

Sintilimab Plus Chemotherapy for First-Line Treatment of Advanced or Metastatic Nonsquamous Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: A Systematic Literature Review and Network Meta-Analysis

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BACKGROUND

- For advanced or metastatic nonsquamous non-small-cell lung cancer (AMnsqNSCLC), immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) combinations are recommended as frontline standard-of-care treatment in patients with good performance status regardless of PD-L1 status¹
- Sintilimab is an emerging and viable selective anti-PD-1 antibody that inhibits interactions between PD-1 and its ligands, PD-L1/PD-L2²
- The phase 3 ORIENT-11 trial demonstrated superior efficacy and manageable safety with the addition of sintilimab to pemetrexed and platinum chemotherapy in AMnsqNSCLC in an Asian population³
- Sintilimab plus chemotherapy was submitted for regulatory approval in the US based on the ORIENT-11 study. However, the FDA was unable to approve the application in its current form, with FDA recommending an additional multiregional clinical trial comparing sintilimab against the standard of care for first line metastatic nonsquamous NSCLC
- The development of new ICIs continues to be an emerging topic
- In the absence of head-to-head evidence from trials comparing sintilimab to other recommended therapies, a network meta-analysis (NMA) may help support future ICI combination treatment decisions

OBJECTIVES

- This SLR and NMA compared the efficacy and safety of sintilimab+pemetrexed+platinum (SPP) vs FDA-approved and NCCN recommended immune checkpoint inhibitor-based regimens (ICIs) for 1L treatment of AMnsqNSCLC

METHODS

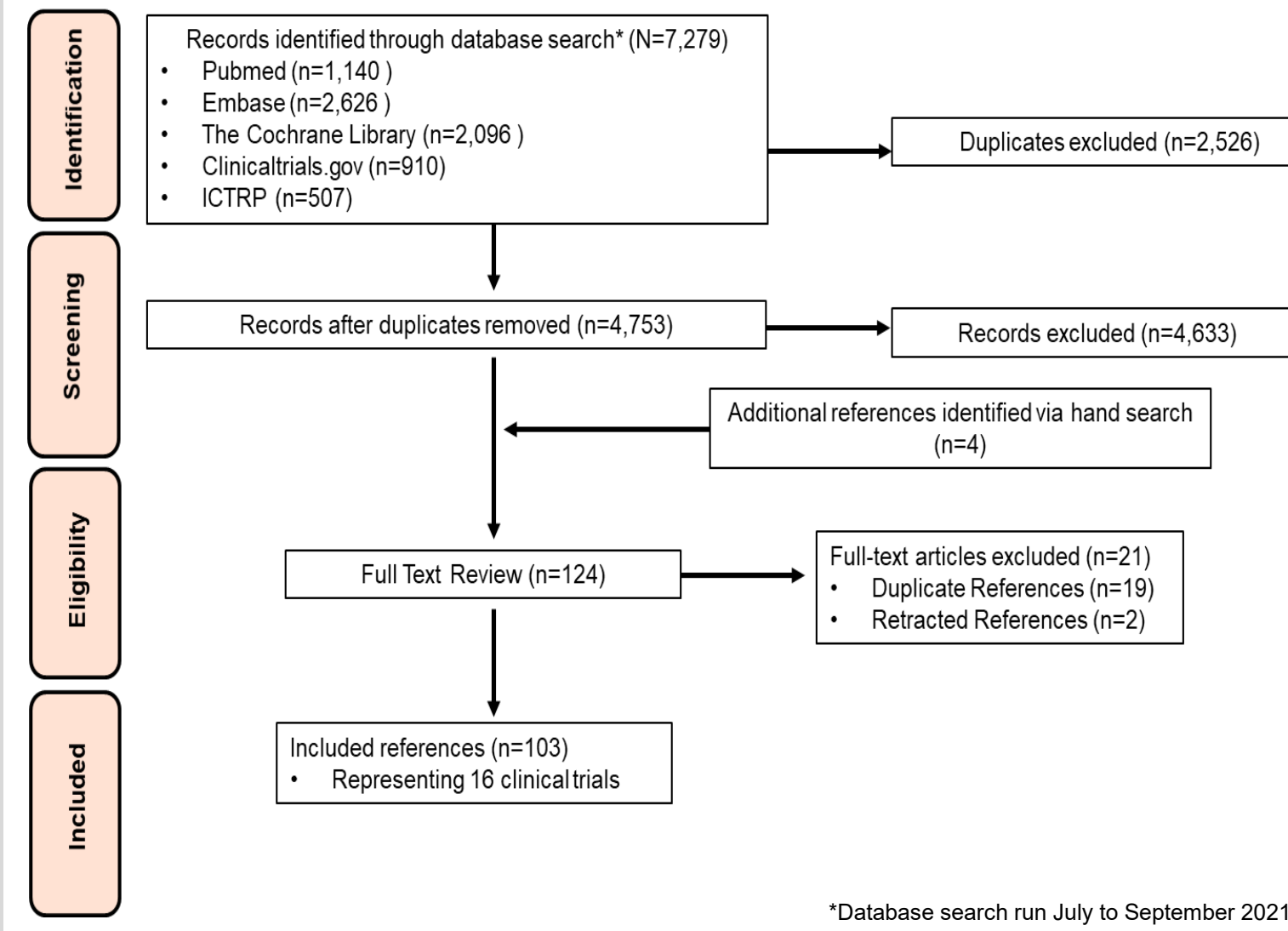
- Search strategy of PubMed, Embase CENTRAL, WHO ICTRP, and clinicaltrials.gov in accordance with PRISMA^{4,5} and NICE^{6,7} guidelines of relevant studies published between 1991 and September 2021
- NMA was conducted in accordance with the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)⁸ Taskforce and the NICE Decision Support Unit (DSU)^{6,7} guidelines were assessed for the analysis.
- Bayesian fixed and random effects NMA with independent or simultaneous baseline models were assessed for the analysis.
- Time-to-event data were digitized from available publications of eligible trials using WebPlotDigitizer to assess and test the proportional hazards assumption^{9,10}
- As proportional hazards assumption was met, the Woods method¹¹ was used for the NMA utilizing the reported hazard ratios and medians for OS and PFS
- A generalized linear NMA model with a logit link was used for high-grade AE (Grade ≥3) count data and objective response rate (ORR)
- Meta-Regression models were fitted for covariates (including Asian, former smoker, brain metastases, and year of study commencement)
- Sensitivity analysis excluded studies with >50% cross-over, studies with a mixed histology population (squamous and nonsquamous), studies with small sample sizes, or studies with unclear *EGFR* and *ALK* mutation status
- Convergence for all models were assessed using trace plots as modified by Brooks et al., 1998.¹² Model fit was assessed using the deviance information criterion (DIC), with lower DIC indicating better fit
- Bayesian NMA was performed in JAGS via R using the R2JAGS package¹³

PICOS

Category	PICOS Inclusion Criteria	PICOS Exclusion Criteria
Participants	• Patients with AMnsqNSCLC w/ prior systemic therapy for metastatic disease w/o actionable genetic mutations that would make them eligible for targeted therapy*	
Intervention - Treatment	• Sintilimab/[cisplatin OR carboplatin]/pemetrexed (SINT+PEM+PLAT) • Pembrolizumab/[cisplatin OR carboplatin]/pemetrexed (PEMBRO+PEM+PLAT) • Atezolizumab/carboplatin/paclitaxel/bevacizumab (ATEZO+BEV+PLAT+NAB/PAC) • Atezolizumab/carboplatin/nab-paclitaxel (ATEZO+PLAT+NAB/PAC) • Nivolumab/ipilimumab/[cisplatin OR carboplatin]/pemetrexed (NIVO+IPI+PEM+PLAT) • Nivolumab/ipilimumab (NIVO+IPI) • Pembrolizumab monotherapy • Atezolizumab monotherapy • Cemiplimab monotherapy • [Cisplatin OR Carboplatin]/pemetrexed	• Phase 1 RCTs; Case studies; Single group designs; Observational trials; Cohort studies; Case control studies; Cross sectional designs; Letters; Commentaries; Reviews
Intervention - Comparison	• Any intervention listed above compared to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">placebo/pemetrexed/[cisplatin OR carboplatin]bevacizumab/paclitaxel/[cisplatin OR carboplatin]Nab-paclitaxel/[cisplatin OR carboplatin] Any comparison between interventions listed above	
Outcomes*	• Efficacy (OS; PFS; ORR); Safety (Any AEs [grade ≥3]) • Phase 2, 2b/3, 3, or 4 randomized controlled trials	• Relevant outcomes unreported
Study Designs		
Timeframe	• 1991-present	• Publications prior to 1991
Language	• English	• Non-English

Additional outcomes were included in the NMA analysis and are not shown here. * For studies reporting a mixed squamous and non-squamous NSCLC population, data will be extracted for the overall population. If additional information specific to the non-squamous NSCLC portion of the population is available, that information will also be extracted.

PRISMA DIAGRAM



Study Baseline Characteristics

Study	Network Comparator Treatment	Randomized Patients	Median Age, in years	Female, N (%)	Asian, N (%)	PD-L1 positive (≥1%), N (%)	PD-L1 negative (<1%), N (%)	ECOG 0, N (%)	ECOG 1, N (%)	ECOG 2, N (%)
ORIENT-11 ¹²	SINT+PEM+PLAT	266	61	62 (23)	266 (100)	181 (68)	85 (32)	76 (29)	190 (71)	0 (0)
KEYNOTE-021 ¹²	PEMBRO+PEM+PLAT	131	61	32 (24)	131 (100)	87 (66)	44 (34)	34 (26)	97 (74)	0 (0)
KEYNOTE-189 ¹²	PEMBRO+PEM+PLAT	60	63	38 (63)	5 (8)	39 (65)	21 (35)	24 (40)	35 (58)	1 (2)
KEYNOTE-189 Japan extension study ⁶	PEMBRO+PEM+PLAT	63	66	37 (59)	5 (8)	40 (63)	23 (37)	29 (46)	34 (54)	0 (0)
IMpower150 ⁹	ATEZO+PLAT+NAB/PAC	410	65	156 (38)	NR	260 (63)	127 (31)	185 (45)	221 (54)	1 (0.2)
IMpower150 ⁹	ATEZO+BEV+PLAT+NAB/PAC	206	64	97 (47)	NR	128 (62)	63 (31)	80 (39)	125 (61)	0 (0)
CHECKMATE-9LA ¹⁰	PEMBRO+PEM+PLAT	25	64	6 (24)	25 (100)	10 (40)	14 (56)	15 (60)	10 (40)	0 (0)
CHECKMATE-22T ¹¹	PEMBRO+PEM+PLAT	15	66	3 (20)	15 (100)	6 (40)	6 (40)	9 (60)	6 (40)	0 (0)
PRONOUNCE ¹²	ATEZO+PLAT+NAB/PAC	451	64	185 (41)	12 (3)	216 (48)	235 (52)	189 (42)	261 (58)	0 (0)
ERACLE13 ¹²	ATEZO+BEV+PLAT+NAB/PAC	228	65	94 (41)	3 (1)	107 (47)	121 (53)	91 (40)	136 (60)	1 (0.4)
Kader et al. ¹⁴	ATEZO+BEV+PLAT+NAB/PAC	400	63	161 (40)	46 (12)	209 (52)	190 (48)	179 (45)	218 (55)	NR
BEV+PLAT+NAB/PAC		400	63	161 (40)	46 (12)	209 (52)	190 (48)	179 (45)	218 (55)	NR
NIVO+IPI+PEM+PLAT		400	63	161 (40)	46 (12)	209 (52)	190 (48)	179 (45)	218 (55)	NR
ATEZO+BEV+PLAT+NAB/PAC		400	63	161 (40)	46 (12)	209 (52)	190 (48)	179 (45)	218 (55)	NR
ATEZO+PLAT+NAB/PAC		400	63	161 (40)	46 (12)	209 (52)	190 (48)	179 (45)	218 (55)	NR
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