## Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria & Aplastic Anemia

Monika Oliver BSc MD FRCPC Division of Apheresis Medicine Division of Hematology University of Alberta Hospital

## Disclosures

- Advisory Board Honoraria: Alexion, Takeda, Sobi, Novartis, Roche
- Travel Support: Alexion, Sobi
- Speaking Honoraria: Alexion
- Clinical Trial Involvement
  - Alexion (ALXN1210-301, ALXN2040-301)
  - Apellis (APL2-307)

## Objectives

- Explore the clinical presentation(s) of and diagnostic approach to PNH and Aplastic anemia
- Discuss the current standard of care treatment for PNH in Canada
- Present data on recent clinical trials of new inhibitors
- Review upcoming treatment strategies and opportunities



# Aplastic Anemia

### Aplastic Anemia

- A hematopoietic stem cell disorder associated with decreased hematopoiesis (blood cell making capacity)
- Misnomer "Aplastic Pancytopenia"
- Classification and prognosis in AA are related to the depth of cytopenias in the peripheral blood
- Severity drives the therapeutic decisions and management
- In Western countries the incidence is approximately two per million/year
- Half of cases of AA occur in the first three decades of life
- "Bone marrow failure" is an umbrella term which captures AA, MDS, or BM replacement by tumor or fibrosis

## Pathophysiology

- Loss of hematopoietic stem cells by :
- Autoimmune mechanisms (inappropriate immune system activation)
- Direct injury to HSCs (eg, by drugs, chemotherapy, radiation)
- Infections
- Pregnancy
- Idiopathic (40-70%)

### Presentation

#### Pancytopenia with inappropriately low reticulocyte response

- Anemia  $\rightarrow$  fatigue, shortness of breath, pallor, syncope, headache
- Thrombocytopenia  $\rightarrow$  bleeding, bruising, petechiae
- Neutropenia  $\rightarrow$  infections, fever, mouth sores

# Classification of AA

 Table 19-1
 Classification of aplastic anemia by severity

Peripheral blood cytopenias	Nonsevere (moderate) aplastic anemia (not meeting criteria for severe disease)	Severe aplastic anemia (any two of three)	Very severe aplastic anemia (meets criteria for severe disease and absolute neutrophils <200)
Bone marrow cellularity	<25%	<25%	<25%
Absolute neutrophil count		$< 0.5 \times 10^{9}/L$	$< 0.2 \times 10^{9}/L$
Platelet count		<20,000/µL	
Reticulocyte count		<1.0% corrected or <60,000/µL	

\*Very severe aplastic anemia is reserved for patients who fulfill criteria for SAA but with an absolute neutrophil count of  $<0.2 \times 10^9$ /L.

# Diagnosis

#### The bone marrow in Aplastic Anemia



Schrier S. ASH Image Bank 2001



#### <sup>1</sup>ASH image bank

2https://lymphoma-action.org.uk/about-lymphoma-tests-diagnosis-and-staging/bone-marrow-biop



## Supportive Management

- Transfusions of blood products to keep platelet count > 10, hemoglobin > 70g/l
- Attempt to limit transfusions in transplant eligible patients if possible
- Blood donations from close family/siblings should be avoided in order to minimize the risk of transplant rejection secondary to immune response to donor
- Patients may require iron chelation from iron overload from repeated pRBCS (typically >6-10 units)
- Prophylaxis→fungal, bacterial, viral
- No benefit with G-CSF or EPO

### Prognosis

- Without treatment, almost all patients with SAA or very severe AA eventually will succumb to infection or to bleeding complications
- Untreated, SAA has a one-year mortality of over 70 %
- Prompt diagnosis is key to initiate supportive care measures and definitive treatment with either immunosuppression or transplant
- In patients with moderate AA, it is reasonable to observe patients for several weeks to months to better define the tempo and trajectory of the disease.
- A subset of patients will exhibit spontaneous remission of cytopenias, while others evolve to severe AA (SAA)

### Treatment options for severe AA



#### Immunosuppression

- Funding varies from province to province
- Standard of care is horse ATG + Cyclosporine at minimum
- Preferred regimen (if funding allows) is triple therapy immunosuppression
- 52% complete response at 12 months, ORR
   68% at 6 months and 2-year OS is 90%
- Transfusion independence and improvement of neutropenia take 1-2 months
- Compared with hATG plus CsA, triple IST achieves superior responses with equivalent toxicity



## Addition of Eltrombopeg

- First-generation TPO-R agonist
  - Binds to the transmembrane domain of TPO-R, acting in synergy with TPO to stimulate hematopoiesis
- First trialled in in refractory SAA patients with 40% response rates observed
- Starting dose is 150mg orally once daily, but may be dose reduced in Asian patients
- Most common side effects include skin rashes, nausea, cough, diarrhea, headache, fatigue and liver dysfunction
- Concern that eltrombopeg can stimulate clonal evolution so need close monitoring of the CBC and peripheral blood smear with repeat bone marrow if clinical concern









De Latour P. et. al. N Engl J Med. 2022;386(1):11

### Treatment of the less-fit, frail AA patient

Informed by the patient's values and care philosophy

Generally lower-intensity therapy and/or supportive care

Options include single agent Eltrombopeg or Cyclosporine

Anabolic steroids such as danazol, and Anti-CD52 monoclonal antibody treatment Alemtuzumab have been used

## Transplant in Aplastic Anemia

Allogeneic stem cell transplantation (SCT) can cure AA, but transplantation is associated with the potential for significant short- and long-term morbidity and mortality

SCT replaces the immune system which is responsible for the initial attack on the bone marrow as well as restores the supply of hematopoietic stem cells

Outcomes are determined by recipient age, donor availability and match of donor and conditioning regimens used

Generally, first line therapy for children and adults <40

## Conclusions

- Aplastic anemia is a benign but life-threatening bone marrow condition
- Need for treatment and type of treatment is determined by the severity of the cytopenias
- Upfront immunosuppression with triple therapy horse ATG, cyclosporine and eltrombopeg has proven to result in superior CR rates and more brisk time to response than dual IST
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant remains the only curative therapy for AA
- Space in the treatment landscape for new therapies
- Questions remain re: treatment for moderate AA, pregnancy, elderly or medically frail

# Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

## Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

- Acquired, ultra-rare, benign clonal abnormality of hematopoietic stem cells
- Prevalence is estimated to be between 0.5-2 per million people/yr
- It was named because of the belief that hemolysis (red blood cell break down) and eventual hemoglobinuria (free hemoglobin in urine) occurred:
- Intermittently (paroxysmal)
- With greater frequency during the night (nocturnal)
- It can affect any age group, but mostly commonly presents in the 3<sup>rd</sup> decade
- No pattern with regards to geography, race, ethnicity, or sex
- Chronic, life threatening
- 5-year mortality: ~35%

Brodsky RA (2015) Blood Luzzatto L (2016) F1000 Research Hill A et al. (2017) Nat Dis Prim Patriquin CJ et al. (2019) Eur J Hematol

## Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

- The primary defect in PNH is in the *PIG-A* gene located on the X chromosome leading to absence of GPI-linked complement "chaperones" CD55/59
- The mechanism for the gene mutation is unclear
- Leads to uncontrolled, unregulated activation of immune system's complement cascade
- It can arise *de novo* (spontaneous) or in the setting of an underlying bone marrow failure disorder
  - Aplastic Anemia
  - Myelodysplastic Syndrome
  - Other myeloid neoplasms

Brodsky RA (2015) Blood Luzzatto L (2016) F1000 Research Hill A et al. (2017) Nat Dis Prim Patriquin CJ et al. (2019) Eur J Hematol

## **Clonal Selection and Expansion**



Luzzatto L (2016) *F1000 Research* Hill A *et al.* (2017) *Nat Dis Prim* 



#### **Unchecked Complement Activation**

Typically RBCs are shielded from complement destruction by "chaperone" GPI-anchored proteins, namely CD55 & CD59

Without their complement chaperones, PNH RBCs are vulnerable to destruction



Parker C et al., 2005. Brodsky R *in* Hoffman et al.2005 Rother RP et al., 2005 Socié G et al., 1996 Hill A et al., 2007

## Presentation

#### **Classical triad**

• DAT-neg hemolysis, thrombosis, bone marrow failure

#### **Common clinical features**

- Fatigue
- Dark urine
- Jaundice
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- Abdominal pain
- Kidney Dysfunction
- Smooth muscle dysfunction (ex. pHTN, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), erectile dysfunction)
- Thrombosis



### Thrombosis and PNH- Pathophysiology



Complex interplay of the coagulation and complement cascade

Hill A *et al.* (2013) *Blood* Peacock-Young et al. (2018) Haematologica

### Clinical Presentation of Thromboembolism

- Thrombotic events (TEs) occur in 30-45% of patients
  - Increased involvement of atypical sites but typical-site ie. DVT & PE also occur
  - Hepatic (Budd Chiari) & cerebral vein thromboses may be the impetus for PNH diagnosis
- Leading cause of mortality (40-70%) in untreated/undertreated
  - First recognized thrombosis can be fatal, and increased risk of death 5-10 fold
  - RR (VTE) ~ 62
  - Pts may have chronic, subclinical thrombosis which may go unnoticed
- Thrombotic events are of venous origin in 85% of cases and arterial in 15% of cases

Cases De Stefano V et al., 2002 Hillmen P *et al.* (2007) *Blood* Hill A *et al.* (2012) *BJH* Hill A *et al.* (2013) *Blood* Peacock-Young et al. (2018) Haematologica

### Diagnosis

#### **Blood work**

CBC with differential Bilirubin LDH Reticulocyte count Haptoglobin Creatinine Blood smear

#### DAT (Coombs test)

#### **Urine Studies**

Hemoglobinuria

Hemosiderinuria

#### **Bone Marrow Biopsy**

If cytopenias concerning for bone marrow failure

#### **Flow Cytometry**

Identify the GPI-AP deficient peripheral blood cells



## Flow Cytometry

Laser-based technique which detects the expression of surface (and intracellular) molecules to identify and characterize various cell populations

- FLAER (fluorescent labeled aerolysin)
- Absence of CD55, CD59
- Degree of GPI-deficiency is variable:
  - Type I RBCs: normal GPI expression Type II RBCs: partial GPI expression Type III RBCs: no GPI expression



- WBC (monocytes, granulocytes) are the ideal cell line to assess PNH clone size
- →The life span of WBC is preserved (RBC lifespan affected by hemolysis, <20 days)</li>
   →Not affected by RBC transfusion

Borowitz et al. Cytometry B Clin Cytom. 2010;78(4):211 Parker et al. Blood 2005;106:3699-3709 Sutherland DR *et al.* (2014) *Clin Cytometry* 

### Classification of PNH

Classification	Clinical Findings	Bone Marrow Findings	Flow Cytometry		
Classical PNH	-Dark/red urine -Thrombotic complications -Florid hemolysis	-Cellular marrow with erythroid hyperplasia -No karyotypic abnormalities	Large population (>50%) PNH WBC clone		
PNH in the setting of bone marrow failure	Variable Hemolysis	-Evidence of a concomitant bone marrow failure syndrome -cytogenetic abnormalities	Variable, PNH WBC clone, usually <50%		
Sub-clinical	No Hemolysis	-Unremarkable -Early evidence bone marrow failure syndrome	-PNH WBC clone <10%		

Brodsky RA. Blood 2021; 137(10):1304-1309.



MDS cases mostly presented with small (<10%) and very small clones (<1%), while classical PNH with large clones (>50%), and AA cases mainly medium clones (10–50%). LDH significantly increase along with clone size (p < 0.00001).

Fattizzo, B. et al. *Leukemia*. 2021.35, 3223–3231.



Early diagnosis of PNH to paramount to optimize patient management and outcomes!

Movalia M et al. (2011) ASH 2011 Abstract #1033 Patriquin CJ et al. (2019) Eur J Hematol

## PNH Treatment

### Management of PNH

- Supportive Care
  - Transfusion support- packed red blood cells
  - Hematinic support (folate, iron)
  - Analgesia
- Thrombosis
  - Primary prophylaxis if unable to start complement inhibitor
  - Therapeutic anticoagulation if history of thrombosis
- Allogeneic stem cell transplant
  - Reserved for BMF-predominant presentations
  - Almost never employed for classical PNH
- Complement inhibition

Legendre C *et al.* (2013) *NEJM* Patriquin CJ & KHM Kuo (2019) *TMR* Socié G *et al.* (2019) *BJH* 

### Eculizumab

- Monoclonal antibody to C5 that prevents cleavage of C5 to C5b, preventing the formation of terminal complement complex which is essential in the pathogenesis of PNH.
- In 2007, the US FDA approved eculuzimab for use in PNH based on its efficacy in two phase 3 clinical trials (SHEPERD, TRIUMPH)
- In 2010 Soliris priced as the most expensive drug in the world, at approximately US\$645,000 annually in the United States (2010), €430,000 in the UK, and \$500,000 in Canada (2014).

	Ecul	izumab	dosin	g sched	ule					
	Induction phase				Maintenance phase					
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Dose (mg)	600	600	600	600	900	x	900	x	900	

Brodsky et al. Blood. 2008;111(4):1840-1847. Kelly RJ *et al.* (2015) *NEJM* Hallstensen RF *et al.* (2015) *Immunobiology* Sarno L *et al.* (2019) *J Nephrol* Socié G *et al.* (2019) *BJH*
## Safety Profile

#### **BLACK BOX WARNING**

"Life-threatening and fatal meningococcal infections have occurred in patients treated with eculizumab. Meningococcal infection may become rapidly life-threatening or fatal if not recognized and treated early."

- Meningococcal vaccination (ACWY + MenB) mandatory at initiation and q3-5 years thereafter
- Anti-meningococcal antibiotics required until 14+ days post-vaccine
- May consider additional encapsulated bacteria vaccinations

#### Other side effects

- Headache in ~50% of patients following infusion
- Nasopharyngitis/URTI
- Back Pain
- Nausea

### **Reduced Intravascular Hemolysis with Eculizumab**



• 87% decrease in hemolysis maintained for 36 months

Hillmen P *et al.* (2006) *NEJM* Hillmen P *et al.* (2007) *Blood* Brodksy RA *et al.* (2008) *Blood* Kanakura Y *et al.* (2011) *Int J Hematol* 

### **Eculizumab Improves Survival**



Hillmen P *et al.* (1995) *NEJM* Kelly RJ *et al.* (2011) *Blood* 

## **Eculizumab Therapy Expectations**

#### In 1 week

Reduction in hemolysis (as measured by LDH)<sup>1</sup>

#### Between 2 and 3 weeks

Improvement in quality of life<sup>2</sup>

#### Between 2 and 6 months

- Reduction in transfusions<sup>2</sup>
- Stabilization of hemoglobin levels<sup>2</sup>

#### >6 months

- Continued improvement in quality of life<sup>2,5</sup>
- Achieved maximum concentration of red blood cells<sup>4</sup>

#### At 36 months

- Continued reduction in hemolysis (as measured by LDH) was sustained<sup>6</sup>
- Prevention of TE was maintained<sup>6</sup>

#### At 8 years

Sustained and well-tolerated efficacy; improved survival<sup>8</sup>

Reduction in thrombotic event rate

Hillmen P et al., 2006 & 2007.
Brodsky RA et al., 2008
Hill A et al., 2010.
Hillmen P et al., 2010
Kelly RJ et al., 2011
Hillmen P et al. 2013
Soliris<sup>®</sup> (eculizumab) Product
Monograph, 2013

# Novel Therapies

## Why do we need them?

- Complications
  - Incomplete complement blockade
  - C5 polymorphisms/Eculizumab resistance
  - C3-mediated extravascular escape hemolysis!
  - Infection risk mitigation
- Convenience
  - Administration schedules (q2week indefinitely, doc?!)
  - Route of administration
  - Accommodating travel plans
- Competition
  - Drive down drug costs \$\$
  - Motivate more rigorous trial methodology and better understanding of complement diseases

*Eculizumab does not treat bone marrow failure and does not decrease the PNH clone!* 







Images from: Brodsky R (2021) Blood https://sec.report/Document/0001104659-17-021374/ https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/oval-pills.html?page=2

## FDA Approved Complement Inhibitors

Complement inhibitor	Trade Name	Company	Target	Mechanism of Action	Modality	Treatment Schedule	Date of Approval
Pegcetacoplan	Empaveli	Apellis	C3	Peptide	SC inj	Twice weekly	May 2021
Eculizumab	Soliris	Alexion	C5	mAb	IV	q2weeks	May 2007
Ravulizumab	Ultomiris	Alexion	C5	mAb	IV	q8weeks	December, 2018

### **Complement Inhibitors in Development**



1. Monoclonal antibodies

2. Peptide inhibitors

3. Decoy receptors

## Upcoming Therapies in PNH

#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONS

### Ravulizumab (ALXN1210) vs eculizumab in adult patients with PNH naive to complement inhibitors: the 301 study

Jong Wook Lee,<sup>1</sup> Flore Sicre de Fontbrune,<sup>2</sup> Lily Wong Lee Lee,<sup>3</sup> Viviani Pessoa,<sup>4</sup> Sandra Gualandro,<sup>5</sup> Wolfgang Füreder,<sup>6</sup> Vadim Ptushkin,<sup>7</sup> Scott T. Rottinghaus,<sup>8</sup> Lori Volles,<sup>8</sup> Lori Shafner,<sup>8</sup> Rasha Aguzzi,<sup>8</sup> Rajendra Pradhan,<sup>8</sup> Hubert Schrezenmeier,<sup>9,10</sup> and Anita Hill<sup>11</sup>

#### CLINICAL TRIALS AND OBSERVATIONS

### Ravulizumab (ALXN1210) vs eculizumab in C5-inhibitor-experienced adult patients with PNH: the 302 study

Austin G. Kulasekararaj,<sup>1</sup> Anita Hill,<sup>2</sup> Scott T. Rottinghaus,<sup>3</sup> Saskia Langemeijer,<sup>4</sup> Richard Wells,<sup>5</sup> F. Ataulfo Gonzalez-Fernandez,<sup>6</sup> Anna Gaya,<sup>7</sup> Jong Wook Lee,<sup>8</sup> Emilio Ojeda Gutierrez,<sup>9</sup> Caroline I. Piatek,<sup>10</sup> Jeff Szer,<sup>11</sup> Antonio Risitano,<sup>12</sup> Shinji Nakao,<sup>13</sup> Eric Bachman,<sup>3</sup> Lori Shafner,<sup>3</sup> Andrew I. Damokosh,<sup>3</sup> Stephan Ortiz,<sup>3</sup> Alexander Röth,<sup>14</sup> and Regis Peffault de Latour<sup>15-17</sup>

### 12-Month Analysis of a Phase 2 Study of Iptacopan (LNP023) Monotherapy for Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

Jun-Ho Jang, Lily LL Wong, Bor-Sheng Ko, Sung-Soo Yoon, Katie Li, Izabela Rozenberg, Prasanna K Nidamarthy, Raghav Chawla, Guido Junge, Eng Soo Yap

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Pegcetacoplan versus Eculizumab in Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

Peter Hillmen, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., Jeff Szer, M.B., B.S., Ilene Weitz, M.D., Alexander Röth, M.D., Britta Höchsmann, M.D., Jens Panse, M.D., Kensuke Usuki, M.D., Ph.D., Morag Griffin, B.M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., Jean-Jacques Kiladjian, M.D., Ph.D., Carlos de Castro, M.D., Hisakazu Nishimori, M.D., Ph.D., Lisa Tan, R.N., Mohamed Hamdani, M.S., Pascal Deschatelets, Ph.D., Cedric Francois, M.D., Ph.D.,
Federico Grossi, M.D., Ph.D., Temitayo Ajayi, M.D., Antonio Risitano, M.D., Ph.D., and Régis Peffault de la Tour, M.D., Ph.D.

#### Vol. 106 No. 12 (2021): December, 2021 > Danicopan: an oral complement factor D inhibitor for...

#### ARTICLES

### Danicopan: an oral complement factor D inhibitor for paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria

Antonio M. Risitano, Austin G. Kulasekararaj, Jong Wook Lee, Jaroslaw P. Maciejewski, Rosario Notaro, Robert Brodsky, Mingjun Huang, Michael Geffner, Peter Browett

Vol. 106 No. 12 (2021): December, 2021 https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2020.261826

### Ravulizumab

95 patients enrolled in the ALXN1210-302 (switch) study with an exposure to both ravulizumab and eculizumab completed a patient preference questionnaire



-C5 Inhibitor which binds same epitope as Eculizumab

Benefits:

Increased interval between infusions
 (q8weeks vs q2weeks) secondary to longer half
 life

2. Reduced annual cost

### ALXN1210-301/302 Trials



Lee JW *et al.* (2019) *Blood* Kulasekararaj AG *et al.* (2019) *Blood* Peffault de Latour R *et al.* (2020) *BJH* 





#### Efficacy of Ravulizumab and Eculizumab in PNH Patients Stable on Eculizumab

## Pegcetacoplan (PEG)

- Pegcetacoplan (PEG) is the first approved C3 inhibitor for US adults with PNH and EU adults with PNH who are anemic after treatment with a C5 inhibitor for ≥3 months.
- Benefits
- 1. Can inhibit both intravascular and extravascular hemolysis.
- 2. It is administered SC twice weekly \*\*
- Most common side effects include injection site reactions and diarrhea



### Pegcetacoplan has been assessed in several clinical trials

Phase 1				
Plidse 1	Phase 1 Single Ascending Dose (SAD)	Phase 1 Multiple Ascending Dose (MAD)	Phase 1 Single Ascending Dose (SAD) for IV administration	
	To investigate the safety, tolerability, PK, and PD of <b>escalating single doses</b> of <b>SC</b> pegcetacoplan in <b>healthy volunteers</b>	To investigate the safety, tolerability, PK and PD of <b>escalating multiple doses</b> of <b>SC</b> pegcetacoplan in <b>healthy volunteers</b>	To investigate the safety, PK and PD of escalating single doses of IV pegcetacoplan in healthy volunteers	
Phase 1b/2				
	Phase 1b PHAROAH	Phase 1b PADDOCK	Phase 2a PALOMINO	
	To investigate the safety, tolerability, PK and PD of <b>SC</b> pegcetacoplan as an <b>add-on</b> <b>therapy to SoC</b> for PNH patients who <b>remained anaemic during treatment with</b> <b>eculizumab</b>	To investigate the safety, tolerability, preliminary efficacy and PK of <b>monotherapy SC</b> pegcetacoplan in PNH patients who are <b>complement inhibitor-</b> <b>naïve</b>	To investigate the safety, tolerability, preliminary efficacy and PK of <b>monotherapy SC</b> pegcetacoplan in PNH patients who are <b>complement inhibitor-</b> <b>naïve</b>	
Phase 3	Phase 3 PEGASUS	Phase 3 PRINCE	Phase 3 Extension Study (307 Study)	
	To investigate the efficacy of <b>SC</b> pegcetacoplan in patients with PNH who had <b>haemoglobin</b> <b>levels of &lt;10.5 g/dL in comparison to</b> <b>eculizumab</b> . It was a superiority study for haemoglobin and non-inferiority for additional parameters such as transfusion avoidance and other haematological profiles	To investigate the efficacy and safety of <b>SC</b> pegcetacoplan in PNH patients <b>in</b> <b>comparison to SoC excluding complement</b> <b>inhibitors</b>	To investigate the <b>long-term safety and</b> <b>efficacy of pegcetacoplan</b> treatment in adult PNH patients that previously participated in a pegcetacoplan trial	

### PEGASUS Phase 3 Trial Design



Hillmen P et al. (2021) NEJM

### **PEGASUS Phase 3 Trial Outcomes**



### Poster 1248: Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Pegcetacoplan Treatment in Adults with Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

*Christopher J. Patriquin, MD, MSc, FRCPC*, Andrija Bogdanovic, MD, PhD, MSc, Morag Griffin, FRCPath, MRCP, Richard Kelly, BSc, MD, Jaroslaw P. Maciejewski, MD, PhD, FACP, Brian Mulherin, MD, Regis Peffault De Latour, Alexander Roeth, MD, Veena Selvaratnam<sup>1</sup>, Jeffrey Szer, MBBS, FRACP, Jessica Savage, MD, MHS, Regina Horneff, PhD, Lisa Tan, Michael Yeh, MD, MBA, MPH and Jens Panse, MD

## Results

- Report the long-term safety and efficacy data from 48-week follow-up of Study 307, the open-label extension study for patients previously enrolled in pegcetacoplan clinical trials for a total of 137 patients (Phase 1& 1b: PHAROAH (n=4), PADDOCK (n=15); Phase 2a: PALOMINO (n=4); Phase 3: PEGASUS (n=64), PRINCE (n=50).
- Demonstrated robust and sustained improvements in Hg, LDH and fatigue in patients with PNH.
- Transfusions needs were improved, with 83.2% of patients achieving transfusion independence (n= 114/137)
- The long-term safety data is comparable to that reported in previous clinical trials.
- Breakthrough hemolysis is a potential downside but being evaluated in a separate study through either intensive SC or IV dosing of PEG.
- Health Canada approved as of December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with PSP launched in March 2023!

### Iptacopan



- Iptacopan is a first-in-class, oral, selective factor B inhibitor which targets the complement system proximally via the alternative pathway
- Objective: Report the primary efficacy and safety data from the 24-week randomized treatment period of the pivotal, multicenter, Phase III APPLY-PNH trial



Schubart A et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2019;116:7926–31.
 Risitano AM et al. Lancet Haematol 2021;8:e344–54

3. Image from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iptacopan

### Study design



- Adult PNH pts (n=97) with mean Hg <100 g/L on stable SoC therapy (ECU/RAV) for ≥6 months were randomized 8:5 to receiv iptacopan monotherapy or to continue SoC for 24 weeks.</li>
- Randomization was stratified by prior SoC therapy and RBC transfusions in the preceding 6 months.
- Primary end points:
- ≥20 g/L Hg increase from baseline
- Hg ≥120 g/L
   (each in the absence of pRBCs)
- Secondary end points:
- Transfusion independence
- FACIT- fatigue scores
- Absolute reticulocyte count and LDH
- Breakthrough hemolysis
- Major adverse events
- Safety

### Primary End Points

Increase from baseline in Hb of  $\geq 2 \text{ g/dL}$ 

in the absence of RBC transfusions



Hb  $\geq$  12 g/dL

in the absence of RBC transfusions

1. 2/62 patients in the iptacopan arm had missing data between Days 126 and 168 so were not evaluable based on observed data. 2. Marginal proportions, differences in marginal proportions and 95% Cls were calculated using a logistic regression model using the Firth correction that adjusted for baseline covariates and accounted for missing data and the possibility of no patients meeting the primary endpoint criteria in the SoC arm; consequently, the treatment effect of iptacopan is underestimated and the treatment effect of SoC is overestimated. Marginal proportions reflect the population average probability of a patient meeting the primary endpoint criteria. 3. P values are two-sided and unadjusted. CI, confidence interval

Mean Hb (SD) over time during the 24-week randomized treatment period<sup>3</sup>



Adjusted mean Hb change from baseline<sup>1</sup> (95% CI) was +3.59 (3.32, 3.86) g/dL for iptacopan vs -0.04 (-0.42, 0.35) g/dL for SoC, with a difference of +3.63 (3.18, 4.08) g/dL (P<0.0001<sup>2</sup>).

1. Between Days 126 and 168 (excluding values within 30 days of RBC transfusion). 2. A repeated measures model, adjusting for covariates including baseline Hb, was used for comparisons between the treatment arms. P value is two-sided and unadjusted. 3. Includes post-transfusion data. 2/62 patients in the iptacopan arm and 21/35 patients in the SoC arm had RBC transfusions between Days 14 and 168. BL = baseline Wk = week

#### Mean FACIT-Fatigue score (SD) during the 24-week randomized treatment period



Adjusted mean change from baseline<sup>1</sup> in FACIT-Fatigue score (95% CI) was +8.59 (6.72, 10.47) for iptacopan vs +0.31 (-2.20, 2.81) for SoC, with a difference of +8.29 (5.28, 11.29) (P<0.0001<sup>2</sup>)

1. Between Days 126 and 168. 2. A repeated measures model, adjusting for covariates including baseline FACIT-Fatigue score, was used for comparisons between the treatment arms. P value is two-sided and unadjusted.

Iptacopan monotherapy was superior to SoC at increasing Hb level from baseline and reducing patient reported fatigue

### Conclusions and Considerations

- Complement inhibitors (proximal and distal) continue to be costly and delays into entering public funding models are expected
- With potential multiple modalities of treatment (PO, SC, IV) becoming available in the future, important to prioritize patient preferences to optimize QoL and compliance
- Cases of serious or fatal meningococcal infections have been reported in patients treated with complement inhibitors and vaccination mandatory
- Must consider special patient populations ie. Pregnancy, concurrent MDS, etc
- Role for combination therapy with proximal and distal complement blockade
- Exciting time for PNH community with evolving treatment landscape!

# Questions?

moliver@ualberta.ca