Clinical Trial Protocol
Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

08 Nov 2026

Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of Abycet (Cetuximab, manufactured by ZistDaru Danesh) compared to Erbitux (Merck®) in patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma undergoing treatment with the TPEx regimen (Docetaxel, Platinum, and Cetuximab)

Protocol summary

Study aim
Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of Abycet compared to Erbitux in patients with HNSCC under treatment with the TPEx regimen

Design
A phase 3, multicenter, randomized, two-arm, double-blinded, parallel, active-controlled clinical trial on 216 patients. randomization is stratified block

Settings and conduct
This double-blinded (patient and outcome assessor), multicenter study will be conducted in Tehran, Shiraz, Mashhad, Yazd, Kermanshah, Ahwaz, and Tabriz on patients with HNSCC treated with the TPEx regimen.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria
Inclusion Criteria: Age 18-85 years; Confirmed pathology of SCC of the oral cavity, oropharynx, hypopharynx, larynx or paranasal sinus cancer; Locally advanced or metastatic or recurrent disease; At least one measurable lesion by CT or MRI; ECOG < 2; SrCr ≤ 1.5 mg/dL; Normal Neutrophils, Platelets ˃ 100,000/mcl, Hemoglobin> 9 g/dL; Adequate liver function; Albumin level ≥ 3 g/dL; Negative pregnancy test; Consent to use a contraceptive method; Sign the ICF Exclusion Criteria: Patients with nasopharyngeal cancer or unknown origin; HPV + oropharynx; Previous chemotherapy except in metastatic or recurrent cases prescribed for the treatment of locally advanced disease and more than 3 months have passed; Surgery or radiotherapy within 6 weeks; Received prior anti-EGFR therapy less than 6 months; History of hypersensitivity to cisplatin, carboplatin, docetaxel or cetuximab; Brain or leptomeningeal metastasis; Patients with severe cardiovascular diseases or history of MI in the past year; Other malignancies within 1 years, excluding treated basal skin cancer and cervical carcinoma; Active severe infections, active TB, HIV, and hepatitis C and B

Intervention groups
Abycet (cetuximab, manufactured by ZistDaru Danesh) compared to Erbitux® (Merck) in TPEx regimen

Main outcome variables
Disease Control Rate at the end of chemotherapy

General information

Reason for update
Following approval from the Iran Food and Drug Administration regarding changes to three eligibility criteria, three approved changes were revised.

Acronym

IRCT registration information
IRCT registration number: **IRCT20211218053442N2**
Registration date: **2025-01-04, 1403/10/15**
Registration timing: **prospective**

Last update: **2025-05-25, 1404/03/04**
Update count: **2**

Registration date
2025-01-04, 1403/10/15

Registrant information

Name
Hooshmand Ilka

Name of organization / entity

Country
Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone
+98 21 4231 8000

Email address
jahan.a@zistdaru.ir

Recruitment status
Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date
2025-01-20, 1403/11/01
Expected recruitment end date
2026-03-06, 1404/12/15
Actual recruitment start date
empty
Actual recruitment end date
empty
Trial completion date
empty

Scientific title
Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of Abycet (Cetuximab, manufactured by ZistDaru Danesh) compared to Erbitux (Merck®) in patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma undergoing treatment with the TPEx regimen (Docetaxel, Platinum, and Cetuximab)

Public title
Evaluation the efficacy and safety of Cetuximab manufactured by Zistdaru danesh Co. compared to Erbitux in the patients with head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.
Purpose
Treatment
Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria:
Patients older than 18 years and less than 85 years Confirmed pathology of squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity, oropharynx, hypopharynx, paranasal sinus cancer or larynx Locally advanced or metastatic or recurrent disease that are not candidates for local treatment At least one measurable lesion by CT or MRI (1.1 RECIST) Performance Status less than 2 according to ECOG Serum creatinine less than 1.5 mg/dL Hematological tests are as follows: Neutrophils more than 1500 cells per microliter, Platelets more than 100000 per microliter, Hemoglobin more than 9 g/dL The function of the liver is as follows: Direct bilirubin level less than 1.5 mg/dL, AST and ALT level less than 3 times ULN, Liver alkaline phosphatase less than 3 times ULN Albumin level greater than or equal to 3 g/dL Negative pregnancy blood test in women of childbearing age 28 days before starting the drug Consent to use a contraceptive method (both men and women (of reproductive age) who are sexually active must use contraceptive methods during treatment and for at least 6 months after treatment.) Sign the informed consent form
Exclusion criteria:
Patients with nasopharyngeal cancer or unknown origin Patients with HPV positive oropharynx (according to the pathology report) In locally advanced patients: previous systemic chemotherapy for the treatment of HNSCC and in metastatic or recurrent patients: previous systemic chemotherapy except in cases prescribed for the treatment of locally advanced disease and more than 3 months have passed since the last dose. Surgery or radiotherapy within 6 weeks before study entry Received prior anti-EGFR therapy less than 6 months prior to study entry History of hypersensitivity to cisplatin, carboplatin, docetaxel or cetuximab Brain or leptomeningeal metastasis NYHA IV-III heart failure, uncontrolled coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy, uncontrolled arrhythmia, uncontrolled hypertension, or history of myocardial infarction in the past 12 months Other malignancies within 1 years prior to randomization, excluding treated basal skin cancer and cervical carcinoma Active infections (requiring intravenous antibiotics), active TB infection, HIV, and hepatitis C and B A significant disease that, according to the researcher, does not make the patient a candidate for the study Pregnant or lactating women
Age
From **18 years** old to **85 years** old
Gender
Both

Phase
3
Groups that have been masked

- Participant
- Investigator
- Outcome assessor

Sample size
Target sample size: **216**
Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized
Randomization description
Randomization in this study will stratified block. Stratification is done based on these factors: 1. Type of disease: locoregional recurrence alone or metastatic evolution with or without locoregional recurrence or Induction chemotherapy in locoregionally advanced HNSCC 2. Treatment with Carboplatin or Cisplatin A block random sequence is formed in each layer. Randomization sheet will be built with blocks of 2 and 4 for a total of 216 patients by www.sealedenvelope.com platform. When randomization is done, each patient receive a code. The code will consist of three digits (corresponding to the randomization number) and four letters (corresponding to the first two letters of the name and the first two letters of the last name). Randomization numbers are determined sequentially. The randomization list is prepared by the CRO and maintained by a member of the executive team outside the study.
Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Double blinded
Blinding description
This study is a double-blind study. All treatment personnel and those involved in the study and patients are unaware of who is receiving which of the two drugs. Both study drugs have completely the same vial size and packaging. The team that evaluates the outcomes of study will be completely different from those involved in the treatment of the patients. The randomization schedule will be confidential and with limited access at the randomization study implementation center, a copy will be kept at the CRO. Except for the cases specified in the protocol and only in those cases where the safety of the patient is dependent on the knowledge of the individual's study group, the assignment of people to the groups will not be announced until the analysis is done.

Placebo
Not used
Assignment
Parallel
Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee
Name of ethics committee
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Street address
Vice-Chancellor in Research Affairs-Tehran University of Medical Science, 6th floor, near Qods st, keshavarz blvd.
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1417613151
Approval date
2018-10-28, 1397/08/06
Ethics committee reference number
IR.TUMS.VCR.REC.1397.553

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied
Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNSCC)
ICD-10 code
ICD-10 code description

Primary outcomes

1

Description
Disease Control Rate (complete response (CR) or partial response (PR) or stable disease (SD) according to RECIST 1.1 criteria) at the end of chemotherapy
Timepoint
Week 12 in metastatic and recurrent patients, week 8 in locally advanced patients
Method of measurement
Imaging

Secondary outcomes

1

Description
Comparison of Objective Response Rate (complete response (CR) or partial response (PR) based on RECIST 1.1 criteria) at the end of chemotherapy cycles in Abycet group compared to Erbitux
Timepoint
At the end of chemotherapy cycles
Method of measurement
Imaging

2

Description
Overall response rate (complete response (CR) or partial response (PR) assessed at the end of the second cycle of chemotherapy (6th week))
Timepoint
At the end of the second cycle of chemotherapy (sixth week)
Method of measurement
Imaging

3

Description
Percentage of candidate patients receiving cetuximab maintenance dose (complete response (CR), partial response (PR) or stable disease (SD))
Timepoint
At the end of chemotherapy cycles
Method of measurement
Imaging

4

Description
Patient compliance to chemotherapy combined with cetuximab
Timepoint
At the end of chemotherapy cycles
Method of measurement
Checking the sequence and number of cetuximab doses and chemotherapy administered (insufficient compliance for cetuximab is defined as the patient missing more than 2 consecutive infusions of cetuximab, even if the missed infusions were due to adverse events. insufficient compliance for chemotherapy is defined as the patient missing more than 2 consecutive infusions of chemotherapy, even if the missed infusions were due to adverse events.)

5

Description
Health-related quality of life
Timepoint
In the screening visit and the final week of the study (week 8 for locally advanced patients and week 12 for metastatic and recurrent patients)
Method of measurement
Questionnaire (EORTC QLQ-C30, QLQ-H&N)

6

Description

Safety outcome

Timepoint

For 12 weeks based on the reports and reviews done in weekly visits

Method of measurement

Safety will be evaluated based on side effect reports, laboratory test results, and vital signs measurements. Adverse events will be evaluated according to the National Cancer Institute CTC AE guidelines (v.5.0), which are grade 1 mild, moderate grade 2, severe grade 3, and life-threatening grade 4.

7

Description

The result of immunogenicity for the measurement of anti-drug antibodies (ADA) and neutralizing antibodies (NAB) on a subset of patients (40 patients in each arm)

Timepoint

Before the injection of the first week and the last week of cetuximab injection (week 12)

Method of measurement

Laboratory test

Intervention groups

1

Description

Intervention group: Cetuximab bio-similar of Zistdaru Danesh Co. ® (100 mg/20 ml vial) which is administered intravenously in the first, fourth, seventh and tenth weeks together with Docetaxel (75mg/m2) and Cisplatin (75mg/m2) or Carboplatin and in the other weeks alone with an initial dose of 400mg/m2 over 120 minutes and a weekly dose of 250mg/m2 over 60 minutes via an infusion pump for up to 12 weeks (Locally advanced patients will receive Cetuximab in the announced order but for 7 weeks, i.e. one week after the third cycle of chemotherapy). It should be noted that one hour after the end of the Cetuximab infusion, Docetaxel and then Cisplatin/Carboplatin are infused. Diphenhydramine or another H1 antagonist such as Chlorpheniramine is administered before starting Cetuximab administration. It is also necessary to receive 8 mg of Dexamethasone one hour before the Cetuximab injection. In cycles in which Cetuximab is injected with Docetaxel and Cisplatin/Carboplatin, a premedication is performed to prevent nausea and vomiting, which includes a 4-drug treatment (Aprepitant (125 mg on day 1 and 80 mg on days 2 and 3), Granisetron (3 mg on days 1, 8 and 15), Dexamethasone (12 mg on day 1 and 8 mg on days 2, 3 and 4) and Olanzapine (5 mg for 4 days)). GCSF is also injected every 24 hours for up to three days in each chemotherapy cycle as a prophylaxis.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2

Description

Control group: Erbitux of Merck® (100 mg/20 ml vial) which is administered intravenously in the first, fourth, seventh and tenth weeks together with Docetaxel (75mg/m2) and Cisplatin (75mg/m2) or Carboplatin and in the other weeks alone with an initial dose of 400mg/m2 over 120 minutes and a weekly dose of 250mg/m2 over 60 minutes via an infusion pump for up to 12 weeks (Locally advanced patients will receive Cetuximab in the announced order but for 7 weeks, i.e. one week after the third cycle of chemotherapy). It should be noted that one hour after the end of the Cetuximab infusion, Docetaxel and then Cisplatin/Carboplatin are infused. Diphenhydramine or another H1 antagonist such as chlorpheniramine is administered before starting Cetuximab administration. It is also necessary to receive 8 mg of Dexamethasone one hour before the Cetuximab injection. In cycles in which Cetuximab is injected with Docetaxel and Cisplatin/Carboplatin, a premedication is performed to prevent nausea and vomiting, which includes a 4-drug treatment (Aprepitant (125 mg on day 1 and 80 mg on days 2 and 3), Granisetron (3 mg on days 1, 8 and 15), Dexamethasone (12 mg on day 1 and 8 mg on days 2, 3 and 4) and Olanzapine (5 mg for 4 days)). GCSF is also injected every 24 hours for up to three days in each chemotherapy cycle as a prophylaxis.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Cancer Institute (Imam Khomeini Hospital)

Full name of responsible person

Dr Reza Ghalehtaki

Street address

Eastern side of the Imam Khomeini Hospital Complex, Dr. Gharib Street, End of Keshavarz Boulevard, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

۱۴۱۹۷۳۳۱۴۱

Phone

+98 21 6658 1624

Email

Rezaght@gmail.com

2

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Barekat Cancer Specialist and Subspecialty Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Pedram Fadavi

Street address

Nasim 8th, Alimoradi Boulevard, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1485733186

Phone

+98 21 9200 1360

Email

fadavi.p@iums.ac.ir

3

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Shohadaye Haftome Tir Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Pedram Fadavi

Street address

At the end of south Shahid Rajaee street, Shahre Ray, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1886718136

Phone

+98 21 5522 8582

Email

fadavi.p@iums.ac.ir

4

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Emam Hosein Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Ahmad Rezazadeh Mafi

Street address

Shahid Madani St, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1617763141

Phone

+98 21 2273 9200

Email

ahmadrmafi@yahoo.com

5

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Shahid Madani Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Alireza Naseri

Street address

University Street, Tabriz

City

Tabriz

Province

East Azarbaijan

Postal code

5166615573

Phone

+98 21 3337 3900

Email

naseri47@yahoo.com

6

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Golestan Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Sasan Razmjoo

Street address

Farvardin Street, Ahwaz

City

Ahwaz

Province

Khouzestan

Postal code

6441945781

Phone

+98 61 3374 3001

Email

razmjoo.md@gmail.com

7

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Namazi Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Mehdi Shariat

Street address

Namazi Square, Zand Street, Shiraz

City

Shiraz

Province

Fars

Postal code

7193613311

Phone

+98 71 3612 5000

Email

mahdyshr@gmail.com

8

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Omid Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Dr Yasha Makhdomi

Street address

Alandasht Square, Kohsangi Street, Mashhad

City

Mashhad

Province

Razavi Khorasan

Postal code

9176613775

Phone
+98 51 3842 6082
Email
makhdoumi@gmail.com

9

Recruitment center
Name of recruitment center
Shahid Ramezanzadeh Radiotherapy Center
Full name of responsible person
Dr Mohmmad Ali Boroumand
Street address
Shahid Motahari Street, Yazd
City
Yazd
Province
Yazd
Postal code
8917657961
Phone
+98 35 3725 1171
Email
m.h.baroomand@yazd.ac.ir

10

Recruitment center
Name of recruitment center
Emam Reza Hospital
Full name of responsible person
Dr Maliheh Dayani
Street address
Next to Medical University, End of Nurse Boulevard, Kermanshah
City
Kermanshah
Province
Kermanshah
Postal code
6742775333
Phone
+98 83 3427 6300
Email
D.maliheh@gmail.com

11

Recruitment center
Name of recruitment center
Rasoul Akram Hospital
Full name of responsible person
Nastaran Khodakarim
Street address
Rasoul Akram Hospital, Mansoori Ave., Niyayesh Ave., Sattarkhan Ave., Tehran
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1445613131
Phone
+98 21 6435 1000
Email
Nastaran.khodakarim@gmail.com

12

Recruitment center
Name of recruitment center
Novin Medical Radiation Institue
Full name of responsible person
Dr Farhad Samiei
Street address
5th Street, Souther Pirouzan Street, Hormozan Street, Khovardin Boulevard, Shahrak-e Gharb, Tehran
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1467753411
Phone
+98 21 8836 3111
Email
samieifarhad@yahoo.com

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor
Name of organization / entity
Zistdaru Danesh Co.
Full name of responsible person
Hooshmand Ilka
Street address
Unit 404, 4th Floor, Rosemal Building, Hemmet Expressway, Tehran, Iran
City
Tehran
Province
Tehran
Postal code
1498711712
Phone
+98 21 4824 1000
Email
ilka@zistdaru.com
Grant name
Grant code / Reference number
Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?
Yes
Title of funding source
Zistdaru Danesh Co.
Proportion provided by this source
100
Public or private sector
Private
Domestic or foreign origin
Domestic
Category of foreign source of funding
empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

Industry

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Zistdaru Danesh Co.

Full name of responsible person

Zahra Rezagholi

Position

Medical department manager

Latest degree

Medical doctor

Other areas of specialty/work

Medical Pharmacy

Street address

Unit 404, 4th Floor, Rosemal Building, Hemmet Expressway, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1498711712

Phone

+98 21 4824 1000

Email

rezagholi.z@zistdaru.com

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Dr Farhad Samie

Position

Assistant Professor

Latest degree

Subspecialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Clinical Oncology

Street address

Number 260, west Fatemi street, Tehran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

۱۴۱۹۷۳۳۱۴۱

Phone

+98 21 6643 5149

Email

samieifarhad@yahoo.com

Person responsible for updating data

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Zistdaru Danesh Co.

Full name of responsible person

Zahra Rezagholi

Position

Medical department manager

Latest degree

Medical doctor

Other areas of specialty/work

Medical Pharmacy

Street address

Unit 404, 4th Floor, Rosemal Building, Hemmet Expressway, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Province

Tehran

Postal code

1498711712

Phone

+98 21 4824 1000

Email

rezagholi.z@zistdaru.com

Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Study Protocol

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Informed Consent Form

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Analytic Code

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Data Dictionary

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available