

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Opdivo/ Yervoy approval an incremental positive - ALERT

This morning, the FDA announced that it has approved Bristol's Opdivo (PD-1) in combination with Yervoy (CTLA4) for previously untreated BRAF wild-type melanoma patients. This approval follows the presentation of the -067 (Phase III) study that confirmed the results from the -069 (Phase II) trial, which was the basis of this filing. Overall, Opdivo/ Yervoy is the first I/O combo to be approved and given the risk/benefit profile we see a clear role for this combo in the frontline setting. Along these lines, we see this approval stabilizing Yervoy sales, which have been declining over the past few quarters. Reiterate OW.

- **Opdivo/Yervoy approved for frontline BRAF wild-type melanoma.** The FDA approved the Opdivo/Yervoy combo for use in patients that have not been previously treated for metastatic melanoma. Although the approval is based on results from a Phase II trial, recently a Phase III (Checkmate-067) study confirmed Opdivo/Yervoy combos ~15% improvement in ORR relative to Opdivo monotherapy. While this is a small indication, it represents the approval of the first I/O combo and we see the experience with the Opdivo/Yervoy combo will be important for refining treatment with I/O combos in different tumor types.
- **We see a role for the Opdivo/ Yervoy in frontline as the additional tox appears to be manageable.** Despite higher frequency of grade 3/4 events and treatment discontinuations relative to Opdivo and Yervoy monotherapy, the toxicity generally appeared to be manageable when established safety guidelines were followed. In our view, the risk-benefit profile of Opdivo/ Yervoy combination appears to justify the combo for frontline therapy in patients able to tolerate the additional toxicity.
- **Up Next: Multiple novel IO agents/combinations expected to enter the clinic in 2016.** In addition to watching for Opdivo trends and monotherapy data in additional tumor types such as frontline NSCLC, glioblastoma and liquid tumors, BMY expects to present clinical data from the second-generation I/O agents such as CD137, KIR and LAG-3 in 2016. In addition, multiple novel agents such as IDO, OX40 and CD73 both a single agents/ in combinations are also expected to enter the clinic by 2016.

Overweight

BMY, BMY US

Price: \$59.20

30 September 2015

Pharmaceuticals — Major & Specialty

Chris Schott, CFA ^{AC}

Bloomberg JPMA SCHOTT <GO>

Aditi Singhania, PhD

Wendy L Lin

Dana Flanders, CFA

Morgan Securities LLC

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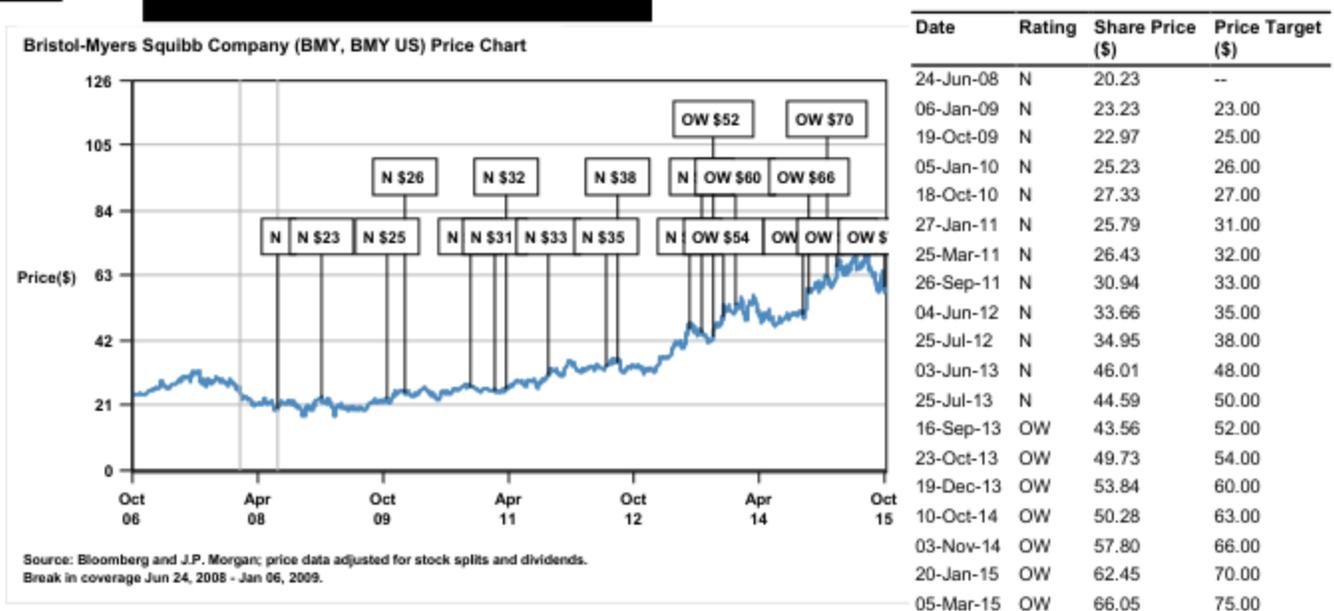
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30-Sep-15 OW 59.20 78.00

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