

Oryzon Genomics

R&D results

Maturing ALICE trial dataset continues to impress

On 9 December 2019, Oryzon presented more data from the Phase II ALICE trial at the 61st ASH annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. The single-arm, open-label study enrolled newly diagnosed, elderly acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) patients and investigated iadademstat in combination with standard of care chemotherapy drug azacitidine. Six of the eight evaluable patients (75%) achieved objective (OR) responses, which was in line with the first results reported in June 2019. For comparison, OR rates are 25–32% in AML patients treated with azacitidine monotherapy. Our valuation is €437m or €9.5/share.

Year end	Revenue (€m)	PBT* (€m)	EPS* (€)	DPS (€)	P/E (x)	Yield (%)
12/17	4.3	(4.6)	(0.14)	0.0	N/A	N/A
12/18	6.8	(3.7)	(0.03)	0.0	N/A	N/A
12/19e	6.1	(6.8)	(0.16)	0.0	N/A	N/A
12/20e	6.1	(6.8)	(0.15)	0.0	N/A	N/A

Note: *Normalised, excluding amortisation of acquired intangibles and exceptional items.

Second, positive batch of data from Ph II ALICE trial

ORs were assessed by bone marrow (BM) aspirate. Of the 13 enrolled patients, eight had at least one bone marrow aspirate, and therefore were evaluable. Three patients died before their first BM evaluation and two were just starting treatment. Six of the eight evaluable patients (75%) achieved ORs: two complete responses (CRs), three complete responses with incomplete haematologic recovery (CRi) and one partial response (PR). As a reminder, in [the first set of data](#) published in June 2019, the OR rate was 80% in five evaluable patients (3/5 CRi and 1/5 PR). Given the small sample size, an outcome in just one patient can significantly influence the results. In addition, the trial is not complete yet. However, the OR rates have been consistent so far within the 75–80% range and compare very favourably with the classical chemotherapy, but also with venetoclax. The latter is a novel drug approved for front-line AML treatment in November 2018. Venetoclax (AbbVie/Genentech) plus azacitidine or decitabine achieved an OR rate of 67%.

Next steps

The second part of the ALICE study will enrol 18 patients, so these results will be expanded in coming months with additional patients and longer follow-up times. Oryzon also indicated that even though the results are not final yet, the existing evidence 'may warrant further trials with this combination therapy in a confirmatory study setting'. Oryzon will obviously need to complete the ALICE trial before designing a confirmative study. However, the statement, which was part of the poster presentation, seems confident.

Valuation: €437m or €9.5/share

Our valuation is €437m or €9.5/share (versus €430m or €11.0/share) after a technical adjustment to include a private placement in July 2019. The full results from the ALICE trial (expected next year) will be a substantial catalyst for the share price, as Oryzon indicated that one of the goals of the trial is to understand the broader application of iadademstat in other leukaemias, with another haematological indication a possible next step.

Pharma & biotech

10 December 2019

Price €3.11
Market cap €142m

Net cash (€m) at end-Q319	25.9
Shares in issue	45.8m
Free float	70%
Code	ORY
Primary exchange	Madrid Stock Exchange
Secondary exchange	N/A

Share price performance



%	1m	3m	12m
Abs	15.0	11.7	9.1
Rel (local)	15.5	7.6	2.8
52-week high/low		€4.40	€2.08

Business description

Oryzon Genomics is a Spanish biotech focused on epigenetics. Iadademstat (Phase IIa) is being explored for acute leukaemias and SCLC; vafidemstat, its CNS product, is in Phase IIa trials in MS, AD and aggression. Newer asset ORY-3001 is being developed for certain orphan indications.

Next events

Vafidemstat Phase IIa REIMAGINE-AD data from the AD patients	H120
Vafidemstat Phase IIa ETHERAL EU 6m interim trial results	H120
Updated data from iadademstat Phase IIa CLEPSIDRA in SCLC	2020
Updated data from iadademstat Phase IIa ALICE in AML 2020	2020

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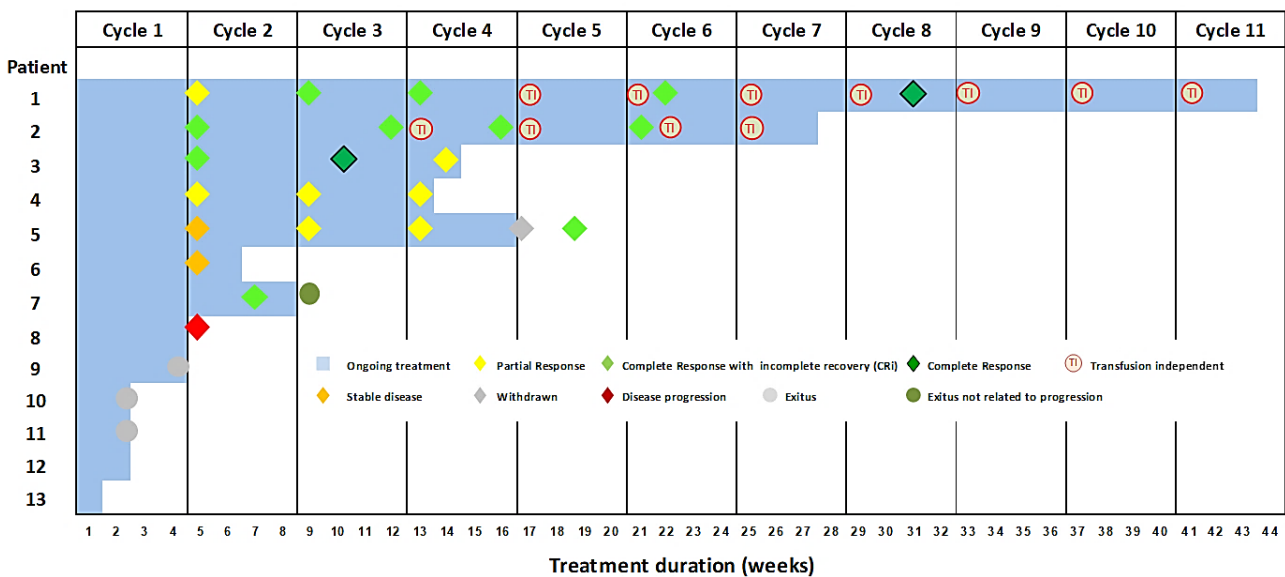
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Phase IIa ALICE data from Part 2

The single-arm, open-label study is enrolling newly diagnosed, elderly acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) patients and is investigating iadademstat in combination with standard of care chemotherapy drug azacitidine. Oryzon intends to enrol 18 patients in the ongoing Part 2 (expansion cohort) of the ALICE trial. At the time of writing the ASH poster, 13 patients have been enrolled in ALICE. The main endpoints include:

- Dose finding data,
- PK/PD evaluation (including a set of six blood biomarkers), and
- Initial efficacy (OR measured by bone marrow aspirate).

Exhibit 1: Patients enrolled in the Phase IIa ALICE trial



Source: C Buesa et al. Iadademstat Shows Efficacy in Elderly AML Patients in Combination with Azacitidine. ALICE Trial. Poster presentation at ASH 2019.

Safety/tolerability

Overall, the authors of the ASH poster concluded that the combination of iadademstat and azacitidine shows a good safety profile in elderly AML patients. In Part 1 (dose finding), the recommended dose of $90\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ was established. Later, the dose was lowered to $60\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ by the safety monitoring committee (SMC). This decision was made after one patient withdrew consent after experiencing severe fatigue and another patient died due to an intracranial haemorrhage. Oryzon did not see any clinically relevant non-haematological adverse events.

LSD1 inhibitor class drugs are known to have haematological side effects at higher doses, however, these are usually predictable and manageable. We note that a clear drug-side effect relationship is not always straightforward to prove. For example, intracranial haemorrhage (haemorrhagic stroke) can have many causes, especially in such elderly, highly ill patients. So, the decision to lower the dose could serve as a precaution. The tolerability of the drug will improve at the lower dose and, more importantly, Oryzon believes this will not come at the expense of efficacy, as existing PK/PD data show that a $60\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{d}$ level is also able to saturate LSD1 target engagement with a clear biomarker effect.

Putting ladademstat efficacy results in perspective

OR rates in AML patients treated with azacitidine monotherapy are 25–32% depending on age ([Seymour et al, 2016](#)). A recently published article ([DiNardo et al, 2019](#)) described a clinical trial (n=145) where AML patients received venetoclax plus azacitidine or decitabine (both chemical analogs of cytidine) and the ORR was 67%. Venetoclax (Venclexta, AbbVie/Genentech) is a novel anticancer drug approved (accelerated approval) by the FDA for frontline treatment of AML in combination with azacitidine or decitabine or low-dose cytarabine. ladademstat's initial 75–80% OR rate is much higher than the historical response rates with classic chemotherapy and compares well with Venetoclax's OR of 67%.

ladademstat, as a selective LSD1 inhibitor, has been shown to be effective in preclinical models, including combinations with azacitidine. In addition, Oryzon has already completed a Phase I first-in-man trial, where iadademstat was given as a monotherapy, and demonstrated preliminary [antileukaemic activity](#) (reviewed in detail in our [initiation report](#)).

Exhibit 2: Oryzon rNPV valuation

Product	Indication	Launch	Peak sales (US\$m)	Value (€m)	Probability of success (%)	rNPV (€m)	NPV/share (€/share)
ladademstat (ORY-1001)	AML	2023	927	284.1	15%	56.3	1.4
ladademstat (ORY-1001)	SCLC	2026	571	137.6	8%	25.2	0.6
Vafidemstat (ORY-2001)	AD	2026	4,510	1,018.3	15%	160.5	4.1
Vafidemstat (ORY-2001)	MS	2027	1,940	446.6	20%	105.8	2.7
Vafidemstat (ORY-2001)	BPD	2027	1,290	277.0	20%	65.7	1.7
Net cash (end-2019e)				23.0	100%	23.0	0.5
Valuation				2,186.6		436.6	9.5

Source: Edison Investment Research. Note: AML – acute myeloid leukaemia; SCLC – small cell lung cancer; AD – Alzheimer's disease; MS – multiple sclerosis; BPD – borderline personality disorder.

Exhibit 3: Financial summary

	€'000s	2017	2018	2019e	2020e
Year end 31 December		Local GAAP	Local GAAP	Local GAAP	Local GAAP
PROFIT & LOSS					
Revenue		4,317	6,781	6,119	6,137
Cost of Sales		0	0	0	0
Gross Profit		4,317	6,781	6,119	6,137
Research and development		(5,306)	(7,412)	(9,454)	(9,560)
EBITDA		(3,498)	(2,766)	(6,046)	(6,175)
Operating Profit (before amort. and except.)		(3,660)	(2,905)	(6,186)	(6,314)
Intangible Amortisation		(664)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Exceptionals		0	(4)	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0
Operating Profit		(4,324)	(2,916)	(6,194)	(6,324)
Exceptionals		0	0	0	0
Net Interest		(928)	(796)	(586)	(471)
Profit Before Tax (norm)		(4,588)	(3,701)	(6,771)	(6,786)
Profit Before Tax (reported)		(5,252)	(3,712)	(6,780)	(6,795)
Tax		55	2,535	0	0
Profit After Tax (norm)		(4,533)	(1,166)	(6,771)	(6,786)
Profit After Tax (reported)		(5,197)	(1,177)	(6,780)	(6,795)
Average Number of Shares Outstanding (m)		31.7	34.6	42.5	45.8
EPS - normalised (€)		(0.14)	(0.03)	(0.16)	(0.15)
EPS - reported (€)		(0.16)	(0.03)	(0.16)	(0.15)
Dividend per share (€)		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gross Margin (%)		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
EBITDA Margin (%)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Operating Margin (before GW and except.) (%)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
BALANCE SHEET					
Fixed Assets		24,914	31,786	37,758	43,807
Intangible Assets		22,458	29,330	35,441	41,569
Tangible Assets		638	665	526	447
Investments		1,818	1,791	1,791	1,791
Current Assets		36,130	35,664	36,488	23,856
Stocks		7	135	71	103
Debtors		857	971	914	943
Cash		34,950	34,320	35,264	22,572
Other		316	239	239	239
Current Liabilities		(8,696)	(10,441)	(4,017)	(4,229)
Creditors		(1,343)	(2,192)	(1,767)	(1,979)
Short term borrowings		(7,354)	(8,249)	(2,249)	(2,249)
Long Term Liabilities		(17,915)	(11,884)	(11,884)	(11,884)
Long term borrowings		(16,041)	(9,977)	(9,977)	(9,977)
Other long term liabilities		(1,874)	(1,907)	(1,907)	(1,907)
Net Assets		34,432	45,125	58,345	51,550
CASH FLOW					
Operating Cash Flow		(4,281)	(2,799)	(6,936)	(6,495)
Net Interest		(426)	2,133	(586)	(471)
Tax		0	0	0	0
Capex		(105)	(170)	0	0
Acquisitions/disposals		0	0	0	0
Financing		16,887	11,949	20,000	0
Other*		653	(6,576)	(5,534)	(5,726)
Dividends		0	0	0	0
Net Cash Flow		12,728	4,538	6,945	(12,692)
Opening net debt/(cash)		1,172	(11,555)	(16,093)	(23,038)
HP finance leases initiated		0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0
Closing net debt/(cash)		(11,555)	(16,093)	(23,038)	(10,345)

Source: Edison Investment Research, Oryzon Genomics accounts. Note: Oryzon reports in Spanish GAAP. *Includes cash outflows related to development costs that were capitalised.

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