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*Published in:*  
Haematologica

*DOI:*  
[10.3324/haematol.2019.243238](https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2019.243238)

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*Document Version*  
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Publication date:*  
2021

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

*Citation for published version (APA):*

Kersten, M. J., Driessen, J., Zijlstra, J. M., Plattel, W. J., Morschhauser, F., Lugtenburg, P. J., Brice, P., Hutchings, M., Gastinne, T., Liu, R., Burggraaff, C. N., Nijland, M., Tonino, S. H., Arens, A. I. J., Valkema, R., van Tinteren, H., Lopez-Yurda, M., Diepstra, A., De Jong, D., & Hagenbeek, A. (2021). Combining brentuximab vedotin with dexamethasone, high-dose cytarabine and cisplatin as salvage treatment in relapsed or refractory Hodgkin lymphoma: the phase II HOVON/LLPC Transplant BRaVE study. *Haematologica*, 106(4), 1129-1136. <https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2019.243238>

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# Combining brentuximab vedotin with dexamethasone, high-dose cytarabine and cisplatin as salvage treatment in relapsed or refractory Hodgkin lymphoma: the phase II HOVON/LLPC Transplant BRaVE study

Marie José Kersten,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Julia Driessen,<sup>1\*</sup> Josée M. Zijlstra,<sup>2,3</sup> Wouter J. Plattel,<sup>2,4</sup> Franck Morschhauser,<sup>5</sup> Pieternella J. Lugtenburg,<sup>2,6</sup> Pauline Brice,<sup>7</sup> Martin Hutchings,<sup>8</sup> Thomas Gastinne,<sup>9</sup> Roberto Liu,<sup>1</sup> Coreline N. Burggraaf,<sup>3</sup> Marcel Nijland,<sup>2,4</sup> Sanne H. Tonino,<sup>1,2</sup> Anne I.J. Arens,<sup>10</sup> Roelf Valkema,<sup>11</sup> Harm van Tinteren,<sup>12</sup> Marta Lopez-Yurda,<sup>12</sup> Arjan Diepstra,<sup>2,13</sup> Daphne De Jong<sup>2,14</sup> and Anton Hagenbeek<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Hematology, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, LYMMCARE (Lymphoma and Myeloma Center Amsterdam), Cancer Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; <sup>2</sup>HOVON and Lunenburg Lymphoma Phase I/II Consortium (LLPC), the Netherlands; <sup>3</sup>Department of Hematology, Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Cancer Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; <sup>4</sup>Department of Hematology, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands; <sup>5</sup>Department of Hematology, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Lille, France; <sup>6</sup>Department of Hematology, Erasmus MC Cancer Institute, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; <sup>7</sup>Department of Hematology, Hopital Saint Louis, Paris, France; <sup>8</sup>Department of Hematology, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark; <sup>9</sup>Department of Hematology, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Nantes, France; <sup>10</sup>Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, the Netherlands; <sup>11</sup>Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; <sup>12</sup>Department of Biometrics, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; <sup>13</sup>Department of Pathology and Medical Biology, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands and <sup>14</sup>Department of Pathology, Amsterdam UMC, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Cancer Center Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; HOVON Pathology Facility and Biobank, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

\*MJK and JD contributed equally as co-first authors.

## ABSTRACT

Achieving a metabolic complete response (mCR) before high-dose chemotherapy (HDC) and autologous peripheral blood stem cell transplant (auto-PBSCT) predicts progression-free survival (PFS) in relapsed/refractory classical Hodgkin lymphoma (R/R cHL). We added brentuximab vedotin (BV) to DHAP (dexamethasone, high-dose cytarabine, cisplatin) to improve the mCR rate. In a phase I dose-escalation part of the study in 12 patients, we showed that BV-DHAP is feasible. This phase II study included 55 R/R cHL patients (23 primary refractory). Treatment consisted of three 21-day cycles of BV 1.8 mg/kg on day 1, and DHAP (dexamethasone 40 mg days 1-4, cisplatin 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 1 and cytarabine 2x2 g/m<sup>2</sup> day 2). Patients with a metabolic partial response (mPR) or mCR proceeded to HDC/auto-PBSCT. Based on independent central [<sup>18</sup>F]fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) - positron emission tomography (PET) - computed tomography (CT) scan review, 42 of 52 evaluable patients (81% [95%CI: 67-90]) achieved an mCR before HDC/auto-PBSCT, five had an mPR and five had progressive disease (3 were not evaluable). After HDC/auto-PBSCT, four patients with an mPR converted to an mCR. Two-year PFS was 74% [95%CI: 63-86] and overall survival 95% [95%CI: 90-100]. Toxicity was manageable and mainly consisted of grade 3/4 hematologic toxicity, fever, nephrotoxicity, ototoxicity (grade 1/2), and transiently elevated liver enzymes during BV-DHAP. Eighteen patients developed new onset peripheral neuropathy (maximum grade 1/2); all recovered. In conclusion, BV-DHAP is a very effective salvage regimen in R/R cHL patients, but patients should be monitored closely for toxicity. (*clinicaltrials.gov* identifier: NCT02280993).



Ferrata Storti Foundation

Haematologica 2021  
Volume 106(4):1129-1137

## Correspondence:

MARIE JOSÉ KERSTEN  
m.j.kersten@amsterdamumc.nl

Received: November 18, 2019.

Accepted: March 19, 2020.

Pre-published: April 9, 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2019.243238>

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