



Targeted Therapy and Avelumab in Merkel Cell Carcinoma

The GoTHAM Trial

A phase Ib/II study of combination Avelumab with peptide receptor radionuclide therapy or conventional fractionated radiotherapy in patients with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma.

Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) is a rare but aggressive neuroendocrine malignancy and affects approximately 300 Australians yearly. Although treatment is often successful for patients with early-stage MCC diagnosis, the cancer is often associated with a high risk of returning (recurrence) and can very quickly spread to other sites of the body (metastasis). Australia reports the highest incidence of MCC in the world, although it is still considered a rare disease compared to other skin cancers such as melanoma.

MCC tumours are known to be very radiosensitive and radiotherapy is often used for the management of the disease. Although new immunotherapy drugs, such as Avelumab show great promise for the management of metastatic MCC, many patients do not respond to this single treatment approach. There is emerging data supporting the role of radiation in improving the anti-tumour efficacy of immunotherapy when given together.

The GoTHAM trial enrolls patients with MCC that has spread to other parts of the body (metastatic MCC), and will test the effectiveness of the immunotherapy drug, Avelumab, when combined with either: 1) conventional radiotherapy or 2) peptide receptor radionuclide therapy.

The GoTHAM trial is currently recruiting at six sites in Australia:

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (VIC)

Princess Alexandra Hospital (QLD)

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (QLD)

Royal North Shore Hospital (NSW)

Royal Adelaide Hospital (SA)

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (WA)

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