
Clinical Considerations for Cancer Cell Therapy: US FDA Perspectives

Ke Liu, MD, PhD

Chief of Oncology, OTAT, CBER, FDA
Acting Associate Director for Cell and
Gene Therapy, OCE, FDA



Disclosure

None

Outline

- Basis for US regulatory approvals
- Overview of US FDA cancer cell therapy approvals
- Regulatory perspectives for clinical considerations on CAR-Ts
- Summary

Basis for Regulatory Approval

- Determination of **substantial evidence** to support the claims of **effectiveness**
 - Primary basis: **adequate and well-controlled investigations**
- Acceptable safety (in the context of effectiveness, favorable benefit-risk profile)
- Product labeling
 - Defines an appropriate patient population
 - Provides adequate information to enable safe and effective use

Two Types of Approvals

- Regular (Full) Approval

Direct clinical benefits

- Prolongation of overall survival (live longer)
- Improvement of symptoms (live better)
- Favorable effect on established surrogate

- Accelerated Approval

Accelerated Approval

The product*

- Treats serious or life-threatening illnesses
- Provides meaningful therapeutic benefit to patients over existing treatments
- Is tested in adequate and well-controlled clinical trials
- Has an effect on a **surrogate endpoint** that is **reasonably likely**, based on epidemiologic, therapeutic, pathophysiologic, or other evidence, **to predict clinical benefit**, or on the basis of an effect on a clinical endpoint other than survival or irreversible morbidity
- Subject to the post-marketing requirement to verify and describe its clinical benefit

* 21 CFR 314.510 for drugs (subpart H) *21 CFR 601.41 for biologics (subpart E)

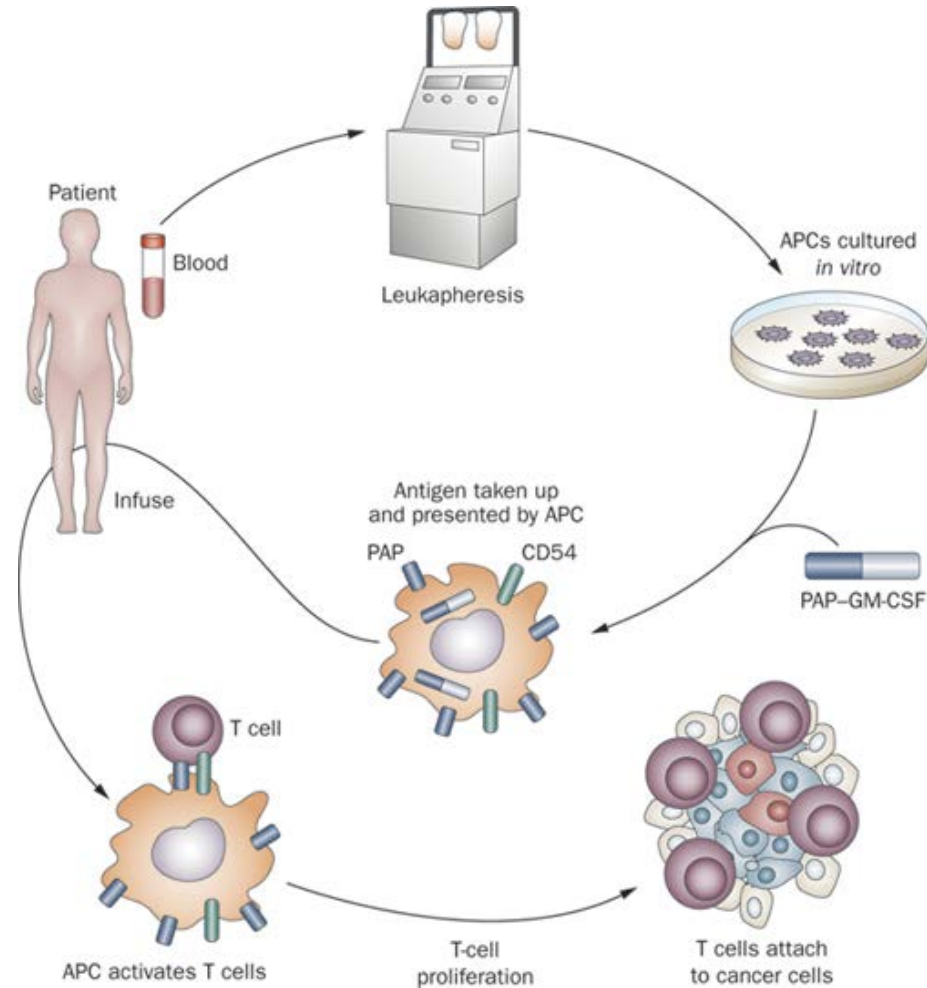
US FDA Approvals for Cancer Cell Therapy



- sipuleucel T
- tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah)
- axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta)

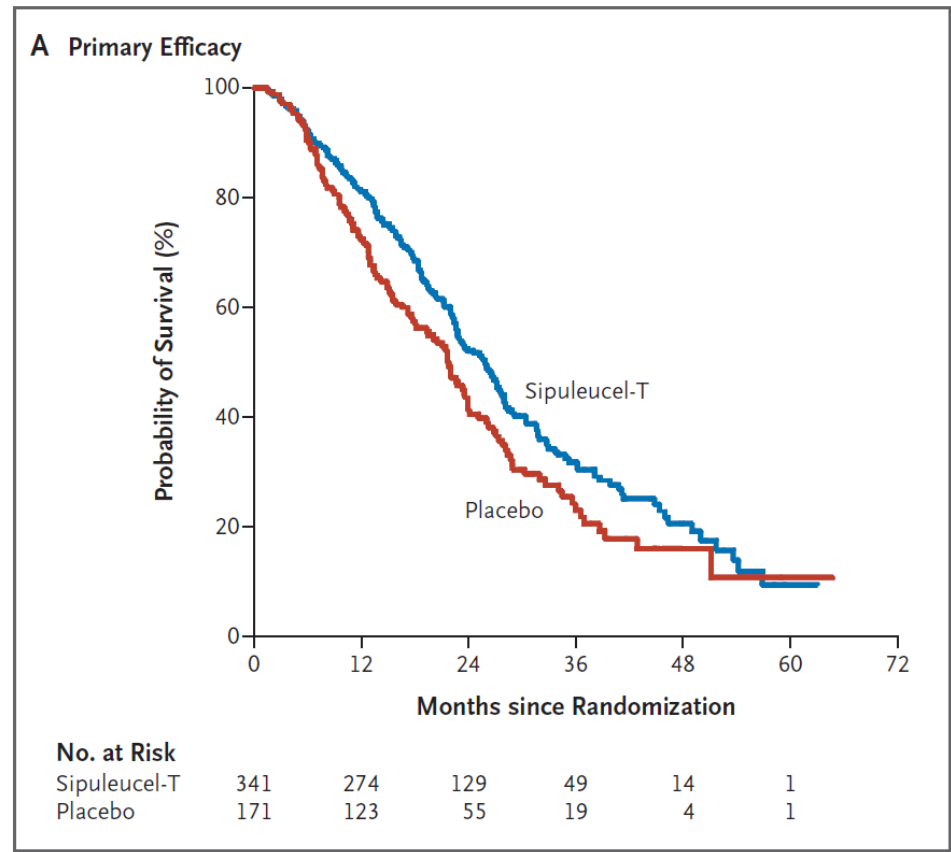
sipuleucel-T

Antigen-presenting Cells (APC) pulsed with PAP-GM-CSF

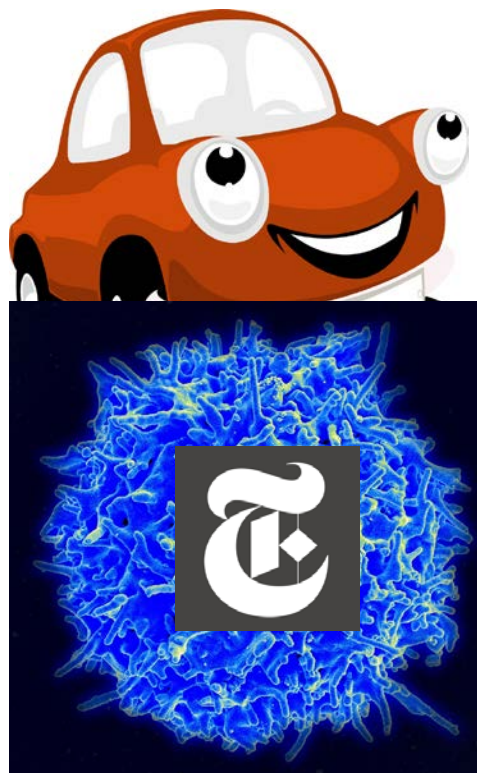


sipuleucel T

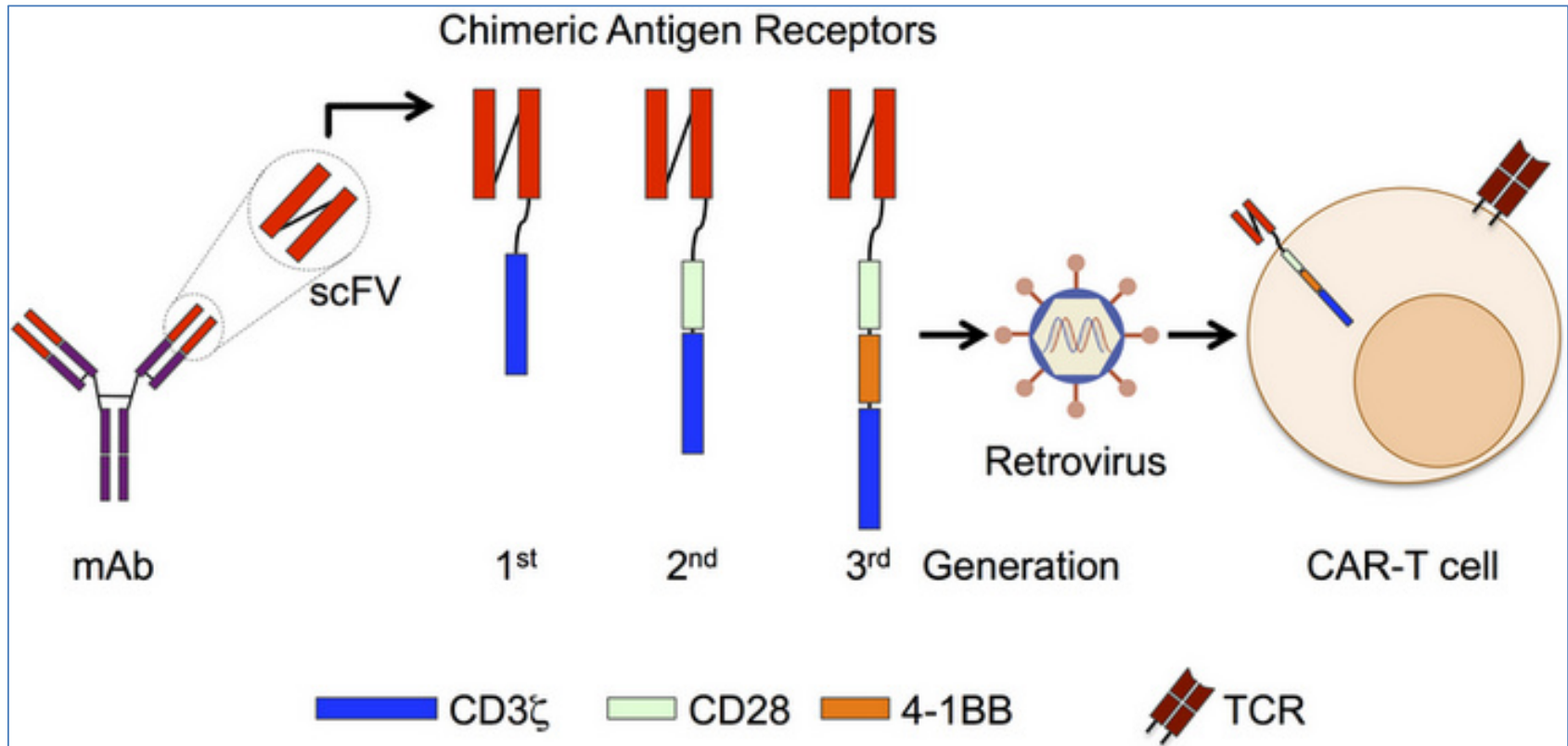
PROVENGE is an autologous cellular immunotherapy indicated for the treatment of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic metastatic castrate resistant (hormone refractory) prostate cancer.



CAR-T



Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cells

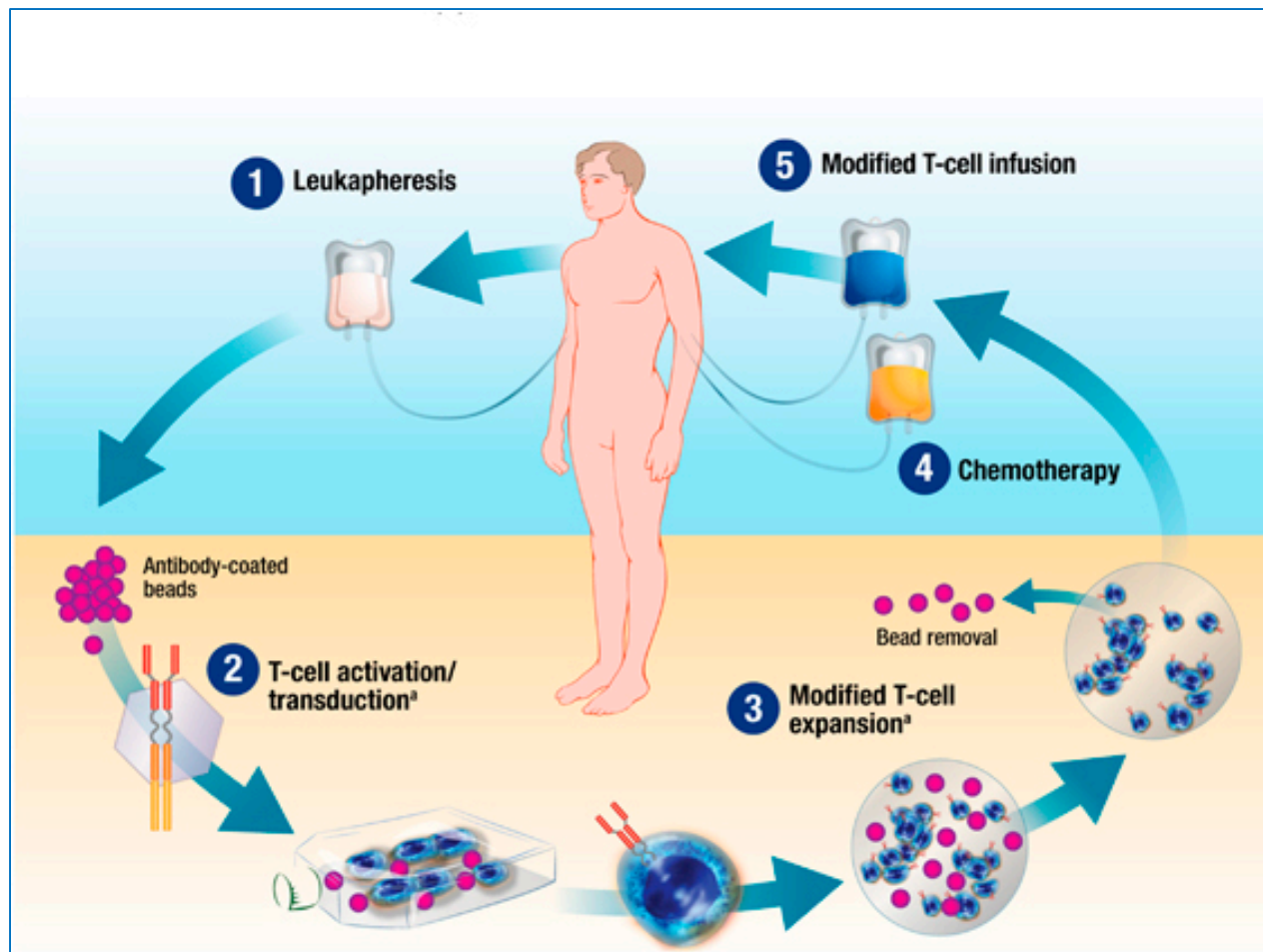


Michael S. Magee, Adam Snook. Discovery Medicine, Vol 100, November 17, 2014

CAR-T Cell Therapy

Performance-enhancing drugs: design and production of redirected (CAR) T cells

B L Levine
Cancer Gene Therapy
(2015) 22, 79–84



KYMRIAH

A CD19-directed genetically modified autologous T cell immunotherapy indicated for the treatment of patients up to 25 years of age with B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that is refractory or in second or later relapse

KYMRIAH Efficacy

Results	N=63
CR/CRi ^{1,2}	52 (83%)
95% CI	(71%, 91%)
	p<0.0001
CR ³	40 (63%)
CRi ⁴	12 (19%)
CR or CRi with MRD-negative bone marrow ^{5,6}	52 (83%)
95% CI	(71%, 91%)
	p<0.0001
Duration of Remission ⁷	N=52
Median (months)	Not reached
95% CI	(7.5, NE ⁸)

YESCARTA

A CD19-directed genetically modified autologous T cell immunotherapy indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified, primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma, high grade B-cell lymphoma, and DLBCL arising from follicular lymphoma.

YESCARTA Efficacy

Table 5. Response Rate

	Recipients of YESCARTA (N = 101)
Objective Response Rate^a (95% CI)	73 (72%) (62, 81)
Complete Remission Rate (95% CI)	52 (51%) (41, 62)
Partial Remission Rate (95% CI)	21 (21%) (13, 30)

CI, confidence interval.

^aPer 2007 revised International Working Group criteria, as assessed by the independent review committee.

Table 6. Duration of Response

	From N of 101
Number of Responders	73
DOR (Months)^a	
Median ^b	9.2
(95% CI)	(5.4, NE)
Range ^c	0.03+, 14.4+
DOR if Best Response is CR (Months)	
Median ^b	NE
(95% CI)	(8.1, NE)
Range	0.4, 14.4+
DOR if Best Response is PR (Months)	
Median ^b	2.1
(95% CI)	(1.3, 5.3)
Range	0.03+, 8.4+
Median Follow-up for DOR (Months)^{a, b}	7.9

Safety and REMS

Both CAR-T PIs carry the following boxed warnings

WARNING: CYTOKINE RELEASE SYNDROME AND NEUROLOGICAL TOXICITIES

See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

- Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving KYMRIAH. Do not administer KYMRIAH to patients with active infection or inflammatory disorders. Treat severe or life-threatening CRS with tocilizumab. (2.2, 2.3, 5.1)
- Neurological toxicities, which may be severe or life-threatening, can occur following treatment with KYMRIAH, including concurrently with CRS. Monitor for neurological events after treatment with KYMRIAH. Provide supportive care as needed. (5.2)
- KYMRIAH is available only through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) called the KYMRIAH REMS. (5.3)

WARNING: CYTOKINE RELEASE SYNDROME AND NEUROLOGIC TOXICITIES

See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

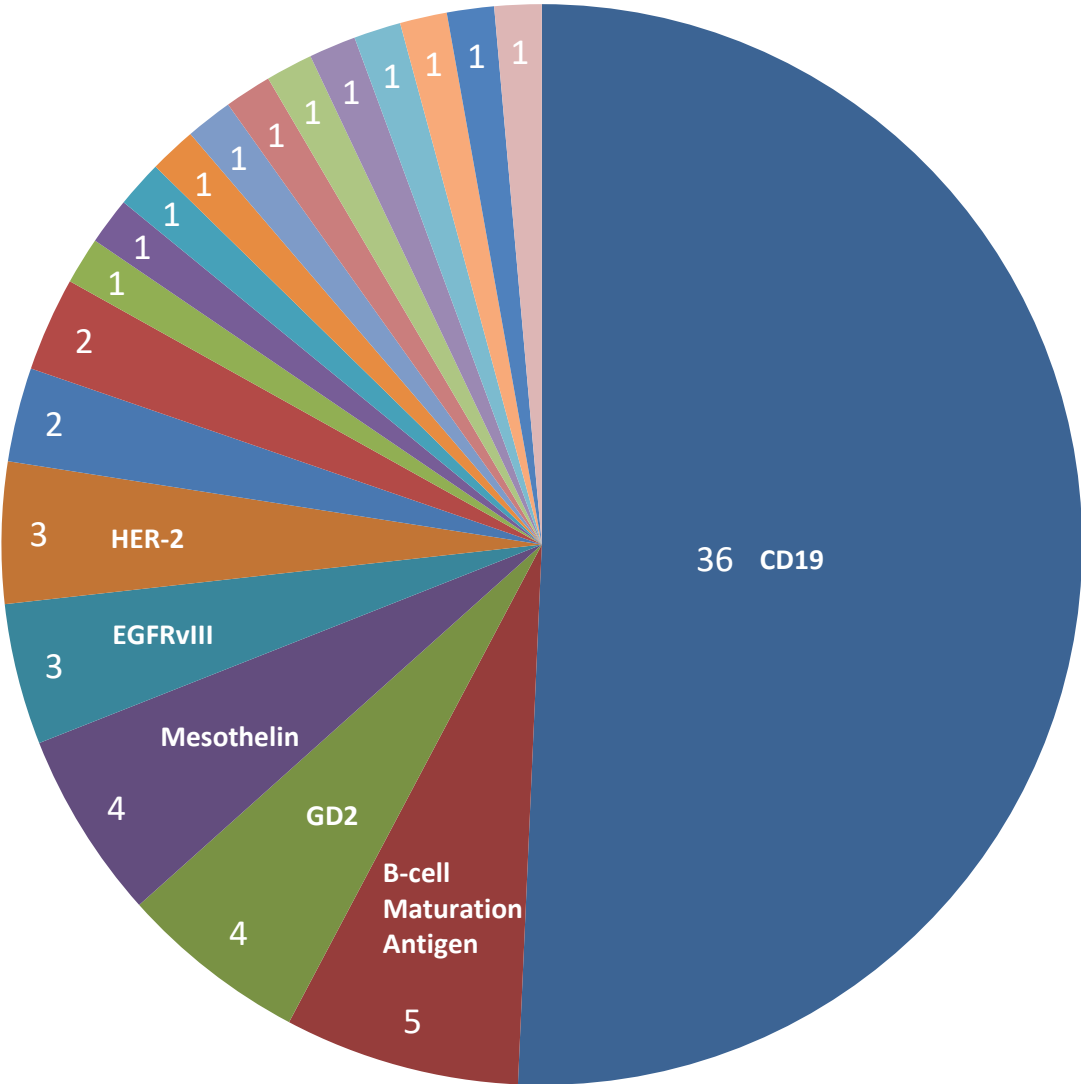
- Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS), including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving YESCARTA. Do not administer YESCARTA to patients with active infection or inflammatory disorders. Treat severe or life-threatening CRS with tocilizumab or tocilizumab and corticosteroids (2.2, 2.3, 5.1).
- Neurologic toxicities, including fatal or life-threatening reactions, occurred in patients receiving YESCARTA, including concurrently with CRS or after CRS resolution. Monitor for neurologic toxicities after treatment with YESCARTA. Provide supportive care and/or corticosteroids, as needed (2.2, 2.3, 5.2).
- YESCARTA is available only through a restricted program under a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) called the YESCARTA REMS (5.3).

Regulatory Perspectives for CAR-Ts



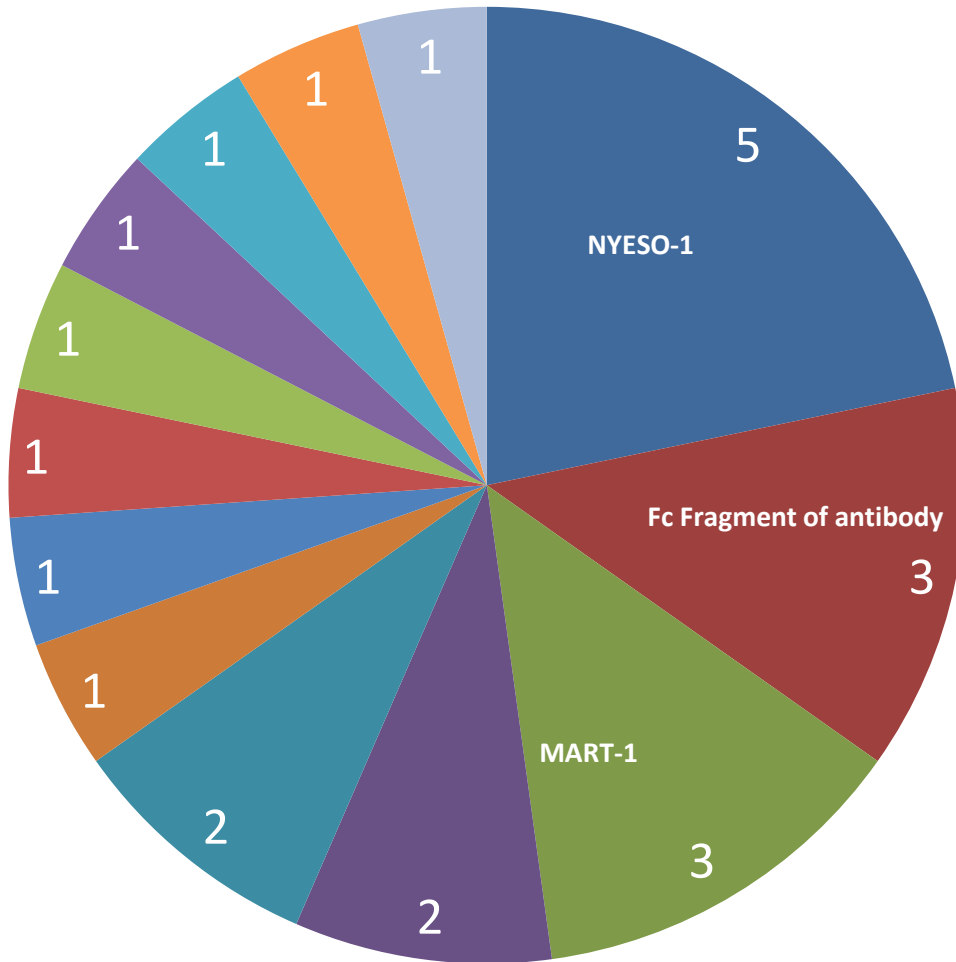
- Landscape analysis
- Clinical Considerations

Genetically Modified T cell Immunotherapy --- CAR-Ts



- A total of 71 CAR-T cell INDs as of 9/14/17
- 50% CD19 (6 commercial INDs)

Genetically Modified T cell Immunotherapy --- TCR-Ts



- A total of 23 TCR-T cell INDs as of 9/14/17
- 22% NYESO-1 (one commercial IND)

CAR-T Clinical Considerations

Efficacy

- Target identification
- Trial design
 - Study population
 - Efficacy endpoint
 - Evaluation

Safety

- Toxicity management
 - Cytokine-release syndrome (CRS)
 - Neurological toxicities

Underlying Challenge: Manufacturing and Quality Controls

Regulatory Considerations



Patient Population -1

Conventional

- Testing the efficacy and safety in a defined patient population with a given malignant type, e.g., CLL
- Move to another stage of the same tumor type or different disease

CAR-T

- Targeting a specific antigen regardless of tumor type
- May consider enrolling patients with different tumor histology as long as the tumors express the antigen that the CAR-T cells target (histology-agnostic)

Regulatory Considerations



Patient Population -2

- Challenges in enrolling patients with different tumor histology
 - Prior treatment requirement
 - Patient performance and organ function
 - Companion diagnostic for identifying targeted antigen
- Because of toxicity concern, unclear role of CAR-T in earlier-stage disease

Regulatory Considerations

Trial Design

- Single-arm vs. randomized, controlled trials
- Controlled trial
 - Feasibility
 - Appropriate control
 - Other concurrent treatments tailored to patients with different tumor types
 - Other factors that may confound study results

Regulatory Considerations

Efficacy Endpoint

- Single-arm trial
 - Tumor response rate
 - Magnitude of the treatment effect
 - Duration
- Randomized controlled trial
 - Time to event
 - Overall Survival
 - Progression-free survival
- A substantial and durable confirmed response rate from single-arm trial(s) with a well-described study population could support approval (accelerated or traditional approval, e.g., KYMRIA and YESCARTA)

CAR-T Toxicities

- Cytokine release syndrome
 - Importance of monitoring cytokine levels
 - Importance of monitoring the persistence of CAR-T cells
 - Consideration for early use of Tocilizumab
- Off-target effects
 - Pre-clinical studies
 - Clinical monitoring
- Optimal management for toxicities including neurological toxicities
 - REMS

CAR-T for Solid Tumor

- Challenges
 - Target identification
 - CAR-T trafficking and homing to tumor site
- Opportunities
 - Application of knowledge gained from CAR-T for hematological malignancies
 - New advances in technology
 - NGS for targeting identification
 - CRISPR to enhance CAR-T function

Combination of Cell therapy with Other Agents

- Trial design consideration to understand the contribution of the components
- Toxicity attribution and management

Summary

- A living drug, CAR-T therapy holds great promise for cure
- Trial design should consider the study population, endpoint, safety monitoring among other factors
- Much work needs to be done in solid tumor space with focus on target identification, understanding and enhancing cell tracking and homing to tumor site
- Combination of cell therapy with other agents poses more challenges in determining efficacy and safety
- Collaboration among stakeholders is the key for success

Contact Information

- **Ke Liu, MD, PhD**
ke.liu@fda.hhs.gov
- **Regulatory Questions:**
OTAT Main Line – 240 402 8190
Email: OTATRPMS@fda.hhs.gov and
Lori.Tull@fda.hhs.gov
- **OTAT Learn Webinar Series:**
<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/NewsEvents/ucm232821.htm>
- **CBER website:** www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/default.htm
- **Phone:** 1-800-835-4709 or 240-402-8010
- **Consumer Affairs Branch:** ocod@fda.hhs.gov
- **Manufacturers Assistance and Technical Training Branch:** industry.biologics@fda.gov
- **Follow us on Twitter:** <https://www.twitter.com/fdacber>



*FDA Headquarters
Federal Research Center at White Oak
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002*



