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# Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind Trial of EC-18 to Alter the Severity and Course of Oral Mucositis Due to Chemoradiation for Head and Neck Cancer

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# Disclosure

- Employed by the University of Oklahoma Health Stephenson Cancer Center
- Trial funding (NCT03200340) provided by Enzychem Lifesciences
- I have no financial disclosure or relevant conflicts of interest with the presented material

# Oral Mucositis (OM)

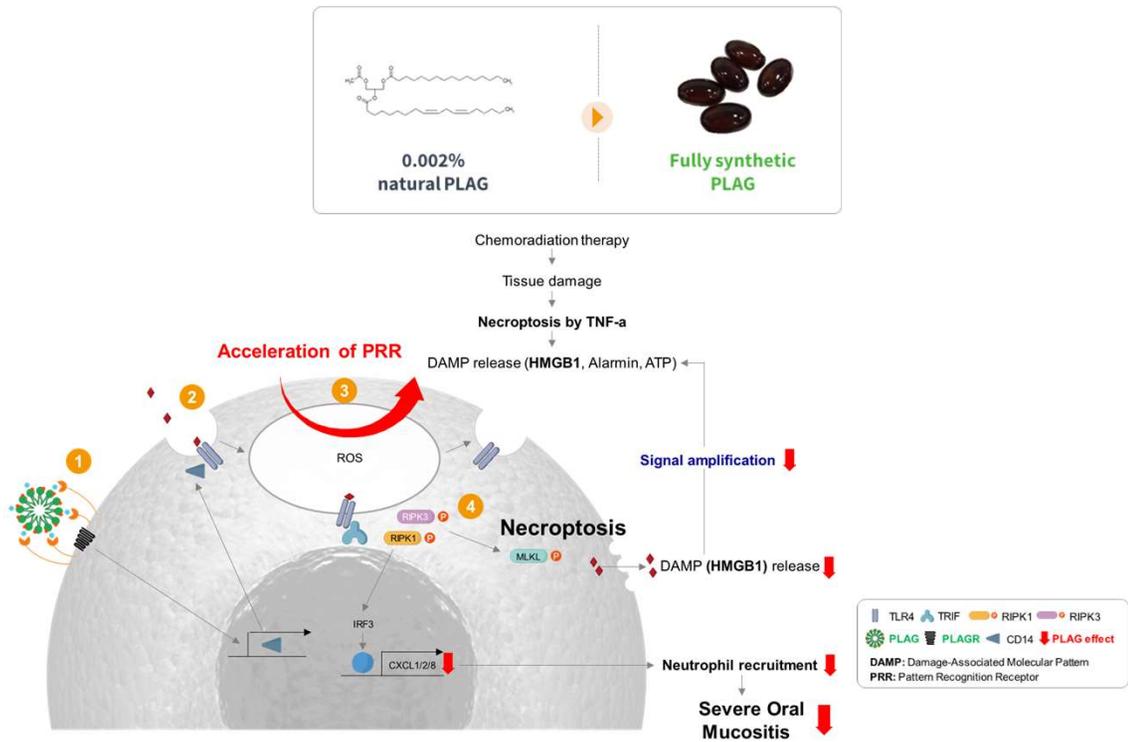
Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
No change				
	Soreness/ erythema	Erythema, ulcers; can eat solid food	Ulcers; requires liquid diet only	Alimentation (nourishment) not possible

- Common and impactful toxicity of concomitant chemoradiation regimens used for the treatment of head and neck cancers – severe OM (SOM) in about 70% of patients
- Unmet clinical need contributes to adverse patient outcomes, treatment intolerance, and increased resource use
- Key pathobiological targets for mechanistically-based interventions include oxidative stress, the innate immune response, and pro-inflammatory initiators

[www.myhealth.gov.my/en/oral-mucositis](http://www.myhealth.gov.my/en/oral-mucositis)

# Introduction

EC-18: Orally available, lipid-based small molecule



- Also known as 1-Palmitoyl-2-Linoleoyl-3-Acetyl-rac-Glycerol (PLAG)/Mosedipimod
- Each capsule contains 500 mg of active pharmaceutical ingredient (PLAG) and 1 mg of antioxidant ( $\alpha$ -tocopherol)
- Excellent drug safety profile based on non-clinical and Phase 1 clinical studies
- EC-18 acts as an immune modulator contributing to rapid resolution of inflammation and fast return to immune homeostasis

## Slide 5

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**JS0**

How was EC-18 discovered?

Ji Sun, 2022-05-26T21:29:23.238

**SO0 0**

in 1989. the original researcher, Dr. Sanghee Kim, an oncologist, began investigating the effects of deer antler and discovered the fact that it stimulates the proliferation of hematopoietic stem cells from bone marrow.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T18:47:42.370

**SO0 1**

The research finally identified several elements of the monoacyldiglycerides (MADG) family and proved that each of the elements stimulates hematopoietic stem cells. Upon the identification of the MADG and its chemical equation, Dr. Tae-Seok Lee of Enzychem came up with a method for its synthesis. Research has since been focused on the illumination of the biological functions of the MADG, especially MADG3, synthesized by Dr. Lee. MADG3 came to be christened EC-18 later on.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T18:48:42.413

**SO1**

Is EC-18 a biological product?

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T18:55:37.292

**SO1 0**

No, EC-18 is a fully synthesized lipid based small molecule.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T18:56:09.081

**SO2**

Where does EC-18 bind to?

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:47:09.694

**SO2 0**

EC-18 binds to one of the GPCRs (G Protein coupled receptors).

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:50:30.659

**SO3**

Is this an anti-inflammatory drug?

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:47:22.957

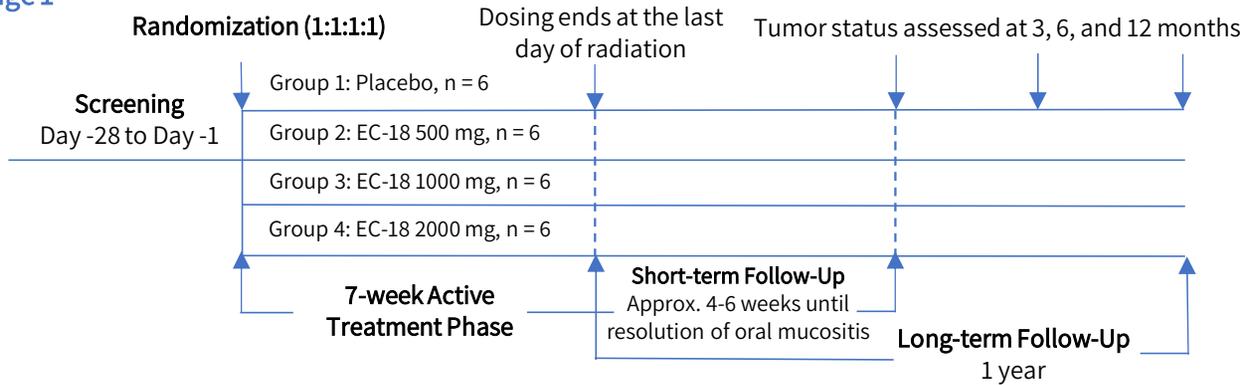
**SO3 0**

Yes, our drug class belongs to anti-inflammatory agent.

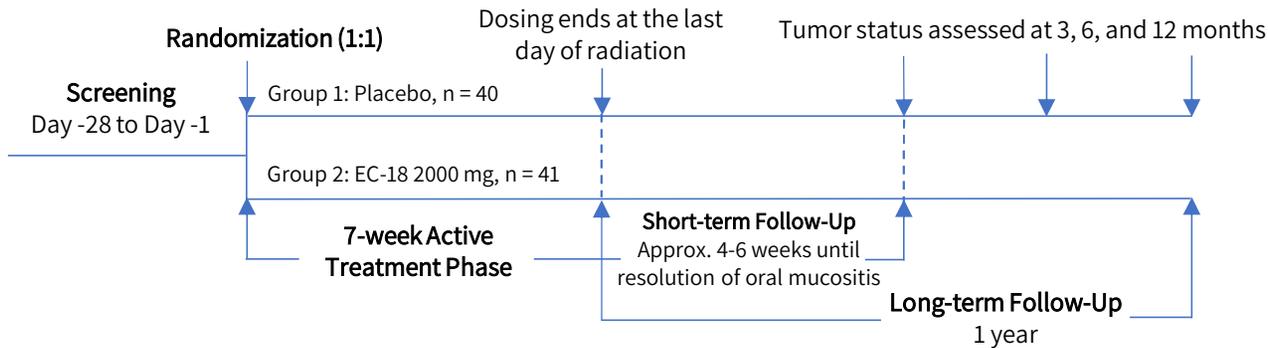
Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T20:18:07.744

# Study Design

## Stage 1



## Stage 2



## Patient Population

- Squamous cell carcinoma of the mouth, oropharynx, hypopharynx, or nasopharynx
- IMRT + cisplatin
- $\geq 55\text{Gy}$  on  $\geq 2$  mucositis sites

## Study Drug Treatment Regimen

- Administer two capsules twice a day for 7 weeks
- Start on the same day as the day of first radiation

JS4

KK1  
KK0

## Slide 6

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**KK0**

Q: Did any of the patients have difficulty swallowing the capsules? How big is the capsule?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:16:27.367

**KK0 0**

A: The capsules are about a size of a small pea. The patients with Grade 3 or higher had difficulties swallowing not only study drug but also any solid food. But we still encouraged our patients to take the study drug to reduce the potential incidence of severe oral mucositis.

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:20:20.749

**KK1**

Q: Did patients take EC-18 on days they didn't receive radiation?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:17:46.799

**KK1 0**

A: Yes, the patients were told to take EC-18 every day for 49 days including the days they didn't receive radiation treatment (weekends and/or holiday(s)).

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:18:02.611

**KK2**

Q: Isn't 2000 mg per day too high of a dose?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:19:12.793

**SO2 0**

A: Based on Phase 1 healthy volunteer study, EC-18 was well tolerated up to 4000 mg/day. In stage 1 of Phase 2 study, EC-18 2000 mg/day was shown to be safe and well-tolerated.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:03:30.338

**KK3**

Q: Is it a prophylactic, prevention, or treatment?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:32:50.140

**SO3 0**

A: None of the above. It is a supportive care study drug, which helps reduce the severity of Oral Mucositis.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:04:26.151

**JS4**

What is the half-life of EC-18? Can it be taken as QD instead of BID?

Ji Sun, 2022-05-26T21:30:32.036

**SO4 0**

A: Yes, in our other indications we allowed patients to take EC-18 once a day. However, we suggest patients to take twice a day since OM patients have difficulty swallowing.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:07:35.606

**SO4 1**

A: We'll get back to you on the half-life.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:08:02.200

# Study Design (Cont'd)

## Endpoints

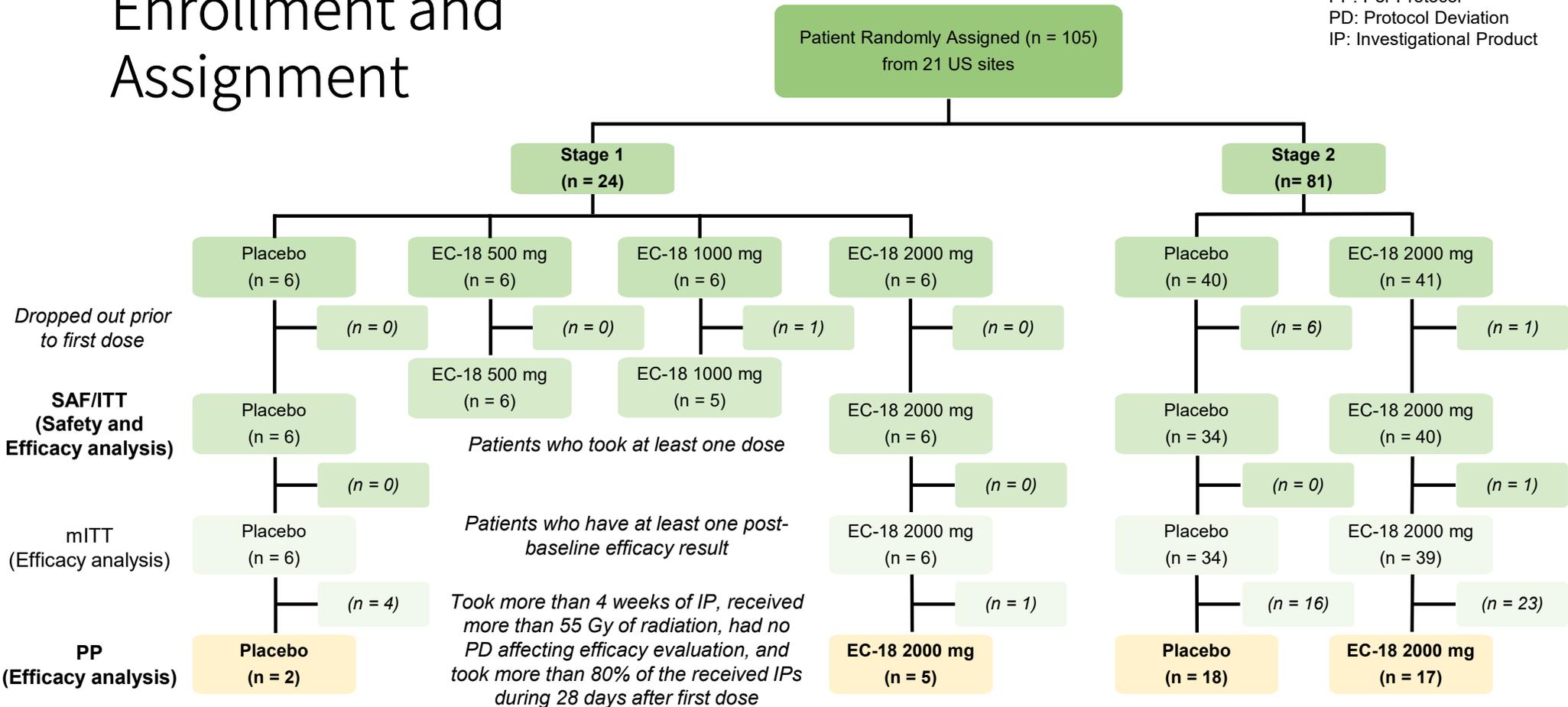
- Primary efficacy:
  - Duration of SOM during active and short-term follow-up (STFU)
- Secondary:
  - Incidence of SOM up to STFU
  - Time to SOM onset
  - Time to opioid use
- Safety:
  - Incidence of AEs and SAEs

## Covariates

- Cisplatin regimen (Weekly vs. Tri-weekly)
- Human papillomavirus (HPV) status (positive vs. negative)

# Enrollment and Assignment

SAF: Safety analysis set  
 ITT: Intent-to-treat  
 mITT: Modified intent-to-treat  
 PP: Per Protocol  
 PD: Protocol Deviation  
 IP: Investigational Product



# Patient Baseline Characteristics

- Well balanced across two arms

Characteristics	No. (%) of Patients						Total (N = 97)
	Stage 1				Stage 2		
	Placebo (n = 6)	EC-18 500 mg (n = 6)	EC-18 1000 mg (n = 5)	EC-18 2000 mg (n = 6)	Placebo (n = 34)	EC-18 2000 mg (n = 40)	
<b>Tumor Site</b>							
Nasopharynx	0	1 (17)	0	0	1 (3)	0	2 (2)
Hypopharynx	0	0	0	0	0	1 (2)	1 (1)
Oropharynx	2 (33)	3 (50)	2 (40)	4 (67)	27 (79)	33 (83)	71 (73)
Oral Cavity	4 (67)	2 (33)	2 (40)	2 (33)	5 (15)	6 (15)	21 (22)
Multiple	0	0	1 (20)	0	0	0	1 (1)
Unknown	0	0	0	0	1 (3)	0	1 (1)
<b>TNM Stage</b>							
0-II	3 (6)	2 (4)	2 (4)	2 (4)	18 (53)	25 (53)	52 (54)
III	1 (5)	3 (15)	2 (10)	3 (15)	7 (21)	4 (10)	20 (20)
IV	2 (8)	1 (4)	1 (4)	1 (4)	9 (26)	11 (27)	25 (26)
<b>Tumor HPV status</b>							
Positive	4 (67)	5 (83)	3 (60)	6 (100)	22 (65)	28 (70)	68 (70)
Negative	2 (33)	1 (17)	0	0	9 (26)	9 (23)	21 (22)
Unknown	0	0	2 (40)	0	3 (9)	3 (7)	8 (8)
<b>Cisplatin Schedule</b>							
Every 3 weeks (High-dose)	5 (83)	0	2 (40)	1 (17)	14 (41)	12 (30)	34 (35)
Weekly (Low-dose)	1 (17)	6 (100)	3 (60)	5 (83)	20 (59)	28 (70)	63 (65)

# Efficacy Results

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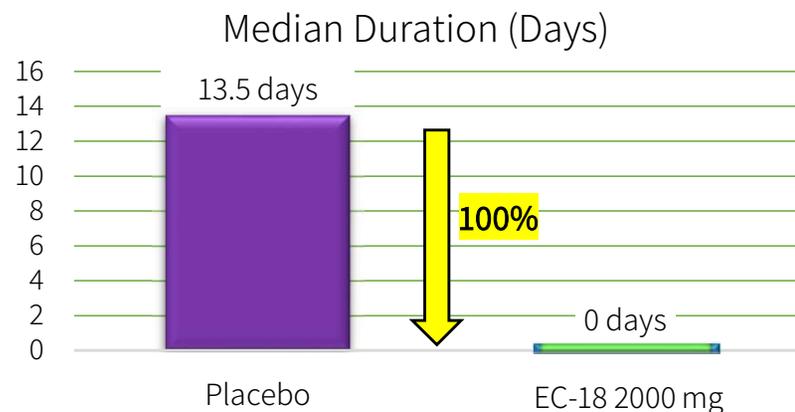
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# Duration and Incidence of SOM KK3

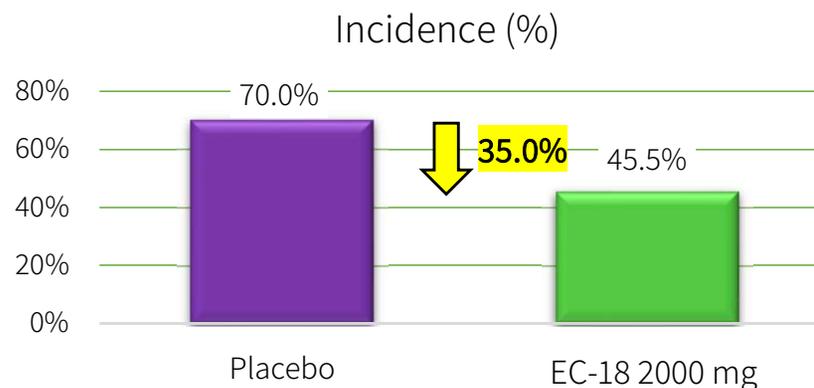
Duration of SOM Up to STFU Period (PP)

Duration (days)	Placebo	EC-18 2000 mg
n	20	22
Median	13.5	0.0
Min, Max	0, 77	0, 48



Incidence of SOM Up to STFU Period (PP)

Incidence [n(%)]	Placebo	EC-18 2000 mg
n	20	22
Incidence of SOM	14 (70.0)	10 (45.5)



## Slide 11

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**KK0**

Q: Did you get a statistical significance or p value with analysis of such a small number of patients?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:00:11.886

**SO0 0**

A: Since this is a Phase 2 proof of concept study, we did not expect a strong statistical significance (our p=0.5575 for SOM duration; 0.1894 for SOM incidence). The signal we saw for the compliant patient group sufficient to the purpose of this study.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-27T15:51:27.103

**KK1**

Q: How are the results among patients who developed SOM? (Excluding ones who didn't develop SOM)

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:21:21.919

**SO1 0**

A: It is a little misleading to be looking at median duration for people who never developed SOM, but we do know that the time to onset of SOM for the EC-18 group was 8 days later than the placebo group.

FYI: Median duration of SOM only for patients who developed SOM was 23.0 vs 34.3 days (Placebo vs. EC-18) for up to STFU and 14.0 vs 13.0 days for up to Active treatment period.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-27T15:55:48.729

**KK2**

Q: How do you score the days of SOM duration when you had an incidence of SOM? How is duration 0 days but still have an incidence rate of 45.5%?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:22:16.887

**SO2 0**

A: This is because the duration is based on the imputed median value from all patients while incidence rate is based on the SOM occurrence.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:22:15.086

**KK3**

Q: What is your actual comparison to the standard of care (SOC)? Do you think that your placebo data is very close to SOC?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:23:20.780

**SO3 0**

A: Our PP placebo duration was 13.5, which was smaller but comparable to the industry reported placebo duration.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:25:36.241

**JS4**

What was your mean of SOM duration?

Ji Sun, 2022-05-26T21:27:34.721

**SO4 0**

A: 19.3 vs. 15.3 days (Placebo vs. EC-18) for up to STFU and 9.3 vs 6.2 days for up to Active treatment period in PP population.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-27T16:01:11.741

**SO5**

What do your mITT/ITT results show?

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:28:06.804

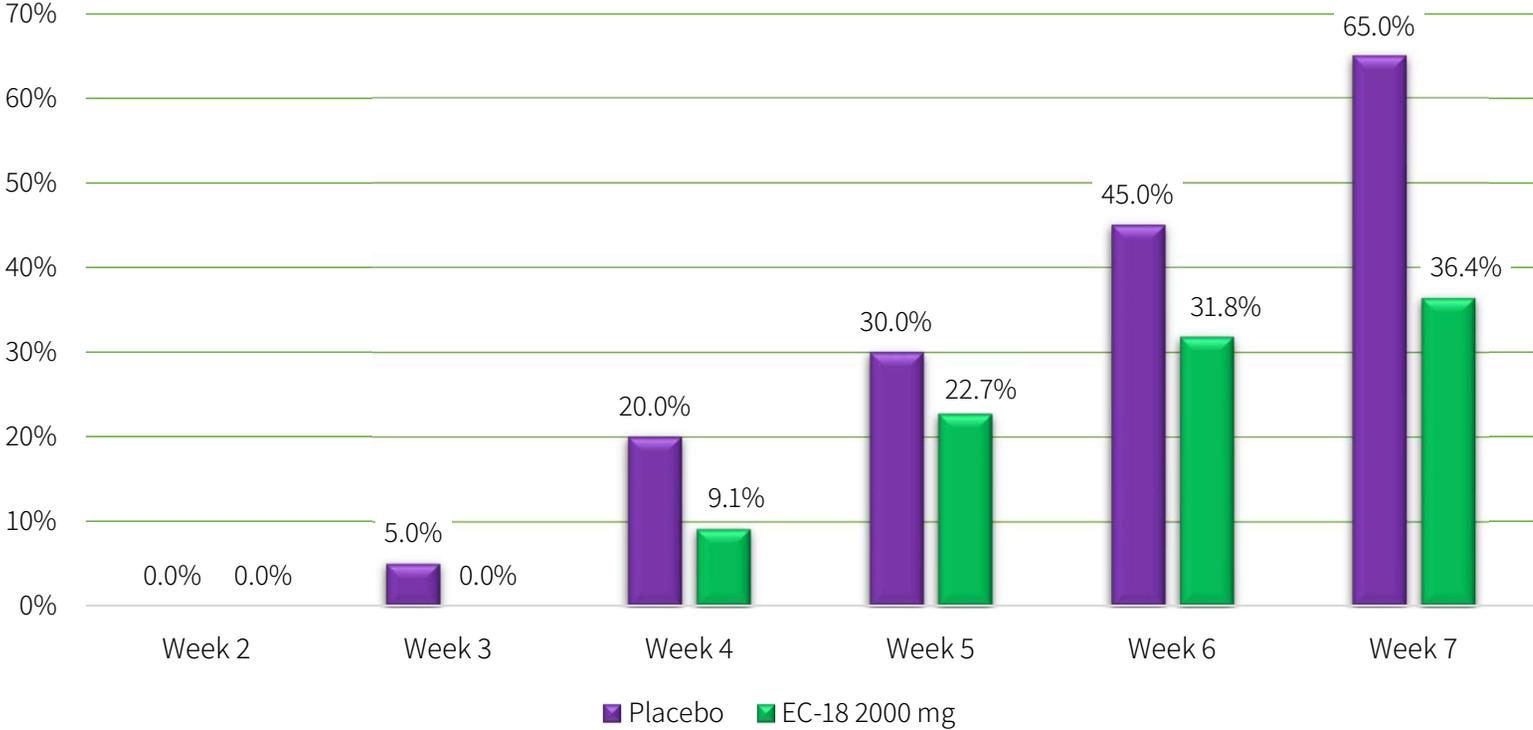
**SO5 0**

It is unfortunate that the half of mITT population were not compliant. We believe the results for the PP population (compliant group) truly represent the EC-18 efficacy.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:32:20.503

# Cumulative SOM Incidence Over Time (PP) KK0

KK1



## Slide 12

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**KK0**

Q: Do you have data after Week 7? How are the results?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:03:05.397

**SO0 0**

A: The cumulative SOM incidence at the end of Active treatment period is 65% for Placebo and 40.9% for EC-18, and the cumulative SOM incidence at the end of STFU period is 70% for Placebo and 45.5% for EC-18

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-27T17:25:56.217

**KK1**

Q: In the previous slide, the incidence reduction was 35%. How did the incidence drop 44% in Week 7?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:06:43.202

**SO1 0**

A: This graph shows the cumulative incidence up to 7th week, but our incidence results include Active treatment period, which can go beyond 7 weeks (up to 9 weeks).

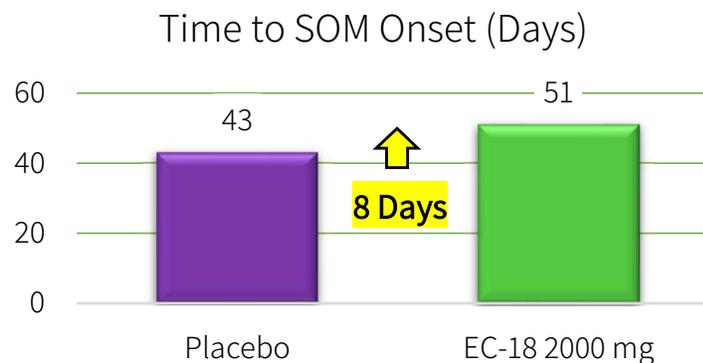
Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-27T17:33:11.673

# Secondary Endpoints

## Time to SOM Onset (PP)

Time to onset of SOM (days; 95% CI)*	EC-18 2000 mg	Placebo
n	22	20
Median	51 (33.0, )	43 (28.0, )

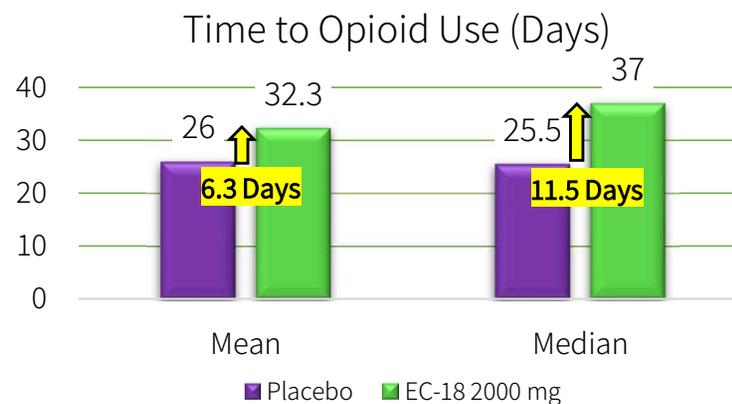
\*Kaplan-Meier Estimation



## Time to Opioid Use (PP)

Time to Opioid Use (days)	Placebo	EC-18 2000 mg
n	6	8
Mean	26	32.3
Median	25.5	37

KKO



## Slide 13

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**KK0**

Q: How was the duration of opioid use? Were patients on a shorter period of opioids?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:07:23.119

**SO0 0**

A: Per secondary endpoint, we measured time of opioid use. Our data doesn't capture the end date of opioid use per each patient and therefore, we can't measure the opioid use duration,

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-27T19:04:21.690

# Covariate Analysis - Cisplatin Regimen and HPV Status

- EC-18 favorably impacted SOM incidence in patients:
  - With Weekly low-dose cisplatin
  - With HPV+ tumors

PP Subgroups	EC-18 2000mg (N=22)	Placebo (N=20)
All PP	45.5% (10/22)	70.0% (14/20)
Cisplatin (Weekly)	37.5% (6/16)	70.0% (7/10)
Tri-Weekly Cisplatin	66.7% (4/6)	70.0% (7/10)
HPV+	35.3 (6/17)*	66.7% (8/12)
HPV-	75.0% (3/4)	71.4% (5/7)*

\* One unknown HPV Status

# Safety Results

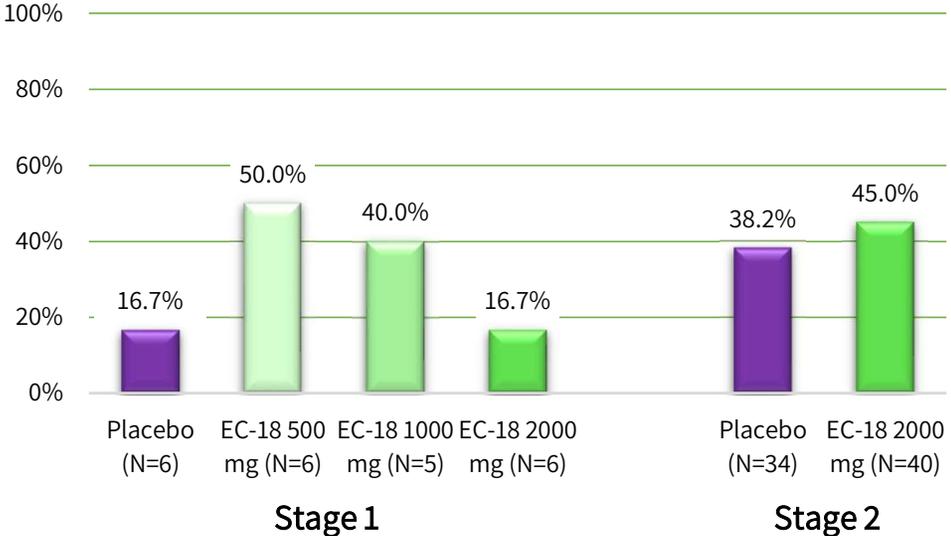
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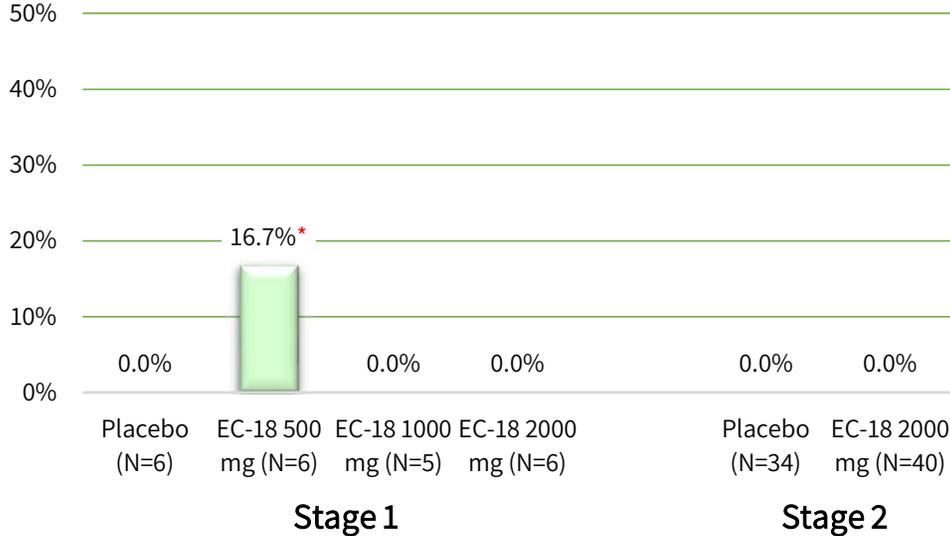
# Safety Summary

- Comparable safety across all arms
- Attributable to expected chemoradiation-related toxicity

Treatment-Related AE



Treatment-Related SAE



\* Determined to be not related to EC-18

# Treatment-Related AE ≥ 15%

- Comparable across all arms

	Placebo (N=40)		EC-18						Total (N=97)
			500 mg (N=6)		1000 mg (N=5)		2000 mg (N=46)		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
<b>Any Adverse Events</b>	261.0	92.5	40.0	100.0	37.0	100.0	281.0	95.7	94.8
<b>Nausea</b>	40.0	70.0	5.0	66.7	3.0	40.0	41.0	69.6	68.0
<b>Fatigue</b>	21.0	42.5	4.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	22.0	43.5	41.2
<b>Dry mouth</b>	13.0	32.5	3.0	50.0	3.0	20.0	23.0	43.5	38.1
<b>Dysgeusia</b>	14.0	35.0	3.0	33.3	4.0	40.0	22.0	39.1	37.1
<b>Dysphagia</b>	17.0	40.0	2.0	33.3	1.0	20.0	18.0	34.8	36.1
<b>Stomatitis</b>	15.0	19.6	4.0	50.0	4.0	40.0	18.0	30.4	28.9
<b>Vomiting</b>	17.0	28.3	2.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	19.0	26.1	27.8
<b>Constipation</b>	14.0	30.0	3.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	21.7	25.8
<b>Weight decreased</b>	15.0	23.9	2.0	33.3	5.0	60.0	14.0	19.6	25.8
<b>Oral pain</b>	9.0	20.0	3.0	50.0	3.0	60.0	9.0	19.6	23.7
<b>Oropharyngeal pain</b>	11.0	22.5	4.0	66.7	0.0	0.0	9.0	17.4	21.6
<b>Radiation skin injury</b>	11.0	21.7	0.0	0.0	1.0	20.0	14.0	21.7	21.6
<b>Diarrhoea</b>	10.0	22.5	2.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	6.0	13.0	17.5
<b>Dehydration</b>	11.0	22.5	1.0	16.7	5.0	40.0	5.0	6.5	15.5

# Conclusions KK0

- Mitigation of the development and the time course of SOM
  - Duration of SOM
  - Incidence of SOM
  - Time to Onset of SOM
  - Time to Opioid Use
- Excellent safety profile comparable to placebo
- Substantial benefits to HPV+ HNC patients treated with low dose cisplatin
- Future analyses include
  - 1-year long-term tumor assessment
  - Biomarker and genomics analyses

## Slide 18

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**KK0**

Q: Is there a potential that EC-18 may work in radiation or chemotherapy alone?

Koeun Kim, 2022-05-26T15:15:11.190

**SO0 0**

Yes, we have seen similar results from our non-clinical CIOM (Chemotherapy-induced Oral Mucositis) and ARS (Acute Radiation Syndrome) indications.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:44:04.514

**JS1**

What is your plan for Phase 3?

Ji Sun, 2022-05-26T21:28:39.128

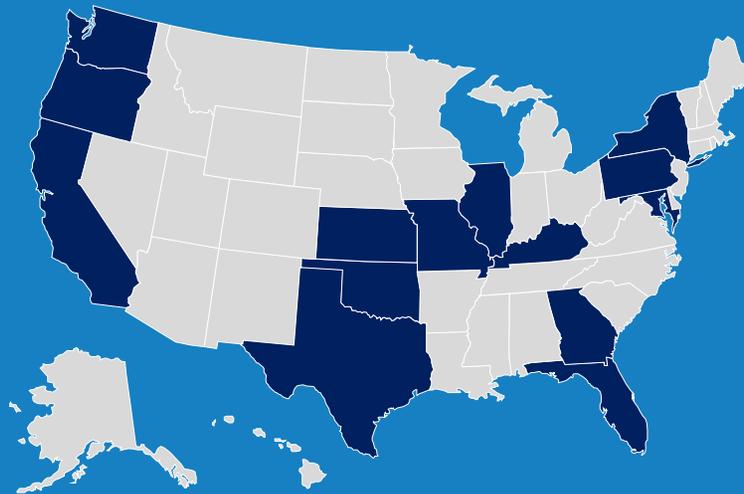
**SO1 0**

We are currently strategizing what our best p3 design options are.

Sookyung Oh, 2022-05-31T19:46:41.243

# Acknowledgment

*Deep appreciation goes to all our patients and their families,  
investigators, and site staff*



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