





Progetto Ematologia-Romagna Faenza – 19 Ottobre 2019

Una chemioterapia «mirata»

Marco Montillo SC Ematologia Niguarda Cancer Center Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda Milano

Marco Montillo Conflict of Interest

- Janssen
- Gilead
- Abbvie
- Roche
- Astra Zeneca
- Mundipharma

BH3 mimetics

Mimics the action of the BH3-only proteins



Venetoclax Induces Apoptosis by Acting as a BH3 Mimetic to Inhibit BCL2



Venetoclax in patients progressing after ibrutinib or idelalisib

Venetoclax for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia progressing after ibrutinib: an interim analysis of a multicentre, open-label, phase 2 trial

Jeffrey A Jones, Anthony R Mato, William G Wierda, Matthew S Davids, Michael Choi, Bruce D Cheson, Richard R Furman, Nicole Lamanna, Paul M Barr, Lang Zhou, Brenda Chyla, Ahmed Hamed Salem, Maria Verduga, Rod A Humerickhouse, Jalaja Potluri, Steven Coutre, Jennifer Woyach,* John C Byrd*



Prepublished online January 5, 2018; doi:10.1182/blood-2017-06-788133

Venetoclax for patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia who progressed during or after idelalisib therapy

Steven Coutre, Michael Choi, Richard R. Furman, Herbert Eradat, Leonard Heffner, Jeffrey A. Jones, Brenda Chyla, Lang Zhou, Suresh Agarwal, Tina Waskiewicz, Maria Verdugo, Rod A. Humerickhouse, Jalaja Potluri, William G. Wierda and Matthew S. Davids



Venetoclax for CLL progressing after ibrutinib: an interim analysis of a multicenter phase 2 trial



No difference in terms of response:

- *ibrutinib discontinued due to AE or disease progression: 63% versus 54%*
- del (17p) or TP53 mutated versus NO del (17p) or TP53: 61% versus 67%

Venetoclax for CLL progressing after ibrutinib: an interim analysis of a multicentre, phase 2 trial

100 75% Progression-free survival (%) 75. 50. 25. Median PFS: 24,7m (95% CI 19,2-NR) 18 10 12 14 16 20 22 Number at risk 91 81 79 77 70 61 53 36 28 23 20 18 16 number censored) (0) (2) (3) (3) (6) (12) (17) (32) (37) (42) (42) (42) (44) (51) (55) (56)

Progression Free Survival

No difference in PFS between patients with *BTK* or *PLCG2* mutations vs those without (HR=1.04, 95% CI 0.22–4.80; p=0.96)



Jones et al 2017

Venetoclax in CLL patients who progress after BCR inhibitor treatment: a retrospective multi-centre Italian experience



MRD Background

MRD is predictive of PFS with chemoimmunotherapy in CLL¹⁻⁴



MRD, minimal residual disease

1. Böttcher S, et al. J Clin Oncol 2012;30:980–8; 2. Kovacs G, et al. J Clin Oncol 2016;34:3758–65; 3. Dimier N, et al. Blood 2018;131:955–62; 4. Langerak AW, et al. Blood 2018: 03-839688

Phase 2 venetoclax monotherapy in R/R CLL with del(17p) (M13-982)



- Median time to first response: 1 month (range 0.5–4.4)
- Median time to CR/CRi: 9.8 months (range 2.7–31.1)

Best MRD status by flow cytometry a	nd/or NGS*		
PB, n=101 MRD negative, n MRD positive, n	48 (30%) 61		
BM, n=74 MRD negative, n 18 MRD positive, n 56			

- Out of the patients with MRD negativity confirmed in both PB and BM:
 - 14 achieved CR/CRi
 - 4 achieved PR

Phase 2 venetoclax monotherapy in R/R CLL with del(17p) (M13-982)



- Median PFS = 27.2 months (95% CI = 21 NR)
- 24-month estimate: 54% (95% Cl = 45–62)
- 24-month estimate: 73% (95% CI = 65–79)

Venetoclax plus rituximab in relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia: a phase 1b/2 study



Pa	tients	N 49
•	Median prior therapies	2
•	IGHV unmutated	68%
•	TP53 mutation and/or del(17p)	27%
•	11g deletion	44%



Venetoclax plus rituximab in relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia: a phase 1b/2 study



Venetoclax plus rituximab in relapsed or refractory chronic lymphocytic leukaemia: a phase 1b/2 study



Seymour et al., 2017; Brander et al., 2018

Efficacy of venetoclax in relapsed CLL is influenced by disease and response variables



Efficacy of venetoclax in relapsed CLL is influenced by disease and response variables

Multivariate Predictors of Response and DoR

436 R/R pts	
Median prior therapie	es 3 (1-15)
Prior BCRi:	34%
IgHv unmutated:	76%
del17p &/or TP53m:	71%

- Node size (5/10 cm)
- F refractory
- BCR refractory
- TP53 m/del17p
- NOTCH-1 mut

✓ Quality of response✓ MRD



Roberts S et al., Blood 2019

Efficacy of venetoclax in relapsed CLL is influenced by disease and response variables

Multivariate Predictors of DoR

436 R/R pts

Median prior therapies 3 (1-15)

 Prior BCRi:
 34%

 IgHv unmutated:
 76%

 del17p &/or TP53m:
 71%

- Node size (5/10 cm)
- F refractory
- BCR refractory
- TP53 m/del17p
- NOTCH-1 mut
- Quality of response
- MRD

Multiple regression analyses

- addition of rituximab: higher CR rate more than 2-fold compared with venetoclax monotherapy
- no statistically significant correlation with duration of response was observed with current follow-up

MURANO:

Venetoclax-Rituximab vs Bendamustine-Rituximab



MURANO:Venetoclax Rituximab vs Bendamustine Rituximab PFS benefit maintained at 48 m



MURANO: PFS Sustained in Most Patients 22 Months after Completion of the 2-Year Fixed-Treatment-Duration Regimen



After a median follow-up of 22 months, only 27% (35/130) of patients progressed after completing the 2-year fixed-treatment-duration venetoclax regimen

MURANO

Most patients did not progress after cessation of Ven monotherapy at EOT



Status off-therapy (median follow up: 9.9 mo)	uMRD (n=83)	Low-MRD+ (n=23)	High-MRD+ (n=14)	Missing (n=10)
Progression-free, n (%)	81 (97.6%)	20 (87.0%)	3 (21.4%)	10 (100%)
PD, n (%)	2 (2.4%)	3 (13.0%)	11 (78.6%)	0 (0%)

Data cut-off date: May 8, 2018

MURANO Genomic Analysis CK

Association of CK with patient characteristics



- CK and non-CK were identified in 48/142 (33.8%) and 94/142 (66.2%) of VEN+R patients and 46/147 (31.3%) and 101/147 (68.7%) of B+R patients, respectively.
- TP53mut/del(17p) was detected in 19/45 (42.2%) and 23/41 (56.0%) CK patients in the VEN+R and B+R arms, respectively. Most CK patients were high or very high CLL-IPI risk (63.8% and 78.3%, respectively).

Increased numbers of CNAs were observed in patients with higher prior lines of treatment and with more aggressive CLL (TP53/del(17p) or U-IGVH).

B=Bendamustine. CK=Complex Karyotype. CLL=Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. CNA=Copy Number Alterations. mut=Mutant. R=Rituximab. U=Unmutated. VEN=Venetoclax. wt=Wildtype.

Wu J, et al. Poster #1123. EHA 2019

MURANO: Venetoclax Rituximab vs Bendamustine Rituximab PFS benefit maintained at 48 m



Seymour et al., 2019

High concordance between MRD methodologies and between BM and PB analysis

MRD was highly concordant (86%) between ASO-PCR and/or multicolour flow cytometry

Compared in 1859 pairs (from 316 pts) of post-baseline PB samples

90% concordance between PB and BM uMRD with VenR (50 paired samples),¹ so we focus here on PB MRD



MRD status according to		ASO-PCR		
		uMRD	MRD+	
ow netry	uMRD	755	202	
Fld cyton	MRD+	49	853	

MRD concordance of ASO-PCR and/or flow cytometry based on all samples; MRD concordance of PB and BM based on paired samples only

1. Hillmen P, et al. ASCO 2018 (abstract 7508)



Consistently high uMRD rates observed in all VenR subgroups, including pts with high-risk cytogenetics and molecular factors

n (%)	n	uMRD	p-value
Del(11q)			
Yes	61	40 (65.6)	0.813
No	112	70 (62.5)	0.015
Del(17p) and/or TP53 mut			
Yes	72	41 (56.9)	0.284
No	106	70 (66.0)	0.204
IGHV mutation			
Absent	123	75 (61.0)	0.010
Present	53	34 (64.2)	0.019
Bulky disease			
<10 cm	161	99 (61.5)	0.000
≥10 cm	23	15 (65.2)	0.909
Lines of prior therapy			
1	111	71 (64.0)	0.704
>1	83	50 (60.2)	0.704

PB uMRD Rates Were Maintained during the Venetoclax Monotherapy Phase



Landmark PFS Analysis According to PB MRD Status at EOCT Response Visit (ITT Population)



In both treatment arms, patients with uMRD had longer PFS than those with detectable MRD

The analysis subset includes patients that have not progressed, died, or withdrawn from study before EOCT response visit. MRD PB status derived from combining ASO-PCR and flow cytometry results.

MURANO: Improved OS with VenR vs BR Continues to Be Maintained at 48 Months



MURANO: Safety Grade ≥3 AEs by Treatment Period

Patients, n (%)	B + R (N=188)		V + R (N=194)	
Protocol planned treatment duration	6 months	24 months	6 months	18 months
		Overall	Combination period (n=194)	Monotherapy period (n=171)
Total number of patients with ≥1 AE	135 (71.8)	161 (83.0)	146 (75.3)	53 (31.0)
Neutropenia	73 (38.8)	112 (57.7)	105 (54.1)	19 (11.1)
Anemia	26 (13.8)	21 (10.8)	16 (8.2)	5 (2.9)
Thrombocytopenia	19 (10.1)	12 (6.2)	9 (4.6)	4 (2.3)
Febrile neutropenia	18 (9.6)	7 (3.6)	7 (3.6)	0
Pneumonia	15 (8.0)	12 (6.2)	9 (4.6)	3 (1.8)
Infusion related reaction	10 (5.3)	3 (1.5)	3 (1.5)	0
Tumor lysis syndrome	2 (1.1)	6 (3.1)	6 (3.1)	0
Hyperglycemia	0	4 (2.1)	4 (2.1)	0
Hypogammaglobulinemia	0	4 (2.1)	3 (1.5)	1 (0.6)
Neoplasm (benign/malignant)	10 (5.3)	12 (6.2)	6 (3.1)	6 (3.5)

- Overall, fewer grade ≥3 events, including grade 3–5 neutropenia and grade 3–5 pneumonia, were observed in the monotherapy period
- Infection rate (all grades): 61.7% with BR, 74.7% with VR

CLARITY: Study Design



Primary endpoint: MRD eradication in BM after 12 mos of IBR + VEN

Key secondary endpoints: MRD eradication in BM after 6, 24 mos of IBR + VEN, response, PFS, OS, safety

*VEN escalated weekly up to final dose of 400 mg/day: 10 mg (first 3 patients only) \rightarrow 20 mg \rightarrow 50 mg \rightarrow 100 mg \rightarrow 200 mg \rightarrow 400 mg. Patients evaluated for MRD in PB every 3 mos, in BM (along with CT) at BL and at 6, 12, 24 mos of IBR + VEN. MRD negativity = < 0.01% CLL cells. IBR + VEN stopped at 14 mos if 8-mo BM MRD negative; at 26 mos if 14-mo BM MRD negative. VEN stopped, IBR continued at 26 mos if BM MRD positive. Datalock: 12/1/17.

Clarity Study of Ibrutinib + Venetoclax PB and BM MRD

- N= 53; CR+Cri 51%;
- Analysis of MRD after 12 months of combinationn therapy :
- 57% PB MRD , 36% BM MRD-
- MRD responses improve over time



All remaining

patients stop

CLL14: Study Design

Open-label, multicenter, randomized phase III trial



- Primary endpoint: investigator-assessed PFS
- Secondary endpoints: IRC-assessed PFS, ORR, MRD negativity, OS, safety

CLL14: Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	Venetoclax + Obinutuzumab (n = 216)	Chlorambucil +Obinutuzumab (n = 216)
Median age, yrs	72	72
Binet stage A/B/C, %	21/36/43	20/37/43
Median total CIRS score	9	8
Median CrCl, mL/min	65.2	67.5
TLS risk category low/int/high, %	13/64/22	12/68/20
IGVH unmutated, %	61	59
TP53 deleted and/or mutated, %	12	12
Cytogenetics, %		
 del(17p) 	9	7
 del(11q) 	18	20
 Trisomy 12 	18	21
 No abnormalities 	25	22
 del(13q) alone 	31	31

CLL14: Investigator-Assessed PFS (Primary Endpoint)



CLL14: PFS by IGVH Mutation and TP53 Status

PFS by IGHV Mutation

PFS by TP53 Status



CLL14: OS and Response



Venetoclax + HMA in Elderly Patients With Untreated AML: Phase Ib Study Design

Multicenter, open-label phase Ib dose-escalation and dose-expansion study



Response Rates of CR/Cri by combination



	Ven + Aza	Ven + Dec
Time to CR		
median (range)	1.2 (0.7–5.5)	1.9 (0.9–4.6)
No. of treatment cycles for these patients		
median (range)	6.0 (1–32)	6.0 (1–29)

Venetoclax + HMA in Older AML Patients: Response

Outcome	Venetoclax 400 mg + AZA (n = 84)	Venetoclax 400 mg + DEC (n = 31)
CR	44	55
CRi	27	19
Median time to CR, mos (range)	1.2 (0.7-5.5)	1.9 (0.9-4.6)
Median no. treatment cycles in patients with CR, n (range)	6 (1-32)	6 (1-29)
 Median DoR after CR/CRi, mos (95% CI) 12-mo EFS in patients with CR/CRi, % (95% CI) 	21.2 (14.4-30.2) 69 (52-80)	15.0 (5.0-22.5) 57 (32-76)
 12-mo overall EFS, % (95% CI) 12-mo EFS in patients with CR/CRi, % (95% CI) 12-mo EFS in patients with no CR/CRi, % (95% CI) 	57 (46-67) 72 (58-81) 19 (6-37)	61 (42-76) 74 (51-87) 25 (4-56)
 Median overall OS, mos (95% CI) Median OS in patients with CR/CRi, mos (95% CI) Median OS in patients with no CR/CRi, mos (95% CI) 	16.9 (11.3-NR) 40.3 (16.9-NR) 4.5 (2.4-8.9)	16.2 (9.1-27.8) 18.2 (12.3-42.7) 4.8 (0.7-17.0)
MRD negativity, n/n (%)	29/60 (48)	9/23 (39)

Venetoclax + HMA in Older Patients With de Novo AML: CR/CRi by Subgroup

Pat n/i	tient Group, CR/CRi n (%) of Each Subgroup	Venetoclax 400 mg + AZA	Venetoclax 400 mg + DEC		
Cy	togenetic risk				
•	Intermediate	38/50 (76)	11/16 (69)		
•	Poor	22/33 (67)	12/15 (80)		
AML type					
•	de novo	48/63 (76)	16/22 (73)		
•	Secondary	12/21 (57)	7/9 (78)		
Mutations					
•	TP53	13/20 (65)	6/7 (86)		
•	IDH1/2	18/20 (90)	5/5 (100)		
•	FLT3	8/11 (73)	1/3 (33)		
•	NPM1	11/14 (79)	3/3 (100)		

Venetoclax and LD Ara-C in AML Study Design and Objectives

- Design: Phase I/II, open-label, multicenter dose escalation and expansion
- Endpoints: CR, CRi, Overall Survival (OS), Duration of Response (DOR), and Safety

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

To assess the efficacy and safety of venetoclax 600 mg with LDAC in patients ≥60 years of age with untreated AML who are ineligible for standard induction chemotherapy

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

To assess CR, CRi, DOR, and OS

Data cutoffs Efficacy Nov 8, 2017 | Safety Jan 30, 2018

Venetoclax and LD Ara-C in AML Initial 5 days and Subsequent 4 days Rumping up



- 1 patient with laboratory TLS
- No patients with clinical TLS



- 1 patient with laboratory TLS
- No patients with clinical TLS

Venetoclax and LD Ara-C in AML Response Rates by Key Patient Subgroups





For patients with CR/CRi

Median time to first response

1.4 months (range 0.8–14.9)

Median time to best response **2.8 months** (range 0.8–22.4)

^{* 1} natient had a PR and 6 other natients had MIFS as hest response

Venetoclax and LD Ara-C in AML Overall Survival by Response



Venetoclax and LD Ara-C in AML Minimal Residual Disease



MRD Assessment

Minimal residual disease (MRD) was centrally assessed by multicolor flow cytometry

MRD response was determined at a threshold of 10⁻³ cutoff (1 leukemic cell per 1,000)

- Overall: 17/82 patients achieved MRD <10⁻³
 - 3 such patients had best response of MLFS

FDA Approval: Nov 21, 2018



The U.S. FDA has granted accelerated approval to venetoclax in combination with azacitidine, or decitabine, or low-dose cytarabine (LDAC) for the treatment of newly-diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in adults who are age 75 years or older, or who have comorbidities that preclude use of intensive induction chemotherapy.

BELLINI Study Design



Cycles 1 – 8: 21-day, Bortezomib 1.3 mg/m² Days 1, 4, 8, 11 and dexamethasone 20 mg Days 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 Cycles 9+: 35-day, Bortezomib 1.3 mg/m² Days 1, 8, 15, 22 and dexamethasone 20 mg Days 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23

Stratification factors	 Bortezomib sensitive vs naïve Prior lines of therapy: 1 vs 2–3
Non-ranked secondary endpoints	PFS in BCL-2 ^{high} (IHC), DOR, TTP, MRD negativity rate, other PROs (GHS, fatigue)
Key subgroup analyses	t(11;14), high/standard-risk cytogenetics, and BCL2 expression (gene expression)

DOR, duration of response; GHS, global health status; IHC, immunohistochemistry; MRD, minimal residual disease; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PI, proteasome inhibitor; PRO, patient reported outcome; QD, daily; QOL, quality of life; RRMM, relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma; TTP, time to progression; VGPR, very good partial response.

Clinical Response Rates in All Patients 26 Nov 2018



Overall response, ≥VGPR, ≥CR and MRD negativity rates were significantly higher with Ven+Bd

Primary Endpoint Analysis: Progression-Free Survival All Patients (ITT), 26 Nov 2018



The BELLINI study met its primary endpoint with superior median PFS in the Ven+Bd arm versus Pbo+Bd

Progression Free Survival by MRD (10⁻⁵) Status 26 Nov 2018



Overall Survival All Patients (ITT), 26 Nov 2018



A higher risk of death was observed in the Ven+Bd arm compared to Pbo+Bd at interim OS analysis

Conclusions

- BCL2 mimetics represent a new class of targeted agents active in many hematologic malignancies.
- The larger experience with Venetoclax is in CLL and now is moving towards the use in earlier lines of therapy and fixed duration treatment.
- Venetoclax plus HMAs was well tolerated and effective in previously untreated, older patients, with AML who were ineligible for intensive chemotherapy.
- MM patients with t(11;14) or BCL2^{high} had consistent clinical benefit when treated with Ven+Bd, and the benefit-risk profile appears to be favorable in these subsets
- Patients who achieved MRD negativity status have better outcome in CLL (PFS) and MM (PFS and OS).

Grande Ospedale Metropolitano Niguarda

