

Trastuzumab deruxtecan vs ramucirumab plus paclitaxel in second-line treatment of patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2–positive (HER2+) unresectable and/or metastatic gastric cancer or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma: Primary analysis of the randomized, phase 3 DESTINY-Gastric04 study

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On behalf of the DESTINY-Gastric04 investigators



Key Takeaways



- **DESTINY-Gastric04** is a global, randomized, multicenter, open-label, phase 3 clinical trial designed to investigate the efficacy and safety of T-DXd versus RAM + PTX as **2L treatment** for **HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA**

- In this primary analysis, **T-DXd demonstrated a statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in OS** compared with RAM + PTX in patients with **HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA**
- **T-DXd also exhibited statistically significant improvement over RAM + PTX in PFS and confirmed ORR**
- T-DXd 6.4 mg/kg toxicities were generally manageable and consistent with its known safety profile in GC/GEJA



2L, second-line; GC, gastric cancer; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.

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Current Treatment Landscape in HER2+ Metastatic GC/GEJA

- An estimated 5%-17% of GCs are HER2+ (IHC 3+ or IHC 2+/ISH+)¹⁻⁴
- 1L therapy for patients with HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA is chemotherapy plus trastuzumab, with pembrolizumab if PD-L1 is expressed (CPS ≥ 1)⁵
- Results from the phase 2 DESTINY-Gastric01/02/06 trials led to the approval of T-DXd in the 2L+ setting in patients with HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA⁶⁻⁸
- The combination of RAM + PTX is the SOC in 2L GC/GEJA based on results from the phase 3 RAINBOW trial⁹



DESTINY-Gastric04 was conducted to evaluate T-DXd in a head-to-head phase 3 trial versus RAM + PTX in patients with HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA

1L, first-line; 2L, second-line; CPS, combined positive score; GC, gastric cancer; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; SOC, standard of care; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.

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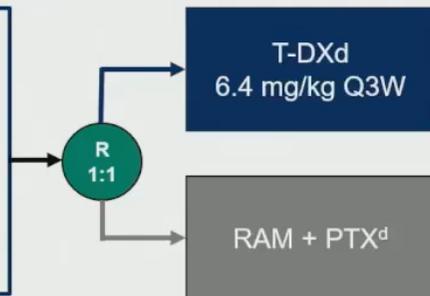
Study Design

DESTINY-Gastric04: A Global, Multicenter, Randomized, Phase 3 Trial (NCT04704934)



Patient Population

- HER2+ (IHC 3+ or IHC 2+/ISH+)^a GC/GEJA
- HER2 status confirmed locally or centrally^b on a recent biopsy obtained after progression on trastuzumab
- ECOG PS 0 or 1
- No clinically active CNS metastases^c



Primary Endpoint

- OS

Secondary Endpoints

- PFS (INV)^e
- Confirmed ORR (INV)^e
- DCR (INV)^e
- DOR (INV)^e
- Safety

Exploratory Endpoints

- PROs^f

Stratification factors

- HER2 status (IHC 3+ vs IHC 2+/ISH+)
- Geography (Asia [excluding mainland China] vs Western Europe vs mainland China/rest of world)
- Time to progression on 1L therapy (<6 months vs ≥6 months)

1L, first-line; ASCO/CAP, American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists; CNS, central nervous system; DCR, disease control rate; DOR, duration of response; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EORTC, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer; EQ-5D-5L, EuroQol 5-Dimension, 5-Level; FACT-Ga, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-gastric; GC, gastric cancer; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IHC, immunohistochemistry; INV, investigator; ISH, in situ hybridization; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PRO, patient-reported outcome; PTX, paclitaxel; Q3W, every 3 weeks; R, randomization; RAM, ramucicromab; RECIST v1.1, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumours, version 1.1; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan; VAS, visual analog scale.

^aAs classified by the 2017 ASCO-CAP guidelines for HER2 testing in gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma. ^bStudy protocol originally mandated HER2 status be determined centrally but was later amended to allow local determination. ^cClinically active CNS metastases were defined as being untreated and symptomatic or requiring therapy with corticosteroids or anticonvulsants. Patients with clinically inactive CNS metastases could be enrolled. ^dRAM administered as 8 mg/kg on days 1 and 15 of each 28-day cycle and PTX administered as 80 mg/m² on days 1, 8, and 15 of each 28-day cycle. ^eDetermined by investigator-based assessment on RECIST v1.1. ^fBased on EORTC EQ-5D-5L VAS and FACT-Ga subscales.

Statistical Analysis



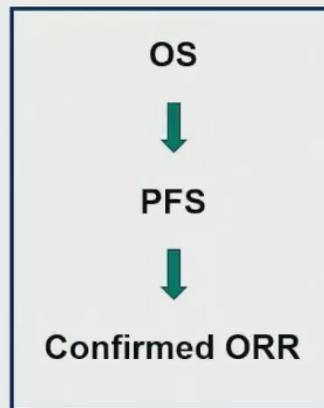
Planned sample size: 490

- 339 OS events were needed to ensure 90% power to detect an OS hazard ratio of 0.70 (overall 2-sided α error of 5%^a)

Interim OS analysis (planned after enrollment completion and 237 OS events [$\sim 70\%$]^b)

- OS, PFS, and confirmed ORR were tested hierarchically using a gatekeeping procedure to control for multiplicity^c
- At DCO (October 24, 2024), there were 266 OS events and 322 investigator-assessed PFS events
- The superiority stopping boundary for OS was achieved at this interim analysis making this the primary analysis (2-sided $P < 0.0228$ ^d)

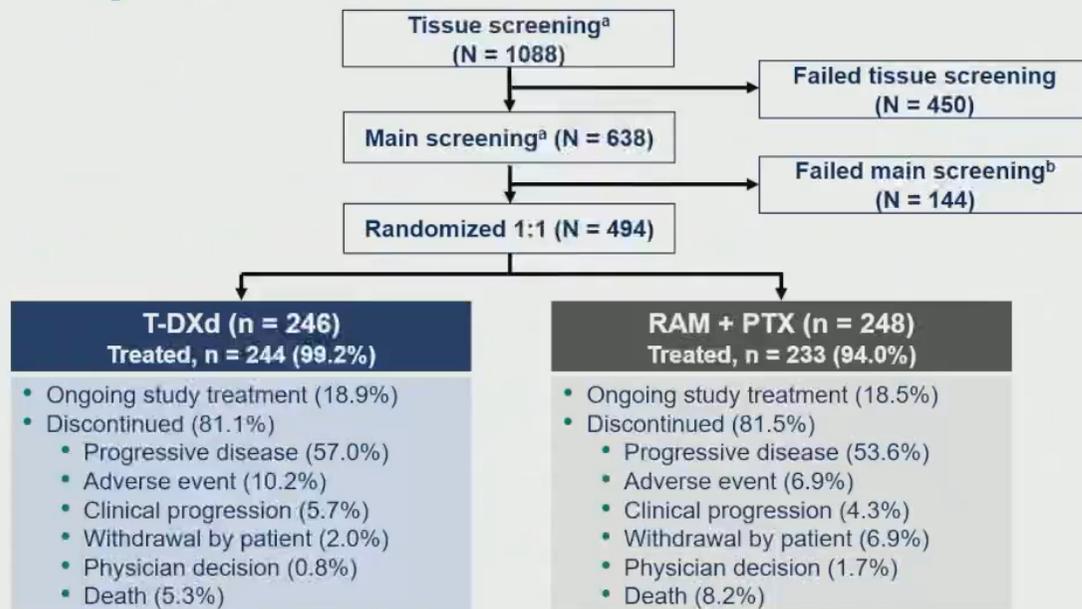
Hierarchical testing



DCO, data cutoff, ORR, objective response rate, OS, overall survival, PFS, progression-free survival

^a1-sided error of 2.5%. ^bInformation fraction. ^cTesting for these endpoints proceeded if the previous endpoint in the hierarchy was statistically significant. ^dCalculated based on the number of deaths by Lan-DeMets alpha-spending function, with an O'Brien-Fleming boundary.

Patient Disposition



DCO, data cutoff; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan

DCO, October 24, 2024; Recruitment period, May 21, 2021–October 7, 2024

^aTissue screening started on the day a signed tissue screening informed consent form for HER2 testing was obtained; main screening started on the day the signed main informed consent form was obtained

^bReasons for screen failure were not satisfying inclusion/exclusion criteria (n = 129), withdrawal by patient (n = 0), adverse event (n = 2), physician decision (n = 1), other (n = 3)

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Demographics and Baseline Characteristics



	T-DXd n = 246	RAM + PTX n = 248		T-DXd n = 246	RAM + PTX n = 248
Age, median (range), years	63.2 (21.1-84.1)	64.3 (31.9-87.0)	HER2 status,^{a,b} n (%)		
Male, n (%)	187 (76.0)	205 (82.7)	IHC 2+/ISH+	39 (15.9)	40 (16.1)
Geography,^a n (%)			IHC 3+	207 (84.1)	208 (83.9)
Asia (excluding mainland China)	57 (23.2)	60 (24.2)	Time to progression on 1L therapy,^a n (%)		
Western Europe	140 (56.9)	139 (56.0)	<6 months	61 (24.8)	61 (24.6)
Mainland China/ROW	49 (19.9)	49 (19.8)	≥6 months	185 (75.2)	187 (75.4)
Race, n (%)			Prior treatment with ICI, n (%)		
White	116 (47.2)	130 (52.4)	Yes	39 (15.9)	38 (15.3)
Black/African American	0	2 (0.8)	No	207 (84.1)	210 (84.7)
Asian	101 (41.1)	97 (39.1)	Metastatic sites, n (%)		
Other	28 (11.4)	19 (7.7)	<2	73 (29.7)	75 (30.2)
ECOG PS, n (%)			≥2	173 (70.3)	173 (69.8)
0 1	97 (39.4) 148 (60.2)	88 (35.5) 158 (63.7)	Presence of liver metastases, n (%)	147 (59.8)	158 (63.7)
2 missing	1 (0.4) 0	1 (0.4) 1 (0.4)	Presence of brain metastases, n (%)	16 (6.5)	18 (7.3)
Primary tumor location, n (%)					
Gastric	153 (62.2)	149 (60.1)			
GEJ	93 (37.8)	99 (39.9)			

1L, first-line; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GEJ, gastroesophageal junction; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; ICI, immune checkpoint inhibitor; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; ROW, rest of world; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.
^aStratification factor by interactive response technology. ^bLocal or central HER2 status.
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Subsequent Anticancer Therapy

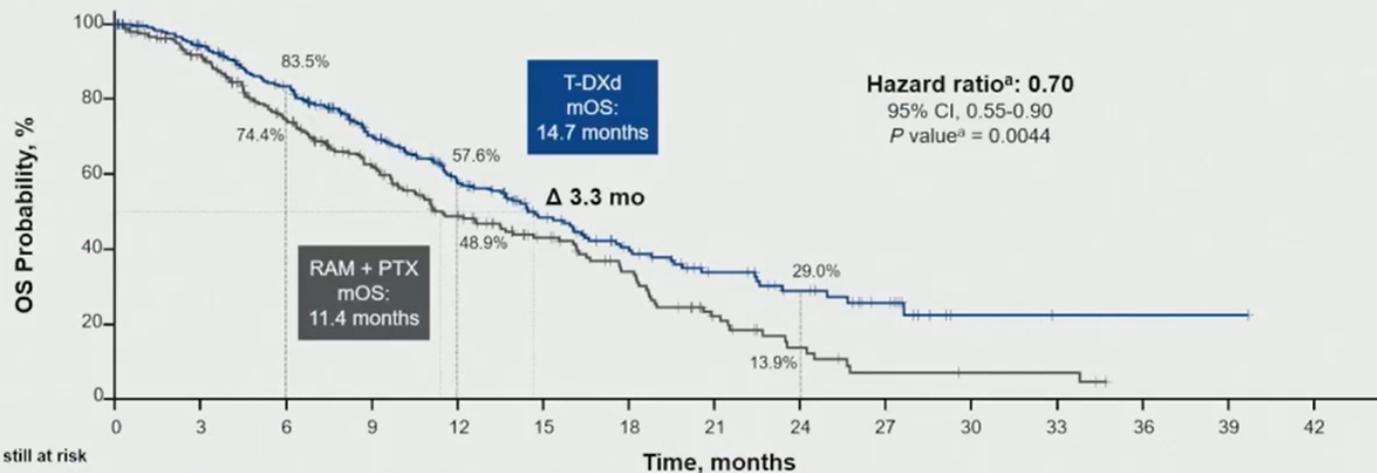


	T-DXd n = 246	RAM + PTX n = 248
Patients receiving any subsequent systemic anticancer treatment,^a n (%)	126 (51.2)	118 (47.6)
Paclitaxel	63 (25.6)	8 (3.2)
Ramucirumab	43 (17.5)	8 (3.2)
Irinotecan	16 (6.5)	16 (6.5)
Nivolumab	14 (5.7)	14 (5.6)
Paclitaxel nanoparticle albumin-bound	13 (5.3)	0
Paclitaxel; ramucirumab	13 (5.3)	3 (1.2)
Trastuzumab	12 (4.9)	8 (3.2)
Calcium folinate; fluorouracil; irinotecan hydrochloride	11 (4.5)	12 (4.8)
Tipiracil hydrochloride; trifluridine	11 (4.5)	11 (4.4)
Fluorouracil	10 (4.1)	11 (4.4)
Oxaliplatin	10 (4.1)	1 (0.4)
Disitamab vedotin	5 (2.0)	12 (4.8)
Trastuzumab deruxtecan	3 (1.2)	52 (21.0)

- Of patients who discontinued study treatment from the RAM + PTX arm, 52 (21.0%) received T-DXd and 12 (4.8%) received disitamab vedotin as subsequent systemic anticancer therapy

PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan
 Received by ≥4% of patients in either arm, listed in descending order in the T-DXd arm.
^aPatients may have received more than 1 type of subsequent anticancer therapy.
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OS: Primary Endpoint



Patients still at risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42
T-DXd	246	219	185	134	94	65	45	30	21	12	2	1	1	1	0
RAM + PTX	248	204	150	109	76	52	36	18	9	4	3	3	0		

T-DXd demonstrated a statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in OS compared with RAM + PTX in HER2+ GC/GEJA, showing a 30% reduction in risk of death

DCO, data cutoff; GC, gastric cancer; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; mOS, median overall survival; OS, overall survival; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.

At DCO (October 24, 2024), the median duration of OS follow-up was 16.8 months for T-DXd and 14.4 months for RAM + PTX. Boundary for superiority: 2-sided *P* < 0.0228.

^aTwo-sided *P* value from stratified log-rank test and stratified Cox proportional hazards model adjusted for stratification factor: HER2 status (IHC 3+ or IHC 2+/ISH+).

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Predefined OS Sensitivity Analyses

	T-DXd n = 246	RAM + PTX n = 248
OS censored for subsequent anticancer therapy, median (95% CI),^a months	NE (18.8-NE)	15.5 (10.8-NE)
HR (95% CI)^b	0.64 (0.44-0.93)	
RPSFT-adjusted OS, median (95% CI),^a months	14.7 (12.1-16.6)	11.0 (9.4-14.2)
HR (95% CI)^c	0.67 (0.49-0.89)	

- A RPSFT model was used to adjust the OS of patients in the RAM + PTX arm who received poststudy T-DXd or disitamab vedotin
- Sensitivity analysis results were consistent with the primary analysis favoring T-DXd

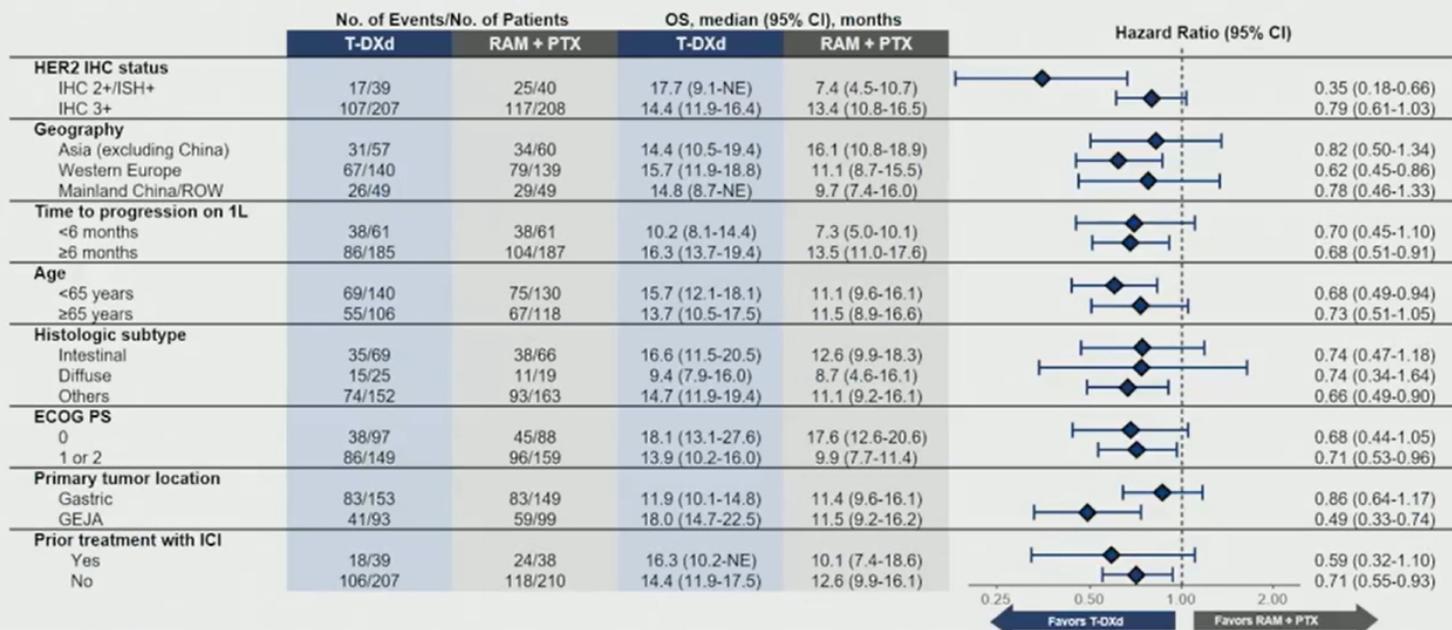
HR, hazard ratio; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NE, not estimable; OS, overall survival; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; RPSFT, rank preserving structural failure time; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan

^aMedian OS and OS rates at specified time points were calculated from Kaplan-Meier analysis. CI for median was computed using the Brookmeyer-Crowley method. ^bUnstratified Cox proportional hazards models are used when there are fewer than 5 events in any of the treatment groups per stratum. ^c95% CI was estimated using bootstrapping percentile method with seed 123.

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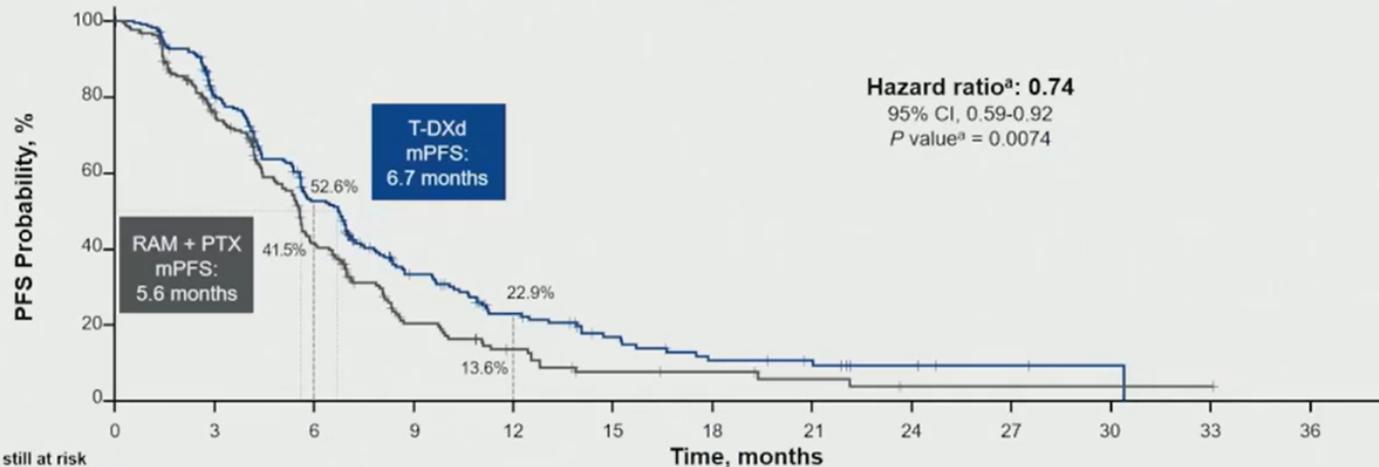


OS by Subgroups



1L, first-line; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; ICI, immune checkpoint inhibitor; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; OS, overall survival; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; ROW, rest of world; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.
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PFS by Investigator: Key Secondary Endpoint



Patients still at risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
T-DXd	246	173	102	51	30	17	10	7	4	2	1	0	
RAM + PTX	248	144	68	25	14	6	5	3	1	1	1	1	0

T-DXd demonstrated a statistically significant improvement in PFS compared with RAM + PTX in HER2+ GC/GEJA, showing a 26% reduction in risk of progression or death

GC, gastric cancer; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; mPFS, median progression-free survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan

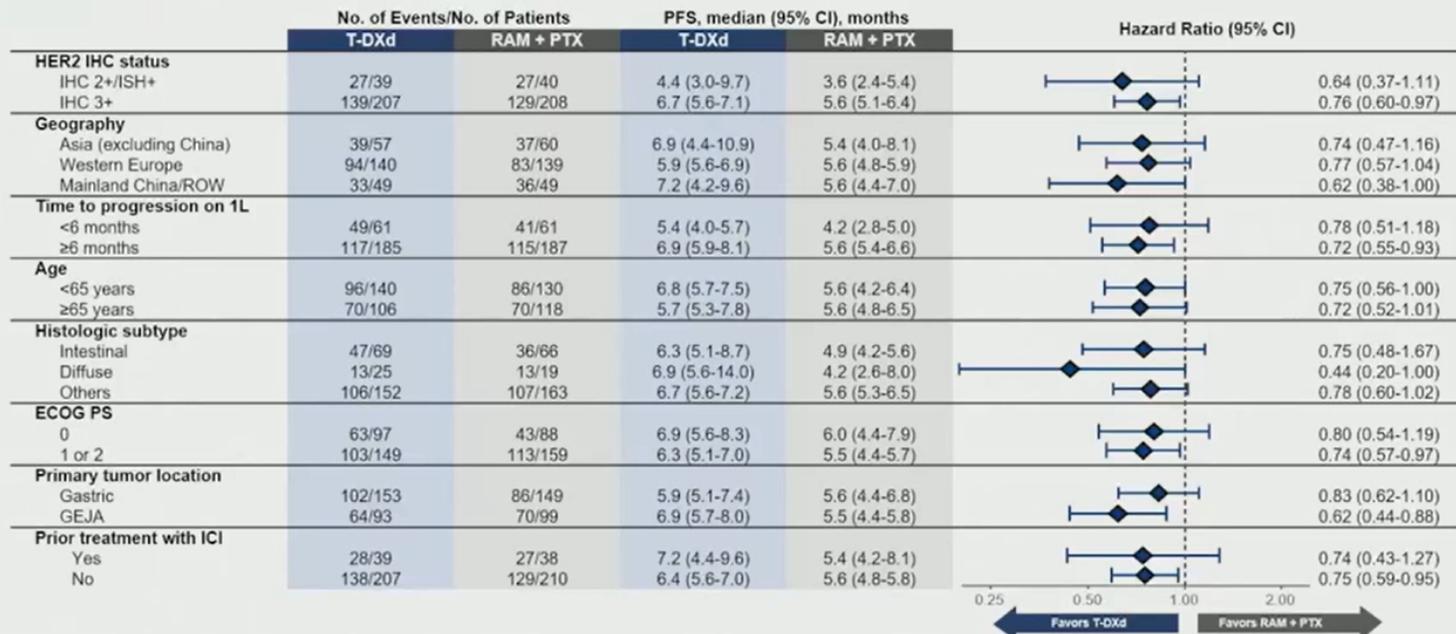
Boundary for superiority: 2-sided $P < 0.0185$.

^aTwo-sided P value from stratified log-rank test and stratified Cox proportional hazards model adjusted for stratification factor: HER2 status (IHC 3+ or IHC 2+/ISH+).

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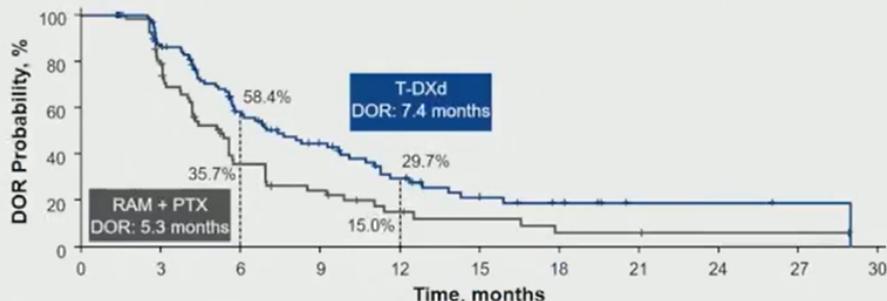
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Confirmed ORR and DOR^{a,b}

	T-DXd n = 246	RAM + PTX n = 248
Confirmed ORR (95% CI), ^c %	44.3 (37.8-50.9)	29.1 (23.4-35.3)
P value ^d	0.0006	
Difference (95% CI), ^e %	15.1 (6.1-24.2)	
DOR, median (95% CI), mo	7.4 (5.7-10.1)	5.3 (4.1-5.7)
DCR (95% CI), %	91.9 (87.7-95.1)	75.9 (70.0-81.2)
Confirmed BOR, n (%)		
CR ^f	7 (3.0)	3 (1.3)
PR	97 (41.3)	66 (27.8)
SD ^g	112 (47.7)	111 (46.8)
PD	13 (5.5)	22 (9.3)
NE	6 (2.6)	35 (14.8)



Patients still at risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
T-DXd	104	81	45	29	17	10	6	2	2	1	0
RAM + PTX	69	50	19	12	6	4	2	2	1	1	0

The confirmed ORR was 15.1% greater with T-DXd compared with RAM + PTX ($P = 0.0006$), with longer DOR

BOR, best overall response; CR, complete response; DCO, data cutoff; DCR, disease control rate; DOR, duration of response; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; NE, not evaluable; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial response; ORR, objective response rate; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; SD, stable disease; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxifcan. ORR eligible patients are those who were randomly assigned at least 77 days (ie, 2 + 6 weeks - 1 week) before DCO date of interim analyses. Confirmed BOR, ORR, and DOR are calculated using the eligible patients as the denominator. ^aBased on investigator assessment. ^bBased on ORR eligible patients. ^cBased on Clopper-Pearson method for single proportion. ^dStratified analysis using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test adjusted for stratification factor: HER2 status (IHC 3+ or IHC 2+/ISH+) ^e2-sided 95% CI for the difference in ORR is based on Wald method using continuity correction. ^fCR patients without target lesions at baseline were included. ^gNon-CR/non-PD patients without target lesions at baseline were included. © Copyright 2025.



Overall Safety Summary



Safety analysis set N = 477

	T-DXd n = 244	RAM + PTX n = 233
Any TEAE, n (%)	244 (100)	228 (97.9)
Drug-related	227 (93.0)	213 (91.4)
Grade ≥3 TEAEs, n (%)	166 (68.0)	172 (73.8)
Drug-related	122 (50.0)	126 (54.1)
Serious TEAEs, n (%)	100 (41.0)	101 (43.3)
Drug-related	45 (18.4)	41 (17.6)
TEAEs associated with dose discontinuation, n (%)	35 (14.3)	40 (17.2)
Drug-related	28 (11.5)	31 (13.3)
TEAEs associated with dose interruption, n (%)	137 (56.1)	141 (60.5)
Drug-related	94 (38.5)	119 (51.1)
TEAEs associated with dose reduction, n (%)	77 (31.6)	87 (37.3)
Drug-related	76 (31.1)	84 (36.1)
TEAEs associated with death, n (%)	22 (9.0)	35 (15.0)
Drug-related ^a	4 (1.6)	2 (0.9)

- Median treatment duration:
 - T-DXd: 5.4 mo (range, 0.7-30.3 mo)
 - RAM + PTX: 4.6 mo (range, 0.9-34.9 mo)
- Similar incidence of drug-related grade ≥3 TEAEs, serious TEAEs, treatment discontinuations, and deaths were observed in the 2 arms

ILD, interstitial lung disease; mo, months; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucicirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event

^aDrug-related adverse events that were associated with death occurred in 4 patients (1.6%) who received T-DXd (upper gastrointestinal hemorrhage, intestinal obstruction, sudden death, and death not otherwise specified in 1 patient each) and in 2 patients (0.9%) who received RAM + PTX (gastric perforation and ILD in 1 patient each).

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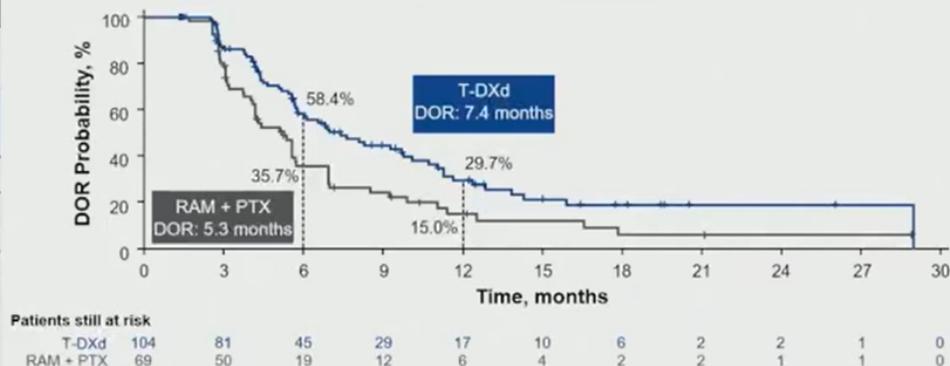
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AEs of Special Interest

Adjudicated drug-related ILD/pneumonitis

n (%)	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Any grade
T-DXd (n = 244)	7 (2.9)	26 (10.7)	1 (0.4)	0	0	34 (13.9)
RAM + PTX (n = 233)	0	0	2 (0.9)	0	1 (0.4)	3 (1.3)

Left ventricular dysfunction^a

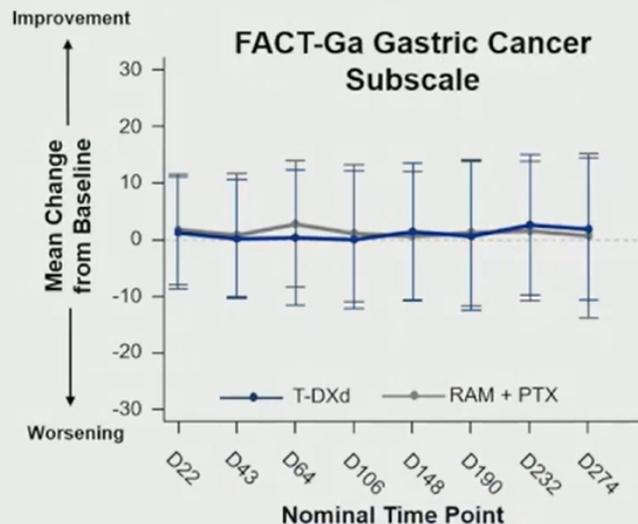
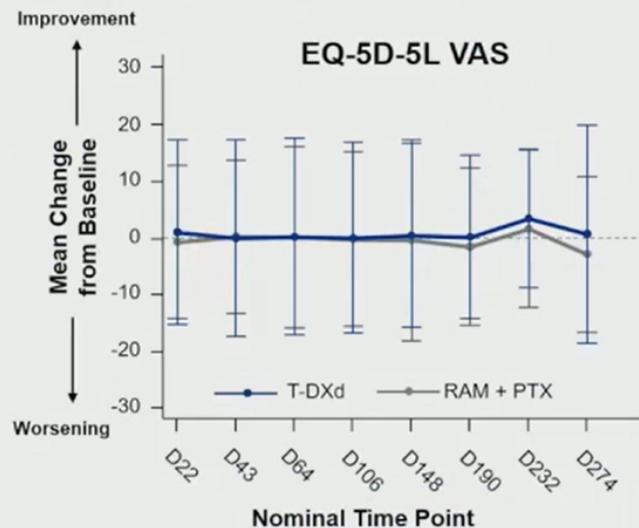
n (%)	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Any grade
T-DXd (n = 244)	0	3 (1.2)	3 (1.2)	0	0	6 (2.5)
RAM + PTX (n = 233)	2 (0.9)	2 (0.9)	0	0	0	4 (1.7)

- ILD/pneumonitis events in the T-DXd arm were mainly low-grade, with no grade 4 or 5 events
 - Adjudicated drug-related ILD/pneumonitis occurred in 34 patients (13.9%) treated with T-DXd and 3 patients (1.3%) treated with RAM + PTX
- Incidence of left ventricular dysfunction was similar across both arms

AE, adverse event; ILD, interstitial lung disease; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucirumab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.
^aIncludes preferred terms of ejection fraction decreased, cardiac failure, cardiac failure acute, cardiac failure congestive, and left ventricular dysfunction.
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Patient-Reported Outcomes^{a-c}



Patient HRQOL was maintained during treatment with T-DXd; baseline scores on the EQ-5D-5L VAS and FACT-Ga subscale remained stable, with no clinically meaningful changes^d

D, day; EQ-5D-5L, EuroQol 5-Dimension, 5-Level; FACT-Ga, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-gastric; HRQOL, health-related quality of life; PTX, paclitaxel; RAM, ramucicromab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan; VAS, visual analog scale.
^aMedian treatment duration was 5.4 months with T-DXd and 4.6 months with RAM + PTX. ^bBaseline completion rates for the EQ-5D-5L VAS and FACT-Ga subscale were 98.2% and 99.1%, respectively, in the T-DXd arm, and 99.5% and 97.5% in the RAM + PTX arm. ^cResults for an arm were no longer considered informative once the number of patients who had the specified visit dropped below 10%, which occurred after D274. ^dDefined as a ≥10 point change from baseline.
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Conclusions



- **T-DXd demonstrated a statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in OS** compared with RAM + PTX in patients with HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA in the 2L setting (median, 14.7 vs 11.4 months, respectively, with 30% reduction in risk of death: **HR, 0.70 [P = 0.0044]**)
- **Improvement in PFS, confirmed ORR, DCR, and DOR** was also observed **with T-DXd**
- The toxicity profile of T-DXd 6.4 mg/kg was generally manageable and was consistent with its known safety profile, with **no new safety signals identified**
 - Patient-reported QOL was maintained with T-DXd; scores were comparable in the T-DXd versus RAM + PTX arm
- Results support further evaluation of T-DXd in an earlier line setting

DESTINY-Gastric04 confirms T-DXd as the global 2L standard-of-care therapy for patients with HER2+ metastatic GC/GEJA



2L, second-line; DCR, disease control rate; DOR, duration of response; GC, gastric cancer; GEJA, gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; HR, hazard ratio; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PTX, paclitaxel; QOL, quality of life; RAM, ramucicimab; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.

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