



# TANDEM MEETINGS

Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings of ASTCT® and CIBMTR®

February 12-15, 2025

Hawai'i Convention Center, Honolulu, HI

### **Disclosures**

#### Sairah Ahmed

 Presenting author has received research support to institution for clinical trials from Nektar, Merck, Xencor, Chimagen and Genmab, KITE/Gilead, Janssen, Caribou, membership on Chimagen scientific advisory committee, serves on Data Safety Monitoring Board for Myeloid Therapeutics; Consultant for ADC Therapeutics, KITE/Gilead Sciences, Inc.









# NKTR-255 vs Placebo to Enhance Complete Responses and Durability Following CD19-directed CAR-T Therapy in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory (R/R) Large B-cell Lymphoma (LBCL)

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# **Background**

- CAR T-cell therapy has been transformative for treatment of relapsed or refractory (R/R) large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL), however durable responses remain a challenge with more than half of patients with eventual disease relapse or progression
- Relapse after CAR-T cell therapy portends a poor prognosis with a median overall survival (OS) of 8 months;
   strategies to improve long-term efficacy are needed
- In pivotal clinical trials<sup>1</sup>, complete response (CR) at 6 months is prognostic of remaining in CR beyond 2 years, therefore therapeutic interventions to improve CR rates at 6 months may improve event-free survival (EFS)
- NKTR-255 is an investigational polymer-conjugated IL-15 agonist, that activates, proliferates and expands
  natural killer (NK) and CD8+ T-cells in vivo, as well as promotes the survival and expansion of memory CD8+ T
  cells
- Clinical studies demonstrate NKTR-255 expands CAR-T and CD8+ T cells in patients with R/R NHL who
  previously received CAR-T therapy (NCT04136756), as well as enhances CAR-T cell trafficking into the tumor
  microenvironment (Shringesh et al., Blood 2024)

<sup>1</sup>ZUMA-1 (axi-cel) (Locke 2022), JULIET (tisa-cel) (Schuster 2019), and TRANSCEND NHL- 001 (liso-cel) (Abramson 2020)





# NKTR-255 IS Designed to Boost NK Cells and Expand CD8+ Effector and Memory T-cells

#### **Boost NK cell numbers and function** Tumor cell Expand NK cell apoptosis number and function Effector T cell Enhances response to ADCC-mediated therapy (e.g. monoclonal antibodies) IL-15Rv IL-15RB Expand CD8+ T cell number and function **NKTR-255** Tumor cell Targeted apoptosis IL-15Ra antigen receptor Antigen presenting Improves adoptive T-cell persistency in cell therapy (e.g. CAR-T)

#### Enhancement of ADCC Antibodies

Daratumumab Rituximab Cetuximab

Potential to combine with any targeted antibody that utilizes an ADCC MOA

#### **Enhancement of CAR-T**

Regimens

CD19 CAR-T BCMA CAR-T

CD38 CAR-T

Potential to expand into other hematological and solid tumor CAR-T and cellular therapies

*Increase duration of response for CAR-T and cellular therapies* 

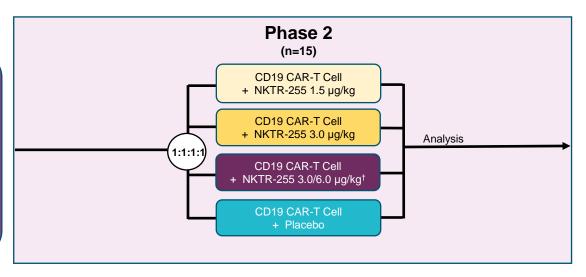




### STUDY DESIGN

#### **Patients Eligible:**

- Relapse and refractory LBCL
- Planning to receive CD19 CAR T-cell therapy\*
- ECOG 0-1

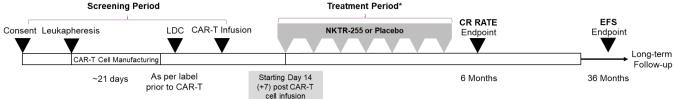


#### **Primary Endpoint:**

CR rate at month 6 of treatment

#### **Secondary Endpoint:**

- Safety and tolerability
- PK and PD







# **Study Criteria**

Key Inclusion	Key Exclusion
<ul> <li>Age ≥18 years</li> <li>Evidence of CD19+ disease</li> <li>FDG-Avid disease on PET/CT</li> <li>ECOG Performance of 0 or 1</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Prior treatment with any CD19 CAR-T cell therapy other than planned treatment</li> <li>Active CNS malignancy</li> <li>Steroid use of &gt; 5 mg Prednisone or equivalent</li> <li>Presence of uncontrolled fungal, bacterial, viral, or other infection</li> </ul>

#### **Key Study Drug Dosing Criteria**

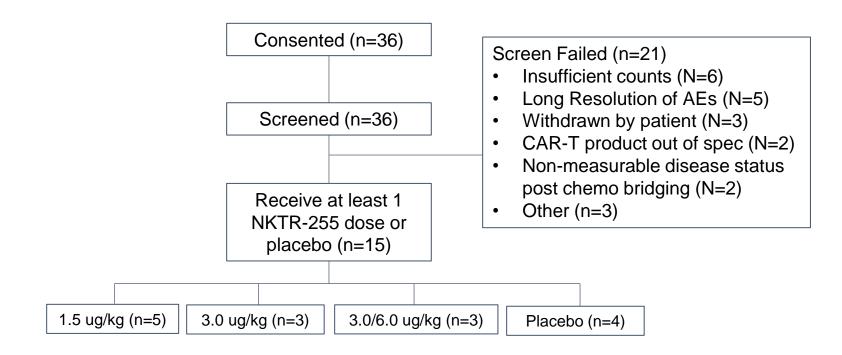
Patients were assessed prior to each study drug infusion to determine if they fulfill the following dosing criteria:

- Appropriate laboratory test results as defined per protocol
- No fever ≥ 38.0°C/Grade ≥ 1 CRS (ASTCT criteria [Lee 2019]) within 24 hours of the planned study drug infusion
- No Grade ≥ 3 CRS (ASTCT criteria) within 72 hours preceding the study drug infusion
- No Grade ≥ 2 ICANS (ASTCT criteria) on the day of the study drug infusion
- No previous Grade 4 IRR to study drug infusion (Cycle 2 and beyond)
- No tocilizumab and/or dexamethasone within 48 hours preceding the study drug infusion





# **Study Deposition**





NKTR-255 1.5 μg/kg (N=5)	NKTR-255 3.0 µg/kg (N=3)	NKTR-255 3.0/6.0 μg/kg (N=3)	Combined NKTR-255 (N=11)	Placebo (N=4)
				· · ·
68 (40-72)	54 (53-72)	62 (61-63)	62 (40-72)	67.5 (44-76)
3 (60)	1 (33)	0	4 (36)	2 (50)
4 (80)	2 (67)	2 (67)	8 (73)	0
3 (60)	2 (66)	0	5 (45)	2 (50)
3 (60)	1 (33)	3 (100)	7 (64)	2 (50)
1 (20)	0	0	0	1 (25)
0	1 (33)	0	1 (9)	1 (25)
2 (40)	0	0	2 (18)	2 (50)
3 (60)	3 (100)	3 (100)	9 (82)	2 (50)
0	0	0	0	1 (25)
2 (40)	1 (33)	0	3 (28)	1 (25)
1 (20)	2 (67)	1 (33)	4 (36)	2 (50)
4 (80)	3 (100)	3 (100)	10 (91)	2 (50)
1 (20)	0	0	1 (9)	2 (50)
3 (60)	2 (67)	0	5 (45)	1 (25)
2 (40)	1 (33)	3 (100)	6 (55)	3 (75)
160 (147-682)	985 (160-1260)	328 (162-328)	249 (147-1260)	218 (170-602)
3 (60)	1 (33)	2 (67)	6 (55)	2 (50)
2 (40)	2 (67)	0	4 (36)	1 (25)
0	0	1 (33)	_1 (9)	1 (25)
	1.5 µg/kg (N=5)  68 (40-72) 3 (60) 4 (80) 3 (60) 1 (20) 0 2 (40) 3 (60)  2 (40) 1 (20)  4 (80) 1 (20)  4 (80) 1 (20)  3 (60) 2 (40) 1 (20)  3 (60) 2 (40) 160 (147-682)	1.5 μg/kg (N=5)  68 (40-72)  3 (60)  1 (33)  4 (80)  2 (67)  3 (60)  1 (33)  1 (20)  0  1 (33)  2 (40)  0  0  1 (33)  2 (40)  0  0  0  2 (40)  1 (33)  1 (20)  0  0  2 (40)  1 (33)  1 (20)  0  3 (60)  3 (100)  0  2 (40)  1 (33)  1 (20)  2 (67)  4 (80)  3 (100)  1 (20)  0  3 (60)  2 (67)  2 (40)  1 (33)  160 (147-682)  985 (160-1260)	1.5 μg/kg (N=5)     3.0 μg/kg (N=3)     3.0/6.0 μg/kg (N=3)       68 (40-72)     54 (53-72)     62 (61-63)       3 (60)     1 (33)     0       4 (80)     2 (67)     2 (67)       3 (60)     1 (33)     3 (100)       1 (20)     0     0       0     1 (33)     0       2 (40)     0     0       3 (60)     3 (100)     3 (100)       0     0     0       2 (40)     1 (33)     0       1 (20)     2 (67)     1 (33)       4 (80)     3 (100)     3 (100)       1 (20)     0     0       3 (60)     2 (67)     0       2 (40)     1 (33)     3 (100)       160 (147-682)     985 (160-1260)     328 (162-328)	1.5 μg/kg (N=5)         3.0 μg/kg (N=3)         3.0/6.0 μg/kg (N=3)         NKTR-255 (N=11)           68 (40-72)         54 (53-72)         62 (61-63)         62 (40-72)           3 (60)         1 (33)         0         4 (36)           4 (80)         2 (67)         2 (67)         8 (73)           3 (60)         1 (33)         3 (100)         7 (64)           1 (20)         0         0         0           0         1 (33)         0         1 (9)           2 (40)         0         0         2 (18)           3 (60)         3 (100)         3 (100)         9 (82)           0         0         0         0         0           2 (40)         1 (33)         0         3 (28)           1 (20)         2 (67)         1 (33)         4 (36)           4 (80)         3 (100)         3 (100)         10 (91)           4 (80)         3 (100)         3 (100)         10 (91)           1 (20)         0         0         5 (45)           2 (40)         1 (33)         3 (100)         6 (55)           2 (40)         1 (33)         3 (100)         6 (55)           1 (60)         1 (33)         2 (67)

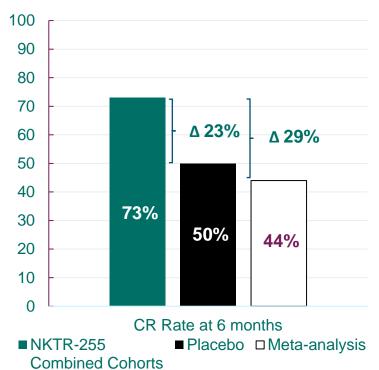
# Grade ≥3 TRAEs: NKTR-255 was Well Tolerated in Combination With CAR-T; Most TRAEs were Transient and Resolved Spontaneously or Using Standard Treatment Protocols; No new cases of CRS or ICANS reported

	NKTR-255	NKTR-255	NKTR-255	Combined	
Select TRAEs; n (%)	1.5 μg/kg (N=5)	3.0 μg/kg (N=3)	3.0/6.0 µg/kg (N=3)	NKTR-255 (N=11)	Placebo (N=4)
Grade 1 or 2 (≥20% of safety popula		(11 0)	(11 5)	(11 11)	()
Anemia	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3 (27%)	0
Neutrophil count decreased	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3 (27%)	1 (25%)
Pyrexia	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3 (27%)	0
White blood cell count decreased	1 (20%)	0	2 (67%)	3 (27%)	2 (50%)
Grade 3 (≥20% of safety population	)				
Neutrophil count decreased	2 (40%)	0	2 (67%)	4 (36%)	0
Grade 4 (all)					
Neutrophil count decreased	0	1 (33%)	0	1 (9%)	0
Platelet count decreased	0	1 (33%)	0	1 (9%)	0
Pneumonia aspiration	1 (20%)	0	0	1 (9%)	0
White blood cell count decreased	0	1 (33%)	0	1 (9%)	0
Grade 5 (all)					
Guillain-Barre syndrome*	1 (20%)	0	0	1 (9%)	0





# NKTR-255 improved Complete Response Rate at 6 Months based on central review



Endpoint	NKTR-255 1.5 mcg/kg	NKTR-255 3.0 mcg/kg	NKTR-255 3.0 mcg/kg/6.0 mcg/kg	NKTR-255 Combined Cohorts	Placebo
Number of patients randomized to cohort	N=5	N=3	N=3	N=11	N=4
ITT CR Rate per BICR at 6 months	4/5 (80%)	2/3 (67%)	2/3 (67%)	8/11 (73%)	2/4 (50%)
Efficacy evaluable population* CR Rate per PI at 6 months	4/4 (100%)	2/3 (67%)	2/3 (67%)	8/10 (80%)	2/4 (50%)
# pts that converted from SD or PR to CR per PI at 6 months	1/5 (20%) SD to PR to CR	1/3 (33%) PR to CR	0	2/11 (18%)	0

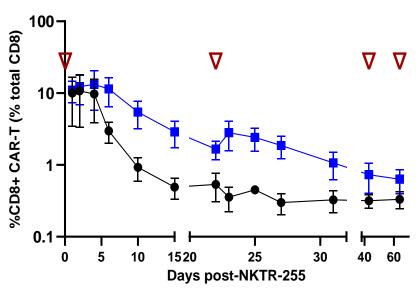
<sup>\*</sup>Efficacy-evaluable population defined as having been dosed with study drug and at least one post baseline scan per PI

<sup>1.</sup> Frontiers in Pharmacology 2022; Jun Meng; 2. Frontiers in Oncology, 2021

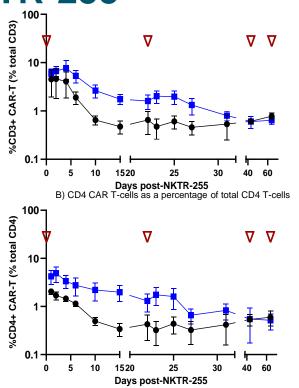




Pharmacodynamic Expansion of CAR T-cells following 1-3 cycles of NKTR-255



A) Persistence of CD3 CAR T cells as a percentage of total CD3 T-cells



C) CD8 CAR T-cells as a percentage of total CD8 T-cells



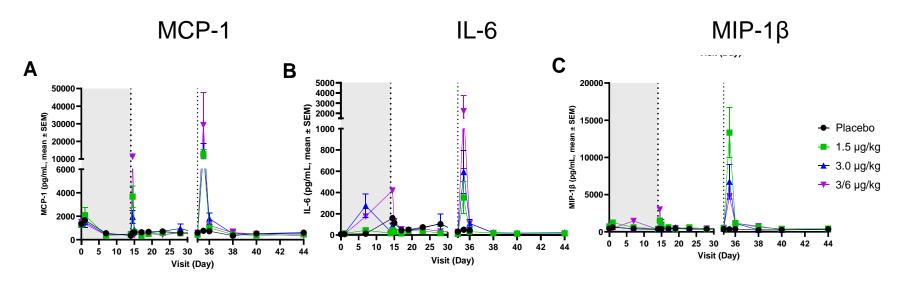
Placebo

NKTR-255

NKTR-255 administration

Preferential expansion of CD8+ CAR-T cells following 1-3 cycles of NKTR-255. Flow cytometry measurement of patient CAR T-cell in the blood after infusion, presented as percentages ± SEM by days post-NKTR-255 treatment.

# NKTR-255 post-administration cytokine response



Blood samples after NKTR 255 treatment were performed via Luminex assay. Data are presented as mean (pg/mL) ± SEM by visit day.





# **Summary**

- In conclusion, this study demonstrates that the combination of FDAapproved CD19 CAR T-cell products and NKTR-255 was safe and welltolerated in patients with LBCL
- NKTR-255 improved the CRR at 6 Months, 8/11 (73%) compared to 2/4 (50%) in the placebo group and exhibited enhanced CAR T-cell kinetics
- The clinical benefit is superior to published historical benchmark data from pivotal and real-world meta-analyses with CAR T-cell therapies
- Further studies are warranted to explore the clinical benefits of NKTR-255 as an adjuvant treatment to CAR T-cell therapy and a broad range of cellular therapies





# Acknowledgements

The authors thanks the patients and their families for taking part in this study

This study is funded by Nektar Therapeutics, San Francisco, CA

The study was approved by the institutional review board of each participating site and informed consent is obtained from all patients







### **Thank You!**



