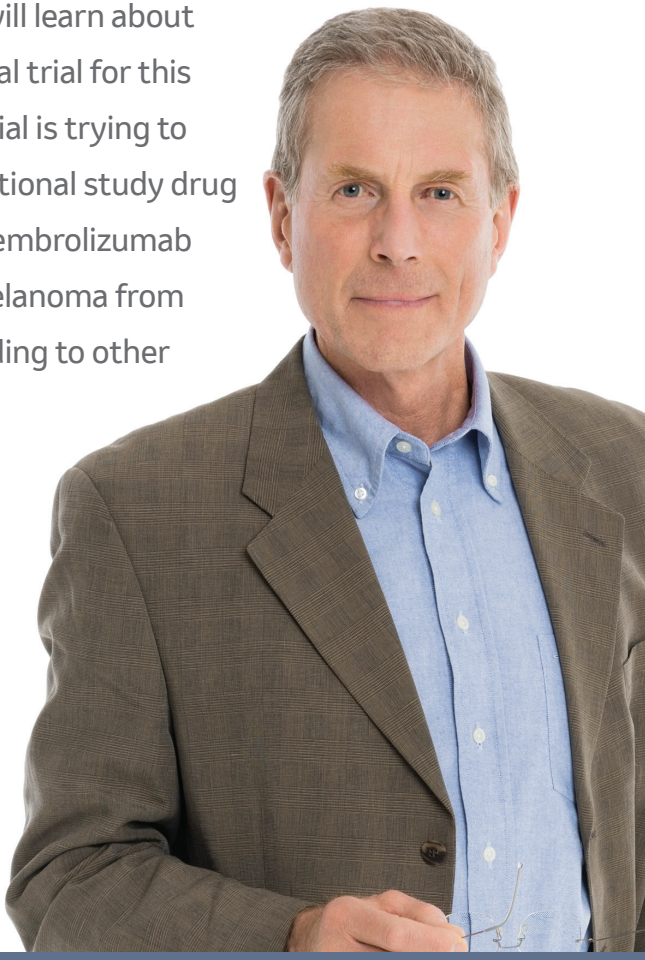
INTerpath

ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS

INTerpath-012

A clinical trial for people with **stage III or IV Melanoma**

In this brochure, you will learn about **melanoma** and a clinical trial for this disease. This clinical trial is trying to find out if an investigational study drug in combination with pembrolizumab may help stop your melanoma from growing and/or spreading to other areas of your body.



What is Melanoma?

Melanoma is a type of skin cancer found in the skin.

The skin has three layers:

1. **Epidermis:** the top layer
2. **Dermis:** the middle layer
3. **Subcutaneous tissue:** the lowest layer

Melanoma is a disease in which cancer cells form in the cells of the epidermis of the skin that are responsible for the color of the skin (called melanocytes).

Melanoma is a serious type of skin cancer, however, when found early, it is very treatable. Anyone can get melanoma. Most people who do get melanoma have light skin and risks are increased for those who are exposed more to the sun, tanning and sunlamps that emit ultraviolet light.

Cancer staging is a process of describing where the cancer is located and spread in the body. The melanoma stages range from 0 through IV. Stage II melanoma is local and has not spread to the lymph nodes or to other parts of the body. Stage III melanoma has spread to the lymph nodes but not to other parts of body while Stage IV means that disease has spread to other parts of the body.

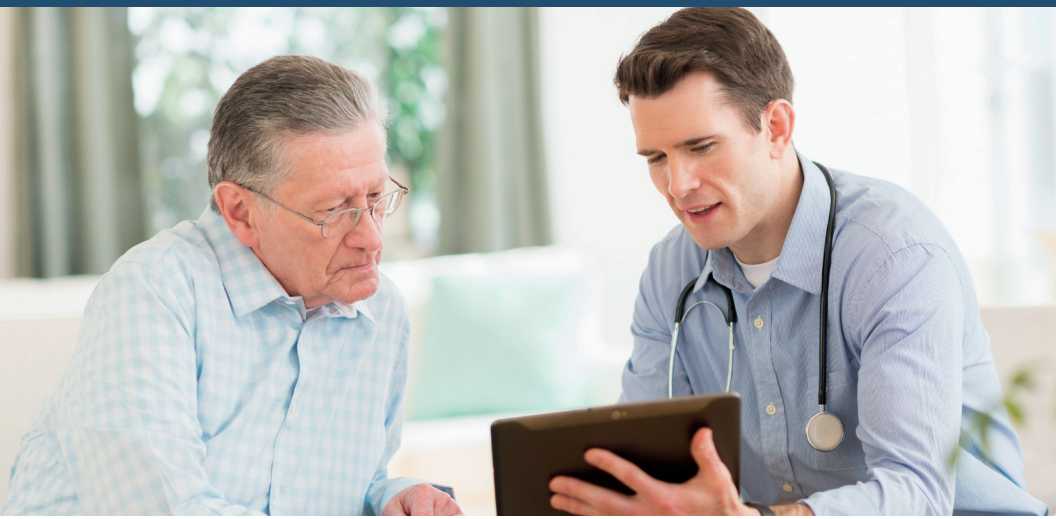
If you are diagnosed with melanoma of the skin, your doctor will likely do a biopsy, including a lymph node biopsy, to find out the staging (Stage 0-IV) of the melanoma. Your treatment options vary by stage.

What are my treatment options?

If you have melanoma, your cancer care team will discuss your treatment options with you and those close to you.

Your options will depend on several things including:

- Your overall health
- The stage of your cancer, which tells you if the cancer has spread and how far
- The thickness of the tumor and where it is in your body
- Whether there is bleeding or ulceration of the tumor



- Chance of the cancer coming back
- Side effects you might have from the treatment
- What chance the treatment has of slowing down or stopping the cancer
- How long the treatment might help extend your life
- How much the treatment might help improve your symptoms
- Features of your cancer cells (called biomarkers) that may help guide your treatment

Your care team may offer you 1 or more of these treatments:

- **Local therapies** – treatment directed at the site of the cancer to destroy it
- **Targeted therapy** – treatment that works on specific cells to stop them from growing
- **Immunotherapy** – medicines that help your immune system fight the cancer
- **Chemotherapy** – medicine to kill cancer cells or stop them from growing
- **Watchful waiting** – your care team might wait and watch the cancer before they use any treatment (also called active surveillance)
- **Clinical trials**, such as this one

What is a clinical trial?

Clinical trials are research studies that help doctors find out if study drugs (alone or with other treatments) are safe and if they can help prevent, find, or treat diseases or conditions. Clinical trials are carefully controlled research studies that are done to get a closer look at investigational treatments and procedures.

All about this clinical trial

Why is this trial being done?

This trial is trying to find out if an investigational study drug (also known as V940 and RNA-4157) given in combination with pembrolizumab is safe and may help slow down or stop the growth of melanoma, or stop it from spreading to other areas of your body, in participants with Stage III or IV Melanoma.

The trial will compare V940 plus pembrolizumab to a placebo plus pembrolizumab. A placebo looks like a trial treatment, but it has no active ingredients. Pembrolizumab has been approved by certain health authorities for treating advanced melanoma that cannot be removed by surgery or has spread to other parts of the body. It may not be approved in your country for your exact type of cancer.

Ask your doctor any questions about what happens in the trial visits and how often they will happen.

The combination of V940 plus pembrolizumab being tested in this study is experimental and has not been approved to treat any type of cancer.

Who can join this trial?

There are certain criteria that you must meet to join, such as:

- Having stage III or IV melanoma that cannot be removed with surgery
- Tests to see if you you qualify

- Other rules to decide if this trial is a good option for you

You and your doctor will also talk about the possible benefits and risks of joining.

What treatments are being studied?

The investigational study drug is called **V940** (also known as mRNA-4157).

The treatments being studied are:

- The investigational combination of V940 with pembrolizumab
- Placebo with pembrolizumab

If I join the trial, what treatment will I get?

You will be randomly assigned to 1 of the 2 treatment groups.

The treatment you get will depend on which group you are placed in:

- **Group A** will get the investigational combination of V940 (9 doses every 3 weeks) with pembrolizumab (17 cycles every 6 weeks)
- **Group B** will get placebo (9 doses every 3 weeks) with pembrolizumab (17 cycles every 6 weeks)

You will have about a:

- 50% chance (1 out of 2) of being in Group A, and a
- 50% chance (1 out of 2) of being in Group B

Neither you nor your trial doctor will know which group you are in.

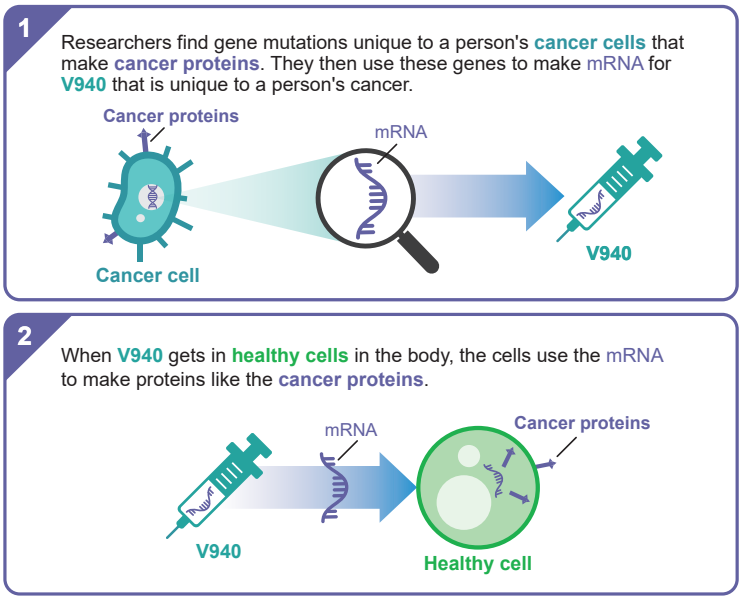
Here is what researchers know or assume about how each study drug works on its own.

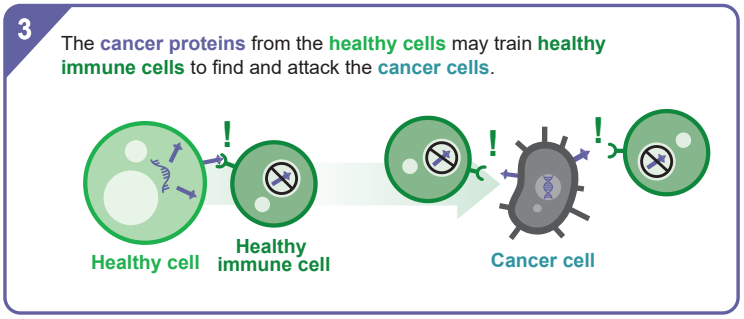
About V940

V940 is an investigational cancer therapy that has not been approved.

1. Every person's cancer has different mutations (changes) in their genes. V940 is made specifically for each person based on their gene mutations- in other words, it is individualized for each person.
2. Before a person gets V940, researchers find their cancer mutations. They then make mRNA to use in a dose of V940 made just for them (**mRNA** is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins). The mRNA makes proteins that look like the person's specific cancer mutations.
3. When the person gets V940 as an injection into their muscles, the mRNA tells their body to make proteins that looks like their cancer mutations.
4. These proteins may train their immune system to better find and destroy cancer cells with these mutations.

Another way to think about V940



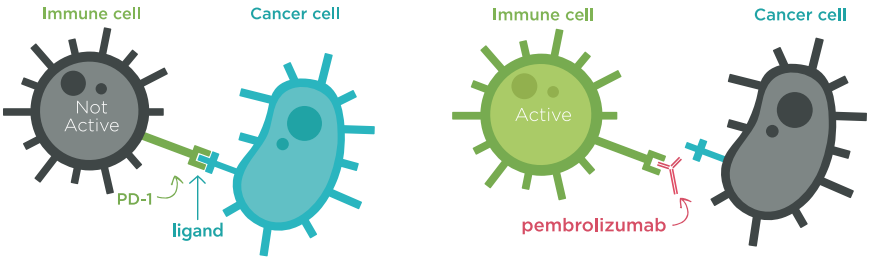


How does pembrolizumab work?

1. A protein called PD-1 (on some of your immune system cells) sometimes binds with certain molecules called ligands (on some cancer cells)
2. When these bind, it turns off the immune system cell, which means it can't do its work to help protect you and attack cancer cells
3. This is where pembrolizumab comes in—this study drug binds with PD-1 and blocks PD-1 from binding with ligands
4. By blocking PD-1 from binding with ligands, pembrolizumab may help the immune system stay on so it can find and attack cancer cells

Another way to think about pembrolizumab

When PD-1 and ligands bind, it's like turning off the immune cell. This means that the immune cell will not do its work to attack cancer cells.



If I join, what will happen during trial visits?

You will visit the trial site on a regular schedule so that your doctors can see how the trial drug is working for you.

During your trial visits, you might get:

- Blood tests
- Physical exams
- Trial drugs
- Imaging scans, such as CT scans or MRIs
- Tumor biopsies

What happens when the trial is over?

If you join the trial, your trial doctor will need to stay in contact with you even after your trial visits are over. This is called the follow-up period.

This is very important because this clinical trial is studying how well the trial drugs work over time.

Thank you for learning about melanoma and this clinical trial.

To learn more about this study,

talk to your study doctor, the contact below, or visit

www.merckoncologyclinicaltrials.com

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For more information, contact our research staff: