

E1697 – A Phase III Randomized Study of Four Weeks High Dose IFN – 2b in Stage T₃ – T₄ or N₁ (microscopic) Melanoma.

Primary Objective: To compare the effect of treatment with 4 weeks of high dose IFN-2b on the relapse free survival of patients with resected melanoma in the following categories: (1) T₃N₀ (1.5 – 4 mm), (2) T₄N₀ (> 4 mm), (3) T₁₋₄N₁ (microscopic), one lymph node positive).

Eligibility Criteria:

- Pts. with melanoma of a cutaneous origin, (no ocular, mucosal origins or any other non-cutaneous melanoma).
- Must be initial presentation of primary melanoma & s/p wide excision (see section 3.0 NOTE 3).
- **Must be one of the following: 1) T3N0M0 – Breslow depth 1.5-4 mm, clinically neg. regional lymph nodes, path status unknown, 2) T3N0M0-Breslow depth 1.5-4 mm & histologically neg. regional nodes, 3) T4N0M0-Breslow depth > 4 mm, 4) T1-4N1 primary mel., 1 l.n. pos. microscopically. (Note: Only Breslow thickness – not Clark level- will determine eligibility).**
- Must complete all primary therapy (wide excision with or without lymphadenectomy) and randomized w/in 84 days of the wide exc.
- Must have CXR or CT, (CT/MRI of brain if clinically indicated) between biopsy and rand.
- ECOG PS of 0 or 1. Age ≥ 18 yrs.
- WBC ≥ 3000/mm³, Plt ≥ 12500/mm³, HCT ≥ 30%, AST, LDH*, ALK-P*, & Bili ≤ 2 x IUL, & Serum Creatinine ≤ 1.8 mg/dl or BUN ≤ 33 mg/dl. (*see section 3.15)

Ineligibility Criteria:

- Other current malignancies (see section 3.4 for eligibility of malignancies).
- Evidence of incomplete resected melanoma or distant met. Dz.
- Prior chemo, RT, immunotherapy, corticosteroid therapy.
- H/o active heart disease, CHF, or CVA.
- Pregnant or nursing women.
- Autoimmune disorders or conditions needing corticosteroid therapy.
- **Clinically palpable lymphadenectomy.**
- Other medical/surgical/psychiatric/autoimmune condition, (+) HIV/hepatitis or any treatment interfering with the safety or completion of trial.

TREATMENT SCHEMA:

STRATIFICATION (See Sec.4.7)

Pathologic Lymph Node Status

Known vs. Unknown

Lymph Nodes Staging Procedures

Sentinel Lymph Node Procedure
Elective Lymph Node Procedure
No lymphadenectomy

Breslow Depth

1.5-3 mm vs. 3.1-4 mm vs. >4 mm

Ulceration of Primary Lesion

Yes vs. No

Disease Stage

Lymph Node Positive (N)
Lymph Node Negative (N₀)

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→ **Arm A:**
Observation Arm

→ **Arm B:**
4 wk High-dose IFN Alfa-2b
(Intron A)

20 MU/m²/d qd IV* for 5
consecutive days out of 7 (M-F)
every week x 4 wks.