PPX is prospectively evaluated in a randomized phase III trial in chemo-naïve women with advanced NSCLC.

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Insights into the mechanism of microtubule stabilization by Taxol

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Background: Taxol is an important antitumor drug that stabilizes microtubules, reduces their dynamicity and promotes mitotic arrest and cell death. Although photoaffinity labeling and electron crystallography have localized the binding pocket for Taxol on β-tubulin, there is little insight into the mechanism by which the drug stabilizes microtubules.
Materials and Methods: Tubulin from the marginal band of chicken erythrocytes that contains a single α- and β-isotype, α1 and βVI, was used for all experiments. Hydrogen/deuterium exchange (HDX) in combination with liquid chromatograph-electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (LC-ESI MS) was used to study structural changes in α-, β-tubulin either in GDP-dimers, GTP-microtubules or Taxol-microtubules in solution.
Results: HDX coupled to LC-ESI MS demonstrated a marked reduction in deuterium incorporation in both α-and β-tubulin when Taxol was present. This protection by Taxol reflects decreased solvent accessibility or a more rigid conformation in both polypeptide chains. Decreased local HDX in peptic peptides was mapped on the tubulin structure and revealed both expected and new dimer-dimer interactions. The increased rigidity in Taxol-microtubules was distinct from and complementary to that due to GTP-induced polymerization. Comparing the map of deuterium incorporation between GTP-microtubules and Taxol-microtubules, allowed us to determine not only the regions involved in Taxol binding, but also the longitudinal and lateral dimer-dimer interactions specifically affected by Taxol. Our findings are consistent with Taxol inducing tubulin to adopt a straight conformation and preventing it from shifting to a curved conformation.
Conclusions: HDX coupled to LC-ESI MS can be used effectively to answer important pharmacological and biochemical questions relevant to the function of microtubules in cells and expand our knowledge of microtubule-stabilizing drugs that are important in cancer chemotherapy.

Late-breaking posters

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A phase I dose-escalation study of weekly IMC-1121B, a fully human anti-vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 (VEGFR2) IgG1 monoclonal antibody (Mab), in patients (pts) with advanced cancer

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Background: Anti-VEGFR2 antibodies are effective in a variety of preclinical leukemia and solid tumor models. IMC-1121B is a fully human anti-VEGFR2 IgG1 Mab.
Methods: Cohorts of 3–6 pts (ECOG PS ⩽2) with advanced cancer and no significant cardiovascular, thrombotic or bleeding disorders received escalating doses of IMC-1121B. A single initial dose with extended PK sampling was followed by 4 weekly infusions per treatment cycle starting at 2 mg/kg. 7 dose levels up to a maximum of 16 mg/kg are planned. Human anti-human antibodies (HAHA) directed against IMC-1121B were assessed at baseline and before each Week 4 dose. Tumor response was assessed every 2 cycles, and pharmacodynamic analyses were performed at baseline and post-dosing.
Results: 19 pts (13 M; 6 F), have entered the study at the first 4 dose levels: cohort 1 (2 mg/kg) n = 6, cohort 2 (4 mg/kg) n = 4, cohort 3 (6 mg/kg) n = 4, and cohort 4 (8 mg/kg) n = 5. Toxicities ⩾ grade 2 at least possibly or probably drug-related include anorexia, nausea, vomiting, back pain, groin pain, depression, fatigue, insomnia, emboli, anemia, proteinuria, hypophosphatemia, elevated transaminases and amylase. To date, there has been one confirmed partial response (melanoma), in total 5 pts have experienced stable disease for >6 months [colon (2), gastric, thyroid, melanoma]. No HAHA levels across cohorts 1–3 have been detected. Non-compartmental PK analysis reveals dose-dependent elimination and non-linear exposure, consistent with saturable clearance mechanism(s): mean $t_{1/2}$ = 63.6, 87.9, 176.8 hrs, mean C_{max} = 43.7, 80.3, 183.3 ug/mL, and AUC_{0-Inf} = 3860, 9135, 29953 hr*ug/mL, during Cycle 1 at the 2, 4, and 6 mg/kg dose levels, respectively. Target trough levels required for activity determined from preclinical xenograft studies have been achieved.
Conclusions: Weekly administration of IMC-1121B is well tolerated at doses up to 8 mg/kg/week. There is early evidence of clinical efficacy and a non-linear dose-PK relationship, and target trough levels predicted from xenograft studies have been observed. Dose escalation continues. Updated safety, PK, HAHA, and efficacy data will be presented.

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A phase I dose-escalation study of weekly IMC-A12, a fully human insulin like growth factor-I receptor (IGF-IR) IgG1 monoclonal antibody (Mab), in patients (pts) with advanced cancer

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Background: IMC-A12 is a fully human IgG_1 monoclonal antibody directed against the human insulin like growth factor-I receptor. A phase I trial evaluating the safety and maximum tolerated dose of IMC-A12 has been initiated in patients with refractory solid tumors who no longer respond to standard therapy or for whom no standard therapy is available.
Methods: 3–6 pts (ECOG PS ⩽2) with advanced cancer will be enrolled in each cohort. IMC-A12 is administered weekly for four infusions per treatment cycle starting at 3 mg/kg. Six dose levels up to a maximum of 27 mg/kg are planned. Human anti-human antibodies (HAHA) directed against IMC-A12 are assessed at baseline and before the Week 4 dose of each cycle.
Results: 9 pts (5 M; 4 F), median age 67 years (range: 44−70), have entered the study at two dose levels. Toxicities considered related to IMC-A12 are anemia (grade 1), psoriasis (grade 1), rash (grade 1), and hyperglycemia (grade 3). The hyperglycemia was considered a DLT and resulted in patient discontinuation. To date, 2 pts remain stable after >20 infusions of IMC-A12 (1 male pt with breast cancer and 1 pt with hepatocellular cancer), and two other pts (1 colon, 1 prostate) have demonstrated reductions in tumor markers. Non-compartmental PK analysis at the 3 mg/kg dose level reveals a mean $t_{1/2}$ of 111.3 hrs, mean C_{max} of 192 ug/mL, and mean AUC_{0-Inf} of 22266 hr*ug/mL. Target trough levels determined from preclinical xenograft studies have been achieved.
Conclusions: Weekly administration of IMC-A12 appears to be well tolerated. There is early evidence of clinical activity, and the PK profile is consistent with that of other Mab's. Dose escalation continues.

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Phase I trial of BB-10901 (huN901-DM1) given daily by IV infusion for three consecutive days every three weeks in patients with SCLC and other CD56-positive solid tumors

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Background: BB-10901 is an immunonconjugate created by conjugation of the cytotoxic maytansinoid drug DM1 to a humanized version of the murine monoclonal antibody N901. BB-10901 binds with high affinity to CD56, an antigen of the family of neural cell adhesion molecules. Once bound to CD56, the conjugate is internalized and releases DM1.
Methods: Subjects were enrolled with relapsed or refractory SCLC, other pulmonary tumors of neuroendocrine origin, non-pulmonary small cell carcinoma, metastatic carcinoid tumors or other CD56+ solid tumors.
Results: Thirty nine subjects were dosed with BB-10901. Subjects are dosed by IV infusion for 3 consecutive days every 3 weeks. Cohorts of 4 subjects initially were enrolled on each dose level. Subjects received BB-10901 at 4, 8, 16, 24, 36, 48, 60, and 75 mg/m^2/day. A dose limiting toxicity (DLT), severe headache, occurred in a patient treated with BB-10901 at 75 mg/m^2/day IV given over 40 minutes. Patients are being enrolled in a 75 mg/m^2/day cohort in which BB-10901 is given at 1 mg/min. Four patients have been treated without a DLT and an additional patient will be enrolled. Six patients had drug related serious adverse events (SAEs). The SAEs consist of constipation (1 patient, 16 mg/m^2/day), fatigue (1 patient, 16 mg/m^2/day), elevated amylase/pancreatitits (two episodes in a patient with evidence of metastases to the pancreas