New hope for TNBC patients as the NMPA approves first domestic TROP2 ADC

Market Event Summary

Preeti Attri | May 2025

Addressing triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) patients' unmet need

Background and context

- Patients with metastatic TNBC have a low survival rate and limited treatment options, highlighting the need for targeted therapies.
- In December 2024, Kelun-Biotech / MSD launched the first domestically developed TROP2 ADC, sacituzumab tirumotecan (Jiatailai), in China as a third-line or later treatment for adults with metastatic TNBC. This approval was based on positive findings from the Phase 3 OptiTROP-Breast01 study, which showed sacituzumab tirumotecan significantly improved progression-free survival (PFS) compared with chemotherapy (mPFS: 6.7 months vs. 2.5 months [chemotherapy]; P < 0.00001).
- By March 2025, the NMPA also approved sacituzumab tirumotecan for adults with *EGFR* mutation-positive metastatic nonsquamous NSCLC who had progressed after EGFR-TKIs and platinum-based chemotherapy.

Marketing advantage in breast cancer

- Approximately 60% of TNBC patients in China overexpress the TROP2 biomarker, making them eligible for TROP2-targeted therapies. Until late 2024, Trodelvy, an MNC-developed TROP2 ADC, was the only approved option, though its high cost limits its uptake.
- The entry of sacituzumab tirumotecan (Jiatailai)—a domestically developed TROP2 ADC—introduces a more accessible alternative. Given the significant unmet need in this patient segment, interviewed oncologists anticipate growing use of Jiatailai, particularly as a third-line treatment, with strong potential for NRDL inclusion in the near term.

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Clarivate's takeaways

Commercial implications in TNBC

By 2034, Clarivate epidemiologists project approximately 60,000 individuals will be living with TNBC in mainland China, highlighting a meaningful commercial opportunity for sacituzumab tirumotecan. Despite expectations of modest initial uptake, the brand is forecast to generate over $100 million in 2034, driven by its potential to address a significant unmet need in later-line treatment settings.

Adoption in real-world setting

Owing to the lack of targeted treatment alternatives, most Chinese oncologists continue to rely on chemotherapy as the primary treatment for metastatic TNBC. The recent introduction of Jiatailai offers a promising new option, addressing a significant unmet need in this space. Medical oncologists we interviewed anticipate growing adoption of the drug, particularly in later lines of therapy, where chemotherapy often shows limited efficacy. They emphasized its potential to improve patient outcomes and expect its use to expand as clinical familiarity and confidence with the treatment increase.

Market access and reimbursement

Given the limited availability of effective and affordable treatment options for TNBC in China, we believe Jiatailai is likely to be included in the National Reimbursement Drug List (NRDL) by 2026. This inclusion would significantly enhance patient access and further support the drug's commercial potential in the market.

About the author

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Preeti Attri has more than 5 years of experience in market assessment, competitive intelligence, primary market research, market forecasting, analogue and indication assessment, disease portfolio optimization, and database research. She received her Ph.D. in cancer epigenetics from the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi.

Currently, she is involved in creating syndicated landscape and forecast content and provide market insights into various therapy areas in China, such as breast cancer, NSCLC, multiple myeloma, and biosimilars.

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Clarivate coverage of the China market in 2025

- Type 2 Diabetes
- Obesity/Overweight
- Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer
- Breast Cancer
- Ulcerative Colitis
- Gastroesophageal Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma / Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Heart Failure
- Crohn's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Diabetic Macular Edema / Diabetic Retinopathy
- Biosimilars in Oncology and Immunology

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