Protocol Plain Language Summary

A clinical study to compare nemtabrutinib to standard treatments in people with chronic lymphocytic leukemia or small lymphocytic lymphoma (MK-1026-011)

Protocol Title: A Phase 3, Randomized Study to Compare Nemtabrutinib Versus Comparator (Investigator's Choice of Ibrutinib or Acalabrutinib) in Participants With Untreated Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma (BELLWAVE-011)

Why is this study needed?

Researchers are looking for new ways to treat **chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)** and **small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)**. CLL and SLL are types of blood cancer.

Current treatments for CLL and SLL can slow cancer growth and help people to live longer. However, these treatments stop working for some people with CLL or SLL, and better treatments are needed.

This is a clinical study to compare **nemtabrutinib (study treatment)** to **ibrutinib or acalabrutinib (standard treatments)**. The goal of the study is to learn if the cancer responds to treatment with nemtabrutinib as well as or better than treatment with ibrutinib or acalabrutinib. Researchers also want to learn if people who take nemtabrutinib live longer without the cancer getting worse than those who take standard treatments.

Who will take part in this study?

About 1,200 people with CLL or SLL will be in this study. They will be 18 years old and older and have:

- CLL or SLL that needs to be treated
- Not have received prior treatment for CLL or SLL

What treatments are being given during the study?

People will be assigned by equal chance to take either of these treatments by mouth once a day:

- Study treatment: **nemtabrutinib** once a day
- Standard treatment: **ibrutinib** once a day OR **acalabrutinib** twice a day

Each person will take their assigned treatment until the cancer gets worse or they need to stop treatment.

How is this study designed?

Each person could be in the study for up to 9 years (possibly longer if they continue to benefit from treatment). Both the people in the study and the researchers will know which treatment the person is getting (open-label study).

During the study, people will give blood, urine, and possibly bone marrow samples. They will also have imaging tests and physical examinations, and answer sets of questions about their health.

What are the goals of this study and how will they be measured?

Main goals	How they will be measured
To learn if the **objective response (OR)** of people who take nemtabrutinib is comparable to those who take standard treatment	**OR** is the number of people whose cancer responds to treatment (the cancer gets smaller or goes away) during the study
To learn if the **progression free survival (PFS)** of people who take nemtabrutinib is longer than those who take standard treatment	**PFS** is the average length of time people are alive from the start of treatment until the cancer gets worse or death from any cause
Other goals	**How they will be measured**
To learn if the **overall survival (OS)** of people who take nemtabrutinib is longer than those who take standard treatment	**OS** is the length of time that people live from the start of treatment until death from any cause
To learn the **duration of response (DOR)** of people who take nemtabrutinib compared to those who take standard treatment	**DOR** is the length of time from when the cancer first responds to treatment until the cancer grows, spreads, or death from any cause
To learn about the **safety** of nemtabrutinib and how well people **tolerate** it	During the study, the number of people who: • Had an **adverse event** (AE) – an AE is a health problem that happens or worsens during a study • Stopped treatment due to an AE

What are the possible benefits and risks?

People may or may not benefit from the treatment received during the study. This study has an external group of experts that will oversee the overall risk and benefit. If this group of experts decides that the study treatment is not safe or does not show benefit, the study can be stopped.

More information about the benefits and risks is in the Investigator Brochure, Protocol, and Informed Consent documents.