Patient-reported outcomes from STARTRK-2: a global phase II basket study of entrectinib for ROS1 fusion-positive non-small-cell lung cancer and NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours

L. Paz-Ares1,2*, F. Barlesi3, S. Siena4,5, M.-J. Ahn6, A. Drilon7,8, A. Conley9, C. Rolfo10, J. Wolf10, T. Seto11, R. Doebele12, A. Kapre13, D. Chen14, S. McCallum15, S. Osborne16 & G. Demetri17

1Medical Oncology Department, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, CNIO-H12o Lung Cancer Clinical Research Unit, Universidad Complutense & Ciberonc, Madrid, Spain; 2Medical Oncology Department, Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus, Villejuif, France; 3Medical Oncology Department, Niguarda Cancer Center, Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda; 4Department of Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy; 5Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, Republic of Korea; 6Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York; 7Weill Cornell Medical College, New York; 8Department of Sarcoma Medical Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas, Houston; 9Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA; 10Department I of Internal Medicine, Center for Integrated Oncology, University Hospital of Cologne, Cologne, Germany; 11Department of Thoracic Oncology, National Hospital Organization Kyushu Cancer Center, Fukuoka, Japan; 12Division of Medical Oncology, University of Colorado, Aurora; 13Department of Patient-Centered Outcomes Research, Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco; 14Product Development Biometrics, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland; 15Medication Safety and Risk Management, Genentech, Inc., South San Francisco, USA; 16PDMA Operations (Biometrics), F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland; 17Department of Oncologic Pathology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Ludwig Center at Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

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Background: Patient-reported outcomes (PROs) are increasingly relevant endpoints in clinical trials, contributing to our understanding of risk—benefit profiles, in addition to efficacy and safety data. We investigated the impact of entrectinib on patient-reported symptoms, functioning, and health-related quality of life.

Patients and methods: STARTRK-2 is a phase II basket study in patients with locally advanced/metastatic neurotrophic receptor tyrosine kinase 1/2/3 (NTRK1/2/3) and ROS proto-oncogene 1 (ROS1) fusion-positive solid tumours. PROs (prespecified secondary endpoint) were evaluated using the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer quality-of-life questionnaire (QLQ-C30), lung cancer module (QLQ-LC13), and colorectal cancer module (QLQ-CR29), and the EuroQol 5-Dimension 3-Level instruments, completed before cycle 1 day 1 and each subsequent 4-week cycle of entrectinib dosing, and the end of treatment. Adverse events and treatment-related symptoms were assessed in the safety analysis (SA)-PRO population. Tumour-related symptoms, functioning, and global health status were assessed in the efficacy analysis (EA)-PRO population. Data cut-offs: 31 October 2018 NTRK cohort; 01 May 2019 ROS1 cohort.

Results: SA-PRO populations comprised patients with NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours (N = 88) or ROS1 fusion-positive non-small-cell lung cancer (N = 180) who received one or more doses of entrectinib, completed PRO questionnaires on cycle 1 day 1 and answered one or more questions on-study. EA-PRO populations (N = 71) and (N = 145), respectively, comprised SA-PRO patients with measurable baseline disease. Moderate-to-high baseline global health status scores were maintained in EA-PRO populations during treatment. Role and physical functioning scores were moderate-to-high at baseline, with trends towards clinical improvement during treatment. Both cohorts reported low-to-moderate symptom burden at baseline, which was maintained or trended towards clinically meaningful improvement. Symptoms commonly associated with cancer treatment (e.g. nausea, fatigue) remained stable or improved during treatment. All SA-PRO patients experienced one or more adverse events, most frequently constipation or diarrhoea.

Conclusions: PRO findings were consistent with the favourable safety profile of entrectinib, and further reinforce the positive benefit—risk profile of this treatment, indicating minimal overall treatment burden.

Key words: entrectinib, NTRK, patient-reported outcomes, ROS1, tyrosine kinase inhibitor

*Correspondence to: Prof. Luis Paz-Ares, Medical Oncology Department, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Avenida de Córdoba SN, 28041 Madrid, Spain. Tel: +34-913-908-349 E-mail: lpazaresr@seom.org (L. Paz-Ares).

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INTRODUCTION

Neurotrophic receptor tyrosine kinase (NTRK) and ROS proto-oncogene 1 (ROS1) gene fusions are known oncogenic drivers across a range of tumour types,1 which result in constitutively active kinase activity.2,3 The European Society for Medical Oncology recommends NTRK testing in advanced solid cancers and ROS1 testing in advanced non-squamous non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC).4,5 Entrectinib is an orally available, potent inhibitor of tropomyosin receptor kinase A/B/C, ROS1, and anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK).6,7 In an integrated analysis of three clinical trials (ALKA-372-001 [EudraCT, 2012–000148–88], STARTRK-1 [NCT2097810], and STARTRK-2 [NCT02568267]), entrectinib demonstrated clinically meaningful efficacy for locally advanced/metastatic NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours [63.5% objective response rate (ORR), N = 74] and ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC [67.1% ORR, N = 161], with a manageable and favourable safety and tolerability profile.8,9

As a complement to traditional outcomes of efficacy and tolerability, patient-reported outcomes (PROs) regarding symptoms and their functional impact on daily activities and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) are gaining increasing recognition as important clinical trial endpoints.10,11 Appropriate consideration of PROs allows for a more comprehensive assessment of an agent’s benefit—risk profile by more fully integrating patients’ perspectives, and ensuring treatment benefit is not outweighed by unacceptable tolerability and reduced HRQoL.11 To provide information on the overall treatment burden associated with entrectinib, we investigated the impact of treatment on patient-reported symptoms, functioning, and HRQoL in the STARTRK-2 study.

PROs were assessed using the core European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) QoL instrument (QLQ-C30),12 which is a widely used HRQoL questionnaire that assesses global health status (GHS), important functioning domains, and common cancer-associated symptoms, as well as two additional supplements, which were EORTC QLQ-LC13 (lung cancer module)13 and EORTC QLQ-CR29 [colorectal cancer (CRC) module].14 The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement has selected EORTC QLQ-C30, QLQ-CR29, and QLQ-LC13 as standard tools for assessing PROs as outcome indicators for patients with cancer, CRC, and lung cancer, respectively.15

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients and study design

The design of STARTRK-2, an open-label phase II basket study, has been reported previously,8,9 and is outlined in more detail in the Supplementary Appendix, available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2021.100113. Briefly, this study included patients with locally advanced/metastatic solid tumours harbouring an NTRK1/2/3, ROS1, or ALK gene fusion who received oral entrectinib 600 mg once daily in 4-week cycles. Patients with ALK fusion-positive solid tumours were enrolled; however, this arm was discontinued and therefore these data are not included in this analysis.

Safety assessments

Safety was assessed by physical examination, laboratory tests, monitoring of adverse events (AEs), and clinic visits. AEs were coded using the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities (version 14.0 or higher for individual studies; version 21.0 for the integrated safety analysis) and graded using the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (version 4.03).

PRO assessments

PROs were prespecified secondary endpoints, evaluated in all enrolled patients who completed questionnaires on electronic devices before entrectinib dosing on day 1 of every 4-week cycle starting at cycle 1, and at the end of treatment. These included the EuroQol Group 5-Dimension 3-Level version (EQ-5D-3L) (assesses health resource utilisation; results not included in this publication) and QLQ-C30, which includes 30 questions and comprises five functional scales, three symptom scales, a GHS/QoL scale, and six single items. The QLQ-LC13 module includes 13 questions assessing lung cancer-specific symptoms, while the QLQ-CR29 module includes 29 questions assessing CRC-specific symptoms (Supplementary Table S1, available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2021.100113).

Statistical analysis

The safety analysis (SA) population included all enrolled patients who received one or more doses of entrectinib. The efficacy analysis (EA) population comprised all patients with measurable baseline disease (by investigator) who received one or more doses of entrectinib. The PRO populations comprised all patients in the EA (EA-PRO population) or the SA (SA-PRO population) populations who completed QLQ-C30 on cycle 1 day 1 and answered one or more questions on an on-study time point thereafter. For NSCLC or CRC baskets, the PRO populations included patients who also completed QLQ-LC13 or QLQ-CR29, respectively, on cycle 1 day 1 and answered one or more questions on an on-study time point thereafter, in addition to QLQ-C30. Analyses of QLQ-C30, QLQ-LC13, and QLQ-CR29 scores were conducted in the EA-PRO population to assess common tumour-related symptoms, functioning, and GHS/QoL. Analyses of QLQ-C30 treatment-related symptoms were conducted in the SA-PRO population. The threshold for data evaluation was ≥25% of the SA-PRO or EA-PRO populations remaining enrolled and participating in the PRO questionnaires, in order to optimise the generalisability of the results. PRO data were summarised with descriptive statistics. Select symptom scales (or single items if there is only one item for that scale) were prespecified for analysis based on
their relevance to entrectinib treatment and tumour types evaluated.

PROs were scored according to the developers’ scoring manual. All scales and single-item measures were linearly transformed to a score range of 0-100. High scores on functional/GHS scales represent a high level of functioning and high HRQoL, respectively. Conversely, high symptom scores represent greater symptomatology severity. PRO scores are also presented here in comparison to EORTC reference data from the general adult population and patients with NSCLC, as appropriate, to define low, moderate, or high categorisation of scores. For multi-item subscales, if ≤50% of items were missing at a time point, the multi-item score was calculated on the basis of non-missing items. If >50% of items were missing/a single-item measure was missing, the subscale was considered missing. Interpreting scores was based on the subjective significance questionnaire developed by Osoba et al. which assessed patients’ perceptions of changes. Patients who reported ‘a little’ change for better or worse on a particular scale had QLQ-C30 changes ~5-10. Those reporting ‘moderate’ change had changes ~10-20, and ‘very much’ corresponded to a change >20. A ≥10-point change in a score was therefore the threshold for clinical meaningfulness.

Ethical approval and consent to participate

The trial was conducted in accordance with Good Clinical Practice guidelines and the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki. All patients provided written informed consent. An independent data and safety monitoring committee reviewed safety data regularly. Protocol approval was obtained from an independent ethics committee at each site.

RESULTS

Patients

Enrolment and data cut-offs were 30 April 2018 and 31 October 2018, respectively, for the NTRK fusion-positive cohort and 31 October 2018 and 01 May 2019, respectively, for the ROS1 fusion-positive cohort (STARTRK-2 enrolment ongoing at time of reporting). The SA-PRO population (N = 268) comprised 88 patients with locally advanced/metastatic NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours and 180 patients with locally advanced/metastatic ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC. The EA-PRO population (N = 216) comprised 71 patients with locally advanced/metastatic NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours and 145 patients with locally advanced/metastatic ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC (Supplementary Figure S1, available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2021.100113). Baseline patient characteristics are summarised in Supplementary Tables S2 and S3, available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2021.100113. A threshold of ≥25% of enrolled patients responding to the questionnaire determined the number of cycles included in subsequent analyses. Questionnaire completion rates, which represent patients providing data amongst those expected to complete the questionnaire at each time point (patients who had progressed were removed from the denominator), were high at baseline for the ROS1 SA-PRO and EA-PRO populations (97.8%-97.9%), and remained high until the latest cycle included in analyses (cycle 18: 90.2%-90.7%). For the NTRK SA-PRO and EA-PRO populations, baseline completion rates were high (85.7%-100.0%) and decreased slightly by the latest cycle included in analyses (cycle 12/13: 68.8%-80.0%).

Using normative scores of the EORTC from the general adult population as a reference, patients in the NTRK and ROS1 EA-PRO populations (N = 88, N = 145, respectively) reported moderate-to-high QLQ-C30 GHS/QoL and functioning at baseline, with slightly higher scores for the NTRK EA-PRO population (baseline scores: GHS/QoL 68.6; physical functioning 74.8; role functioning 66.9; cognitive functioning 83.9) versus the ROS1 EA-PRO population (baseline scores: GHS/QoL 56.0; physical functioning 71.5; role functioning 62.4; cognitive functioning 82.8) (Table 1). Baseline treatment-related symptom scores (QLQ-C30) and tumour-related symptom scores (QLQ-LC13) were lower or comparable with normed scores for patients with NSCLC.

PROs in patients with NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours

Median treatment duration in the NTRK EA population (N = 71) was 8.5 months. According to the QLQ-C30, the EA-PRO population maintained a high baseline GHS/QoL [68.6; mean change from baseline range: +5.3 to −4.4 (Table 1; Figure 1A)] as well as a high baseline physical functioning score [74.8; mean change from baseline: +7.7 to −0.4] during treatment (Table 1, Figure 2A). Notably, while there was a moderate baseline role functioning score [66.9], this reached a clinically meaningful improvement by cycle 10 day 1, which was maintained until cycle 13 day 1 [mean change from baseline: +12.3 (Table 1, Figure 2A)]. Cognitive functioning was maintained at or just below the high baseline level of 83.9 [mean change from baseline: +0.8 to −7.6 (Table 1, Figure 2A)].

The NTRK NSCLC EA-PRO population (n = 12) had a median treatment duration of 7.9 months. Based on the QLQ-LC13, a moderate-to-low baseline tumour-related symptom burden was unchanged or improved throughout treatment (Table 1). There was a low mean baseline score for chest pain (5.6) that remained stable (one exception at cycle 6 day 1: +16.7 mean change from baseline), while dyspnoea remained stable throughout, from a low baseline score (7.7) to just below the high baseline score (12.3). Cough had a moderate baseline score (26.9) and remained stable throughout. The NTRK CRC EA-PRO population (n = 6), had median treatment duration of 4.2 months. Based on the QLQ-CR29, CRC-associated symptom severity (n = 7, including one patient with neuroendocrine colon cancer) generally remained unchanged or improved over time, in particular bloating,
Table 1. Mean baseline scores and mean change from baseline in global health status, functioning (based on QLQ-C30), and tumour-related symptom severity (based on QLQ-LC13 and QLQ-CR29), in the NTRK EA-PRO population \( (N = 71) \) and ROS1 EA-PRO population \( (N = 145) \), and treatment-related symptom severity (based on QLQ-C30) in the NTRK SA-PRO population \( (N = 88) \) and ROS1 SA-PRO population \( (N = 180) \).

| QLQ-C30 functioning scales | NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours (\( N = 71 \)) | ROSI fusion-positive NSCLC (\( N = 145 \)) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                           | NTRK EA-PRO population                          | ROSI EA-PRO population                   |
|                           | BL score (\( n = 65 \)) | Change from BL, C13* (\( n = 19 \)) | Change from BL, C12 (\( C2\sim13 \)) | Change from BL, C18* (\( n = 37 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim18 \)) |
| GHS/QoL                   | 68.6 | +5.3 | +5.3 to –4.4 | 56.0 | +4.1 | +11.3 to +3.8 |
| Physical functioning      | 74.8 | +6.3 | +7.7 to –0.4 | 71.5 | +5.7 | +8.8 to +1.6 |
| Role functioning          | 66.9 | +12.3 | +16.0 to –0.6 | 62.4 | +3.6 | +10.3 to 0.0 |
| Cognitive functioning     | 83.9 | 0.00 | +0.8 to –7.6 | 82.8 | –7.7 | –3.8 to –10.8 |

| QLQ-LC13 tumour-related symptom scales | NTRK NSCLC EA-PRO population (\( N = 12 \)) | ROSI NSCLC EA-PRO population (\( N = 145 \)) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                      | BL score (\( n = 12 \)) | Change from BL, C13* (\( n = 3 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim13 \)) | BL score (\( n = 140 \)) | Change from BL, C18* (\( n = 36 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim18 \)) |
| Coughing                             | 38.9 | –11.1 | 0.0 to –16.7 | 38.6 | –24.1 | –13.6 to –24.1 |
| Chest pain                           | 5.6  | 0.0   | +16.7 to –8.3 | 18.6 | –3.7  | –2.2 to –12.5 |
| Dyspnoea                             | 26.9 | –7.4  | +9.3 to –7.4  | 32.3 | –6.2  | –3.6 to –10.3 |
| Arm/shoulder pain                    | 27.8 | –22.2 | –5.6 to –25.9 | 18.6 | –5.6  | –2.3 to –11.6 |
| Pain in other parts                  | 33.3 | +11.1 | +16.7 to –18.5 | 24.9* | –1.9* | +2.2 to –9.2 |
| Peripheral neuropathy                | 13.9 | 0.0   | +22.2 to 0.0  | 14.1 | 0.0   | +8.7 to 0.0  |
| Dysphagia                            | 2.8  | 0.0   | +12.1 to 0.0  | 7.1  | +5.6  | +10.8 to +5.0 |

| QLQ-CR29 tumour-related symptom scales | NTRK CRC EA-PRO population (\( N = 7 \)) | ROSI stimulated CRC EA-PRO population (\( N = 145 \)) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                      | BL score (\( n = 6 \)) | Change from BL, C6* (\( n = 2 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim6 \)) | BL score (\( n = 140 \)) | Change from BL, C18* (\( n = 49 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim18 \)) |
| Abdominal pain                       | 27.8 | +16.7 | +16.7 to –8.3 | 39.0 | –11.8 | –3.1 to –11.8 |
| Bloating                             | 33.3 | +50.0 | +50.0 to –16.7 | 13.9 | 0.0   | +12.5 to –4.2 |
| Stool frequency                      | 13.9 | 0.0   | –11.6 to –5.4  | 13.9 | 0.0   | –11.6 to –5.4  |

| QLQ-C30 treatment-related symptom scales | NTRK SA-PRO population (\( N = 88 \)) | ROSI SA-PRO population (\( N = 180 \)) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                      | BL score (\( n = 82 \)) | Change from BL, C12* (\( n = 22 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim12 \)) | BL score (\( n = 176 \)) | Change from BL, C18* (\( n = 49 \)) | Change from BL, range (\( C2\sim18 \)) |
| Fatigue                              | 37.8 | –13.6 | +0.2 to –13.6 | 39.0 | –11.8 | –3.1 to –11.8 |
| Nausea/vomiting                      | 6.9  | –1.5  | +2.6 to –3.8  | 10.8 | –6.8  | –3.2 to –7.5  |
| Insomnia                             | 28.1 | –9.1  | –4.8 to –14.1 | 32.0 | –15.0 | –11.8 to –20.4 |
| Appetite loss                        | 21.1 | –18.2 | –10.0 to –18.2 | 28.0 | –15.7 | –14.3 to –22.2 |
| Constipation                         | 16.3 | –6.1  | +16.7 to –6.1 | 16.7 | +3.6  | +22.2 to –8.3 |
| Diarrhoea                            | 8.9  | +13.6 | +13.6 to –3.2 | 7.4  | +10.2 | +13.4 to –6.1 |

All scores are mean or mean change from baseline. Scores range from 0 to 100. For functioning and GHS/QoL, higher score = better HRQoL and function (improvement). For a treatment-related or tumour-related symptom scale/item, however, lower score = lower symptom severity (improvement). A ≥10-point change in score is the threshold for clinical meaningfulness.

BL: baseline; C2: cycle 2 day 1; C6: cycle 6 day 1; C13: cycle 13 day 1; C18: cycle 18 day 1; CRC: colorectal cancer; EA: efficacy analysis; GHS: global health status; NSCLC: non-small-cell lung cancer; NTRK: NTRK proto-oncogene tyrosine kinase; PRO: patient-reported outcomes; QoL: quality of life; ROS1: ROS proto-oncogene 1; SA, safety analysis.*

* n = 139.

** n = 35.

blood/mucus in stool, buttock pain, dyspareunia, dysuria, faecal incontinence, and flatulence (data not shown).

Patients in the NTRK SA-PRO population \( (N = 88) \) reported rapid and durable clinically meaningful improvements in some QLQ-C30 treatment-related symptom scores, where improvements exceeded the clinically meaningful threshold at cycle 12 day 1 for both fatigue and appetite loss. With the exception of diarrhoea, other key treatment-related symptoms, including nausea, insomnia, and constipation, remained stable (Table 1). Based on QLQ-C30 and QLQ-LC13, in the NTRK SA-PRO population \( (N = 88) \) the high proportion of patients reporting treatment-related symptoms ‘not at all’ in the past week remained stable or increased for most symptoms, with no reports of ‘very much’ for any symptom at cycle 12 day 1. The exception was a trend towards decreased reports in the ‘not at all’ category and increased reports in the ‘a little’ category for diarrhoea, constipation, and peripheral neuropathy (Supplementary Table S4, available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2021.100113).

**PROs in patients with ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC**

Patients in the ROS1 EA population \( (N = 145) \) had a median treatment duration of 10.4 months. Based on the QLQ-C30, the EA-PRO population maintained or improved both the moderate baseline GHS/QoL score \( 56.0 \); mean change from baseline range: +11.3 to +3.8 (Table 1, Figure 1B) and moderate baseline role functioning score \( 62.4 \); mean change from baseline range: +10.3 to 0.0). A high physical
functioning baseline score (71.5) was maintained at most study visits, with a trend towards clinical improvement (Table 1, Figure 2B). A high baseline cognitive functioning score of 82.8 also remained stable throughout, with the exception of cycle 14 [worst mean change score from baseline: $-10.8$ at cycle 14 day 1 (Table 1, Figure 2B)].

According to the QLQ-LC13, the ROS1 EA-PRO population ($N = 145$) reported a low-to-moderate tumour-related symptom burden which remained stable or improved throughout. Coughing had a moderate baseline score (38.6), with an immediate clinically meaningful marked improvement (mean change in score from baseline: $-13.6$ at cycle 2 day 1), sustained throughout [mean change from baseline: $-24.1$ at cycle 18 day 1 (Table 1, Figure 3B)]. A low baseline chest pain score (18.6) improved or remained stable throughout treatment, including an early clinically meaningful improvement [mean change from baseline: $-12.5$ at cycle 3 day 1, sustained until cycle 6 day 1: $-10.6$ (Table 1, Figure 3B)]. Dyspnoea had a moderate baseline score, with a consistent trend towards improvement during treatment, while peripheral neuropathy and dysphagia had low baseline scores, which remained stable with a trend towards worsening in severity (Table 1).

Based on the QLQ-C30, the ROS1 SA-PRO population ($N = 180$) in general reported a stable or improved low-to-moderate treatment-related symptom burden (Table 1). Fatigue had a moderate baseline score of 39.0, which remained stable with a trend towards improvement. Appetite loss (baseline: 28.0) and insomnia (baseline: 32.0) had immediate marked clinically meaningful improvements (mean changes from baseline: $-14.3$ and $-11.8$, respectively, at cycle 2 day 1), which were maintained at cycle 18 day 1 (mean changes from baseline: $-15.7$ and $-15.0$, respectively). A low baseline nausea symptom score was maintained during treatment. Constipation (baseline score: 16.7) demonstrated a sustained clinically meaningful worsening over time, while the low baseline diarrhoea score (7.4) remained stable until cycle 9 day 1 before clinically...
Figure 2. Mean change from baseline in cognitive, physical, and role functioning scores based on QLQ-C30 in the EA-PRO population with (A) NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours (N = 71) and (B) ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC (N = 145).

Scores range from 0 to 100. A high score for functional scales represents a high/healthy level of functioning. A ≥10-point change in score is the threshold for clinical meaningfulness. Only visits with three or more patients are included.

C, cycle; D, day; EA, efficacy analysis; NSCLC, non-small-cell lung cancer; NTRK, neurotrophic receptor tyrosine kinase; PRO, patient-reported outcomes; ROS1, ROS proto-oncogene 1.
meaningful symptom worsening until cycle 18 day 1 (Table 1). Based on QLQ-C30 and QLQ-LC13, in the ROS1 SA-PRO population (N = 180 and N = 145, respectively), the high proportion of patients at baseline reporting treatment-related symptoms ‘not at all’ in the past week generally remained stable, or increased by cycle 18 day 1 (including appetite loss, nausea, vomiting, trouble sleeping, tingling hands and feet, sore mouth). Reports remained stable or decreased for ‘quite a bit’, and ‘very much’ at cycle 18 day 1 for these symptoms. The exceptions were constipation, diarrhoea, and hair loss, which had decreased reports of ‘not at all’ by cycle 18 day 1 (Supplementary Table S4, available at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2021.100113).

**Safety**

All patients in the SA-PRO populations experienced at least one AE; the most frequently reported AEs (any grade) associated with QoL impairment were constipation (45.5% of the NTRK SA-PRO population and 52.2% of the ROS1 SA-PRO population), diarrhoea (38.6% and 40.0%, respectively), nausea (25.0% and 31.1%, respectively), and dyspnoea (25.0% and 31.7%, respectively). Treatment-related AEs leading to discontinuations occurred in 4.5% of the NTRK SA-PRO population and 5.6% of the ROS1 SA-PRO population. There were generally no notable differences in the AE profile between the NTRK and ROS1 SA-PRO populations (Table 2).

**DISCUSSION**

Here we present PRO data from STARTRK-2, which provide additional evidence to support the association of entrectinib with clinically meaningful benefit in patients with NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours or ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC. Supplementary STARTRK-2 safety data demonstrate entrectinib...
has a manageable and relatively favourable safety profile. Overall, these PRO data support cumulative safety data, and are consistent with the overall entrectinib benefit—risk assessment. Importantly, patient-reported functioning and HRQoL remained stable or showed a trend towards improvement while on treatment. Patients with ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC reported moderate-to-low treatment-related and tumour-related symptom burdens throughout, which remained stable or showed a trend towards improvement in most categories, with clinically meaningful improvements in lung-related symptom severity, in particular coughing, as well as some treatment-related symptoms such as appetite loss and trouble sleeping. There were only a few exceptions where there was a trend towards worsening (peripheral neuropathy and dysphagia) or sustained clinically meaningful worsening (constipation and diarrhoea). Patients with NTRK fusion-positive NSCLC or CRC reported moderate-to-low treatment- and tumour-related symptom burdens throughout, with either stable or clinically meaningful improvements in key symptoms. High questionnaire response rates indicate that the data are representative of the overall trial population.

For this analysis, PRO symptoms for evaluation were chosen based on the safety/efficacy profile of entrectinib, which indicated that insomnia, appetite loss, nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea, peripheral neuropathy, and sore mouth were potentially bothersome. In both SA-PRO populations, reports indicate no notable increase in the severity of these symptoms during treatment. Results of this analysis therefore demonstrate that these symptoms had minimal impact on patients’ daily lives and HRQoL, providing further support for the safety and tolerability of entrectinib.

Similar to QLQ-C30 and QLQ-C13 findings for a phase II study of alectinib in patients with ALK fusion-positive advanced NSCLC, entrectinib was associated with a trend towards improvement in a number of lung cancer-related symptoms, such as cough, dyspnoea, and chest pain, a sustained high HRQoL, and PRO data were consistent with previously reported safety data. The alectinib study shows that a different tyrosine kinase inhibitor in a similar patient population also demonstrates the capacity to improve GHS/QoL and functioning, as well as alleviate the tumour-related symptom burden, while contributing a minimal treatment-related symptom burden. The value of assessing PROs to generate a more informed benefit—risk profile has also been demonstrated for other targeted therapies. Crizotinib and lorlatinib study PRO assessments demonstrated maintained or improved GHS, global QoL, physical functioning and symptoms, e.g. fatigue, cough, pain, and dyspnoea, but some worsening of specific treatment-related symptoms.

Safety findings demonstrate low discontinuation rates due to treatment-related AEs. Rates of protocol-governed dose reduction were similar in the NTRK and ROS1 SA-PRO populations (31.8% and 30.0%, respectively). However, dose intensity was maintained throughout, with a median dose intensity of 91.4% (NTRK EA population; N = 71) and 92.9% (ROS1 EA population; N = 145), indicating that for the majority of patients, dose modifications were generally short term and did not result in a notable decrease in entrectinib treatment received throughout the study.

Strengths of this entrectinib PRO analysis include the use of multiple validated questionnaires and the high completion rates, as well as alignment with entrectinib’s clinical

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**Table 2. Summary of safety in the NTRK and ROS1 SA-PRO population**

| Patients, n (%) | NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours (N = 88) | ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC (N = 180) |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Median, months (range) | 14.7 (0.1–29.7) | 16.8 (0.1–37.8) |
| Patients with at least one AE | 88 (100.0) | 180 (100.0) |
| Grade ≥3 AE | 66 (75.0) | 120 (66.7) |
| Serious AE | 46 (52.3) | 75 (41.7) |
| TRAEs ≥ grade 3 | 35 (39.8) | 68 (37.8) |
| TRAEs leading to treatment discontinuation | 28 (31.8) | 54 (30.0) |
| TRAEs leading to dose reduction | 4 (4.5) | 10 (5.6) |
| Study status at data cut-off | | |
| Ongoing/discontinued | 49 (55.7) | 108 (60.0) |
| Discontinued due to death | 33 (39.6) | 50 (64.9) |
| Discontinued due to consent withdrawal | 5 (12.8) | 18 (25.0) |
| Discontinued due to loss to follow-up | 1 (2.6) | 2 (2.8) |
| Discontinued, other | | 2 (2.8) |
| AEs associated with QoL impairment (any grade) | | |
| Constipation | 40 (45.5) | 94 (52.2) |
| Diarrhoea | 34 (38.6) | 72 (40.0) |
| Dyspnoea | 22 (25.0) | 57 (31.7) |
| Nausea | 22 (25.0) | 56 (31.1) |
| Vomiting | 17 (19.3) | 41 (22.8) |
| Decreased appetite | 9 (10.2) | 23 (12.8) |
| Dyspnoea exertional | 2 (2.3) | 3 (1.7) |

AE, adverse event; NSCLC, non-small-cell lung cancer; NTRK, neurotrophic receptor tyrosine kinase; PRO, patient-reported outcomes; QoL, quality of life; SA, safety analysis; ROS1, ROS proto-oncogene 1; TRAE, treatment-related AE.

* Censored.
trial efficacy and safety profile. However, some caution may be needed when interpreting results due to the small sample sizes. The single-arm STARTTRK-2 trial design and lack of blinding could also potentially create bias in self-reporting, based on patients’ treatment expectations.

CONCLUSIONS

Entrectinib has a manageable and relatively favourable safety and tolerability profile, which was similar for patients with NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours or ROS1 fusion-positive NSCLC. PRO findings are consistent with this profile, and further reinforce the positive benefit—risk of this treatment. In conclusion, from the patient’s perspective, the overall treatment burden is minimal with entrectinib.

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DISCLOSURE

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DATA SHARING

Qualified researchers may request access to individual patient level data through the clinical study data request platform (https://vivli.org/). Further details on Roche’s criteria for eligible studies are available at https://vivli.org/members/ourmembers/. For further details on Roche’s Global Policy on the Sharing of Clinical Information and how to request access to related clinical study documents, see https://www.roche.com/research_and_development/who_we_are/how_we_work/clinical_trials/our_commitment_to_data_sharing.htm.

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