

Efficacy and safety of avapritinib in advanced systemic mastocytosis: 4-year follow-up of the PATHFINDER study

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Abstract:

Advanced systemic mastocytosis (AdvSM), a clonal hematologic neoplasm driven predominantly by D816V-mutant KIT, is often characterized by organ damage. Associated hematologic neoplasms (AHN; usually myeloid) are often present, leading to poor survival. We report on the oral, highly selective, potent KIT D816V inhibitor avapritinib (200-mg once-daily starting dose) with >4 years follow-up from the fully enrolled PATHFINDER (NCT03580655) study. Endpoints included overall response rate (ORR; primary), duration of response (DOR), progression-free survival (PFS), overall survival (OS), changes in objective biomarkers of disease, and safety (all secondary). Of 107 patients with AdvSM (including 71 [66%] with SM-AHN; overall population median follow-up: 49 months), 83 were response evaluable. ORR was 73% (95% confidence interval [95% CI], 63%-83%). Median DOR was 58 months, PFS 51 months, and OS 62 months. Disease progression occurred in 21/107 patients, predominantly in SM-AHN and largely driven by the AHN. Reductions in objective biomarkers of disease were observed. Most frequent ($\geq 30\%$ patients) treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) (any grade; grade ≥ 3) were thrombocytopenia (58%; 31%); periorbital edema (57%; 6%), anemia (54%; 33%), peripheral edema (48%; 2%), and diarrhea (36%; 5%). Adverse events of special interest were cognitive effects (34%; 8%) and intracranial bleeds (4%, 2%). Eleven (10%) patients experienced TEAEs leading to death, of which 1 was deemed related to avapritinib by the principal investigator. With 4-year follow-up, avapritinib-treated patients with AdvSM experienced deep and durable responses and a favorable benefit-risk profile.

Conflict of interest: COI declared - see note

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1 **Efficacy and safety of avapritinib in advanced systemic**

2 **mastocytosis: 4-year follow-up of the PATHFINDER study**

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64 **Running header: 4-year follow-up of AdvSM patients on avapritinib**

65 **Key points:** 1 to 2 key point summaries (140 characters each)

- 66
- 67 • Avapritinib elicited a high rate of deep and durable responses (73% ORR;
68 30% CR/CRh). Median OS was 62 months after 4 years follow-up
 - 69 • Disease progression rates were low during avapritinib treatment (20%) and
70 manifested mostly as progression of the AHN

71 **Explanation of novelty:** (500 characters)

72 This manuscript provides the first report of the efficacy, overall survival, and safety of
73 avapritinib, a selective inhibitor of *KIT* D816V, in AdvSM from the fully enrolled
74 pivotal PATHFINDER study after median follow-up of 4 years. In addition, this
75 manuscript provides insights into predictors of response and survival.

76 **Data sharing**

77 The anonymized derived data from this study that underlie the results reported in this
78 article will be made available, beginning 12 months and ending 5 years after this
79 article's publication, to any investigators who sign a data access agreement and
80 provide a methodologically sound proposal to medinfo@blueprintmedicines.com.

81 The study protocol will also be made available, as will a data fields dictionary.

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93 **Abstract**

94 Advanced systemic mastocytosis (AdvSM), a clonal hematologic neoplasm driven
95 predominantly by D816V-mutant *KIT*, is often characterized by organ damage.
96 Associated hematologic neoplasms (AHN; usually myeloid) are often present,
97 leading to poor survival. We report on the oral, highly selective, potent *KIT* D816V
98 inhibitor avapritinib (200-mg once-daily starting dose) with >4 years follow-up from
99 the fully enrolled PATHFINDER (NCT03580655) study. Endpoints included overall
100 response rate (ORR; primary), duration of response (DOR), progression-free survival
101 (PFS), overall survival (OS), changes in objective biomarkers of disease, and safety
102 (all secondary). Of 107 patients with AdvSM (including 71 [66%] with SM-AHN;
103 overall population median follow-up: 49 months), 83 were response evaluable. ORR
104 was 73% (95% confidence interval [95% CI], 63%-83%). Median DOR was 58
105 months, PFS 51 months, and OS 62 months. Disease progression occurred in
106 21/107 patients, predominantly in SM-AHN and largely driven by the AHN.
107 Reductions in objective biomarkers of disease were observed. Most frequent ($\geq 30\%$
108 patients) treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) (any grade; grade ≥ 3) were
109 thrombocytopenia (58%; 31%); periorbital edema (57%; 6%), anemia (54%; 33%),
110 peripheral edema (48%; 2%), and diarrhea (36%; 5%). Adverse events of special
111 interest were cognitive effects (34%; 8%) and intracranial bleeds (4%, 2%). Eleven
112 (10%) patients experienced TEAEs leading to death, of which 1 was deemed related
113 to avapritinib by the principal investigator. With 4-year follow-up, avapritinib-treated
114 patients with AdvSM experienced deep and durable responses and a favorable
115 benefit-risk profile.

116

117 **Word count:233/250**

118 **Key words:** Systemic mastocytosis; tyrosine kinase inhibitor; *KIT* D816V; avapritinib

119 Introduction

120 Systemic mastocytosis (SM), including advanced SM (AdvSM), is a rare clonal
121 hematologic neoplasm driven by the *KIT* D816V mutation in ~95% of cases.¹⁻⁴ The
122 prevalence of SM has been estimated at up to 1 in 5,000 people.⁵⁻⁸ AdvSM is
123 characterized by the accumulation and infiltration of neoplastic *KIT* D816V-mutant
124 mast cells and potentially by non-mast cell lineages, which may result in organ
125 damage, historically referred to as C-findings. For example, World Health
126 Organization-defined C-findings include: cytopenias, liver function abnormalities
127 (e.g., elevated alkaline phosphatase) with or without portal hypertension and ascites,
128 palpable splenomegaly with hypersplenism malabsorption which may be associated
129 with hypoalbuminemia and weight loss), and large (≥ 2 cm) lytic bone lesions with or
130 without pathologic fractures and/or bone pain. Together with organ damage, mast cell
131 mediator symptoms and cutaneous mast cell lesions (when present) often lead to
132 diminished quality of life and poor survival^{1,9-12}; indeed, median overall survival in
133 AdvSM with midostaurin, an approved therapy, has been reported as less than 2.5
134 years.¹³

135 There are 3 recognized subtypes of advanced systemic mastocytosis (AdvSM):
136 aggressive SM (ASM), SM with an associated hematologic neoplasm (SM-AHN),
137 and mast cell leukemia (MCL).¹⁴⁻¹⁶ SM-AHN is the most prevalent and accounts for
138 up to 70% of AdvSM diagnoses.^{12,17} Cells derived from the AHN may also infiltrate
139 various organs, making it a challenge to know the degree to which organ damage is
140 related to the SM or AHN (or both). The most frequently reported AHN subtypes
141 include chronic myelomonocytic leukemia and myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative
142 neoplasms unclassifiable; however, myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloproliferative

143 neoplasms, chronic eosinophilic leukemia, and acute myeloid leukemia (AML) have
144 also been reported.¹⁸

145 In AdvSM, gene mutations associated with myeloid malignancies are often observed
146 alongside the *KIT* D816V mutation, resulting in a complex genetic landscape. Of
147 these, *SRSF2*, *ASXL1*, and *RUNX1* (S/A/R) are high-risk mutations that have been
148 shown to adversely affect survival.¹⁹⁻²² The Mutation-Adjusted Risk Score (MARS) is
149 a validated prognostic score that combines this mutational profile with clinical
150 characteristics to estimate risk and improve treatment stratification.²³

151 Avapritinib is a highly potent and selective *KIT* D816V inhibitor approved by the
152 United States (US) Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of adults with
153 AdvSM regardless of prior therapy and by the European Medicines Agency as
154 monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with ASM, SM-AHN, or MCL, after 1
155 or more prior systemic therapies. Avapritinib approval in AdvSM was based on the
156 phase 1 open-label, single-arm dose escalation EXPLORER (NCT02561988) study
157 and an interim analysis of 62 enrolled patients in the phase 2 open-label, single-arm
158 PATHFINDER study (NCT03580655),²⁴⁻²⁸ of whom 32 were response-evaluable
159 (median follow-up of 10.4 months) by modified International Working Group-
160 Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Research and Treatment and European Competence
161 Network on Mastocytosis [miWG-MRT-ECNM] criteria described previously^{26,27} and
162 shown in **supplemental Table 1**) In both studies, avapritinib demonstrated a 75%
163 overall response rate (ORR) per miWG-MRT-ECNM criteria.^{26,27} Responses were
164 rapid, durable, and observed across AdvSM subtypes regardless of prior
165 therapy.^{26,27,29}

166 Considering the promising results from prior reports, a deeper understanding of the
167 long-term treatment with avapritinib in AdvSM is required. Here we report the
168 efficacy and safety of avapritinib from the fully enrolled AdvSM patient population
169 from the pivotal PATHFINDER study with a median follow-up of 4 years.

170 **Methods**

171 **Study design**

172 PATHFINDER (NCT03580655) is an international, multicenter, open-label, single-
173 arm, phase 2 registrational study evaluating the efficacy and safety of avapritinib in
174 adult patients with centrally-confirmed AdvSM conducted in US, Canada, and
175 Europe (**supplemental Figure 1**). Eligible patients received a starting dose of
176 avapritinib 200 mg once a day in 28-day cycles until confirmed progressive disease
177 (PD) of SM (by mIWG-MRT-ECNM criteria), clinical progression of SM or AHN
178 (decided by the investigator to require immediate initiation of cytoreductive therapy),
179 avapritinib was no longer tolerated, patient withdrawal from the study, or death. Dose
180 modification between 25 and 300 mg once a day was permitted according to
181 prespecified criteria. This study was conducted according to the Declaration of
182 Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. The protocol was approved by the
183 Institutional Review Board or Independent Ethics Committee of each participating
184 center. All patients provided written informed consent.

185 Full study design details, including eligibility, outcomes, assessments and statistical
186 analysis methods have been previously reported.²⁶

187 **Eligibility**

188 Eligible patients (≥ 18 years of age) had centrally confirmed diagnosis of AdvSM per
189 World Health Organization criteria (2016)³⁰ and had an Eastern Cooperative
190 Oncology Group (ECOG) Performance Status 0-3. Patients were excluded if they
191 had: AML or high-risk myelodysplastic syndromes or Philadelphia chromosome-
192 positive malignancies. To mitigate the risk of intracranial bleeds, as seen in earlier

193 studies,²⁷ patients with a platelet count of $<50 \times 10^9/L$ were excluded. The mIWG-
194 MRT-ECNM response-evaluable population, as adjudicated by a central committee,
195 included patients with a diagnosis of AdvSM who had: received at least 1 dose of
196 avapritinib; at least 2 post-baseline bone marrow assessments and been on study for
197 ≥ 24 weeks, or had an end of study visit; at least 1 evaluable C-finding (severe and
198 quantifiable organ damage) or MCL regardless of C-findings. Patients with ASM or
199 SM-AHN who did not have an evaluable C-finding were not considered response-
200 evaluable. Evaluable C-findings per mIWG-MRT-ECNM criteria have been described
201 previously.²⁶

202 **Outcomes and assessments**

203 The primary endpoint was centrally adjudicated ORR by mIWG-MRT-ECNM criteria
204 and included complete remission (CR), CR with partial hematologic recovery (CRh),
205 partial remission (PR), and clinical improvement (CI). Other responses included
206 stable disease (not meeting criteria for CR/CRh, PR, CI, or PD) and PD (as reported
207 by the principal investigators or adjudicated by the study steering committee
208 according to the mIWG- MRT-ECNM criteria) (**supplemental Table 1**).^{26,27} Select
209 prespecified secondary endpoints included: time to any response (time from first
210 dose to the time of an initial evaluation of CI or better); duration of response (DOR;
211 time from an initial documented CI or better to the time of an initial documented
212 confirmed PD, loss of response, or death due to any cause, whichever occurs first);
213 progression-free survival (PFS; time from first dose to the time of initial documented
214 confirmed PD or death due to any cause, whichever occurs first); overall survival
215 (OS; time from first dose to the time of death due to any cause); mean percentage
216 change from baseline in measures of bone marrow mast cell burden, serum tryptase

217 level, blood *KIT* D816V variant allele frequency (VAF), and spleen volume; and
218 safety. Responses according to pure pathologic response (PPR) were also assessed
219 as a prespecified secondary endpoint and included morphologic CR (absence of
220 bone marrow mast cell aggregates, serum tryptase <20 ng/mL), morphologic CRh
221 with full or partial hematologic recovery, and morphologic PR ($\geq 50\%$ reduction in
222 bone marrow mast cells and serum tryptase level). To be considered response
223 evaluable according to PPR, patients had baseline bone marrow mast cell
224 aggregates and/or serum tryptase ≥ 20 ng/mL.

225 For evaluation of bone marrow mast cell burden, formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded
226 bone marrow biopsies were sectioned at 3-4 μm thickness, and stained with
227 hematoxylin and eosin, or underwent immunohistochemistry for CD117, tryptase,
228 CD25, CD30, and CD34 using standard methods. Peripheral blood samples were
229 drawn for serum tryptase and *KIT* D816V VAF analysis, the latter by droplet digital
230 polymerase chain reaction assay with a limit of detection of 0.02%. MARS was
231 conducted according to published criteria and included low (0-1), intermediate (2),
232 and high (3-5) risk groups.²³

233 In addition, post hoc logistic regression analyses on predictors of CR/CRh or PR,
234 and Cox regression analyses on predictors of OS were conducted in the mIWG-
235 MRT-ECNM response-evaluable population; these analyses were not pre-specified
236 in the study protocol.

237 The safety population included all enrolled patients from the PATHFINDER study.
238 Treatment-emergent AEs (TEAEs) were summarized by preferred term (according to
239 the Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities version 18.1), severity (graded by the
240 National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse, Version 5.0),

241 seriousness, and relationship to study treatment. A treatment-related AE (TRAE)
242 was defined as any AE likely or possibly related to avapritinib as assessed by the
243 study investigator. Based on the incidence, medical importance, or potential clinical
244 consequences, 2 grouped AEs of special interest were considered in the study:
245 cognitive effects and intracranial bleeding (ICB). Grouped AE terms included AEs
246 that describe similar medical concepts.

247 **Statistical methods**

248 Statistical methodology has been described previously.²⁶ The database lock was
249 March 13, 2025. All safety analyses and secondary analyses were evaluated in the
250 safety population, comprising patients who received at least 1 dose of avapritinib.
251 Safety analyses were descriptive. For regression analyses, the following variables
252 were assessed: age, diagnosis of ASM vs MCL, diagnosis of SM-AHN vs MCL, AHN
253 presence (yes/no), prior antineoplastic therapy (yes/no), S/A/R mutational status,
254 serum tryptase at baseline (as described above), bone marrow mast cell burden at
255 baseline (as described above), and *KIT* D816V VAF at baseline. For OS regressions
256 only, CR/CRh or PR (yes/no) and *KIT* D816V VAF best response status
257 (positive/negative) were also assessed. All statistical analyses were conducted using
258 SAS v.9.4 or higher.

259 **Results**

260 **Patients**

261 As of March 13, 2025, there were 107 patients with AdvSM who initiated avapritinib
262 200 mg (n = 105) or 100 mg (n = 2) once a day (**supplemental Figure 1**) and had
263 median follow-up of 49.1 months (95% confidence interval [95% CI], 44.2-52.2
264 months). The median age was 68 (range, 31-88) years and 45 patients (42%) were
265 female (**Table 1**). Thirty-eight patients (36%) had never received prior systemic
266 therapy (henceforth termed treatment-naïve), and 69 patients (64%) had received at
267 least 1 prior systemic therapy. The most common subtype was SM-AHN comprising
268 71 patients (66%). AHNs were also observed in 4 of the 15 patients with MCL.

269 At baseline, 103 patients (96%) were positive for the *KIT* D816V mutation, 101
270 patients (94%) carried at least 1 additional somatic mutation, and at least 1 S/A/R
271 mutation was observed in 48 patients (45%). Additional patient demographics and
272 baseline characteristics are summarized in **Table 1**. A breakdown of additional tier 1
273 and tier 2 mutations identified using next-generation sequencing is presented in
274 **supplemental Table 2**. The most common ($\geq 20\%$ of patients) mIWG-MRT-ECNM
275 C-findings at baseline were palpable splenomegaly of ≥ 5 cm (42%), transfusion-
276 independent anemia (42%), and elevated (Grade ≥ 2) alkaline phosphatase (35%)
277 (**supplemental Table 3**).

278 **Responses**

279 From the total population (N = 107), 24 patients did not have evaluable C-findings
280 leaving 83 patients who were response-evaluable according to mIWG-MRT-ECNM
281 criteria with a median follow-up of 51.8 months (95% CI, 48.0-55.0 months). As a

282 result of not being response-evaluable per mIWG-MRT-ECNM criteria, these patients
283 were not included in these response analyses. The best confirmed ORR was 73% (n
284 = 61/83; 95% CI, 63-83). Twenty-five patients (30%) achieved CR/CRh, 32 patients
285 (39%) achieved PR, and 4 patients (5%) had CI (**Table 2**). Responses deepened
286 over time and are shown in **supplemental Figure 2**. Responses were observed in
287 patients regardless of AdvSM subtype or previous treatment history (**Table 2**). Best
288 ORR by treatment history according to AdvSM subtype is presented in
289 **supplemental Table 4**. In patients with a mIWG-MRT-ECNM response (n = 61), the
290 median time to any response was 2.3 months (0.3-20.3) and median time to CR/CRh
291 was 9.3 months (1.8-36.8). Median time to any response and CR/CRh by AdvSM
292 subtype and treatment history is reported in **supplemental Table 4**. Resolution of C-
293 findings from baseline in the mIWG-MRT-ECNM response-evaluable population with
294 baseline C-findings is shown in **supplemental Table 3**.

295 Regression analyses of predictors of response are shown in the supplement.

296 Median DOR in all response-evaluable patients was 58 months (95% CI, 46 months–
297 not evaluable) with DOR rates of 74% (95% CI, 63-86) at 36 months and 64% (95%
298 CI, 50-78) at 48 months observed. In treatment-naïve patients, median DOR was not
299 reached and was 58 (46-not evaluable) in patients with at least 1 prior systemic
300 therapy. At 48 months, 62% (95% CI, 40-84) of treatment-naïve patients and 66%
301 (95% CI, 48-84) of patients with at least 1 prior systemic therapy maintained a
302 response to treatment. The DOR in these populations by subtype is shown in
303 **supplemental Figure 3**.

304 In the PPR-evaluable population (N = 107), best confirmed ORR per PPR criteria
305 was 74% (79/107; 95% CI, 64-82) and was consistent across AdvSM subtypes. In

306 total, 51 patients (55%) achieved a CR/CRh and 24 patients (22%) achieved a PR
307 (supplemental Table 5).

308

309 **Effect on markers of mast cell disease burden**

310 In the safety population (N = 107), 92 of 105 (87%) patients with baseline and post-
311 baseline assessments had a $\geq 50\%$ reduction from baseline in bone marrow mast
312 cells and 78/105 (74%) achieved a total clearance of bone marrow mast cell
313 aggregates. Serum tryptase levels were decreased by $\geq 50\%$ in 98/107 patients
314 (92%), with 70/107 (65%) achieving a serum tryptase level of < 20 ng/mL. In total,
315 88/107 patients (82%) achieved a $\geq 50\%$ reduction of *KIT* D816V VAF, 68/107
316 patients (64%) achieved a VAF of $< 1\%$, and 15/107 patients (14%) achieved a VAF
317 reduction under the limit of detection ($< 0.02\%$). Spleen volume was reduced by
318 $\geq 35\%$ in 76/105 patients (72%) and in 20/33 (61%) with baseline spleen palpation of
319 ≥ 5 cm. In addition, a non-palpable spleen was the best response in 42/54 patients
320 (78%) who had a palpable spleen at baseline.

321 Improvements in objective biomarkers of disease burden were durable and
322 sustained through 4 years of follow-up. Box plots depicting reductions in biomarkers
323 of disease burden over time in AdvSM can be seen in **Figure 1**. At 48 months,
324 median percentage change from baseline was -90% in bone marrow mast cells, -
325 94% in serum tryptase, -97% in *KIT* D816V VAF, and -56% for spleen volume.

326 Of the 27 patients with monocytosis at baseline, 26 patients (96%) had a $\geq 50\%$
327 reduction in monocytes from baseline, and 23 (85%) achieved normalization of
328 monocyte counts ($< 0.8 \times 10^9/L$). There were 23 patients with baseline eosinophilia

329 (absolute eosinophil count of $>0.5 \times 10^9/L$) with 22 (96%) showing a $\geq 50\%$ reduction
330 from baseline of absolute eosinophil counts and all 23 achieved normalization (<0.5
331 $\times 10^9/L$).

332 **Survival measures**

333 Median PFS in the response-evaluable population (n = 83) was 51 months (95% CI,
334 39 months-not evaluable), 45 months (95% CI, 31-62) in SM-AHN, and not reached
335 in ASM or MCL subtypes (**Figure 2**). Median PFS was not reached in treatment-
336 naïve patients and was 48 months (95% CI, 31-62) in patients with at least 1 prior
337 systemic therapy (**supplemental Figure 4**).

338 Median OS in the safety population (N = 107) was 62 months (95% CI, 60 months-
339 not evaluable), 60 months (95% CI, 50-not evaluable) in SM-AHN, and not reached
340 in ASM or MCL subtypes (**Figures 2-3**). In the 4 patients with MCL-AHN, median OS
341 was 9.2 months (95% CI, 1.4-not evaluable). In treatment-naïve patients, median OS
342 was not reached and was 60 months (95% CI, 48 months-not evaluable) in patients
343 with at least 1 prior systemic therapy (**supplemental Figure 5**). OS was not
344 impacted by the number of C-findings at baseline and remained generally consistent
345 in patients with AdvSM when stratified by number of C-findings at baseline
346 (**supplemental Figure 6**). Based on MARS risk category subgrouping, median OS in
347 patients with low and intermediate scores was not reached regardless of history of
348 previous systemic therapy. Patients with a high MARS score (n = 41) had a median
349 OS of 48 months (95% CI, 23-NR; **supplemental Figure 7**).

350 Regression analyses of predictors of OS are shown in the supplement.

351 **Disease progression**

352 Disease progression was observed in 21 patients, including 6 with progression to
353 AML; 19 of 21 had an initial diagnosis of SM-AHN or MCL-AHN. Patient
354 characteristics for these 21 patients are presented in **supplemental Table 6**.

355 **Safety**

356 The median treatment duration (range) of the safety population (N = 107) was 32.7
357 months (0.2-63.5), with no patients still on treatment at the final database lock due to
358 the end of the study (**supplemental Figure 1**); all 32 patients remaining on
359 treatment prior to database lock continued avapritinib treatment outside of
360 PATHFINDER. There were no new safety concerns identified with longer
361 treatment.²⁶

362 All patients experienced at least 1 TEAE. The most frequent (occurring in $\geq 25\%$)
363 hematological TEAEs (any Grade; Grade ≥ 3) were thrombocytopenia (58%; 31%),
364 anemia (54%; 33%), and neutropenia (34%; 30%). The most frequent non-
365 hematological TEAEs (any Grade; Grade ≥ 3) were periorbital edema (57%; 6%),
366 peripheral edema (48%; 2%), diarrhea (36%; 5%), nausea (27%; $<1\%$), and
367 arthralgia (26%; 2%). TEAEs and TRAEs (any Grade; Grade ≥ 3) occurring in $\geq 15\%$
368 of patients are presented in **Table 3**.

369 Serious AEs (SAEs) occurred in 69 patients (64%) with treatment-related SAEs
370 occurring in 15 patients (14%; **supplemental Table 7**). Eleven (10%) patients
371 experienced AEs resulting in death (**Table 3**), with one assessed as related to
372 avapritinib by the investigator—an 80-year-old male patient with a medical history of
373 reduced kidney function and increased blood creatinine who died due to acute

374 kidney injury in the context of treatment with antibiotics for bilateral pneumonia
375 complicated by diarrhea and vomiting.

376 Edema TEAEs were mostly Grade 1 or 2 and managed through dose modification
377 with only 1 patient discontinuing treatment due to peripheral edema.

378 Cognitive effects and ICBs were events of special interest in the study. Cognitive
379 effects occurred in 34% of patients and were considered treatment-related in 28% of
380 patients. Most cognitive effects were Grade 1 or 2 with the most frequent ($\geq 5\%$ of
381 patients; any Grade; Grade ≥ 3) being cognitive disorder (18%; 5%), memory
382 impairment (8%; 0%), and confusional state (2%; $< 1\%$). Median time to onset for any
383 Grade, and improvement and resolution for Grade ≥ 2 cognitive effects are presented
384 in **supplemental Table 8**. Cognitive effects were generally managed through dose
385 modification. As a result, treatment discontinuations due to cognitive effects were
386 limited and occurred in 4 patients overall; 3 with cognitive disorder, age ranging 66 –
387 70 years old (2 Grade 3 and one Grade 2) assessed as related to treatment with
388 avapritinib and one with Grade 3 dementia in a 71-year-old male patient, attributed to
389 retrospectively confirmed Alzheimer's disease and not related to treatment with
390 avapritinib.

391 Analyses of ICBs in patients from previous reports of the EXPLORER and
392 PATHFINDER studies identified severe thrombocytopenia at baseline as a
393 significant risk factor for ICBs.^{26,27} Consequently, patients with baseline platelet
394 counts of $< 50 \times 10^9/L$ were excluded from enrollment. In addition, increased platelet
395 count monitoring with guidance for treatment interruption, dose reduction, and
396 support for severe thrombocytopenia or treatment discontinuation were also
397 implemented. These risk mitigation strategies substantially reduced the rate of ICBs

398 in PATHFINDER compared to EXPLORER.²⁷ ICBs occurred in 4 patients (4%)
399 enrolled in PATHFINDER and included 2 patients with intracranial hemorrhages and
400 2 with subdural hematomas. All 4 patients had confounding factors such as medical
401 history of hypertension (n = 3), use of antithrombotic treatment (n = 3), or head
402 trauma around the time the bleeding occurred (n = 1). In addition, 3 of the 4 patients
403 experienced severe thrombocytopenia over the course of the study treatment leading
404 to avapritinib dose modification in all 3 patients, platelet transfusions in 2 patients,
405 and treatment with thrombopoietin receptor agonists in 1 patient. All 4 patients
406 discontinued avapritinib treatment and events were reported to have resolved; none
407 of the patients died due to their ICBs. Treatment details for patients who had ICBs
408 are presented in **supplemental Table 9**.

409 Overall, 38 patients (36%) discontinued treatment due to TEAEs, including 20
410 patients (19%) due to TRAEs. Dose modifications due to AEs (any cause; treatment-
411 related) including reductions (79%; 78%), and interruptions (73%; 64%) are reported
412 in **supplemental Tables 10 and 11**. Dose modifications due to TRAEs
413 (interruptions; reductions) were mostly due to thrombocytopenia (25%; 30%), and
414 neutropenia (22%; 22%).

415 The median time to first dose reduction and the median average daily dose (range)
416 were 1.6 months (0.0-34.2) and 106 mg (27-240), respectively (**supplemental Table**
417 **12**); of the 29 patients who reached 48 months of treatment, 3 were receiving >100
418 mg once a day, 12 were receiving avapritinib 100 mg once a day, and 14 <100 mg
419 once a day at that time point. A breakdown of patient dosage over time is shown in
420 **supplemental Table 13**.

421 **Discussion**

422 As the largest and longest prospective interventional study of any KIT inhibitor in
423 AdvSM, results of the PATHFINDER study provide important guidance and support
424 for the use of avapritinib in clinical practice. With 4 years of follow-up, median OS
425 and PFS were 62 months and 51 months, respectively, reflecting a high rate of deep
426 (73% median ORR; 30% CR/CRh) and durable (median DOR was 58 months)
427 responses, as accompanied by persistent reductions in all disease burden
428 biomarkers. A low rate of disease progressions was observed, primarily in patients
429 with SM-AHN and manifested mostly as progression of the AHN. Avapritinib dose
430 modifications were generally effective in the management of AEs including
431 cytopenia, edema, and cognitive effects, allowing patients to remain on avapritinib
432 therapy.

433 The deep and durable responses and OS in patients compare favorably to results
434 observed with other AdvSM therapies. The multikinase/KIT inhibitor midostaurin
435 demonstrated a median OS of 28.7 months and median DOR of 24.1 months in
436 AdvSM.¹³ In a retrospective external control study, avapritinib-treated patients from
437 PATHFINDER and EXPLORER studies had significantly superior OS compared to
438 patients receiving best available therapy (mainly midostaurin and cladribine).³¹ In a
439 more recent retrospective analysis comparing PATHFINDER and EXPLORER
440 results specifically to those of midostaurin or cladribine, avapritinib treatment
441 resulted in significantly improved OS, longer duration of treatment, and greater
442 reduction in serum tryptase levels compared to midostaurin or cladribine in real-
443 world clinical practice.³² Furthermore, the effectiveness of avapritinib extended
444 across all MARS-defined risk groups, and across all AdvSM subtypes, including

445 settings where other therapies can have diminished efficacy. While median OS with
446 avapritinib was of shorter duration in the high MARS group vs low and intermediate
447 MARS groups, outcomes were still improved in high MARS patients with avapritinib
448 in PATHFINDER (median OS 4.2 years) compared to median OS of 1.2 years with
449 midostaurin in a similar high MARS subgroup.³³ Similarly, in PATHFINDER, median
450 OS was not reached in the MCL subtype, while OS reported for midostaurin in a
451 pivotal clinical trial and a registry study were 9.4 months and 2.3 years,
452 respectively.^{13,34} It should be noted that, in the present study, median OS was
453 numerically longer in patients with MCL only than in the small population of patients
454 with MCL-AHN (n=4). Additionally, based on multivariate logistic regression analysis,
455 treatment-naïve patients were significantly more likely to achieve CR/CRh with
456 avapritinib than patients with a history of prior antineoplastic therapy. In the absence
457 of a randomized controlled clinical trial, results of the PATHFINDER study, supported
458 by published reports, favor avapritinib over other available therapies in adult patients
459 with AdvSM.

460 The use of PPR criteria provides an option for objective evaluation of response to
461 treatment in a broader patient population, which is not impacted by challenges and
462 subjective evaluation errors associated with assessment of C-findings. Rates of
463 CR/CRh were 51% and 30% with PPR and mIWG-MRT-ENCM criteria, respectively,
464 with high ORRs in both 2 criteria (74% and 73%, respectively); PPR responses to
465 avapritinib were similar to previous reports.³⁵ The practicality of evaluating only BM
466 MC burden, tryptase, and complete blood counts—without the need for C-finding
467 adjudication—makes PPR a useful tool for both community and academic
468 physicians.

469 This 4-year follow-up of patients treated with avapritinib also provided important
470 insights into the patterns of disease progression, with most progressions reported in
471 patients with the SM-AHN subtype, 1 patient with MCL, and 1 patient with ASM. In
472 addition, progressions were largely driven by the AHN. These observations may
473 support the hypothesis that the AHN either represents a clonally distinct *KIT* D816V–
474 negative neoplasm or a multi-mutated myeloid malignancy with other non *KIT* D81V
475 mutations. Nonetheless, avapritinib treatment also resulted in marked decreases of
476 baseline monocytosis and eosinophilia, suggesting its effects may in part be due to
477 the presence of *KIT* D816V as a disease driver across different cell lineages of
478 AdvSM and/or to indirect effects, such as reduced cytokine levels.³⁶ This highlights a
479 need for the deeper understanding of the clonal dynamics during avapritinib therapy;
480 indeed, in clonal architecture mapping in 4 avapritinib-treated patients with SM-AHN,
481 avapritinib strongly impacted the mast cell component, but had varying impact on
482 abnormal myeloid cells depending on the cellular distribution of *KIT* D816V and its
483 relative role with co-mutations in the genomic landscape of such cases.³⁷ This also
484 demonstrates the need to evaluate combination treatment strategies with selective
485 *KIT* D816V–targeting agents.

486 Finally, the deep and durable responses, particularly the high rates of CR/CRh,
487 reported here, provide an opportunity to re-evaluate the role of allogeneic
488 hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HCT) in the modern *KIT* inhibitor era,³⁸⁻
489 ⁴⁰ albeit, candidates for allo-HCT for SM treatment were excluded from this study.
490 For example, patients with ASM or MCL without an AHN demonstrated the highest
491 rates of durable OS on avapritinib and may not require allo-HSCT; in contrast,
492 patients with SM-AHN wherein the AHN component would otherwise be transplanted
493 should be evaluated for allo-HCT. Further data are needed to understand the

494 potential cytoreductive role of avapritinib before allo-HCT as well as its potential for
495 preventing or treating post-transplant relapse.

496 After 4 years of follow-up, no new safety concerns were identified. Patients benefited
497 from a starting dose at 200 mg once a day to enable disease control, although the
498 average daily dose was 106 mg due to dose reductions over time, leading to 3
499 important conclusions: a flexible avapritinib dosing approach provided treatment
500 benefit to patients with AdvSM, with higher doses used early in treatment to achieve
501 rapid responses; responses were durable and maintained even at lower doses; and
502 dose reductions, when needed, were an effective way to mitigate toxicities,
503 maintaining the favorable safety profile and response to treatment. Indeed, cognitive
504 effects were well managed with dose reductions, with very few leading to
505 discontinuation.

506 This 4-year follow-up demonstrated that the strategy for the mitigation of ICB risk
507 was effective. Through limiting enrollment to patients with platelet counts of
508 $\geq 50 \times 10^9/L$, holding treatment in patients with platelet counts $< 50 \times 10^9/L$, supporting
509 severe thrombocytopenia with platelet transfusions and thrombopoietin receptor
510 agonists (at investigator discretion), and avoiding anticoagulants, the rate of ICBs
511 was substantially reduced compared to previous studies.²⁷ There were no fatal
512 occurrences of ICBs reported in this study.

513 The main limitations of this study include the open-label, uncontrolled design,
514 precluding direct comparison to other therapies, as well as the relatively small study
515 size that, although large for AdvSM, complicates subgroup analyses in this very
516 heterogenous disease.

517 In conclusion, in this analysis of the PATHFINDER study with a median follow-up of
518 4 years, patients treated with avapritinib exhibited high rates of CR/CRh which were
519 similarly associated with high rates of PFS and OS, particularly in patients without an
520 AHN. These outcomes were associated with substantial and sustained reductions in
521 objective biomarkers of disease burden such as bone marrow mast cells, serum
522 tryptase and *KIT* D816V VAF, as well as reversion of organ damage. Logistic
523 regression analyses also showed that treatment-naïve patients were more likely to
524 achieve complete disease remissions, while achievement of CR/CRh and PR was
525 predictive of longer OS. With prolonged follow-up, the well-characterized safety
526 profile of avapritinib remained consistent with prior reports, supporting that
527 administration of avapritinib over an extended period maintains a favorable benefit-
528 risk profile in patients with AdvSM.

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541 Author contributions

Term	CRediT (contributor roles taxonomy) definition	Author initials
Conceptualization	Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims	J.G., A.R., D.J.D, I.B., H.M.L., S.R., S.D., J.I.M.G.
Methodology	Development or design of methodology; creation of models	J.G., A.R., D.J.D, I.B., H.M.L., S.R., S.D., J.I.M.G.
Software	Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components	N/A
Validation	Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs	H.M.L.
Formal analysis	Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data	H.M.L.

Investigation	Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection	J.G., A.R., D.H.R., I.A.T., M.W.D., T.I.G., J.P., A.M., K.M.P., A.M.V., U.P., O.H., A.E., C.B.L., R.M., C.U., M.T., I.D., J.G.J., R.Z., S.T.O., A.Y., E.O.H., P.B., S.G.L., W.R.S., E.A.G., M.B., J.L., I.B., H.M.L., S.R., S.D., J.I.M.G., D.J.D.
Resources	Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools	J.G., A.R., D.H.R., I.A.T., M.W.D., T.I.G., J.P., A.M., K.M.P., A.M.V., U.P., O.H., A.E., C.B.L., R.M., C.U., M.T., I.D., J.G.J., R.Z., S.T.O., A.Y., E.O.H., P.B., S.G.L., W.R.S., E.A.G., M.B., J.L., I.B., H.M.L., S.R., S.D., J.I.M.G., D.J.D.
Data curation	Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later reuse	J.G., A.R., D.H.R., I.A.T., M.W.D., T.I.G., J.P., A.M., K.M.P., A.M.V., U.P., O.H., A.E., C.B.L., R.M., C.U., M.T., I.D., J.G.J., R.Z., S.T.O., A.Y., E.O.H., P.B., S.G.L., W.R.S., E.A.G., M.B., J.L., I.B., H.M.L., S.R., S.D., J.I.M.G., D.J.D.
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762

763 **Tables**764 **Table 1. Baseline patient demographics and characteristics of all patients**

765

	All AdvSM (N = 107)	Patients with ≥1 prior therapy (n = 69)	Treatment- naïve patients (n = 38)	Response- evaluable AdvSM (n = 83)
Age, median years (range)	68 (31-88)	68 (31-86)	68 (39-88)	68 (31-88)
Female, n (%)	45 (42)	27 (39)	18 (47)	30 (36)
ECOG performance status, n (%)				
0-1	79 (74)	48 (70)	31 (82)	60 (72)
2-3	28 (26)	21 (30)	7 (18)	23 (28)
AdvSM subtype per central assessment, n (%)				
ASM	21 (20)	14 (20)	7 (18)	13 (16)
SM-AHN	71 (66)	43 (62)	28 (74)	55 (66)
CMML	31 (29)	20 (29)	11 (29)	27 (33)
MDS	12 (11)	6 (9)	6 (16)	6 (7)
MPN	3 (3)	3 (4)	0 (0)	2 (2)
MDS/MPN-U	15 (14)	8 (12)	7 (18)	12 (14)
CEL	6 (6)	3 (4)	3 (8)	5 (6)
Other	4 (4)	3 (4)	1 (3)	3 (4)
MCL*	15 (14)	12 (17)	3 (8)	15 (18)
<i>KIT</i> D816V mutation by central assay, n (%)	103 (96)	67 (97)	36 (95)	80 (96)
<i>KIT</i> D816V VAF, [†] median percent (range)	16 (ND-47)	20 (ND-47)	6 (ND-45)	19 (ND-47)
<i>S/A/R</i> mutation per central assay, [‡] n (%)	48 (45)	25 (36)	23 (61)	40 (48)
MARS score, n (%)				
Low	40 (37)	26 (38)	14 (37)	26 (31)
Intermediate	26 (24)	18 (26)	8 (21)	21 (25)
High	41 (38)	25 (36)	16 (42)	36 (43)
BM mast cell burden, median percentage (range)	40 (1-95)	50 (1-95)	35 (3-90)	50 (1-95)
Serum tryptase level, median ng/mL (range)	262 (24-1600)	312 (24-1600)	178 (37-1336)	312 (24-1600)
Spleen volume, median mL (range)	839 (44-2897)	830 (44-2652)	863 (150-2897)	990 (44-2897)
One prior systemic therapy, n (%)	42 (39)	42 (61)	0	32 (39)
Prior antineoplastic therapy, n (%)				
Midostaurin	58 (54)	58 (84)	0	43 (52)
Cladribine	12 (11)	12 (17)	0	10 (12)
Imatinib	5 (5)	5 (7)	0	5 (6)
Interferon	11 (10)	11 (16)	0	7 (8)

AdvSM, advanced systemic mastocytosis; ASM, aggressive systemic mastocytosis; BM, bone marrow; CEL, chronic eosinophilic leukemia; CMML, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia; ddPCR, droplet digital polymerase chain reaction; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; MARS, Mutation-Adjusted Risk Score; MCL, mast cell leukemia; MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome; MDS/MPN-U, myelodysplastic syndrome/myeloproliferative neoplasm-unclassifiable; MPN, myeloproliferative neoplasms; ND, not detected; NGS, next-generation sequencing; *S/A/R*, *SRSF2*, *ASXL*, and/or *RUNX1*; SM-AHN, systemic mastocytosis with an associated hematological neoplasm; VAF, variant allele frequency.

*In patients with the subtype MCL (n = 15), 4 patients had MCL-AHN and 11 patients had MCL with no AHN. [†]Assessed by ddPCR in both peripheral blood and bone marrow (majority were in peripheral blood; limit of detection 0.02%). [‡]Assessed by NGS.

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Table 2. Response rates in all response-evaluable patients (mIWG-MRT-ENCM criteria) by AdvSM subtype and treatment history

Best confirmed response, n (%)	All response-evaluable AdvSM subtype				Patients with ≥1 prior systemic therapy (n = 53)	Treatment-naïve patients (n = 30)
	All (n = 83)	ASM (n = 13)	SM-AHN (n = 55)	MCL* (n = 15)		
ORR [†]	61 (73)	10 (77)	41 (75)	10 (67)	35 (66)	26 (87)
95% CI	63-83	46-95	61-85	38-88	52-79	69-96
Best response						
CR/CRh [‡]	25 (30)	4 (31)	18 (33)	3 (20)	12 (23)	13 (43)
CR	14 (17)	1 (8)	10 (18)	3 (20)	6 (11)	8 (27)
CRh	11 (13)	3 (23)	8 (15)	0	6 (11)	5 (17)
PR	32 (39)	6 (46)	19 (35)	7 (47)	19 (36)	13 (43)
CI	4 (5)	0	4 (7)	0	4 (8)	0
SD	13 (16)	3 (23)	7 (13)	3 (20)	10 (19)	3 (10)
PD [¶]	2 (2)	0	1 (2)	1 (7)	2 (4)	0
NE [#]	7 (8)	0	6 (11)	1 (7)	6 (11)	1 (3)

95% CI, 95% confidence interval; AdvSM, advanced systemic mastocytosis; BM, bone marrow; CI, clinical improvement; CR, complete remission; CRh, complete remission with partial hematologic recovery; MCL, mast cell leukemia; mIWG-MRT-ENCM, modified International Working Group-Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Research and Treatment and European Competence Network on Mastocytosis; NE, not evaluable; ORR, overall response rate; PR, partial response; PD, progressive disease; SD, stable disease.

*The MCL subtype include patients with the subtypes MCL (n = 11) and MCL-AHN (n = 4). [†]CR + CRh + PR + CI. [‡]CRh requires full resolution of all evaluable C-findings, elimination of BM mast cell aggregates, serum tryptase <20 ng/mL, resolution of palpable hepatosplenomegaly, and partial hematologic recovery (defined as absolute neutrophil count >0.5×10⁹/L with normal differential, platelet count >50×10⁹/L, and Hgb level >8.0 g/dL). ^{||}PR requires full resolution of ≥1 evaluable C-findings and ≥50% reduction in both BM mast cells and serum tryptase. [¶]Two patients had PD as best response. [#]Patients were considered NE if they did not have interpretable data for RE due to early treatment discontinuation.

Table 3. TEAEs and TRAEs of safety population (N = 107)

	Any-cause TEAEs*		Treatment-related AEs	
	Any grade	Grade ≥3	Any grade	Grade ≥3
Any, n (%)	107 (100)	95 (89)	103 (96)	73 (68)
Non-hematological AEs in ≥15%, n (%)				
Periorbital edema [†]	61 (57)	6 (6)	59 (55)	6 (6)
Peripheral edema [†]	51 (48)	2 (2)	42 (39)	2 (2)
Diarrhea	38 (36)	5 (5)	16 (15)	1 (<1)
Nausea	29 (27)	1 (<1)	13 (12)	0
Arthralgia	28 (26)	2 (2)	7 (7)	0
Vomiting	25 (23)	2 (2)	9 (8)	1 (<1)
Face edema [†]	24 (22)	0	23 (21)	0
Fatigue	24 (22)	3 (3)	14 (13)	2 (2)
COVID-19	22 (21)	4 (4)	-	-
Epistaxis	20 (19)	0	6 (6)	0
Hair color changes	18 (17)	0	18 (17)	0
Pruritus	19 (18)	0	5 (5)	0
Rash	18 (17)	1 (<1)	7 (7)	1 (<1)
Abdominal pain	16 (15)	1 (<1)	2 (2)	0
Constipation	16 (15)	1 (<1)	4 (4)	0
Headache	16 (15)	0	8 (7)	0
Hematological AEs in ≥15%, n (%)				
Thrombocytopenia [†]	62 (58)	33 (31)	55 (51)	33 (29)
Anemia [†]	58 (54)	35 (33)	35 (33)	17 (16)
Neutropenia [†]	36 (34)	32 (30)	30 (28)	27 (25)
Blood alkaline phosphatase increased	17 (16)	3 (3)	9 (8)	2 (2)
Blood creatinine increased	16 (15)	1 (<1)	3 (3)	0
AEs of special interest in ≥1%, n (%)				

Cognitive effects[†]	36 (34)	9 (8)	30 (28)	6 (6)
Cognitive disorder	21 (20)	5 (5)	19 (18)	5 (5)
Memory impairment	10 (9)	0	9 (8)	0
Confusional state	7 (7)	2 (2)	2 (2)	0
Delirium	3 (3)	2 (2)	0	0
Intracranial bleeding[†]	4 (4)	2 (2)	4 (4)	2 (2)
Subdural hematoma	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)	2 (2)
Intracranial hemorrhage	2 (2)	0	2 (2)	0
AEs leading to death, n (%)	10 (9) [‡]		1 (<1) [¶]	

AE, adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event; TRAE, treatment-related adverse event.

*TEAEs were defined as any AE that occurred between the first dose of avapritinib through 30 days after the last dose of avapritinib. [†]Pooled terms. [‡]Ten deaths considered not related to treatment included Escherichia sepsis, Fournier's gangrene, pneumonia aspiration, septic endocarditis, septic shock, erosive gastritis, intra-abdominal hemorrhage, acute kidney injury, cardiac failure, and disease progression. [¶]One patient died due to acute kidney injury that was considered related to treatment, an 80-year-old male patient with a medical history of reduced kidney function and increased blood creatinine, who died due to acute kidney injury in the context of treatment with antibiotics due to bilateral pneumonia complicated with diarrhea and vomiting.

Figure Legends

Figure 1. Mean percentage change from baseline over time in biomarkers of disease. (A) Bone marrow mast cell.* (B) Serum tryptase.† (C) *KIT* D816V VAF. (D) Spleen volume.

VAF, variant allele frequency.

*Outliers above 150 percent change from baseline (n = 1) are not presented. †Outliers above 150 percent change from baseline (n = 4) are not presented.

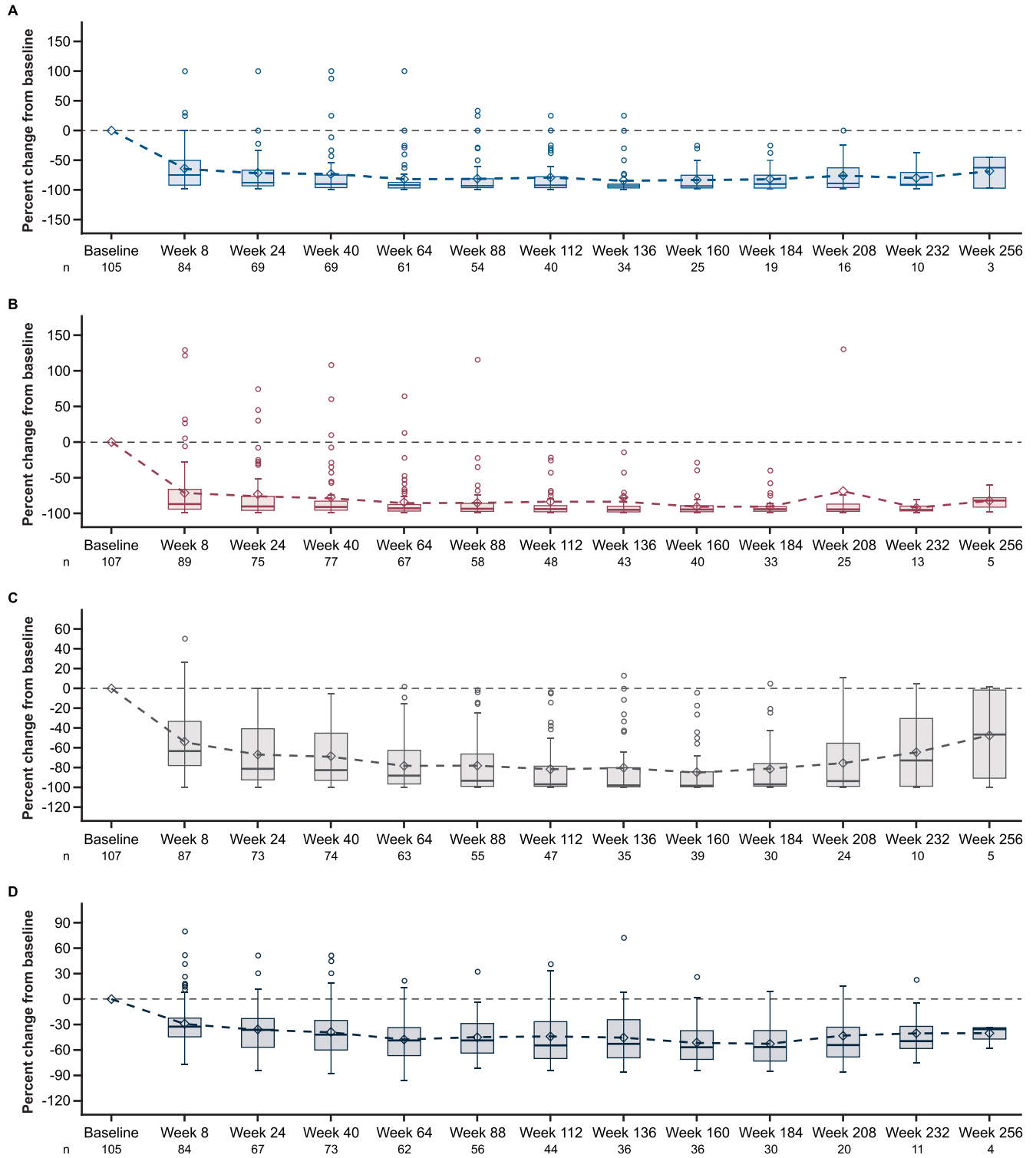
Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier estimates for PFS and OS by AdvSM subtype. (A) PFS
in all response-evaluable patients. (B) OS in safety population.

AdvSM, advanced systemic mastocytosis; ASM, aggressive systemic mastocytosis; MCL, mast cell leukemia; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; SM-AHN, systemic mastocytosis with an associated hematological neoplasm.

Figure 3. OS in safety population by AdvSM subtype including MCL with no AHN.

AdvSM, advanced systemic mastocytosis; AHN, associated hematological neoplasm; ASM, aggressive systemic mastocytosis; MCL, mast cell leukemia; OS, overall survival; SM-AHN, systemic mastocytosis with an associated hematological neoplasm.

Figure 1



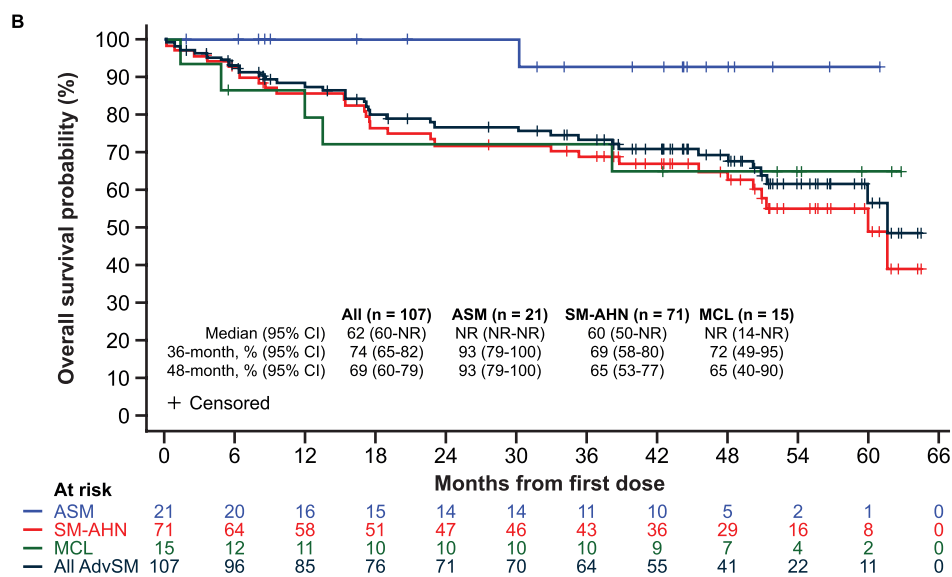
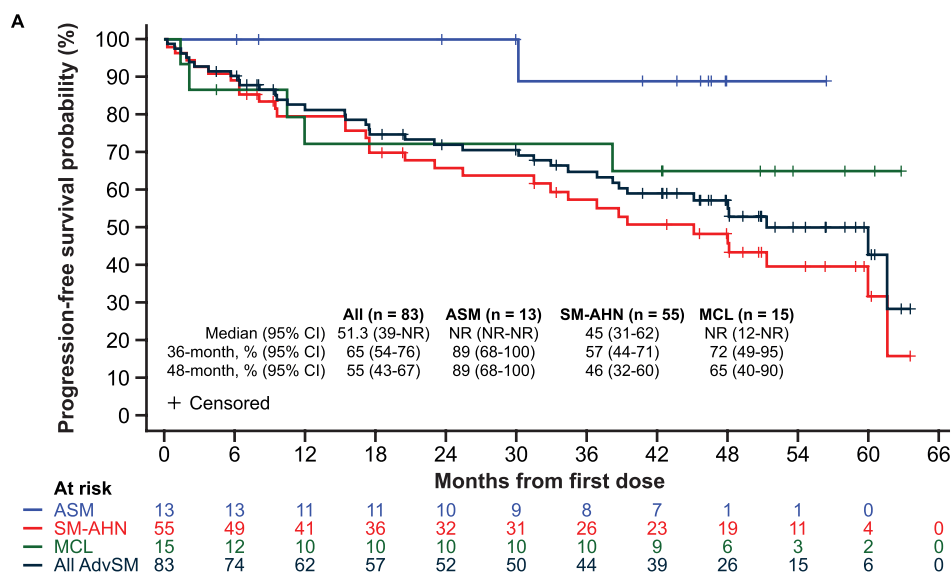


Figure 3

