

Ono Pharmaceutical: Starts Phase II Trials for Nivolumab in Esophageal Cancer; Melanoma Approval Possible By September

Q3 results were in line with expectations. Ono has started Phase 2 trials in Japan for anticancer agent nivolumab for esophageal cancer of the squamous-cell epithelium (90% of esophageal cancers in Japan are of this type, according to Gan Joho). Development is being pushed in Japan as this type of cancer particularly affects Japanese people.

We understand that the review of nivolumab for the melanoma indication, for which an NDA was filed in Japan in December, is progressing and we note the possibility that, if things go smoothly, nivolumab will be reviewed by the subcommittee in July-August and approved in September.

We also await the Phase 2 trial (Checkmate 063) results for nivolumab as a third-line treatment for non-small cell lung cancer, the top-line data for which is due to be released by March.

Source: Citigroup/Yamaguchi, February 4, 2014

Oncology Indication: Multiple

Keyword: Clinical Trials/Pipeline