

Pembrolizumab approved for Merkel cell carcinoma

February 2019—The FDA granted accelerated approval to pembrolizumab (Keytruda, Merck) for adult and pediatric patients with recurrent locally advanced or metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma. Approval was based on Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network protocol 9, also known as KEYNOTE-017, a multicenter, non-randomized, open-label trial that enrolled 50 patients with recurrent locally advanced or metastatic MCC who had not received prior systemic therapy for their advanced disease.

[Merck](#), 908-740-4000