3rd Edition

Unmet challenges in high-risk hematological malignancies : from benchside to clinical practice Turin, septembre 21-22, 2023

Emerging immunotherapy in B-cell lymphomas The role of bispecific antibodies

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Conflict of interest

- Commercial
 - Consultancy/honoraria: Novartis, BMS/Celgene, Bayer, AbbVie, Gilead Sciences, Roche, Janssen, Kite, Incyte, Amgen, Takeda
- Educational activities
 - Janssen, Roche

Emerging immunotherapy

AIM : to enhance the immune response against tumor cells



Immunotherapy in oncology

includes a broad range of agents, including

- antibodies
- vaccines
- cytokines
- oncolytic viruses
- bispecific antibodies (BsAbs)
- cellular therapies : CAR T-cells

June C & Sadelain M. N Engl J Med 2018;379:64-73.

Structure of Bs Abs (1)





Structure and classification of Bs Abs (2)



scFV single chain variable fragment BiTEs Bispecific T-cell Engager - DART = dual Affinity Retargeting antibody Tand Ab Tandem = tandem diabody

Structure and classification of Bs Abs (2)













In hematology, Bispecifics T-cell Engagers (BiTEs) under clinical development



Adapted Ma et al. Frontiers in Immunology 2021

Plamotamab

Imvotamab

Bacac M, et al. Clin Cancer Res 2018; 24;4785–97

Avidity binding to CD20

CD3

CD20

CH1 CH1

Epcoritamab

CH2

CH3

CH2

CH3



CD20

IgG1

CH1 CH1

Mosunetuzumab

CH2

CH3

CH2

CH3

CD3

2:1 format 10:1 format





Imvotamab



Binding sites of CD3xCD20 antibodies





Analogy with

Franco R, et al. Front Pharmacol 2016

Klein C, et al. Mabs 2013

Comparative characteristics of CD20XCD3 BsAb currently in development in B NHL



Falchi et al. Blood 2023

Comparative characteristics of CD20XCD3 BsAb in B NHL

	structure	Target ratio : CD3 ratio	Half-life	Administration	Fc binding	Complement binding	CD3 recognition
Blinatumomab	scFv	1:1	20 min	IV	No	Νο	CD3δ ε
Mosunetuzumab	lgG1	1:1	7-21 d	IV / sc	minimal	No	CD3δε
Epcoritamab	lgG4	1:1	7-21 d	SC	minimal	No	CD3ε
Glofitamab	lgG1	2:1	7-21 d	IV	minimal	Νο	CD3ε
TNB486	lgG4	1:1	7-21 d	IV	minimal	No	CD3δε
Imvotamab	IgM	10:1	3-7 d	IV	Yes	Yes	CD3δε

Mode of action



Tumor cell lysis mediated by the BiTEs



• BiTEs redirect T cells to tumor cells and active T

 Activated T cells release perforin and other granzymes through immunological synapses



Mechanisms of resistance

Immunosuppressive TME



Zhou et al. Biomarker Research2021



Bispecific T-cell engager (BiTE)



Wikipedia

- First approved by FDA in 2014 in R/R ALL
- Currently evaluated for R/R lymphoma, R/R myeloma
- Off the shelf, ready to be used
- Repeated infusions until progression or toxicity
- Ramp-up infusions during 3 weeks
- Side effects : neurotoxicity and cytokine release syndrome

Single-agent phase 1/2 studies of bispecific antibodies in B-NHL

Activities in single agent phase 1-2 in aggressive B-cell lymphomas

Target	Drug	Phase	No*	Efficacy	Références
CD19/CD3	Blinatumomab	2	25	ORR 43% CR 19%	Viardot et al. Blood 2016
CD20/CD3	Glofitamab D-7obinutuzumab	1b	171	ORR 79% CR 71%	Hutchings M, et al. J Clin Oncol 2021
CD20/CD3	Mosunetuzumab	1/1b	171	ORR 37.1% CR 19.4%	Schuster SJ, et al. ASH 2019: Abstract 6
CD20/CD3	Odronextamab	1	53	ORR 55% CR 55%	Bannerji R ASH 2019 #762
CD20/CD3	Epcoritamab subcutaneous	1/2	73	ORR 91% CR 55%	Hutchings M, et al. Lancet 2021

Activity of glofitamab and epcoritamab in r/r aggressive B-NHL



Activity of mosunetuzumab and odronextamab in r/r aggressive B-NHL

Mosunetuzumab in aggressive NHL¹



Odronextamab in DLBCL²



R/R DLBCL w/no prior CAR T

- ORR: 55% (6/11); CR: 55% (6/11)
- Median duration of CR: NR
- 83% of CRs durable (≥3 months; ≤21 months)

R/R DLBCL w/ prior CAR T

- ORR: 33% (8/24); CR: 21% (5/24)
- Median duration of CR: NR
- 100% of CRs ongoing at last assessment (≤20 months)

1. Schuster SJ, et al. ASH 2019: Abstract 6 (oral presentation) 2. Bannerji R, et al. ASH 2020: Abstract 400 (oral presentation).

Recent data from the DLBCL phase 2 expansion cohorts of the glofitamab and epcoritamab studies

Glofitamab – expansion cohort

Pivotal Phase II expansion in patients with R/R DLBCL and ≥2 prior therapies (NP30179)

Key inclusion criteria	Glofitamab IV administration			
 DLBCL NOS, HGBCL, transformed FL or PMBCL ECOG PS 0–1 ≥2 prior therapies, including: anti-CD20 antibody anthracycline 	 Fixed-duration treatment max. 12 cycles CRS mitigation: obinutuzumab pretreatment (1 x 1000mg) C1 step-up dosing monitoring after first dose (2.5mg) 	D15: 10mg D8: 2.5mg D1: Gpt C1 21-day cycles	01: 30mg C2	D1: 30mg ↓ ····• C12

- Primary: CR (best response) rate by IRC*
- Key secondary: ORR rate,[†] DoR, DoCR,[†] PFS, and OS

Baseline characteristics

n (%)*		N=154 [†]	n (%)*	
Median age, years (range)		66.0 (21–90)	Median no. of prior lines, n (range)	
Male		100 (64.9)	2 prior lines	
	0	69 (44.8)	≥3 prior lines	
ECOG F3	1	84 (54.5)	Prior anti-CD20 Ab	
	I	10 (6.5)	Prior anthracycline	
Ann Arbor stage	II	25 (16.2)		
, and abor orago	III	31 (20.1)	FIIOI CAR-I	
	IV	85 (55.2)	Prior ASCT	
	DLBCL	110 (71.4)	Refractory to any prior therapy	
NHL subtype	trFL	27 (17.5)	Refractory to last prior therapy	
Nine Subtype	HGBCL	11 (7.1)	Primary refractory	
	PMBCL	6 (3.9)		
	>6cm	64 (41.6)	Refractory to prior CAR-T	
Bulky disease	>10cm	18 (11.7)	Refractory to any prior anti-CD20	

Heavily pre-treated, highly refractory population

Clinical cut-off date: March 14, 2022; *unless otherwise specified; †safety-evaluable population (all treated patients); ‡ECOG PS 2, n=1 (0.6%); Ab, antibody; ASCT, autologous stem cell transplant; trFL, transformed follicular lymphoma.

Michael Dickinson, et al. NEJM 2022 & EHA 2022 oral presentation

Glofitamab – expansion cohort Response and duration of response

Efficacy endpoint ¹	Glofitamab 2.5/10/30mg (n=155)
CR rate*	61 (39.4%) [95% CI: 31.6%, 47.5%]
ORR*	80 (51.6%) [95% CI: 43.5%, 59.7%]

- Median duration of follow-up: 12.6 months (range: 0–22)
- Responses were achieved early: median time to first CR was 42 days (95% CI: 42, 44)

Prior CART : 33%

Michael Dickinson, et al. NEJM 2022 & EHA 2022 oral presentation



Epcoritamab – in aggressive BCL



- ✓ No DLTs
- ✓ MTD not reached
- ✓ RP2D identified
- Manageable \checkmark safety profile
- Encouraging \checkmark antitumor activity

- R/R CD20⁺ mature **B-cell neoplasm**
- ECOG PS 0-2
- ≥2 prior lines of antineoplastic therapy including ≥1 anti-CD20 mAb
- FDG PET-avid and measurable disease by CT/MRI
- Prior CAR T allowed



- To ensure patient safety and better characterize CRS, inpatient monitoring was required at first full dose for 24 h in this part of the study
- **Primary endpoint:** ORR by Investigator Review Committee (IRC) ٠
- Key secondary endpoints: DOR, TTR, PFS, OS, CR rate, and safety/tolerability

Patients Were Challenging to Treat and Highly Refractory

Demographics	LBCL, N=157
Median age (range), y	64 (20–83)
<65 y, n (%)	80 (51)
65 to <75 y, n (%)	48 (31)
≥75 y, n (%)	29 (18)
ECOG PS, n (%)	
0	74 (47)
1	78 (50)
2	5 (3)
Disease Characteristics ^a	LBCL, N=157
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%)	LBCL, N=157
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%) DLBCL	LBCL, N=157 139 (89)
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%) DLBCL De novo	LBCL, N=157 139 (89) 97/139 (70)
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%) DLBCL De novo Transformed	LBCL, N=157 139 (89) 97/139 (70) 40/139 (29)
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%) DLBCL De novo Transformed Unknown	LBCL, N=157 139 (89) 97/139 (70) 40/139 (29) 2/139 (1)
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%) DLBCL De novo Transformed Unknown HGBCL	LBCL, N=157 139 (89) 97/139 (70) 40/139 (29) 2/139 (1) 9 (6)
Disease Characteristics ^a Disease type, n (%) DLBCL De novo Transformed Unknown HGBCL PMBCL	LBCL, N=157 139 (89) 97/139 (70) 40/139 (29) 2/139 (1) 9 (6) 4 (3)

Prior Treatments	LBCL, N=157
Median time from initial diagnosis to first dose, Y	1.6
Median time from end of last therapy to first dose, mo	2.4
Median prior lines of therapy (range)	3 (2–11)
≥3 Lines of therapy, n (%)	111 (71)
Primary refractory ^b disease, n (%)	96 (61)
Refractory ^b to last systemic therapy, n (%)	130 (83)
Refractory ^b to ≥2 consecutive lines of therapy, n (%)	119 (76)
Prior ASCT, n (%)	31 (20)
Prior CAR T therapy, n (%)	61 (39)
Progressed within 6 mo of CAR T therapy	46/61 (75)

^aDouble/triple-hit patients included, many with responses. ^bRefractory disease is defined as disease that either progressed during therapy or progressed within <6 months of completion of therapy.

Epcoritamab – expansion cohort Response rate

Best Overall Response by IRC, n(%) ^a	LBCL N=157
Overall response	99 (63%) [95% CI: 55–71]
Complete response	61 (39%) [95% CI: 31–47]
Partial response	38 (24)
Stable disease	5 (3)
Progressive disease	37 (24)

Prior CART : 39%

Catherine Thieblemont, et al. J Clin Oncol 2022 & EHA 2022 oral presentation



Kaplan–Meier Estimate	
Median PFS for complete responders	Not reached
Complete responders remaining in complete response at 9 mo	89%
Median PFS, mo (95% CI)	4.4 (3.0–7.9)
PFS at 6 mo, % (95% CI)	43.9 (35.7–51.7)



OS at 12 mo, % (95% CI)

Epcoritamab in R/R DLBCL





Thieblemont et al., JCO 2022

Deep Responses Consistent Across Key Subgroups



Based on IRC assessment and Lugano criteria.





OS: Epcoritamab vs Chemotherapy (historical comparison)





CIT, chemoimmunotherapy; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival.

Salles G et al., ASH, 2022, Abstr 4912

OS : epco vs CAR-T (Historical comparison)



Figure 4. Comparison of OS vs non-ITT ZUMA-1 Study Population



Salles G et al., ASH, 2022, Abstr 4912

CRS/neurologic AEs with CD3xCD20 Bs Abs

Administration

Ramp-up administration ++++



Timing of CRS

Study	Bispecific Treatment Day		Median time	Median duration
			to CRS	CRS
NCT03625037 ¹	Epcoritamab	C1D1 (5.8%) C1D8 (11.8%) C1D15 (42.8%) C1D22 (4.9%) C2D1+ (3%)	20 hrs	48 hrs
NCT03075696 ²	Glofitamab	C1D8 (42.8%) C1D15 (25.2%) C2 (26%) C3+ (0.9%)	13.5 hrs (range: 6-52 hrs)	30.5 hrs (range 0.5-317)
NCT02500407 ³	Mosunetuzumab	C1D1 (14.7%) C1D8 (6.2%) C1D15 (16.1%) C2 (1.2%) C3+ (2.9%)	24 hrs	48 hrs (1-20 days)
NCT03888105 ⁴	Odronextamab	C1 step up	NA	48 hrs (1-133 days)

1. Thieblemont C, et al J Clin Oncol. 2022: JCO2201725. 2. Dickinson MJ, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022; 387(24): 2220-2231. 3. Budde LE, et al J Clin Oncol. 2022; 40(5): 481-491. 4Kim W-S, et al. Blood. 2022; 140 (Supplement 1): 1070-1071.

Reported incidence



CRS

ICANS



all Grade 1-2 Grade 3 Grade 4-5

Thieblemont C, et al J Clin Oncol. 2022: JCO2201725. Dickinson MJ, et al. N Engl J Med. 2022;387(24):2220-2231. Budde LE, et al J Clin Oncol. 2022;40(5):481-491.Kim W-S, et al. Blood. 2022;140(Supplement 1):1070-1071.

Cytokine release syndrome - Glofitamab

n (%)	N=154	CRS by cycle and grade [†]
CRS (any grade)*	97 (63.0)	
Grade 1 (fever)	73 (47.4)	■ Grade 1 ■ Grade 2 ■ Grade 3 ■ Grade 4
Grade 2	18 (11.7)	
Grade 3	4 (2.6)	S C1
Grade 4	2 (1.3)	
Median time to CRS onset from C1D8 dose, hours (range)	13.6 (6.2–51.8)	40 •
Corticosteroids for CRS management	27/97 (27.8)	20
Tocilizumab for CRS management	31/97 (32.0)	0.9% 2.0%
		2.5mg 10mg 30mg 30mg 30mg

CRS was mostly low grade, time of onset was predictable, and most events occurred during C1

Dickinson M, et al. NEJM 2022 & EHA 2022 oral presentation

Cytokine release syndrome - Epcoritamab



Thieblemont C, et al. J Clin Oncol 2022 and EHA oral presentation

Premedications

	Premed steroids
	+ dephenydramine + paracetamol
Epcoritamab	Prednisone 100mg daily on days 1-4, days 8-11, days 15-18, days 22-25
Mosunetuzumab	20 mg dex C1D1, C1 D8, C1D15 , C2D1
Glofitamab	20 mg dex C1D1, C1 D8, C1D15 , C2D1, C3D1
Odronextamab	20 mg dex C1D1&D2, C1 D8&D9, C1D15&D16 , C2D1, C3D1 10mg dex 12-24h before C1D1, C1D8, C1D15

Neutropenia

		Grade <u>></u> 3 neutropenia
Schuster GO29781	Mosunetuzumab N=270	42 (16%)
Thieblemont GCT3013-01	Epcoritamab N=157	33 (21%)
Hutchings	Glofitamab N=171	43 (25%)
Bannerji	Odornextamab N=127	NR



Thieblemont C, et al. J Clin Oncol 2022 and EHA oral presentation



Future and perspectives

- Combining or sequencing?
- Can we move in first line ?

3rd line treatment





Relapse after CAR T cells





CAR T-cells after BsAb treatment

DESCAR-T

Patients with aggressive LBCL n=28

Outcomes post-CAR T	R/R LBCL subgroup (n=23)		
CAR T received, % Axi-cel Tisa-cel	72 28		
ORR, %	91.6		
CR	45.8		
PR	45.8		
Median PFS, mo (95% CI)	3.3 (2.2, NR)		
6-mo PFS, % (95% CI)	44.6 (22.4, 64.7)		
1-year PFS, % (95% CI)	37.2 (15.9, 58.7)		
Median DOR, mo (95% CI)	2.4 (1.4, NR)		
1-year DOR, % (95% CI)	40.7 (17.4, 63.1)		



Initial results suggest CAR T may be effective as post-BsAb salvage therapy, however, longer follow-up in larger cohorts are needed

^a n=20 DLBCL, n=2 FL, n=1 Grade 3b FL, n=3 MCL, n=2 other LBCL

axi-cel: axicabtagene ciloleucel; BA: bispecific antibody; CAR: chimeric antigen receptor; CD: cluster of differentiation; CI: confidence interval; CL: confidence limit; CR: complete response; DOR: duration of response; NR: not reached; ORR: overall response rate; PD: progressive disease; PFS: progression-free survival; PR: partial response; SD: stable disease; tisa-cel: tisagenlecleucel

MOSUN	First line	Aggressive NHL	Mosunetuzumab + CHOP or polatuzumab vedotin- CHP	Untreated NHL	Phase 1b/2	NCT03677141
		Indolent NHL	Mosunetuzumab (SC) + lenalidomide	FL and MZL	Phase 2	NCT04792502
GLOFI	First line	Aggressive NHL	Glofitamab + R-CHOP or Polatuzumab vedotin- R-CHP	Untreated DLBCL (young, high risk)	Phase 1/2	NCT04914741
	R/R in combination	Indolent NHL	Mosunetuzumab + lenalidomide vs glofitamab + lenalidomide ± obinutuzumab	€ R/R FL	Phase 1/2	NCT04246086
		Aggressive NHL	Mosunetuzumab + GemOx or glofitamab + GemOx	R/R DLBCL or high grade DLBCL	Phase 1b	NCT04313608
			Glofitamab + GemOx vs R-GemOx	R/R DLBCL	Phase 3	NCT04408638
		NHL	Glofitamab + atezolizumab or polatuzumab vedotin	R/R NHL	Phase 1b	NCT03533283
			Glofitamab + R07227166	R/R NHL	Phase 1	NCT04077723
			Mosunetuzumab or glofitamab in combination with CC-220 and CC-99282	R/R NHL	Phase 1b	NCT05169515
EPCO	R/R or first line in combination	NHL	Epcoritamab + R-DHAX/C Epcoritamab + GemOx Epcoritamab + R-Lenalidomide Epcoritamab + R-CHOP Epcoritamab + R-B	R/R DLBCL R/R DLBCL R/R FL Untreated DLBCL Untreated FL	Phase 1b/2	NCT04663347
	R/R in combination	Aggressive NHL	Epcoritamab vs R-GemOx or R-B	R/R DLBCL	Phase 3	NCT04628494
ODRO	R/R in combination	NHL	Odronextamab + cepilimab	R/R NHL	Phase 1 or review. Barca et a	NCT02651662 I. Frontiers in Immunology 202

How to get deeper and more durable responses



Conclusions



- The CD3/CD20 bispecific antibodies show an antitumor activity which is unprecedented in heavily pretreated r/r B-NHL
- Data from DLBCL phase 2 expansion cohorts (35-40% with prior CAR-T):
 - Glofitamab: ORR 52%, CRR 39%
 - Epcoritamab: ORR 63%, CRR 39%
- The toxicity profile is favourable:
 - Very little CRS > grade 2
 - Very little treatment-related CNS toxicity
- CRS is highly predictable and almost always confined to the cycle 1
- The toxicity profile and mechanism of action make the bispecifics ideal for combination strategies

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