Sector View

Pharmaceuticals

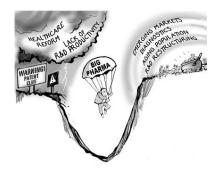
 1 M
 3 M
 6 M
 31/12/15

 Healthcare
 7.7%
 4.9%
 -5.1%
 -6.5%

 DJ Stoxx 600
 3.2%
 0.2%
 -7.6%
 -6.4%

 *Stoxx Sector Indices

Companies covered						
ACTELION		BUY	CHF173			
Last Price	CHF164,8	Market Cap.	CHF18,808m			
ASTRAZENECA	١	BUY	5100p			
Last Price	4067,5p	Market Cap.	GBP51,437m			
BAYER		NEUTRAL	U.R.			
Last Price	EUR89,18	Market Cap.	EUR73,747m			
GLAXOSMITHI	KLINE	BUY	1700p			
Last Price	1470,5p	Market Cap.	GBP71,640m			
IPSEN		BUY	EUR63			
Last Price	EUR56,97	Market Cap.	EUR4,743m			
NOVARTIS		NEUTRAL	CHF89			
Last Price	CHF79,05	Market Cap.	CHF207,673m			
NOVO NORDISK		NEUTRAL	DKK400			
Last Price	DKK373,6	Market Cap.	DKK751,894m			
ROCHE HOLDI	NG	BUY	CHF293			
Last Price	CHF258,6	Market Cap.	CHF181,683m			
SANOFI		NEUTRAL	EUR83			
Last Price	EUR72,4	Market Cap.	EUR93,167m			
SHIRE PLC		BUY	6500p			
Last Price	4407p	Market Cap.	GBP39,600m			
UCB		NEUTRAL	EUR80			
Last Price	EUR66,78	Market Cap.	EUR12,989m			



ASCO part II: The lung cancer market to split itself in smaller parts

Presentations during the week end at ASCO were largely dominated by immuno-oncology as we tried to illustrate it in our small note yesterday morning. Although a few more came yesterday, companies made headlines on data obtained in various subsets of the lung cancer market with small molecules. It confirms that this one will divide up in small parts as an increasing number of biomarkers show relevance in this setting. We illustrate it today with three different clinical results. From a financial standpoint, it is uncertain whether it will translate into big opportunities for companies.

ANALYSIS

- A series of three almost concomitant clinical trial results came out yesterday that illustrate how the lung cancer market is currently restructuring itself. This should not prevent big commercial opportunities to arise and reach blockbuster status, including new standards of care in first and second lines with combinations of IO/IO or IO/chemo drugs. But it is not the end of targeted therapies as more and more biomarkers look actionable and help split the market in plenty of smaller segments that will be addressed differently. For some time we had EGFR-positive lung cancers and more recently ALK-positive lung cancers with more or less significant market sizes in the end (Xalkori in 2015 achieved only USD488m in sales in ALK-positive cancers).
- The first piece of interesting results to be presented yesterday was that showing very promising data for a dual ALK/ROS1 tyrosine kinase inhibitor in a phase I/II trial with 54 patients previously treated with several ALK TKIs. ORR was 46% and median PFS was 11.4 months. The treatment was also able to reduce the size of brain metastases in many patients. Main side effects were cholesterol elevations and peripheral oedemas. A larger phase II with 240 patients will now begin. We miss some details about the study including which ALK TKIs were used before starting the investigational drug because it is known that Xalkori (Pfizer's drug) is not crossing the brain-blood barrier, unlike Zykadia and Cotellic. The incremental value of the drug will therefore have to be determined with closer look. That said, in ROS1-positive patients and in patients with both ALK+ and ROS1+ tumours, the drug looks interesting. Whether it can be a meaningful drug for Pfizer remains unclear at this stage however.
- The other two presentations are different in that they refer to existing products that have successfully explored new territories in sub-segments of the lung cancer market. First is Novartis' combination of Mekinist and Tafinlar that are currently approved for BRAF V600E-mutation positive melanoma and that has been tested in BRAF V600E-mutation positive lung cancer with encouraging results. Out of the 57 patients tested in phase II, 63% had a clinical response with median duration of 9.0 months and PFS of 9.7 months while having performed already a first line of chemotherapy. It is estimated that only 1-2% of NSCLC patients have BRAF V600E mutation i.e. less than half the number with ALK mutation, but this may represent a few hundreds of millions more for the combination that should be a blockbuster in melanoma alone.
- The second product in the same category although with different angle (not a new biomarker this time) is Tagrisso from AstraZeneca that received approval already for NSCLC with EGFR T790M mutation. What has been shown in an updated presentation of a phase I trial with the drug is that the drug works equally well when the disease spreads and shows CNS lesions. When patients have what is called leptomeningeal disease secondary to their lung cancer, they usually receive heavy treatments like intrathecal chemotherapy or whole-brain radiations. At least similar results were obtained with Tagrisso without need for concomitant heavy treatments.

VALUATION

No change to our forecasts as a result of the above-mentioned clinical results.

NEXT CATALYSTS

Today is last day for ASCO 2016 meeting

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Stock rating

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Positive opinion for a stock where we expect a favourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential upside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

NEUTRAL

Opinion recommending not to trade in a stock short-term, neither as a BUYER or a SELLER, due to a specific set of factors. This view is intended to be temporary. It may reflect different situations, but in particular those where a fair value shows no significant potential or where an upcoming binary event constitutes a high-risk that is difficult to quantify. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

SELL

Negative opinion for a stock where we expect an unfavourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential downside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.

Distribution of stock ratings

BUY ratings 72%

NEUTRAL ratings 0%

SELL ratings 28%

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