

Save Your Skin Foundation Applauds Health Canada's Approval of KEYTRUDA[®] (pembrolizumab) as Adjuvant Treatment for Adults and Children with Stage IIB or IIC Melanoma Following Complete Resection

Sept 13, 2022 – TORONTO, ON – Health Canada has granted approval for KEYTRUDA[®] (pembrolizumab) for the adjuvant treatment of adult and pediatric patients with stage IIB or IIC melanoma following complete resection. This approval is based on the results from the Phase 3 KEYNOTE-716 trial, which demonstrated significant improvement in recurrence-free survival.¹

In 2022, an estimated 9,000 Canadians will be diagnosed with melanoma², a form of cancer that takes place when melanocytes, the cells responsible for melanin production, start to grow uncontrollably and develop into a tumour³. Although it is the least common of all skin cancers, melanoma is the most serious type and early diagnosis and treatment are critical.

"We welcome the news of a new treatment option for Canadians living with this disease as the incidence of melanoma continues to rise across the country," said Kathy Barnard, Founder/President of Save Your Skin Foundation. "Having options available right after surgery can help take action against a disease that moves quickly if not caught."

About KEYTRUDA[®]

KEYTRUDA[®] is an anti-PD-1 therapy that works by helping increase the ability of the body's immune system to help detect and fight tumour cells. KEYTRUDA[®] is a humanized monoclonal antibody that blocks the interaction between PD-1 and its ligands, PD-L1 and PD-L2, thereby activating T lymphocytes which may affect both tumour cells and healthy cells.¹

KEYTRUDA[®] was first approved in Canada in 2015 and currently has indications in several disease areas, including advanced renal cell carcinoma, bladder cancer, non-small cell lung carcinoma, primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma, classical Hodgkin lymphoma, colorectal cancer, endometrial carcinoma, esophageal cancer, triple-negative breast cancer, melanoma, and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.¹

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¹ KEYTRUDA[®] Product Monograph. Merck Canada Inc. Updated August 18, 2022. Available at: https://www.merck.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/04/KEYTRUDA-PM_E.pdf

² Canadian Cancer Society. *Melanoma Skin Cancer Statistics*. Taken from: <https://cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-types/skin-melanoma/statistics>. Accessed on July 7, 2022.

³ Government of Canada. *Melanoma Skin Cancer*. Taken from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/chronic-diseases/cancer/melanoma-skin-cancer.html>. Accessed on July 7, 2022.