Author’s response to reviews

Title: Nintedanib allows retreatment with atezolizumab of combined non-small cell lung cancer/idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis after atezolizumab-induced pneumonitis: a case report

Authors:

Hideaki Yamakawa (hide1144@jikei.ac.jp)
Tomohiro Oba (obatomohiro@hotmail.co.jp)
Hiroki Ohta (m10201017@gunma-u.ac.jp)
Yuta Tsukahara (tsukaharayuta@yahoo.co.jp)
Gen Kida (gkida_s8125@yahoo.co.jp)
Emiri Tsumiyama (emily_baba0606@yahoo.co.jp)
Tomotaka Nishizawa (tn1230bungeo@yahoo.co.jp)
Rie Kawabe (blackberry_wine1218@yahoo.co.jp)
Shintaro Sato (smallerss@hotmail.com)
Keiichi Akasaka (k-akasaka@med.niigata-u.ac.jp)
Masako Amano (skyfield1021@gmail.com)
Kazuyoshi Kuwano (kkuwano@jikei.ac.jp)
Hidekazu Matsushima (himatsushima@sunny.ocn.ne.jp)

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Editor Comments:

Dear authors,

Based on the reviewers recommendations and the editors' considerations, I would like to inform you that your manuscript cannot be accepted in its present form. Therefore, I invite you to respond to the reviewer's comments and revise your manuscript.
⇒Reply: Thank you very much for your comments. We have made every effort to prepare the revised version of our paper accordingly.

Reviewer reports:

Kentaro Fukunaga (Reviewer 1): Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting case reports of the inhibitory effect of nintedanib for acute exacerbation of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) due to immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) in a lung cancer patient with IPF. Please find the following comments.

1. Add a discussion of the mechanism how nintedanib suppressed triggered acute exacerbation of IPF due to ICI in the discussion part.

Reply: Thank you for your incisive comments. As you pointed out, not enough information was available. We added this point in the Discussion paragraph as follows:

「That is, nintedanib was thought to be a key drug in the treatment of lung cancer combined with IPF. On the other hand, the excessive autoimmune response of tumor infiltrating lymphocytes can be the one of the reasons of ICI-induced pneumonitis [17]. VEGF can act as an immunosuppressive factor by several mechanisms such as inhibiting dendric cell (DC) function and maturation, enhancing expression of PD-L1 by DCs, promoting into the tumor [18]. Therefore, nintedanib that the target the VEGF pathway may enhance the prevention of ICI-induced pneumonitis.」