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TME Pharma**Avancées cliniques et financières pour TME**

TME Pharma a publié ses résultats semestriels et fait le point sur ses activités. La société marque des avancées aussi sur le plan clinique que sur le plan financier et entre dans le radar de la FDA. Opinion Achat fort avec un TP revu de 4,19€.

Clinical and financial advances for TME

TME Pharma has published its half-year results and provided an update on its activities. The company has made progress both clinically and financially and is now on the FDA's radar. Strong Buy opinion with a revised TP of €4.19.

Recommendation **1. Strong Buy**
Closing Price on 3 Nov. 2023 **€ 0.407**
Target Price **€ 4.19 (928.7%)**

Les résultats semestriels de TME sont l'occasion de faire une mise au point. Opérationnellement, la société a amélioré sa visibilité financière pour 2024. Cliniquement, TME Pharma continue de produire des données de survie globale du bras d'expansion GLORIA (NOX-A12+RT+BEV) avec une médiane de suivi supérieure à 18 mois. Des informations qui intéressent la FDA.

La médiane de survie globale devrait s'établir autour de 18 mois (18 mois +). Par ailleurs la survie globale sera probablement supérieure puisque 3 patients sur 6 donnent apparemment des signes de réponse complète. En outre, la réponse globale au traitement dans l'étude d'expansion a été de 83% bien supérieur aux données de la littérature. Par ailleurs, la société a eu la capacité de lever 2 M€ portant ainsi sa trésorerie à plus de 3 M€ au 30 juin 2023, accroissant sa visibilité financière jusqu'en février 2024.

Au regard de ces données, nous maintenons notre opinion Achat Fort sur la valeur avec notre TP revu à 4,19 € par action.

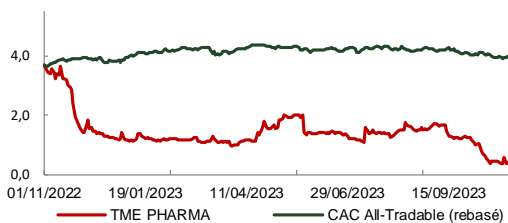
TME's half-year results provide an opportunity to set the record straight. Operationally, the company has improved its financial visibility for 2024. Clinically, TME Pharma continues to improve overall survival data for the GLORIA expansion arm (NOX-A12+RT+BEV) with a median follow-up of more than 18 months. Information of interest to the FDA.

The median overall survival will be greater than 18 months (18 months +). Furthermore, 3 out of 6 patients have achieved complete or near-complete response. Additionally, the overall treatment response in the expansion study was 83%, well above literature data. The company was able to raise €2 million, bringing its cash flow to more than €3 million as of June 30, 2023, increasing its financial visibility until February 2024.

In view of these data, we maintain our Strong Buy opinion on the stock with our TP revised to €4.19 per share.

Performances

Absolute perf.	1 month	6 months	12 months
	-17%	-0.7%	-88.6%

**Market data**

Reuters / Bloomberg ticker	ALTME.PA / ALTME.FP
Market capitalisation (€m)	2.3
Enterprise value (€m)	4.3
Free Float (€m)	1.74 (77,2 %)
Number of shares	5,317,193
Daily volume (€)	161 782
Capital turnover rate (1 year)	NS
High (52 weeks)	€ 3.71
Low (52 weeks)	€ 0.11

Current shareholding structure

Not Specified

Agenda

Q4 2023: 2023 SNO Annual Meeting, Vancouver (Nov., 16-19);
Q4 2023: TME's request formal advice on NOX-A12's development;
Q1 2024: FDA's response ;

Key figures

	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenues (€m)	0.12	0.03	0.04	5.04	15.04
Change (%)	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
EBITDA (€m)	-13.28	-12.06	-14.34	-14.76	-13.04
EBIT (€m)	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
EBIT Margin (%)	-13.28	-12.06	-14.34	-14.76	-13.04
Net profit gp sh. (€r)	-14.46	-15.16	-15.36	-14.78	-12.06
Net margin (%)	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns
EPS	-1.32	-1.38	-0.89	-0.53	0.2

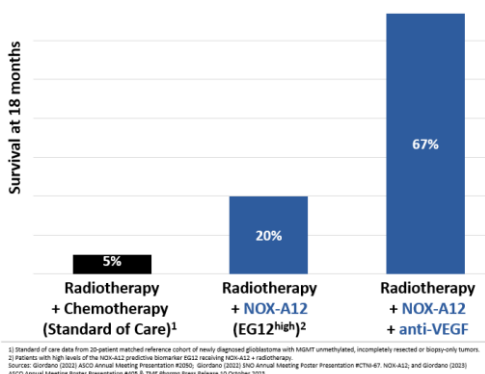
Ratios

	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
VE / CA	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
VE / EBIT	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
VE / REX	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
P / E	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Gearing (%)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Net debt/ EBITDA	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
RCE (%)	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

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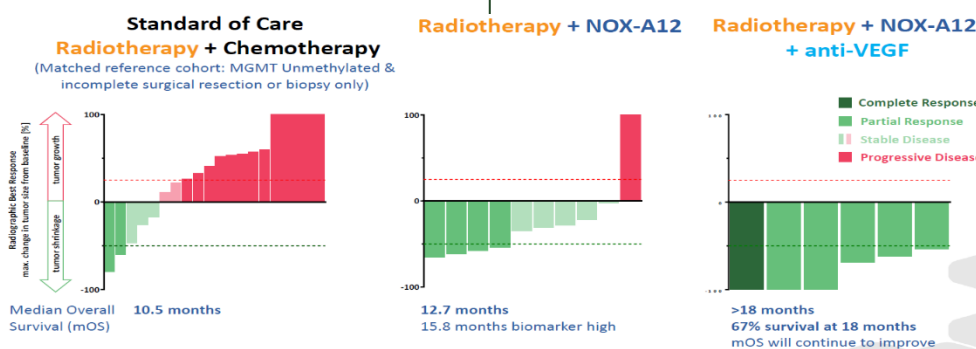
Des résultats de plus en plus encourageants...

...qui montrent qu'après 18 mois de suivi, **67% des patients étaient vivants** conduisant à une **survie globale (SG)** de cette cohorte de **67%** (fig. ci-dessous à gauche).



Par ailleurs, la survie médiane de l'expansion de l'essai GLORIA devrait se situer autour de **18 mois (18 mois+)** puisque **50% des patients** de cette étude sont aujourd'hui décédés (cf. Fig. ci-dessus à droite) un décès supplémentaire peut donc établir la médiane de survie globale. Une amélioration de près de 8 mois pour des patients peu répondeurs au traitement de référence. Une médiane de survie pour la combinaison NOX-A12+RT+BEV qui se compare **très favorablement** aux résultats de plusieurs études de références dans le domaine pour les populations résistantes à la chimiothérapie avec des thérapies en développement ou approuvées. L'intervalle se situe entre **13,4 et 16,5 mois** de mSG, tandis que pour le dispositif médical TTF (Tumor Treating Fields) approuvé par la FDA en 2015, la survie médiane était à **16,9 mois**.

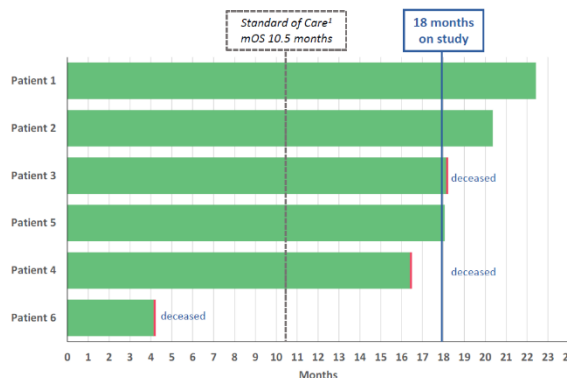
Le **taux de réponse globale (ORR, Overall Response Rate)** pour NOX-A12+RT+BEV, qui se situe à **83%**, est bien au-delà des données de la littérature (intervalle [**3 - 7,8%**]). Cela montre que l'association agit bien au niveau des masses et cellules tumorales. Ce qui est conforté par le nombre de réponses partielles observées (cf. Fig. ci-dessous, à droite), puisque l'ensemble des patients ont montré une **réponse radiographique partielle** au traitement avec une réduction de la tumeur > 50% et 83 % des patients ont obtenu des réponses radiographiques et cliniques durables d'au moins six mois. En outre, pour 3 patients sur 6, soit 50%, des réponses complètes (tumeurs à des niveaux non mesurables) ont pu être observées et validées.



Sur la base de ces dernières données, TME Pharma devrait se rapprocher de la FDA pour **un avis formel** sur la suite de son développement de **NOX-A12 dans le glioblastome**. En outre, la FDA devait aussi statuer sur l'éligibilité de TME Pharma à une voie réglementaire accélérée **du type « Fast track »**. Ce qui permettrait à la société de déposer une IND (demande d'autorisation d'essai clinique) « pivot » sous procédure accélérée dans le traitement du glioblastome. D'ailleurs il semble peu probablement que la FDA n'approuve pas cette demande puisqu'elle vient **d'accorder son autorisation pour une IND dans une étude de phase II OPTIMUS (cancer du pancréas)** avec le NOX-A12 qui pourrait être en combinaison avec le pembrolizumab de Merck (nouvel accord de collaboration clinique entre TME et Merck).

Results are increasingly encouraging...

...showing that after 18 months on study, **67% of patients were still alive**, leading to an **overall survival at 18 months (OS-18)** rate for this cohort of **67%** (fig. below left).



Furthermore, the median survival of the GLORIA trial expansion will be greater than **18 months (18 months+)**. Since **50% of the patients** in this study have now died (see Fig. above right), one additional death can establish the median overall survival. An improvement of nearly 8 months in patients who had a poor response to reference treatment. A **median overall survival** for the NOX-A12+RT +BEV combination compares **very favorably** with the results of several benchmark studies in the field for the chemotherapy-resistant population, using therapies in development or approved. The range is between **13.4 and 16.9 months** of mOS, while for the TTF (Tumor Treating Fields) medical device approved by the FDA in 2015, median survival was **16.9 months**.

The **overall response rate (ORR)** for NOX-A12+RT+BEV, at **83%**, is well above literature data (range **3 - 7.8%**). This shows that the combination acts effectively on tumor masses and cells. This is supported by the number of partial responses observed (see Fig. below, right), since all patients showed a **partial radiographic response** to treatment with a tumor reduction of > 50% and 83% of patients achieving both radiographic and clinical responses durable at least six months. In addition, for 3 out of 6 patients, i.e. 50%, complete or near-complete responses (tumors at non-measurable levels) were observed and validated.

Based on these latest data, TME Pharma should approach the FDA for **a formal opinion** on the further development of **NOX-A12 in glioblastoma**. In addition, the FDA also will be asked to rule on TME Pharma's eligibility for an expedited **regulatory procedure**. This would enable the company to file an IND (Investigational New Drug) for the treatment of glioblastoma and apply for the Fast-Track or Breakthrough status. Moreover, it seems unlikely that the FDA will not approve an IND application, since it has just granted **its authorization for an IND in a phase II OPTIMUS study (pancreatic cancer)** with NOX-A12, which could be in combination with Merck's pembrolizumab (new clinical collaboration agreement between TME and Merck).

...avec la potentialité d'un biomarqueur prédictif...

Lors du dernier congrès de l'ASCO ont été présentées des données identifiant un biomarqueur prédictif pour les patients atteints de glioblastome et traités par NOX-A12. Elles montraient que les patients ayant un « **score EG12** » élevé présentaient une **survie médiane sans progression (PFS) (6 mois)** significativement plus longue que les patients au EG12 faible (3 mois), ainsi qu'une **survie médiane globale plus longue (15,8 vs 11,1 mois)**. Nous sommes enclins à penser que ce potentiel biomarqueur prédictif est un élément supplémentaire qui doit renforcer l'étude du dossier d'IND dans le GBM auprès de la FDA. Le « **Score EG12** » est donc une évaluation histopathologique des tissus tumoraux prélevés par biopsie ou lors de la première résection du GBM. Ce test permettra de cibler les « bonnes populations » (plus enclines à bénéficier et à répondre au NOX-A12) lors des futurs essais cliniques. Une situation qui aura pour effet d'accroître la puissance statistique de tout essai et de réduire les risques inhérents. A terme, ce test permettra de prédire, en vie réelle, quels patients bénéficieront le plus d'un traitement par NOX-A12 et RT.

Lors du congrès de l'European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) d'octobre dernier, un poster scientifique a été présenté pour expliquer le **remodelage du microenvironnement immunitaire** en proximité de la tumeur durant le traitement avec la RT associée à NOX-A12. Ce remodelage consiste en une infiltration accrue des lésions par des lymphocytes T CD8⁺ activées et proliférantes ainsi qu'un réarrangement des macrophages associés aux tumeurs (TAM).

...des marges financières de manœuvre ...

Si les résultats semestriels de TME Pharma font toujours état d'une absence de chiffre d'affaires, ils se caractérisent par une forte réduction (-77%) des dépenses de R&D qui s'établissent à 1,31 M€ contre 5,71 M€ en juin 2022. Cela s'explique par le fait que le recrutement de l'essai d'expansion de GLORIA ne recrute plus de patients et est en voie d'aboutissement. Aussi, les patients encore en vie reçoivent-ils leur traitement et son suivi de manière un peu différente eu égard à la maturité des données obtenues. Il convient de considérer aussi que les négociations avec la FDA à propos de l'essai OPTIMUS dans le cancer du pancréas ont abouti (approbation du protocole et autorisation de l'IND) et pourront se réaliser aux USA ainsi qu'en Espagne et en France. De fait, TME Pharma a donc eu la capacité de réduire les coûts de fabrication des médicaments, les frais de service et les autres coûts liés aux essais cliniques et aux tests précliniques, en plus de diminuer les dépenses de personnel, les coûts des brevets et les frais d'administration, tout comme les dépenses de personnel, qui sont aussi réduites. De même, les frais généraux et administratifs ont reculé de 27% à 1,47 M€ contre 2,01 M€ en juin 2022. Cette réduction s'explique notamment par la baisse des dépenses de personnel ainsi que des frais juridiques, de conseil et honoraires d'audit. **Par ailleurs, la société a levé 2 M€ portant sa trésorerie à peu plus de 3 M€, qui lui offre une visibilité financière à la société jusqu'en février 2024.**

...qui conforte notre vision positive du titre.

Comme nous l'évoquions dans des notes précédentes, TME Pharma constitue avec patience et obstination un corpus de données cliniques et scientifiques particulièrement impressionnantes sur le NOX-A12, qui conforte sa position de thérapie alternative dans le traitement du GBM ainsi que d'autres tumeurs solides. D'ailleurs, la FDA vient d'étudier pour l'une des premières fois, la nouvelle classe à laquelle appartient NOX-A12 et donc d'avaliser sa pertinence en permettant l'initiation d'un essai clinique de phase II dans le cancer du pancréas. Et il y a fort à penser qu'elle devrait donner son accord pour une étude de confirmation ou pivot dans le GBM après un feu vert pour une procédure accélérée.

Pour ces raisons et de nombreuses autres, il nous semble évident qu'à l'issue de la réunion annuelle de la Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) (en novembre 2023) et qu'au maximum au début de l'année 2024 TME Pharma devrait être d'accélérer ses discussions avec de potentiels partenaires. Et ce d'autant plus rapidement que la décision de la FDA de hâter le processus de développement et d'enregistrement aura été positive. C'est pourquoi **nous maintenons notre opinion Achat Fort avec un OC mis à jour de 4,19 € / action (à la suite de l'évolution du taux sans risque ainsi que le nombre d'actions en circulation).**

...with the potential of a predictive biomarker...

At the last ASCO congress, data identifying a predictive biomarker for patients with glioblastoma treated with NOX-A12 were presented. They showed that patients with high "**EG12 score**" had a significantly longer **median progression-free survival (PFS) (6 months)** than patients with a low EG12 (3 months), as well as a **longer median overall survival (15.8 versus 11.1 months)**. We are inclined to think that this potential predictive biomarker is an additional element which should strengthen the study of the IND file in GBM with the FDA. The "**EG12 Score**" is therefore a histopathological evaluation of tumor tissues taken by biopsy or during the first resection of the GBM. This test will make it possible to target "good populations" (more likely to benefit from and respond to NOX-A12) in future clinical trials. A situation which will have the effect of increasing the statistical power of any test and reducing the inherent risks. Ultimately, this test will make it possible to predict, in real life, which patients will benefit the most from treatment with NOX-A12 and RT. At the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) congress last October, a scientific poster was presented to explain **the remodeling of the immune microenvironment** near the tumor during treatment with NOX-A12 combined with RT. This remodeling consists of an accumulated infiltration of lesions by activated, proliferating CD8⁺ T lymphocytes and as well as a rearrangement of tumor-associated macrophages (TAM).

...Financial room for maneuver...

If TME Pharma's half-year results still show an absence of turnover, they are characterized by a sharp reduction (-77%) in R&D expenses which stand at €1.31 million compared to €5.71 M€ in June 2022. This is explained by the fact that the GLORIA expansion trial is no longer recruiting patients and the recruitment is being completed. However, the patients who are still alive receive either their treatment or follow-up care. It should also be considered that the negotiations with the FDA regarding the OPTIMUS trial in pancreatic cancer have been successful (approval of the protocol and authorization of the IND) and can be carried out in the USA as well as in Spain and France. In fact, TME Pharma has therefore had the ability to reduce drug manufacturing costs, service fees and other costs related to clinical trials and preclinical tests, in addition to reducing personnel expenses, patent costs and administration costs, just like the R&D personnel expenses, which are also reduced. Likewise, general, and administrative expenses fell by 27% to €1.47 million compared to €2.01 million in June 2022. This reduction is explained by the drop in personnel expenses as well as legal and consulting costs and audit fees. **Furthermore, the company raised €2 million bringing its cash flow to just over €3 million, which provides financial visibility to the company until February 2024.**

...which reinforces our positive view of the stock.

As we mentioned in previous notes, TME Pharma is patiently and persistently building up a body of particularly impressive clinical and scientific data on NOX-A12, which reinforces its position as an alternative therapy in the treatment of GBM as well as other solid tumors. Moreover, the FDA has just evaluated for the first time, the new class to which NOX-A12 belongs and therefore endorsed its relevance by allowing the initiation of a phase II clinical trial in cancer of the pancreas. And there is strong reason to believe that it should approve an IND to enable clinical development in the US in GBM and also provide positive feedback regarding expedited regulatory pathways.

For these reasons and many others, it seems evident to us that after the annual meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO) (in November 2023) and that at most at the beginning of the year 2024 TME Pharma should be able to accelerate its discussions with potential partners. And even more quickly if the FDA's decision to speed up the development and registration process will be positive. This is why **we maintain our Strong Buy opinion with an updated OC of €4.19/share (following the evolution of the risk-free rate as well as the number of shares in circulation).**

Important Disclosure

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2. Buy	The absolute share price performance is expected to be comprised between +10% and +25 %
3. Neutral	The absolute share price performance is expected to be comprised between +10% and -10 %
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No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

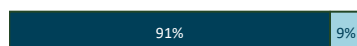
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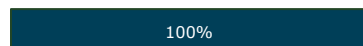
Date of 1 st publication	Rating	Target Price
6 th November 2023	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 4.19
26 th September 2023	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 4.28
5 th July 2023	Semi-Annual Note Strong Buy	€ 3.52
16 th March 2023	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 2.70
15 th November 2022	Equity Flash Strong Buy	€ 5.24

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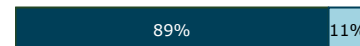
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■ Strong Buy ■ Buy ■ Neutral ■ Sell ■ Strong Sell

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