WHAT'S THE DATA SUPPORTING THE CLINICAL MERITS OF TARGETING THE PTCL EPIGENOME?

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> T-Cell Lymphomas: Finally, Vision and Mission! October 25-26, 2022 Bologna





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- Just how does targeting the PTCL epigenome kill a malignant cell?
- Next steps, oh so many, but.....Dr. Marchi will highlight epigenetic strategies that may modulate the 'immunome' which may have the strongest logic.



The Null Hypothesis There is no difference in outcome between conventional chemotherapy and drugs (as +/-) targeting the epigenome. The Alternative Hypothesis There is a difference in outcome between conventional chemotherapy and drug targeting the epigenome



Conduct a randomized study of epigenetic targeted drugs against SOC chemotherapy regimens





COMPARISON OF A STANDARD REGIMEN (CHOP) WITH THREE INTENSIVE CHEMOTHERAPY REGIMENS FOR ADVANCED NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA

RICHARD I. FISHER, M.D., ELLEN R. GAYNOR, M.D., STEVE DAHLBERG, M.S., MARTIN M. OKEN, M.D., THOMAS M. GROGAN, M.D., EVONNE M. MIZE, JOHN H. GLICK, M.D., CHARLES A. COLTMAN, JR., M.D., AND THOMAS P. MILLER, M.D.



Is This One of the Reasons Why We Get Here?

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ANYONE REMEMBER THIS?

ITS THE STUDY POPULATION THAT LED TO THE SOC IN PTCL



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THE EVOLUTION OF CHOP AND CHOP-PLUS REGIMENS 3-DECADES OF RELATIVE STAGNATION



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EVIDENCE THE PTCL MAY BE A PROTOTYPICAL EPIGENETIC DISEASE A NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF CONSIDERATIONS

Event	Timeline
Inactivating mutations in SWI/SNF complex (chromatin remodeler) SNF5/INI1/BAF47 in T-cell Lymphoma	Yuge et al <i>., Cancer Genet</i> <i>Cytogenet</i> 2000
First case report of an HDAC inhibitor (romidepsin) exhibiting activity in CTCL (R. Piekarz and S. Bates)	2001
Vorinostat achieves U.S. FDA approval for R/R/ CTCL	2006
Over-expression of HDAC2 and HDAC4 leading to H4 acetylation reported in CTCL. HDAC 6 prognostic in CTCL	Marquard et al., Hematopathology. 2008
Romidepsin achieves U.S. FDA approval in R/R CTCL	2009
Romidepsin ahieves U.S. FDA approval in R/R PTCL	2011
Mutations in DNMT3 in PTCL Mutations in TET2 in AITL and PTCL Mutations in IDH2 in AITLE and PTCL	Couronne et al., NEJM. 2012 Lemonnier et al., Blood. 2012 Cairns et al., Blood. 2012
Belinostat achieves U.S. FDA approval in R/R PTCL	2014
Chidamide achieves regulatory approval in CHINA in R/R PTCL	2015



ONE OF THE FIRST BIG CLUES THAT THE PTCL EPIGENOME IS A VALID TARGET

	Vorinostat	Romidepsin	Belinostat	Chidamide
Approval	CTCL (2006)	CTCL (2009) PTCL (2011)	PTCL (2014)	China Only PTCL (2015)
ORR	30%	25%	26%	28%
CR	1%	15%	11%	14%
PFS	8.5 months	2.6 months	1.6 months	4.3 months
DOR	5.5 months	28 months	13.6 months	9.9 months
Reference(s)	Olson et al. 2007	Coiffier et al., 2014	O'Connor, et al. 2015	Shi et al., 2015
	O'Connor et al. 2006 (FIH)			

A remarkably consistent 25% of patients respond across PTCL and CTCL





PHYLOGENETIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN VORINOSTANT AND ROMIDEPSIN (NOT ALL HDACI ARE CREATED EQUALLY)



Chemical Phylogenetics Of Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors Bradner et al. Nature Chem Biol 6:238 – 243, 2010





JUST A FEW OF THE MANY ESTABLISHED EPIGENETIC LESIONS IN THE T-CELL LYMPHOMAS

Gene/Protein	Function	Lymphoma	Reference
DNMT3A	DNA methyltransferase	Peripheral T-Cell	Couronne et al.,
		Lymphoma	NEJM. 2012
TET	Oxidation of methylated cytosines	Peripheral T-Cell	Lemonnier et
		Lymphoma	al., Blood. 2012
IDH2	Metabolic pathway that controls	Angioimmunoblastic T-	Cairns et al.,
	KDM and TET through 2HG	Cell Lymphoma	Blood. 2012
	accumulation		
HDAC 2	Over-expression of HDAC2 and	Cutaneous T-cell	Marquard et al.,
and 4	elevated H4 acetylation	Lymphoma	Hematopatholo
			gy. 2008
SWI/SNF	ATP-dependent chromatin	T-cell lymphoma	Yuge et al.,
complex	remodeler, regulates gene		Cancer Genet
	expression; inactivating mutations		Cytogenet
	cause tumorigenesis		2000
BAF47			





3 WELL ESTABLISHED PATHS TO ABERRANT DNA METHYLATION



Odejide et al., December 17, 2013;



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THE FREQUENCY OF IDH MUTATIONS IS INCONSISTENT ACROSS SUBTYPES

Disease	IDH1R132	IDH2R172	IDH2R140
Hodgkin lymphoma	0/66	0/66	0/66
Non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphoma	0/14	0/14	0/14
B-cell acute lymphoblastic lymphoma (ALL B) 0	0/32	0/32	0/32
T-cell acute lymphoblastic lymphoma (ALL T) 0/8 0/8	0/8	0/8	0/8
AML	2/8	0/8	0/8
PTCL			
PTCL not otherwise specified (PTCLnos)	0/43	0/43	0/43
Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL)	0/50	0/50	0/50
Enteropathy type T-cell lymphoma (ETL)	0/8	0/8	0/8
Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL)			
Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma (HSTCL)	0/10	01/10	01/10
Extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma (NK/TCL)	0/10	0/10	0/10
AITL	0/79	15/79	1/79
UNMC Patients			•
AITL 0/22	0/22	0/22	0/22

IDH1 (R132) and IDH2 (R140/R172) mutations frequently observed in myeloid malignancies

- ~15-30% de novo and secondary AML
- Myelodysplasia and myeloproliferative disorders (~5% chronic phase; ~20% transformed cases)
- IDH1/2 catalyzes interconversion of isocitrate and α-KG
- Mutant IDH1/2 acquires neomorphic enzymatic activity, catalyzing the reduction of α-KG to 2R-HG
- 2HG also inhibit all oxoglutarate dependent dioxygenases including TET enzymes histone demethylases and prolyl hydroxylases
- TET2 mutation → AML hypermethylation phenotype (Levine and Melnick, Cancer Cell 2010)



Cairns et al., Blood, 2012



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TET2 MUTATIONS ACROSS PTCL SUBTYPES *REALLY NO CONSISTENT SIGNAL*

DTCL optitu	TET2 mutation					
FICL entity	N of disease	N with mut	%			
AITL	86	40	47			
PTCL NOS [*]	58	22	38			
T _{FH} -like	24	14	58			
Others	34	8	24			
ALCL	18	0	0			
EATL*	10	2	20			
Extranodal NK/T	12	0	0			
HSTL	6	0	0			
Total	190	64	34			



DNMT3 MUTATIONS IN 96 PATIENTS WITH T-CELL LYMPHOMA AS FUNCTION OF TET-2 STATUS







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GEP REVEALS DISTINCT PATTERNS ACROSS SUBTYPES, BUT.... CANNOT UNMASK EPIGENETIC DYSREGULATION



Compelling strategy that could improve classification, but has not to data identified driver events to target across the diversity of the disease, and certainly not epigentic ones

Blood. 2014 May 8;123(19):2915-23.



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THE 3 RECURRING MUTATIONS FOUND IN PTCL/AITL ALL CONSPIRE TO PRODUCE GLOBAL HYPOMETHYLATION OF THE PTCL GENOME



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EARLY INSIGHTS ON DNMT3 INHIBITORS AND ACTIVITY IN TET2 MUTATED AITL





5-AZACYTIDINE EXHIBITS ACTIVITY IN PTCL, SEEMINGLY GREATER IN AITL PHASE 3 DATA AT ASH COMING



Lemonnier,	Blood.	2018
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* ATLL: 3 patients, EATL: 1 patient, PTCL-NOS: 2 patients, transformed MF: 1 patient

ORR in AILT 9/12 (75%) ORR in PTCL 1/7 (14%) ORR Total 10/19 (52%)

Other PTCL*

7

59 [32-83]

5/2

1

2

4

3

4

7

7

6

1

3

1/4 (25%)

1 (15%)

0 (0%)

p

0,09

0.65

1

0.62

1

0,26

0,17

1

0,12

0,09

0.0198

0,106

EPIGENETIC DRUGS APPEAR TO SYNERGIZE WITH OTHER DRUGS ACTIVE IN PTCL, BUT MOST POTENTLY WITH OTHER EPIGENETIC DRUGS

EPIGENETIC DRUG	ALTERNATIVE DRUG	EVIDENCE
Romidepsin	Pralatrexate	Compelling laboratory data, Phase 1 data confirm >70% ORR in PTCL, ~30% in BCL
Romidepsin	5-Azacytidine (epigenetic)	Compelling laboratory, Phase 1 and Phase 2 data, marked improvement in PFS with randomized study underway
Romidepsin	Decitabine (epigenetic)	Laboratory data shows compelling synergy in models of TCL
Panobinostat	Bortezomib	Phase 2 study not compelling to move on to advanced phase
Romidepsin	Duvalisib	Minimal laboratory evidence and early phase data to support at least additive
Romidepsin	Tenalisib	Early phase data support improved activity though short PFS
Decitabine	ASTX660	Compelling laboratory data moving to clinical study soon



PRALATREXATE AND ROMIDEPSIN ARE HIGHLY SYNERGISTIC IN VITRO AND ACROSS IN VIVO MODELS OF TCL



-	Estimated log-intensity (p-value)				
Treatment group	4 th day	8 th day	11 th day	14 th day	
Control	7.78 (<0.05)	8.09 (<0.05)	8.32 (<0.05)	8.55 (<0.05)	
Romidepsin	7.75 (<0.05)	8.00 (<0.05)	8.20 (<0.05)	8.39 (<0.05)	
Pralatrexate	7.58 (0.02)	7.74 (<0.05)	7.86 (<0.05)	7.98 (<0.05)	
Romidepsin + Pralatrexate	7.49	7.24	7.06	6.87	

Hut78 T-cell lymphoma



Synergy demonstrated by activity seen at lower doses of each drug compared to MTD of each

Jain, S.O'Connor, O.A.. Clinical Cancer Research, 2015.

AAGR American Association for Cancer Research Clinical **Cancer Research**



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SUMMARY OF RESPONSE RATES ACROSS STUDY POPULATION FOR PATIENTS TREATED WITH ROMIDEPSIN AND PRALATREXATE



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DUAL TARGETING OF DIFFERENT FEATURES OF THE PTCL EPIGENOME







HIGH-THROUGHPUT SCREENING IDENTIFIES DNMT3 INHIBITORS (& PRALATREXATE) AS AMONG THE MOST SYNERGISTIC WITH HDAC INHIBITORS



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DECITABINE PLUS HDAC INHIBITOR MARKEDLY SYNERGISTIC IN PANEL OF TCL



Marchi et al. British Journal of Haematology

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UNSUPERVISED GENE EXPRESSION ANALYSIS OF AZACYTIDINE & ROMIDEPSIN : MOST UNIQUE PERTURBED GENES IN COMBINATION – <u>IS THIS A NEW DRUG?</u>





T-CELL LYMPHOMAS ARE EXQUISITELY SENSITIVE TO THE COMBINATION OF AZACYTIDINE AND ROMIDEPSIN – *PHASE 1*



A suggestion B-cell lymphomas less vulnerable – consistent with laboratory observations

O'Connor et al, Blood 2019



ORAL 5-AZACYTIDINE AND ROMIDEPSIN EFFICACY *PHASE 1 EXPERIENCE*

	All (N = 31)	Phase 1 (N = 26)	Expansion (T-cell) (N = 5)	Non-T-Cell (N = 20)	T-Cell (N = 11)
Overall response	10 (32%)	6 (23%)	4 (73%)80	2 (10%)	8 (73%)
Complete response	7 (23%)	3 (12%)	4 (80%)	1 (5%)	5 (55%)
Partial response	3 (10%)	3 (12%)	0	1 (5%)	2 (18%)
Stable disease	7 (23%)	7 (27%)	0	7 (35%)	0
Progressive disease	11 (35%)	10 (38%)	1 (20%)	9 (45%)	2 (18%)
Not evaluable	3 (10%)	3(12%)	0	2 (10%)	1 (9%)

8 evaluable patients with AITL or PTCL-TFH: Overall response = 7 (87%); complete response = 4 (50%)

O'Connor et al., Blood 2019



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AZACYTIDINE AND ROMIDEPSIN PRODUCED DURABLE RESPONSES IN PTCL – PHASE 1



O'Connor et al, Blood 2019



PATIENTS WITH PTCL HAVE LONGER PFS AND DOR COMPARED TO B-CELL LYMPHOMAS – PHASE 1







- Global Demethylation Score (GDMS) recapitulates what has been seen for SQ/IV azacytidine
- All 4 patients with AITL responded (3/4 had low GDMS)
- Kinetics of demethylation shows effect maximal Day 15-22 (azacytidine given D 0-14)
- Heatmap depicts gene expression changes that coincide with the methylation patterns above (see arrows)
- Red indicates maximal demethylation, blue less demethylation – Suggests similar patterns across the PTCL subtypes.
- No obvious correlation with response

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AZA/ROMI EFFICACY ACROSS PTCL – PHASE 2

Response	All Patients (N=23)	Treatment Naïve (N=10)	Relapsed/ Refractrory (n=13)	tTFH (N=15)	Other Subtypes (N=8)
Overall Response	14 (61%)	7 (70%)	7 (54%)	12 (80%)	2 (25%)
Complete Response	10 (43%)	5 (50%)	5 (38%)	9 (60%)	1 (12.5%)
Partial Response	4 (17%)	2 (20%)	2 (15%)	3 (20%)	1 (12.5%)
Stable Response	5 (22%)	2 (20%)	2 (23%)	2 (13%)	3 (37.5%)
Progression of Disease	4 (17%)	1 (10%)	2 (23%)	1 (7%)	3 (37.5%)
Not Evaluable	3	2	0	2	0

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TREATMENT NAÏVE PTCL PATIENTS HAVE A HIGH OVERALL RESPONSE RATE – PHASE 2



Time (months)

Falchi L., H. Ma et al, Blood; in press



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AZACYTIDINE AND ROMIDEPSIN PRODUCE DURABLE RESPONSES AND PROLONGED SURVIVAL COMPARED TO HISTORIC CONTROLS - PHASE 2







Responders Have a Higher Number of Mutations in Genes Involved in Epigenetic **Regulation** – Its more complicated than TET2, IDH2 and DNMT3

Falchi et al, Blood; in press



SINGLE AGENT ACTIVITY OF 'T-CELL ACTIVE' DRUGS NO HOME RUNS HERE.....



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are NOT comparable, NOR is a comparison with small non-FDA directed trial

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COMBINATIONS OF NOVEL : NOVEL T-CELL ACTIVE DRUGS THE BASIS FOR A T-CELL TAILORED APPROACH?



2- Drug Combinations Beginning to Hit ORR 70 Plus and CR ~50%

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ROMIDEPSIN: A BRIEF REVIEW OF ITS 25 YEAR JOURNEY

- **1997** Phase 1 studies of romidepsin (FK228, FR901228)
- 2001 First case report by Pierkaz and Bates establishes romidepsin as active in CTCL (Blood, 98(9): 2865.
- **2004** Received Fast Track approval from U.S. FDA
- **2009** Piekarz et al. publish CTCL results (JCO, 27(32) : 510.)
- **2009** U.S. FDA approved romidepsin in CTCL

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- **2011** Piekarz et al publish PTCL results (Blood, 117(22): 5827)
- **2011** FDA grants <u>Accelerated Approval</u> for the treatment of patients with PTCL who received one line of prior therapy in 2011
- 2021 * BMS withdrew the approval romidepsin for patients with R/R PTCL based on negative CHOP vs Ro-CHOP Phase 4

BMS Pulls Istodax in Lymphoma After Trial Fails to Show Progression-Free Survival

Published: Aug 03, 2021 By Vanessa Doctor, RN



4th August 2021

NANO-ROMIDEPSIN IS SAFE AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN MODELS OF PTCL AND LGL



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A RANDOMIZED, PHASE IIB, MULTICENTER, TRIAL OF ORAL AZACYTIDINE PLUS ROMIDEPSIN VERSUS INVESTIGATOR'S CHOICE IN PATIENTS WITH RELAPSE OR REFRACTORY PERIPHERAL T-CELL LYMPHOMA (PTCL)



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THE COMPLEX MECHANISMS OF ACTION OF EPIGENETIC DRUGS TARGETING THE PTCL EPIGENOME: PRIMING OF THE IMMUNE MICROENVIRONMENT



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IS THIS AN EXAMPLE OF EPIGENETIC PRIMING....? NOVEL HERE IMPLIES EPIGENETIC ALONE OR IN COMBINATION





WHAT'S THE DATA SUPPORTING THE CLINICAL MERITS OF TARGETING THE PTCL EPIGENOME?

- We are short on randomized data to demonstrate that any one therapy is better than another in PTCL, save Lumiere (no difference between alisertib and DC and Echelon 2, only showing advantage for ALCL);
- Molecular data set the stage for targeting the PTCL epigenome, but do not suggest that all PTCL subtypes are created equally with regard to the well characterized mutations (TET2, IDH2 and DNMT3);
- Clinical data suggest that as single agents epigenetic drugs (Phase 3 5-Aza vs DC at ASH) are
 probably no better than other non-epigenetic targeted drugs, but...
- Robust preclinical laboratory data have identified rational combinations with other epigenetic drugs in combination may be the most promising;
- Strategies exploring CHOP-plus epigenetic Rx approaches are likely not going to follow the fate of other CHOP-plus trials.



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