



Contacts:

Chris Martin

Vice President, Public Relations

CMartin@DavidJamesGroup.com | 630-670-2745

Becky Bunn, MSc

IASLC Project Specialist

Becky.Bunn@IASLC.org | 720-254-9509

Nivolumab Shows Promise in Treating Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

Vienna, Austria—December 7, 2016—The immunotherapy nivolumab showed promise in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma, according to research presented at the **IASLC 17th World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC)** in Vienna, Austria.

Pleural mesothelioma is a cancer of the protective lining of the lung known as the pleura. It is caused by inhaling asbestos fibers into the lungs and is the most common form of mesothelioma.

Few studies have reported any survival benefit in recurrent malignant pleural mesothelioma. To test this, Dr. Baas of The Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam designed a single center, Phase 2 study of 33 patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma and gave them nivolumab for 12 weeks. He and his team examined the effect of nivolumab in patients who presented with progressive disease and who agreed to have biopsies taken before and during treatment. The study's primary endpoint was a 20-40 percent disease improvement after 12 weeks compared to historic controls. The researcher analyzed PD-L1 status and other biomarkers.

There were no treatment related deaths and the disease control rate at 12 weeks was 50 percent. Five patients had a confirmed partial response, 12 remained stable and 17 experienced disease progression while three patients showed pseudo-progression. Grade three toxicity occurred in eight patients leading to discontinuation of the treatment.

"Nivolumab in second or later lines in recurrent malignant pleural mesothelioma met the primary endpoint," said Dr. Baas. "We detected mild toxicity, long lasting results and we observed a clear correlation between PD-L1 expression and response."

About the WCLC:

The WCLC is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies, attracting more than 6,000 researchers, physicians, and specialists from more than 100 countries. The goal is to increase awareness, collaboration, and understanding of lung cancer, and to help participants implement the latest developments across the globe. Organized under the theme of "Together Against Lung Cancer," the conference will cover a wide range of disciplines and unveil several research studies and clinical trial results. For more information, visit <http://wclc2016.iaslc.org/>.



www.iaslc.org

About the IASLC:

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) is the only global organization dedicated to the study of lung cancer. Founded in 1974, the association's membership includes more than 5,000 lung cancer specialists in over 100 countries. Visit www.iaslc.org for more information.

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