS mCRC

- Progressed on 2 prior lines of chemotherapy (1L folinate/fluorouracil/oxaliplatin; 2L capecitabine)

Combination dose escalation continues

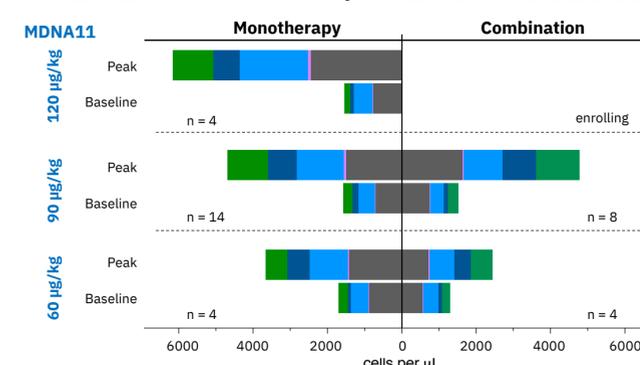
MDNA11 is dosed at Q2W; 400mg of pembrolizumab is administered Q6W

Data cut-off: November 18, 2024

This study is in collaboration with Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA.

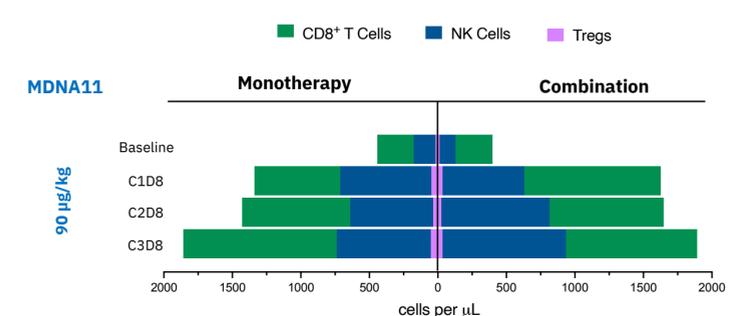
Dose-Dependent Expansion of CD8⁺ T and NK Cells

Legend: CD8⁺ T Cells, NK Cells, Tregs, CD4⁺ T Cells, Other CD45⁺ Cells



MDNA11 is dosed at Q2W; 400mg of pembrolizumab is administered Q6W

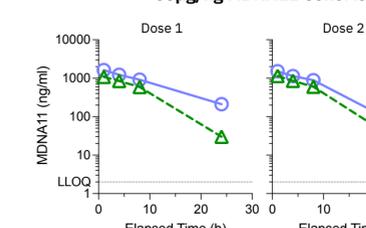
Sustained Expansion of CD8⁺ T and NK Cells Over Multiple Cycles



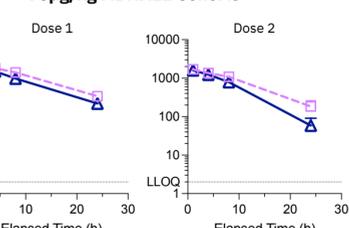
MDNA11 is dosed at Q2W; 400mg of pembrolizumab is administered Q6W. C1D8 = Cycle 1 Day 8; C2D8 = Cycle 2 Day 8; C3D8 = Cycle 3 Day 8. Monotherapy: Baseline (n = 12), C1D8 (n = 12), C2D8 (n = 8), C3D8 (n = 6). Combination: Baseline (n = 8), C1D8 (n = 8), C2D8 (n = 7), C3D8 (n = 5)

MDNA11 PK Profiles Are Consistent Across Repeated Dosing

60µg/kg MDNA11 Cohorts



90µg/kg MDNA11 Cohorts

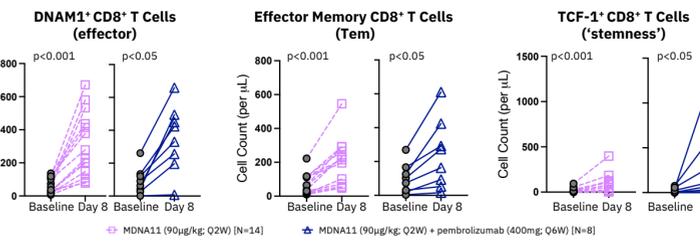


MDNA11 (n=6), MDNA11 + Pembrolizumab (n=4)

MDNA11 (n=8), MDNA11 + Pembrolizumab (n=4)

Data shown for MDNA11 target Dose cycle 1&2 and represents Mean ± SEM; MDNA11 is dosed at Q2W; 400mg of pembrolizumab is administered Q6W

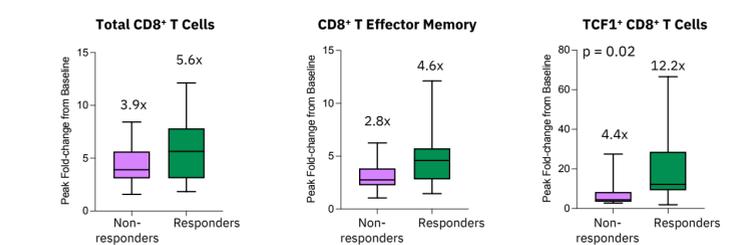
MDNA11 Expands Effector, Memory and 'Stem-like' CD8⁺ T Cells



MDNA11, both as single agent and combined with pembrolizumab, promotes expansion of CD8⁺ T cell subsets which have been associated with durable anti-tumor immunity

p-values based on paired non-parametric Wilcoxon test

Clinical Benefit is Associated with Increase in CD8⁺ T Cell 'Stemness'



Efficacy evaluable patients in MDNA11 monotherapy and combination cohorts (60 and 90 µg/kg). Responders: CR + PR + SD > 6 months (n = 9); Non-responders: PD (n = 14). Median peak-fold change indicated; p-value by Mann-Whitney test

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to the patients and their families for participating in this study. We thank the principal investigators and their staff for their contributions and dedication to the study.

MSI-H, microsatellite instability-high; MSS, microsatellite stable; dMMR, mismatch repair deficient; TMB-H, tumor mutational burden-high; GEJ, gastroesophageal junction; HNSCC, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; NSCLC, non-melanoma skin cancer; BCC, basal cell carcinoma; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; MCC, Merkel cell carcinoma; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; cRCC, renal cell carcinoma, clear cell; TNBC, triple-negative breast cancer; mCRC, metastatic colorectal cancer; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; RDE, recommended dose for expansion; CPI, immune checkpoint inhibitor; CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease