

Subcutaneous Daratumumab (Dara) + Bortezomib/Lenalidomide/Dexamethasone With Dara + Lenalidomide Maintenance in Transplant-Eligible Patients With Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma: Analysis of Sustained Minimal Residual Disease Negativity in the Phase 3 PERSEUS Trial

Philippe Moreau¹, Pieter Sonneveld², Hermann Einsele³, Hang Quach⁴, P Joy Ho⁵, Meral Beksac⁶, Cyrille Hulín⁷, Elisabetta Antonioli⁸, Xavier Leleu⁹, Silvia Mangiacavalli¹⁰, Aurore Perrot¹¹, Michele Cavo¹², Angelo Belotti¹³, Anemiek Broijl¹⁴, Hailing Pei¹⁵, Diego Vieyra¹⁶, Alba Tuozzo¹⁷, Carla J de Boer¹⁸, Anna Sitthi-Amom¹⁹, Robin L Carson²⁰, Paula Rodríguez-Otero²¹, Meletios A Dimopoulos²², Mario Boccadoro¹⁹

¹University Hospital Hôtel-Dieu, Nantes, France; ²Easemus MC Cancer Institute, Rotterdam, Netherlands; ³Universitätsklinikum Würzburg, Medizinische Klinik und Poliklinik II, Würzburg, Germany; ⁴University of Melbourne, St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, VIC, Australia; ⁵Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia; ⁶Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey; ⁷Hôpital Haut-Lévêque, University Hospital, Pessac, France; ⁸Careggi Hospital and University of Florence, Florence, Italy; ⁹CHU Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France; ¹⁰Fondazione IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy; ¹¹Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Toulouse, Oncopole, Toulouse, France; ¹²IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna, Segrini Institute of Hematology, Bologna University School of Medicine, Bologna, Italy; ¹³ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, Brescia, Italy; ¹⁴Johnson & Johnson, Titusville, NJ, USA; ¹⁵Johnson & Johnson, Spring House, PA, USA; ¹⁶Johnson & Johnson, Leiden, Netherlands; ¹⁷Cancer Center Clínica Universidad de Navarra, Gma, Pamplona, Spain; ¹⁸National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece; ¹⁹University of Turin, Turin, Italy

Key Takeaway

These results reinforce the consistent benefit of DVRd + DR maintenance and further support the PERSEUS regimen as standard of care for transplant-eligible NDMM

Conclusions

Higher rates of sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR were achieved with DVRd + DR maintenance vs VRd + R maintenance, with nearly two-thirds of patients achieving sustained MRD negativity for ≥ 12 months and more than half achieving sustained MRD negativity for ≥ 24 months

Sustained MRD negativity was associated with a PFS benefit with DVRd, with >95% of patients with ≥ 12 -month or ≥ 24 -month sustained MRD negativity remaining progression free at 48 months

Rates of functionally high-risk myeloma, defined as relapse or progression within 18 months of treatment initiation, were lower than in previous daratumumab frontline trials⁴ and were halved with DVRd vs VRd



Please scan QR code

Poster

<https://www.congresshub.com/EHA2025/Oncology/Daratumumab/Moreau>

The QR code is intended to provide scientific information for individual reference, and the information should not be altered or reproduced in any way.

Acknowledgments
The authors and Johnson & Johnson thank the patients who participated in this study, the staff members at the study sites, the data and safety monitoring committee, and the staff members involved in data collection and analyses. This study was funded by Johnson & Johnson. Medical writing support was provided by Maggie Hartman, Pharm.D., of Boquet Scientific Solutions, and funded by Johnson & Johnson. © 2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. Reused with permission. This abstract was accepted and presented at the 2025 ASCO Annual Meeting. All rights reserved.

Disclosures
PM reports a consulting/advisory role for AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, GSK, Janssen, Pfizer and Sanofi; and has received honoraria from AbbVie, Amgen, Celgene, GSK, Janssen-Cilag, Pfizer, and Sanofi.

Introduction

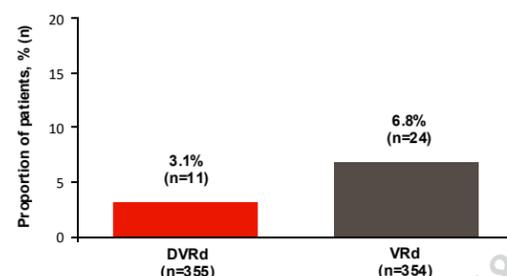
- In PERSEUS, daratumumab, bortezomib, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone (DVRd) induction/consolidation and DR maintenance improved minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity and progression-free survival (PFS) vs VRd induction/consolidation and R maintenance¹⁻³
- Functionally high-risk patients (with relapse or progression within 18 months of treatment initiation) have poorer survival outcomes^{4,5}
 - Approved frontline daratumumab-containing regimens, including daratumumab, bortezomib, thalidomide, and dexamethasone and DRd, reduced the risk of early relapse at 12–24 months to <10–20%⁴
- Sustained MRD negativity, a key efficacy endpoint and prognostic marker, is linked to improved survival⁶⁻⁸
- This post hoc analysis explored 2 distinct aims in PERSEUS:
 - Aim 1: to determine whether DVRd + DR maintenance reduces the number of functionally high-risk patients
 - Aim 2: to explore the impact of sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) complete response or better (\geq CR) on PFS

Results

Aim 1: Rates of functionally high risk

- Functionally high-risk incidence was halved with DVRd vs VRd (Figure 2)
- Rates of functionally high-risk disease, including pre-progression deaths, (those who progressed or died within 18 months of treatment initiation), were lower with DVRd (5.4%; n=19) vs VRd (11.0%; n=39)

Figure 2: Rates of functionally high risk^a

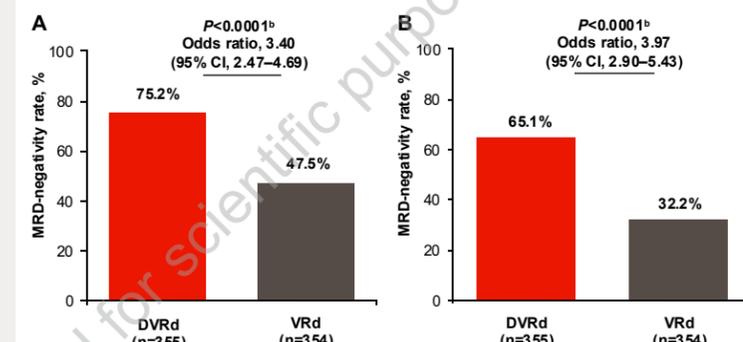


^aDefined as those experiencing relapse or progression within 18 months of treatment initiation.

Aim 2: Impact of sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR on PFS

- At a median follow-up of 47.5 months, DVRd and DR maintenance achieved deep and durable MRD negativity at 10^{-5} (Figure 3A) and 10^{-6} (Figure 3B)

Figure 3: Overall MRD-negativity \geq CR rates^a at (A) 10^{-5} and (B) 10^{-6}



^aMRD-negativity rate was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved both MRD negativity and \geq CR and was assessed using bone marrow aspirates and evaluated via NGS (donoSEQ assay version 2.0; Adaptive Biotechnologies, Seattle, WA, USA). ^bP values were calculated with the use of the stratified Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test.

- DVRd led to higher rates of sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR vs VRd across subgroups for both ≥ 12 and ≥ 24 months (Figure 4)
- Sustained MRD-negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR rates for ≥ 12 months were twice as high with DVRd vs VRd; among these patients, 48-month PFS rates were ~95% in both arms (sustained ≥ 12 months] hazard ratio [HR], 0.83 [95% CI, 0.3–2.3]; nonsustained ≥ 12 months] HR, 0.80 [95% CI, 0.6–1.2]; Figure 5)
- Sustained MRD-negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR rates for ≥ 24 months were more than twice as high with DVRd vs VRd; among these patients, 48-month PFS rates exceeded 95% in both arms (Figure 6)

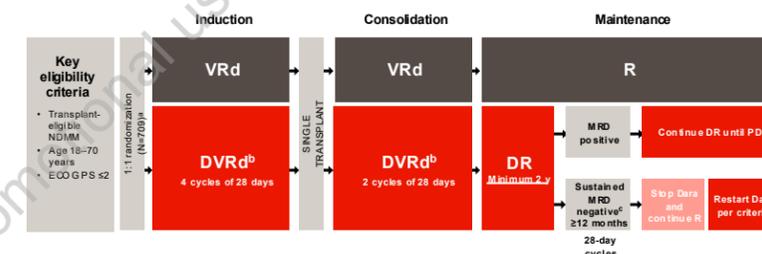
References

- ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03710603. 2. Sonneveld P, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2024;390:301-13. 3. Rodríguez-Otero P, et al. Presented at ASCO; May 31–June 4, 2024; Chicago, IL, USA & Virtual. 4. Gay F, et al. *Hematology* 2023;2023:433-42. 5. Rees MJ, Kumar S. *Am J Hematol* 2024;99:1560-75. 6. Mateos MV, et al. *Haematologica* 2021;106:2556-68. 7. Cavo M, et al. *Blood* 2022;139:835-44. 8. Wang J, et al. *Discov Oncol* 2024;15:38.

Methods

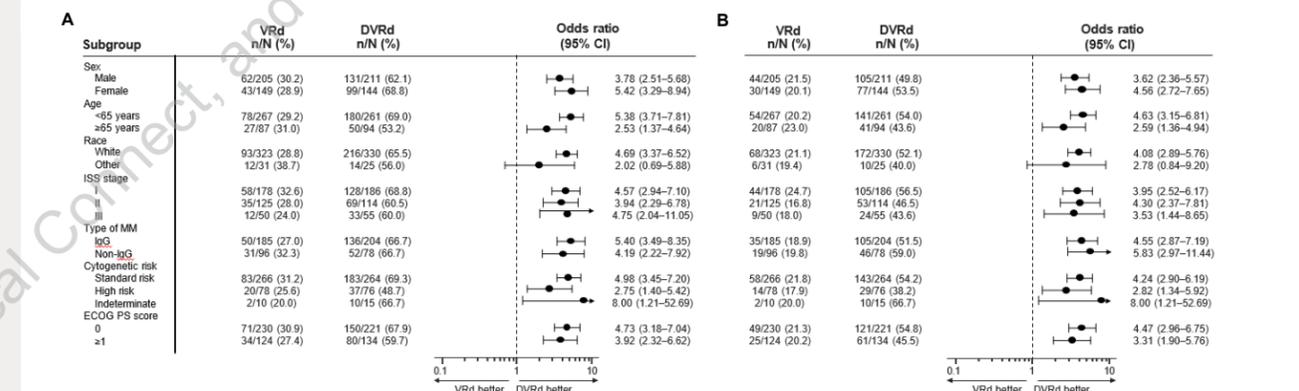
- PERSEUS is a phase 3, randomized clinical trial (Figure 1)
- The primary endpoint was PFS; MRD-negativity rate (defined as the proportion of patients who achieved both MRD negativity and \geq CR in the intent-to-treat [ITT] population) was one of the key secondary endpoints
- Sustained MRD negativity was defined as MRD negativity with \geq CR at least 12 months apart and without MRD positivity in between
 - Patients who were not evaluable were considered MRD positive
 - MRD was evaluated post consolidation; at the time of suspected CR/stringent CR (sCR); at 12, 18, 24, 30, and 36 months after cycle 1 day 1; and yearly thereafter

Figure 1: Study design



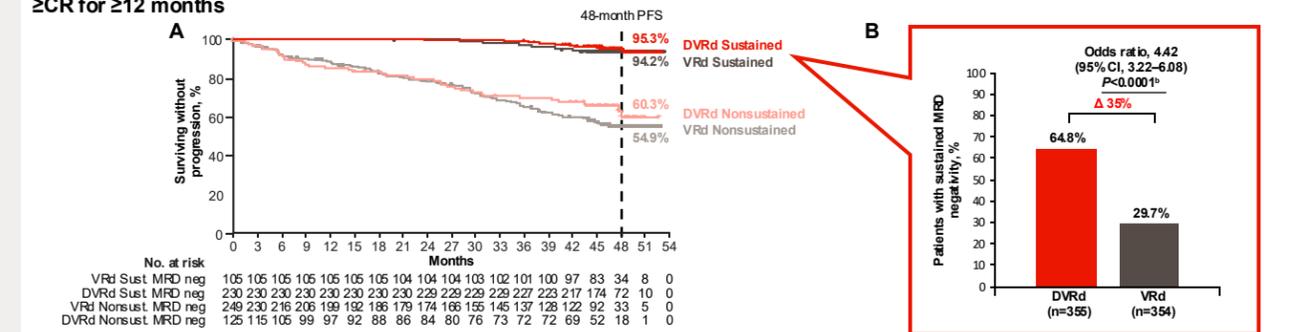
^aStratified by ISS stage and cytogenetic risk. ^bDara 1800 mg co-formulated with rHuPH20 (2000 U/ml; ENHANZE® drug delivery technology, Halcyon, Inc., San Diego, CA, USA); VRd administered as in the VRd group. ^cMRD was assessed using the donoSEQ assay (v.2.0; Adaptive Biotechnologies, Seattle, WA, USA) in patients with \geq VGPR post consolidation and at the time of suspected \geq CR. Dara, daratumumab; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; ISS, International Staging System; NDMM, newly diagnosed multiple myeloma; PD, progressive disease; rHuPH20, recombinant human hyaluronidase PH20; VGPR, very good partial response; y, year.

Figure 4: Sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR by subgroups (A) for ≥ 12 months and (B) for ≥ 24 months



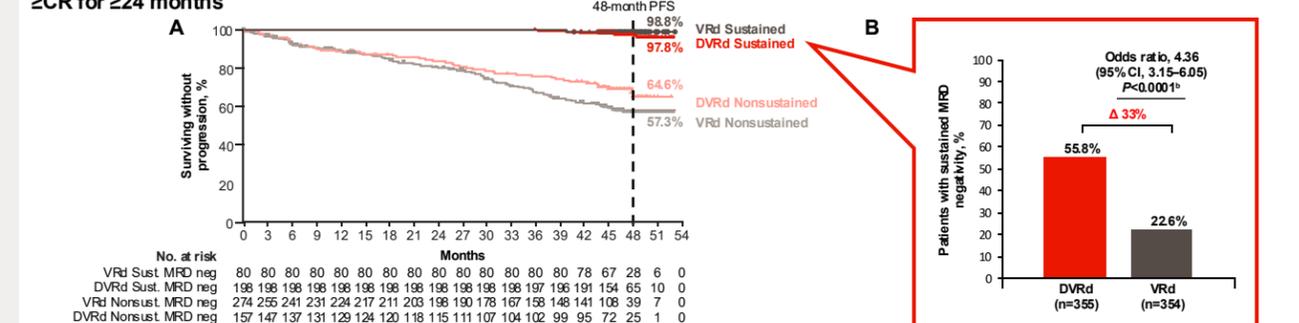
Sustained MRD negativity is defined as 2 consecutive MRD-negative reads at least 24 months (~ 3) apart without MRD positive in between. MRD-negativity rate was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved both MRD negativity and \geq CR in the ITT population. Patients who were not evaluable or had indeterminate results were considered MRD positive. The subgroup analysis for type of MM was performed on data from patients who had measurable disease in serum. Cytogenetic risk was assessed by fluorescence in situ hybridization; high risk was defined as the presence of del(17p), t(4;14), and/or t(14;16). Ig, immunoglobulin; MM, multiple myeloma.

Figure 5: PFS by sustained MRD negativity^a (10^{-5}) \geq CR status for (A) ≥ 12 months and (B) rates of sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR for ≥ 12 months



^aMRD-negativity rate was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved both MRD negativity and \geq CR. MRD was assessed using bone marrow aspirates and evaluated via NGS (donoSEQ assay, version 2.0; Adaptive Biotechnologies, Seattle, WA, USA). Sustained MRD negativity is defined as MRD negative and confirmed by at least 1 year apart without MRD positive in between. ^bP value was calculated from the stratified Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test.

Figure 6: PFS by sustained MRD negativity^a (10^{-5}) \geq CR status for (A) ≥ 24 months and (B) rates of sustained MRD negativity (10^{-5}) \geq CR for ≥ 24 months



^aMRD-negativity rate was defined as the proportion of patients who achieved both MRD negativity and \geq CR. MRD was assessed using bone marrow aspirates and evaluated via NGS (donoSEQ assay, version 2.0; Adaptive Biotechnologies, Seattle, WA, USA). Sustained MRD negativity is defined as 2 consecutive MRD-negative reads at least 24 months (~ 3) apart without MRD positive in between. ^bP value was calculated from the stratified Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel chi-square test.



Multiple Myeloma

