Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

The biology of complement inhibition in PNH



Schmidt, Christoph University of Ulm Medical Centre



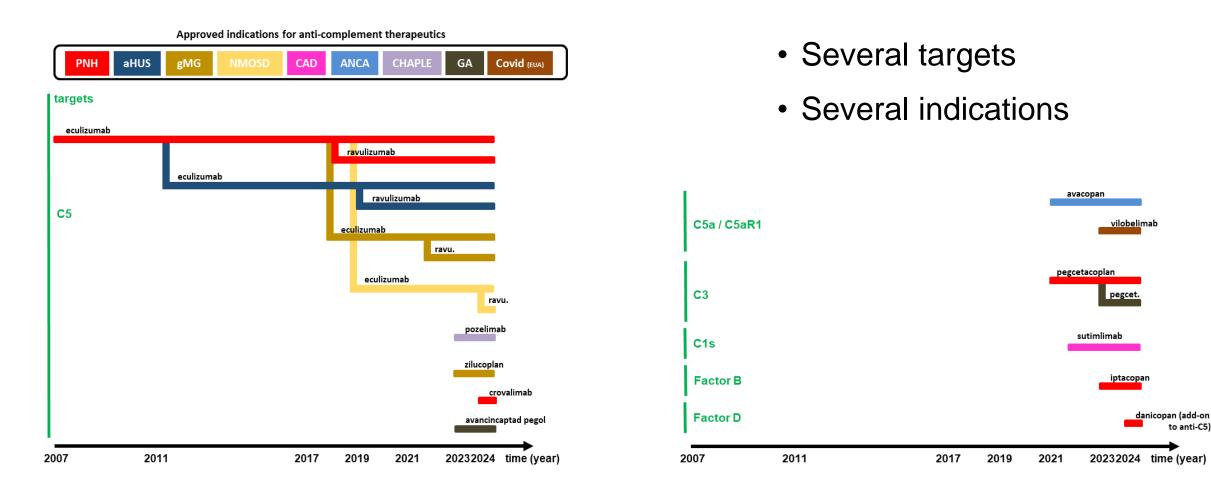
Firenze, 3-4 ottobre 2024

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Disclosures of Christoph Schmidt

Company name	Research support	Employee	Consultant	Stockholder	Speakers bureau	Advisory board	Other
Takeda	yes						
Roche	yes						
Alexion					yes		
Vifor					yes		
Sobi					yes	yes	
Sanofi					yes		
OTHER							Registered inventor on patents describing novel complement inhibitors

COMPLEMENT: HEAT LABILE BUT NOT RESISTANT TO THERAPEUTICS



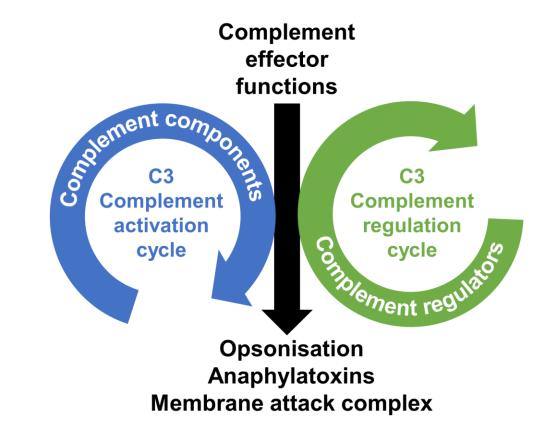
Adapted from Schmidt CQ & Smith RJH. Immunol Rev. 2023

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to anti-C5)

COMPLEMENT SYSTEM – FUNCTIONS



C3 in the centre of the complement 'universe'

Schmidt CQ et al. Blood. 2021

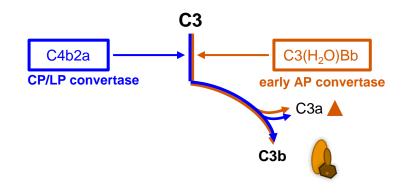
Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

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PROXIMAL COMPLEMENT ACTIVATION

Classical & Lectin Pathway

Alternative Pathway



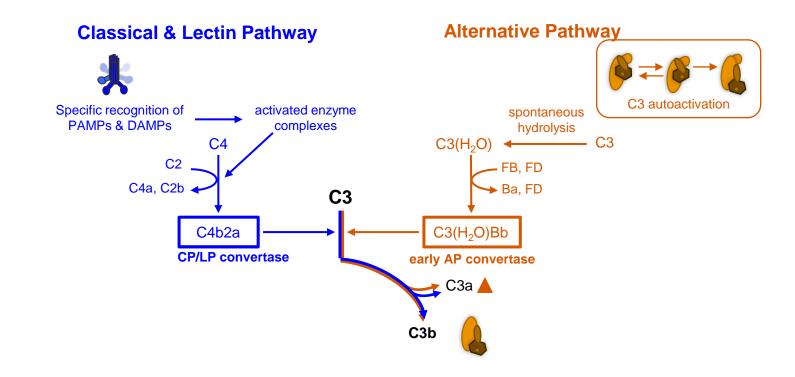
Mannes M et al. Blood 2021 Schmidt CQ et al. Blood 2022



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PROXIMAL COMPLEMENT ACTIVATION

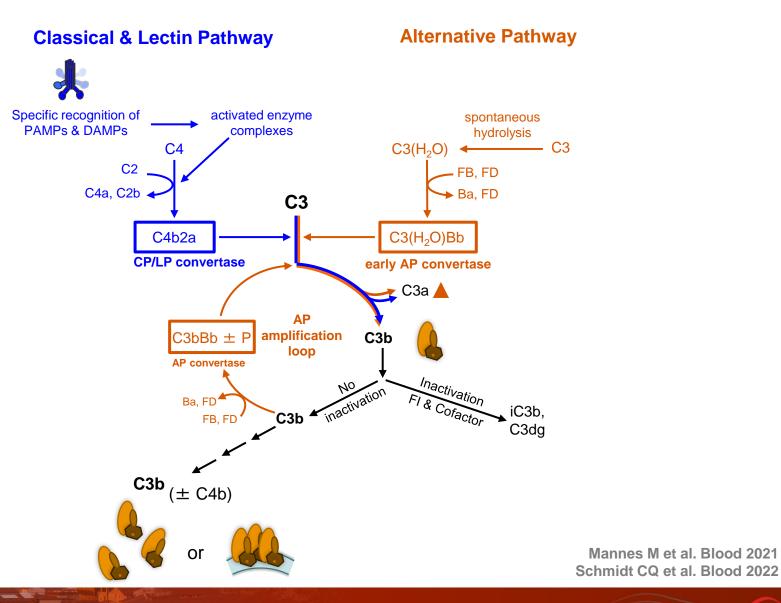


Mannes M et al. Blood 2021 Schmidt CQ et al. Blood 2022

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

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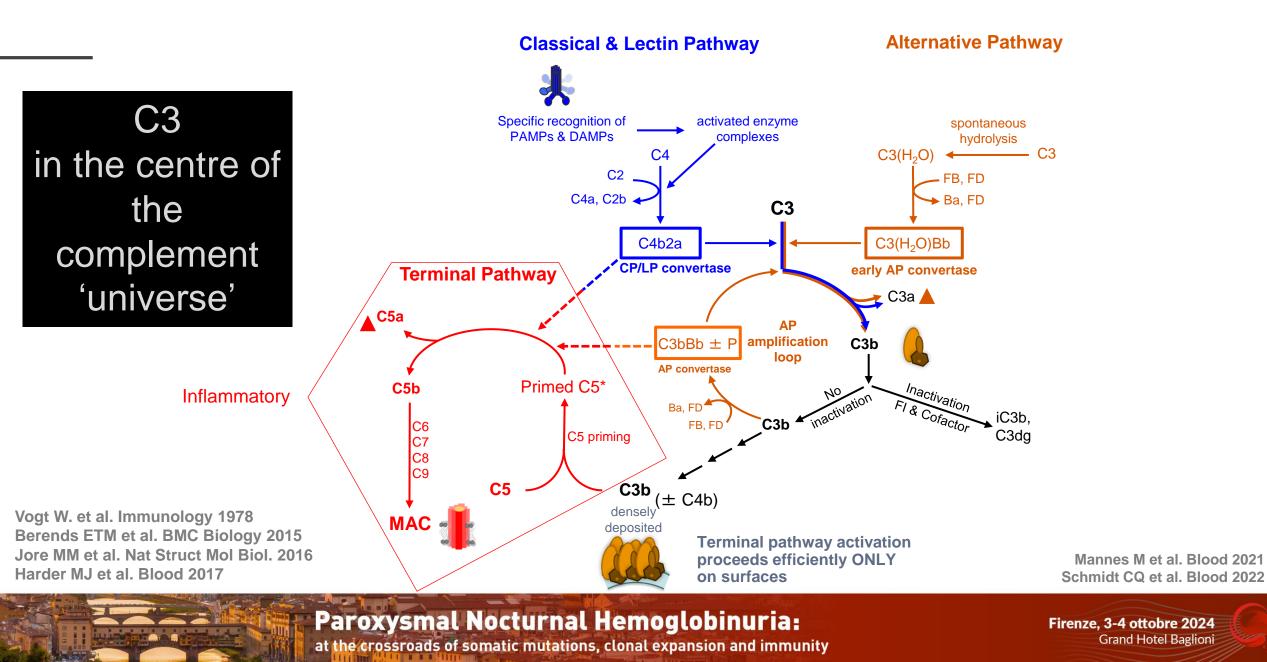
PROXIMAL COMPLEMENT ACTIVATION



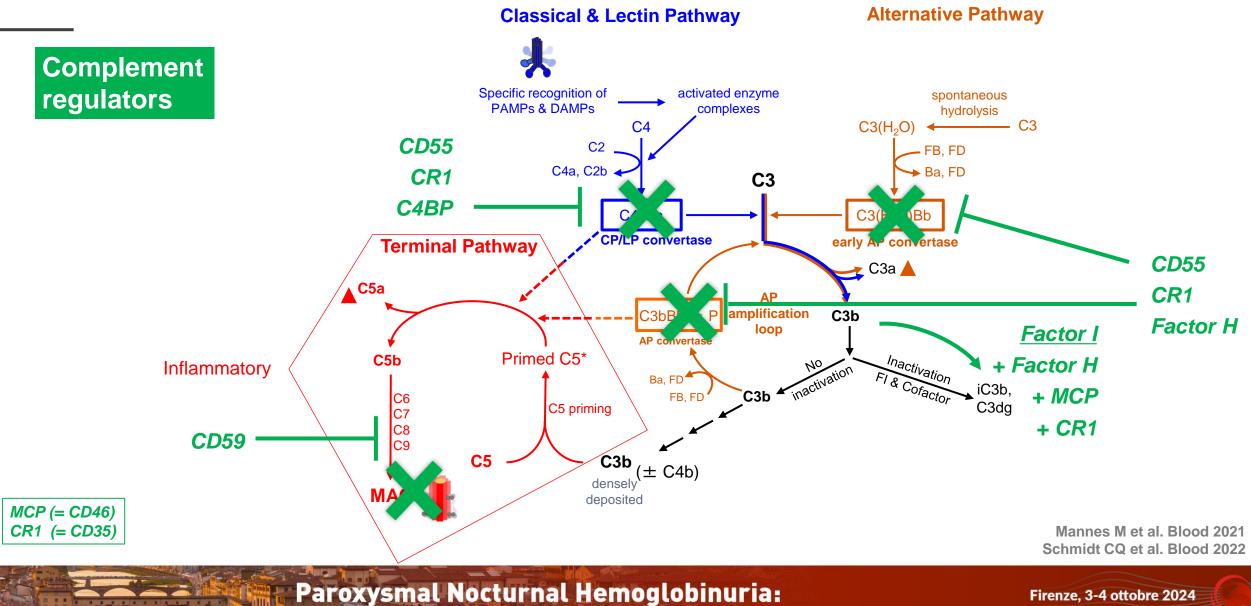
Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

PROXIMAL & TERMINAL COMPLEMENT ACTIVATION



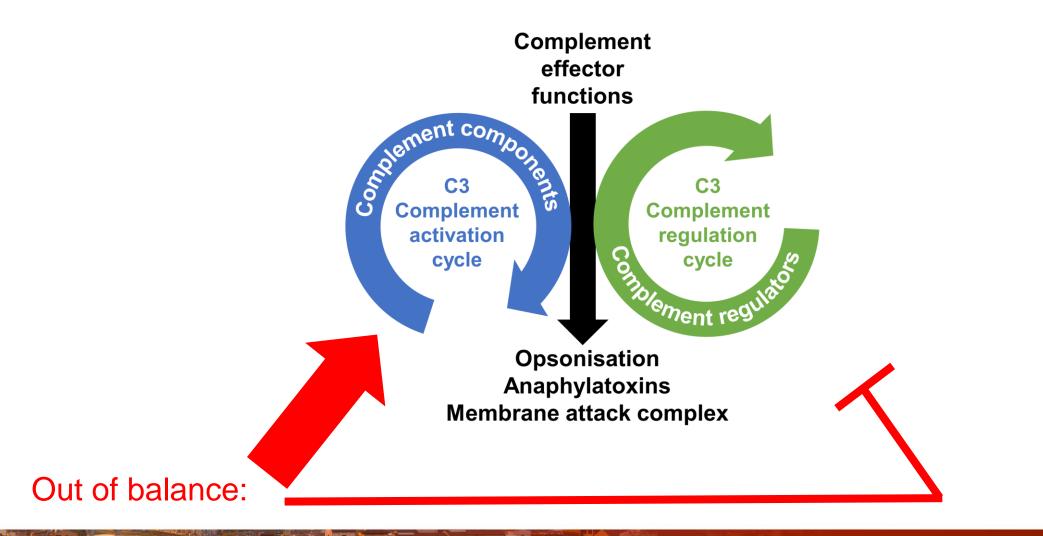
COMPLEMENT CASCADE: UNDER CONTROL



at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

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COMPLEMENT SYSTEM – FUNCTIONS



Schmidt CQ et al. Blood. 2021

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

COMPLEMENT CASCADE: OUT OF CONTROL IN PNH

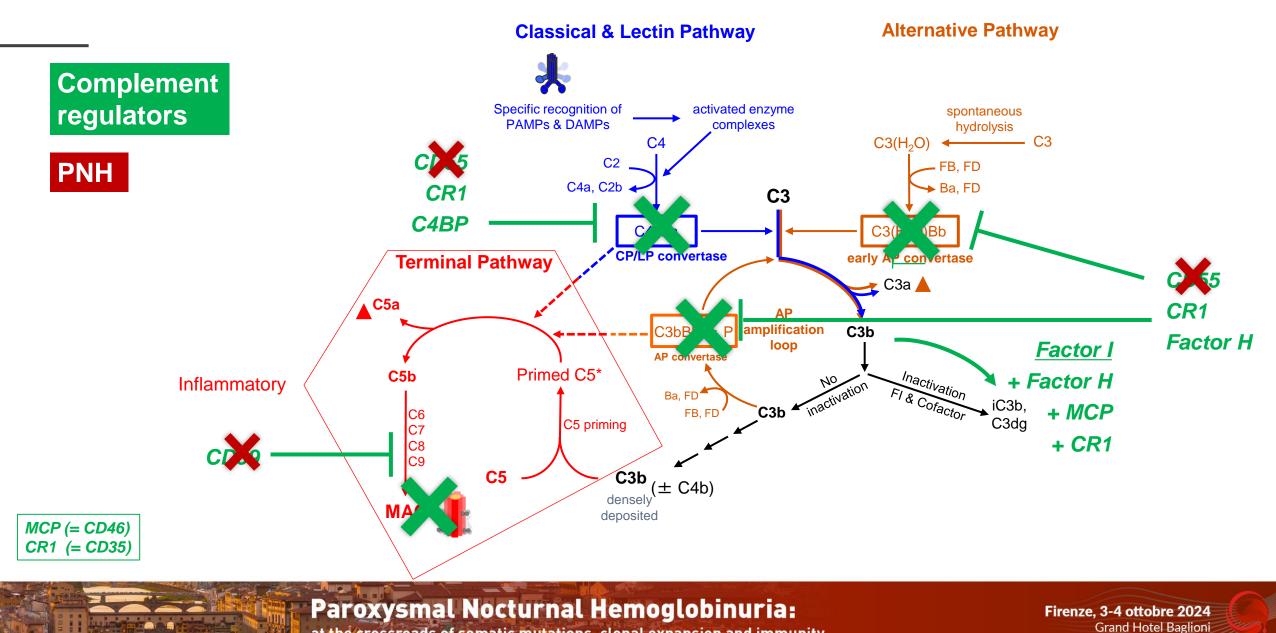
Mannes M et al. Blood 2021 Schmidt CQ et al. Blood 2022



Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

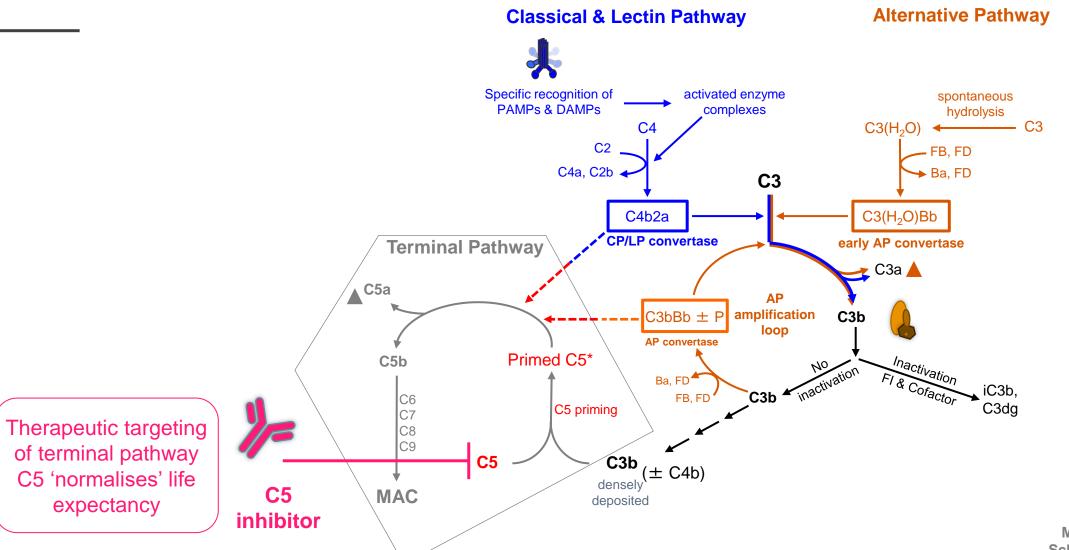
at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

COMPLEMENT CASCADE: OUT OF CONTROL IN PNH



at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

PNH & ANTI-C5 THERAPY



Mannes M et al. Blood 2021 Schmidt CQ et al. Blood 2022

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

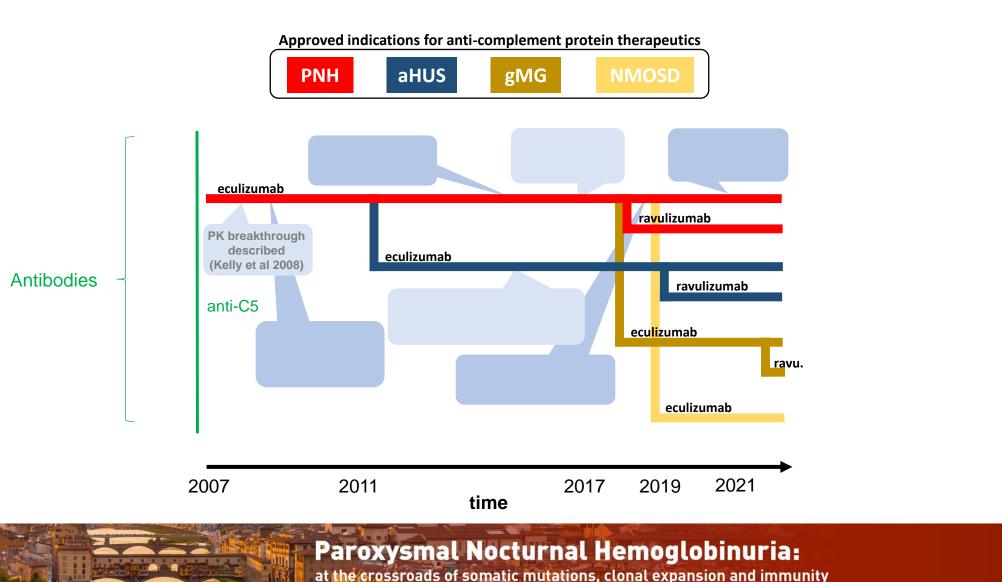
THE FIRST COMPLEMENT INHIBITOR: ECULIZUMAB TARGETING C5

- > 'life transforming therapy' approved for
 - paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria (PNH)
 - atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome (aHUS)
 - generalised myasthenia gravis (gMG)
 - Neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorders (NMOSD)
- > cost of therapy: about 400 000 Euro per annum
- > risk of meningococcal infection (despites vaccination)
- > not all patients benefit fully (e.g. for some PNH patients transfusion dependency remains)

reviewed in Schmidt CQ et al. Eur J Immunol. 2024

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria: at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

TIME COURSE OF APPROVED ANTI-C5 COMPLEMENT THERAPEUTICS:

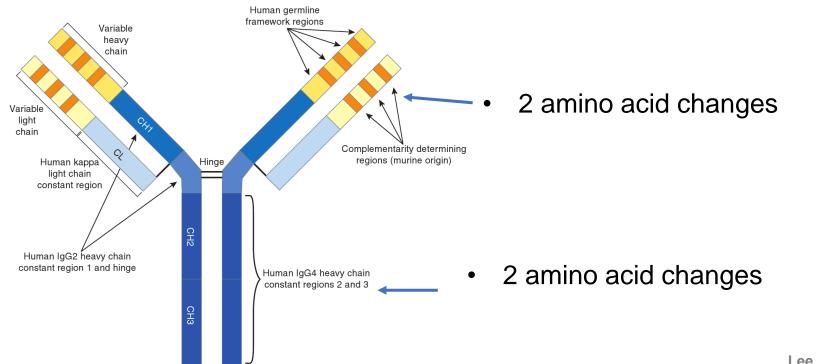


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Schmidt CQ et al. Immunol Rev. 2023

RAVULIZUMAB

- monoclonal humanized antibody based on Eculzumab
- 4 amino acids changed for improved FcRn cycling



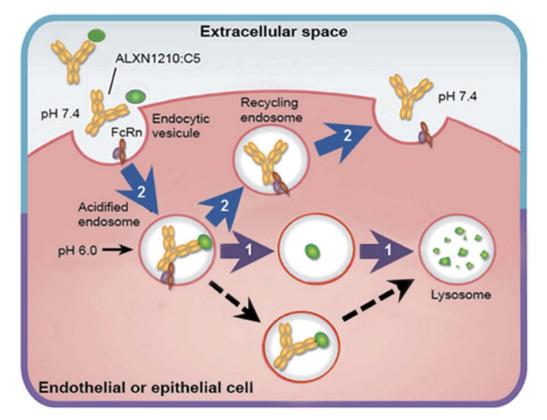
Lee JW, Kulasekararaj AG. Expert Opin Biol Ther. 2020

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

RAVULIZUMAB

- monoclonal humanized antibody based on Eculizumab
- 4 amino acids changed for improved FcRn cycling



Lee JW, Kulasekararaj AG. Expert Opin Biol Ther. 2020



Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

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RAVULIZUMAB VS. ECULIZUMAB DOSING IN PNH

Dose (mg) 600 600 600 600 900 900 900 900 Continues every 2 weeks Weeks 11 7 9 5 3 Induction phase Maintenance phase **Ravulizumab Dosing Schedule** (for 70 kg Patient) Dose (mg) 2700 3300 3300 3300 Continues every 8 weeks Weeks 19 11 3 Loading Maintenance phase dose

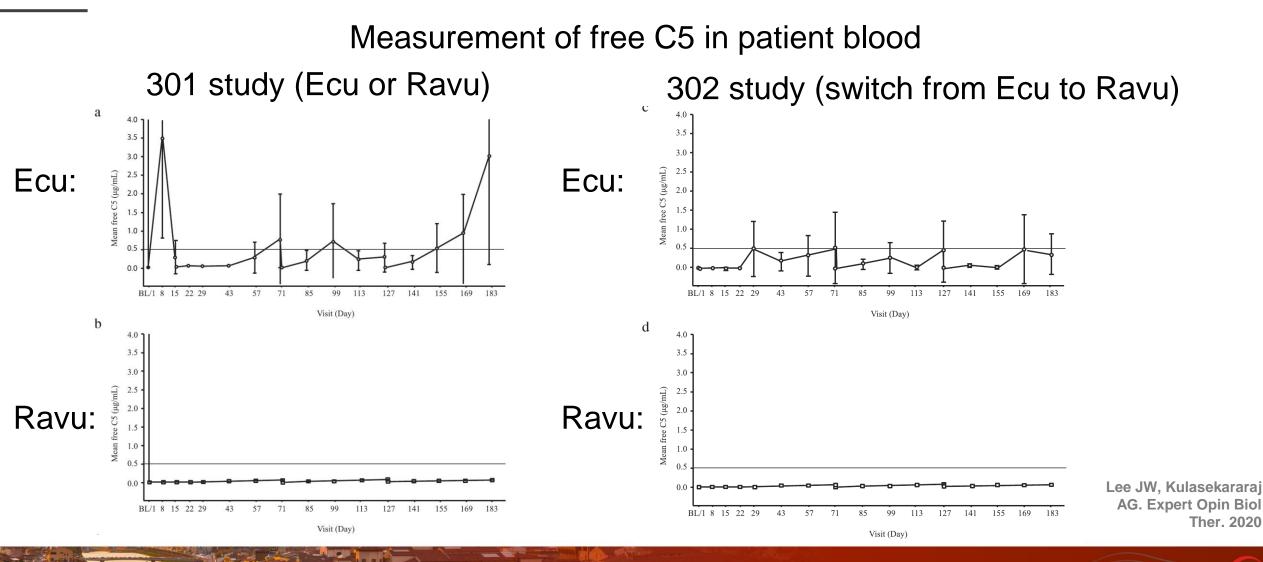
Eculizumab Dosing Schedule

Stern RM, et al. Ther Adv Hematol. 2019

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

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RAVULIZUMAB VS. ECULIZUMAB IN PNH: 301 & 302 STUDY

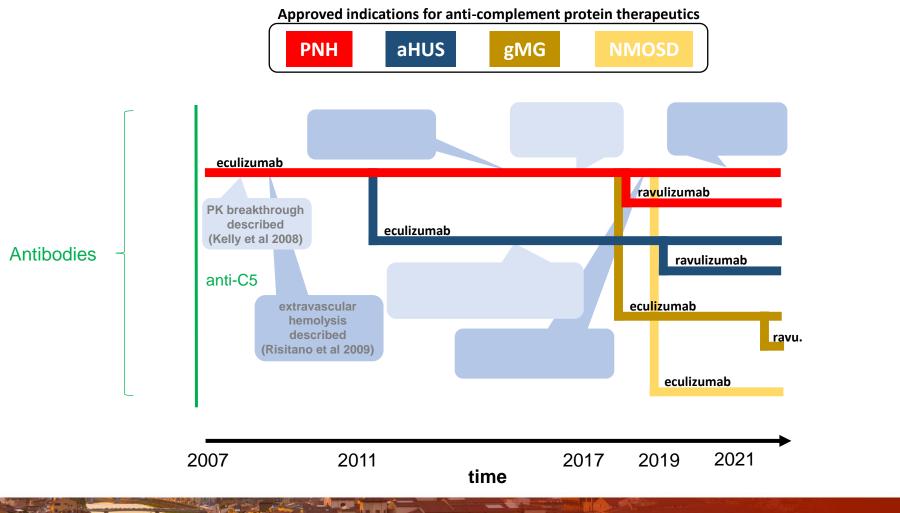


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TIME COURSE OF APPROVED ANTI-C5 COMPLEMENT THERAPEUTICS:

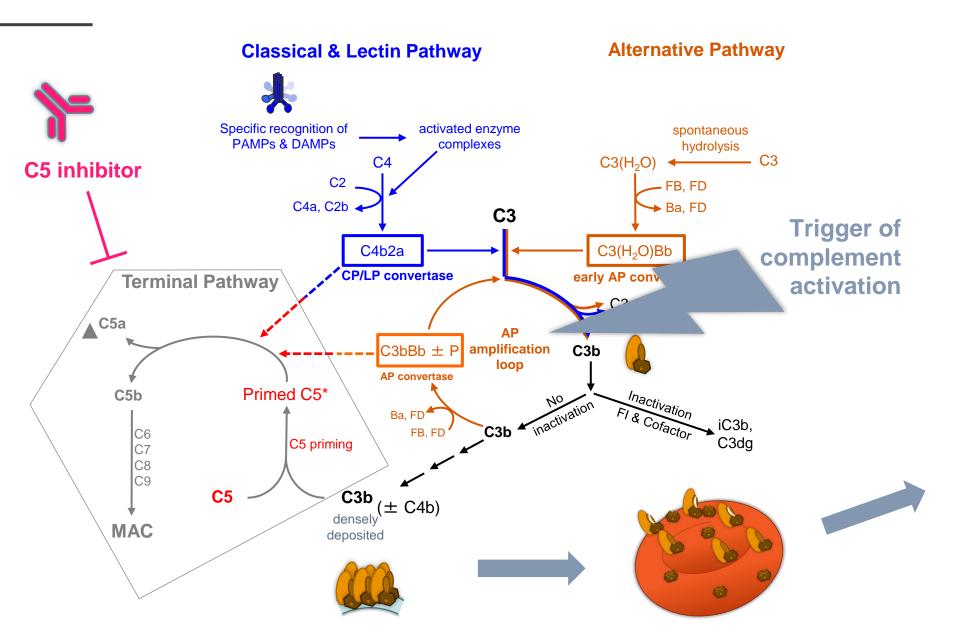


Schmidt CQ et al. Immunol Rev. 2023

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

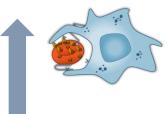
PROXIMAL CASCADE IS STILL ACTIVE UNDER C5 INHIBITION



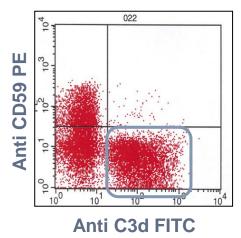
RES macrophages:

→ clearance of C3opsonised PNH-RBCs:

 \rightarrow extravascular haemolysis

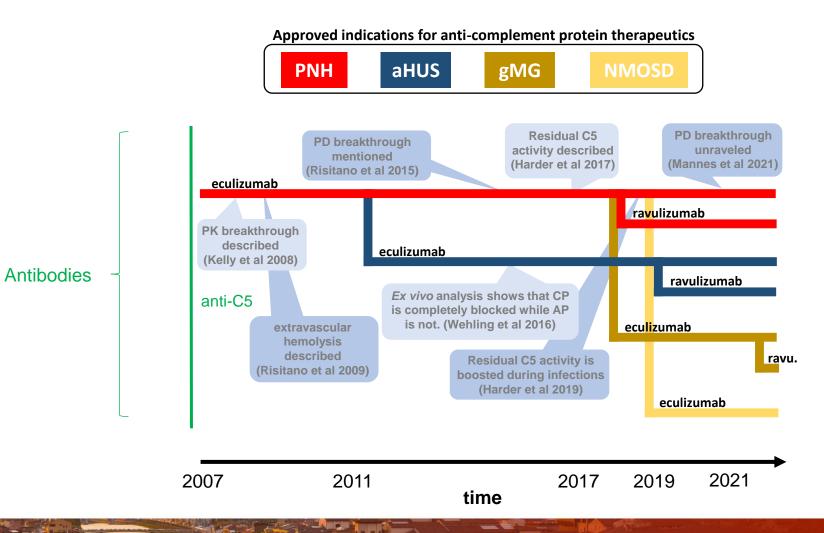


RBCs from eculizumab treated PNH patients

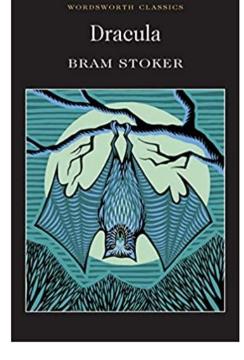


Risitano et al. Blood 2009 Hill et al. Haematologica 2010 Höchsmann et al. Vox Sang 2012

TIME COURSE OF APPROVED ANTI-C5 COMPLEMENT THERAPEUTICS:



...the unexpected always happens ...



Schmidt CQ et al. Immunol Rev. 2023

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

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RESIDUAL AP C5 ACTIVITY – LITERATURE EXAMPLES IN/EX VIVO

Clinical & Experimental Immunology The Journal of Translational Immunology		
Clinical and Experimental Immunology	ORIGINAL ARTICLE	doi:10.1111/cei.12890

Monitoring of complement activation biomarkers and eculizumab in complement-mediated renal disorders

(Fig. 4a). While the haemolytic activity of the classical pathway was constantly undetectable under treatment, a remaining haemolytic activity of the alternative pathway was observed, with APH50 values up to 20% (Fig. 4b). C3 levels C. Wehling,* O. Amon,[†]
M. Bommer,[‡] B. Hoppe,[§]
K. Kentouche,[§] G. Schalk,**
R. Weimer,^{††} M. Wiesener,^{‡‡}
B. Hohenstein,^{§§} B. Tönshoff,^{§§}
R. Büscher,*** H. Fehrenbach,^{†††}
Ö.-N. Gök^{‡‡‡} and M. Kirschfink*

in most aHUS cases presented here the function of the classical and alternative pathway was inhibited completely, in some patients (e.g. aHUS patients 3 and 6 at T1) the alternative pathway in particular showed remaining haemolytic activity up to 67%, despite high concentrations of eculizumab.

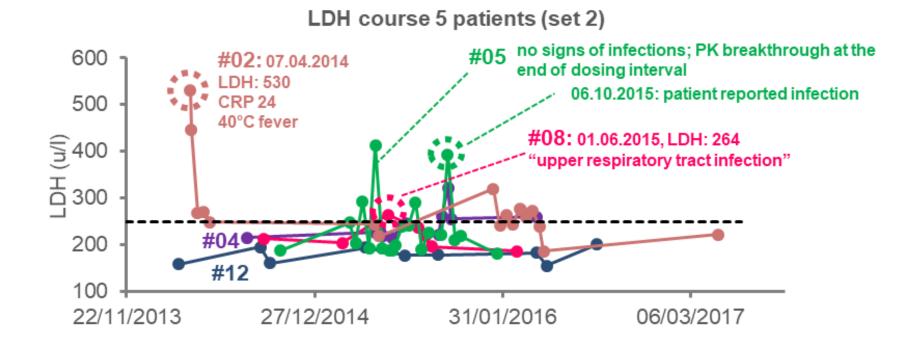
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WHAT WE DO NOT EXACTLY UNDERSTAND – ONE EXAMPLE

• there are two versions of breakthrough events under Eculizumab therapy: pharmacokinetic & pharmacodynamic



Harder MJ et al Front Immunol. (2019) 10:1639

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

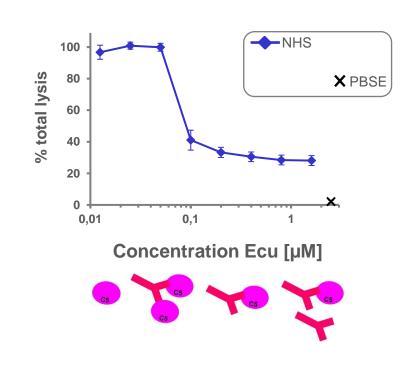
Pharmacodynamic breakthrough of C5 inhibitors

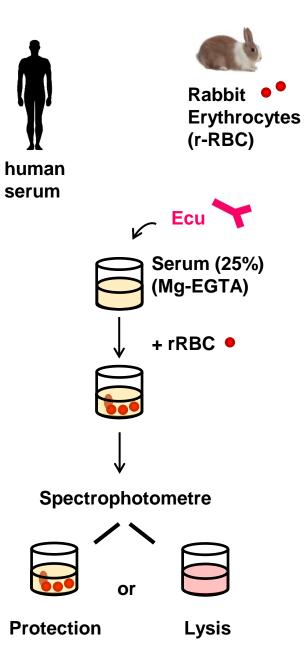
Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

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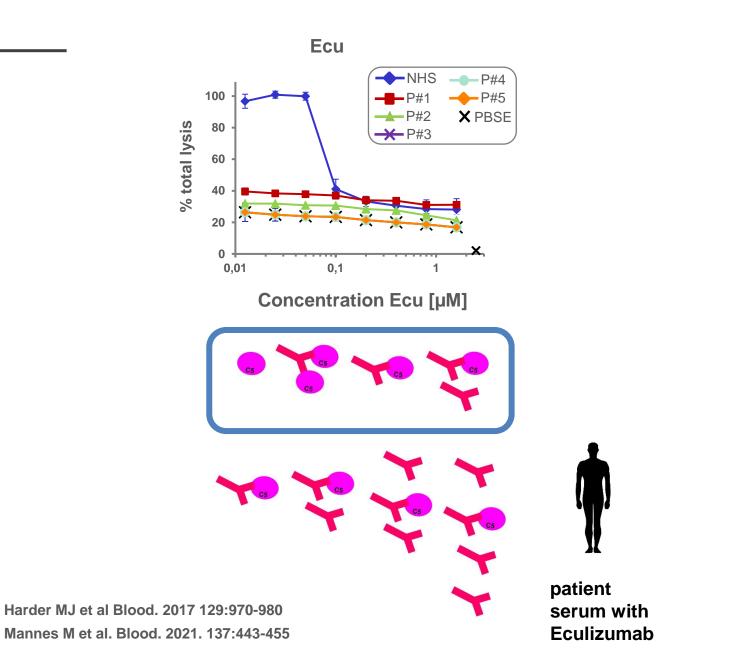
AP RABBIT-RBC ASSAY IN SERUM OF A HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL

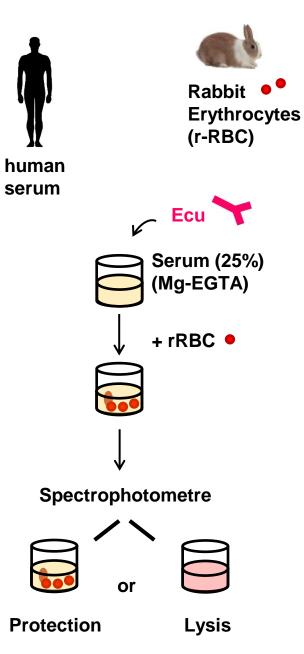




Harder MJ et al Blood. 2017 129:970-980 Mannes M et al. Blood. 2021. 137:443-455

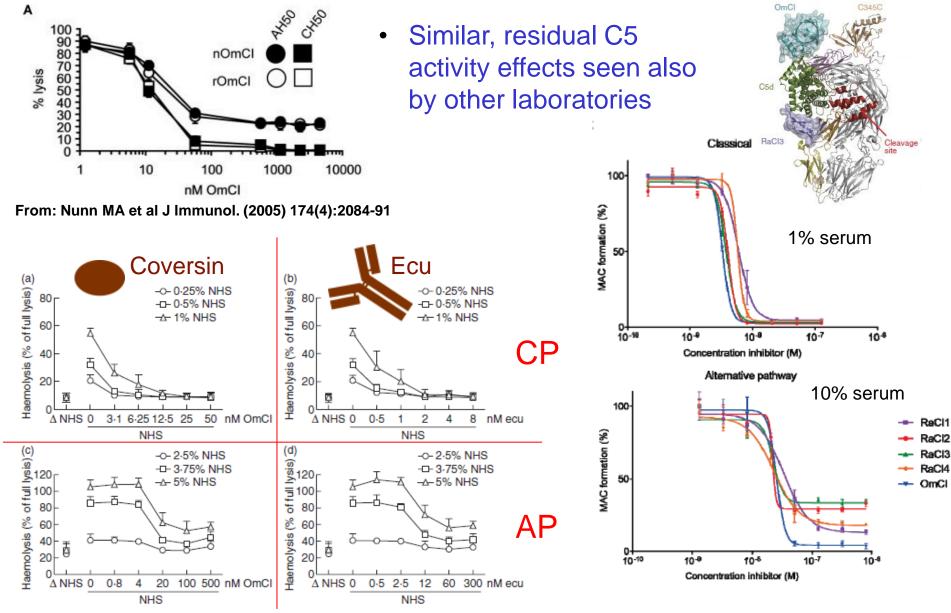
AP RABBIT-RBC ASSAY IN NHS & SERA OF PNH PATIENTS ON ECU





RESIDUAL AP C5 ACTIVITY – LITERATURE EXAMPLES IN VITRO

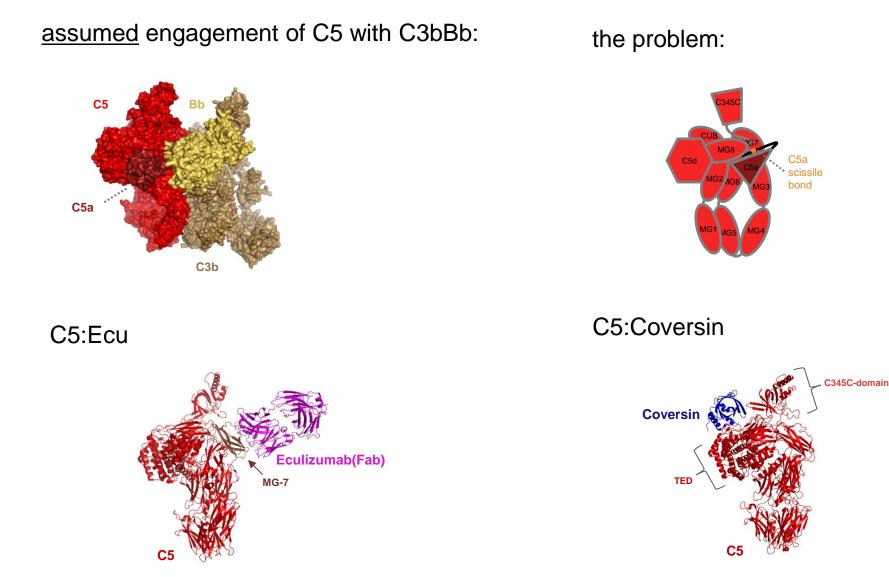
RESIDUAL AP C5 ACTIVITY – LITERATURE EXAMPLES IN VITRO



From: Blom AM et al Clin Exp Immunol. (2014) 178(1):142-53.

From: Jore MM et al Nat Struct Mol Biol. (2016) 23(5):378-386

STRUCTURAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT C5 & ITS ACTIVATION IS PATCHY

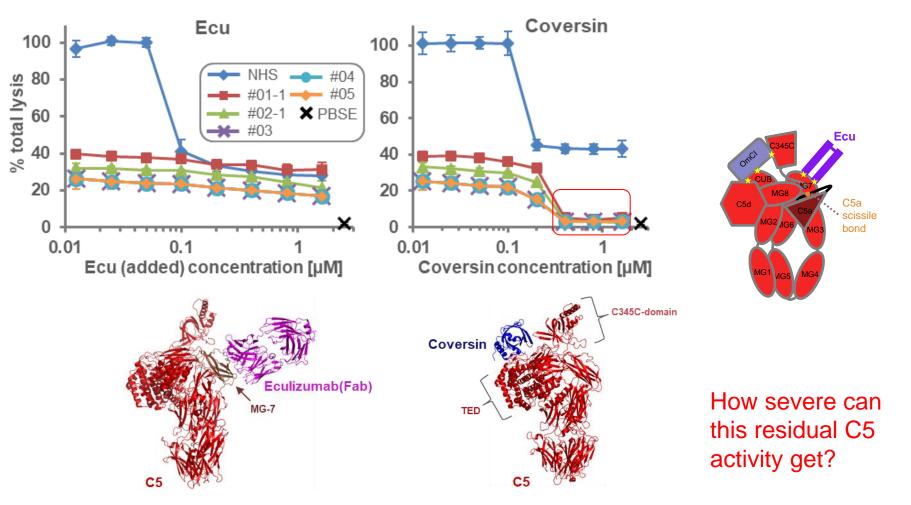


Schatz-Jakobsen JA et al J Immunol. (2016) 197(1):337-344.

Jore MM et al Nat Struct Mol Biol. (2016) 23(5):378-386

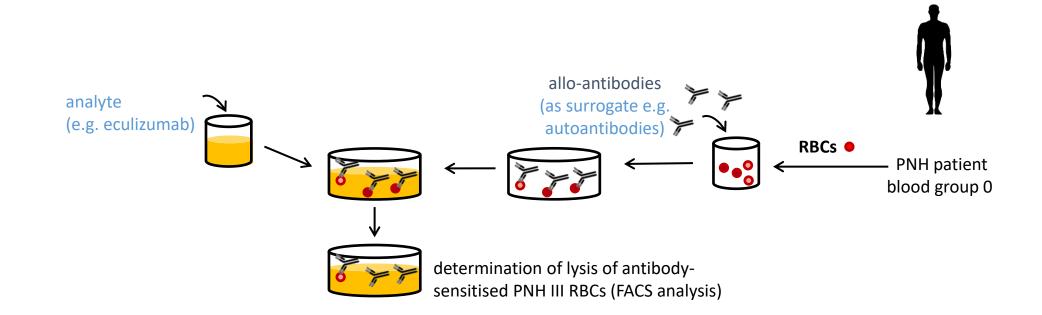
AP RABBIT-RBC ASSAY IN SERUM OF PNH-PATIENTS ON ECU

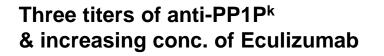
AP-mediated lysis of rabbit RBCs in NHS or serum from 5 Ecu-treated PNH patients with addition of



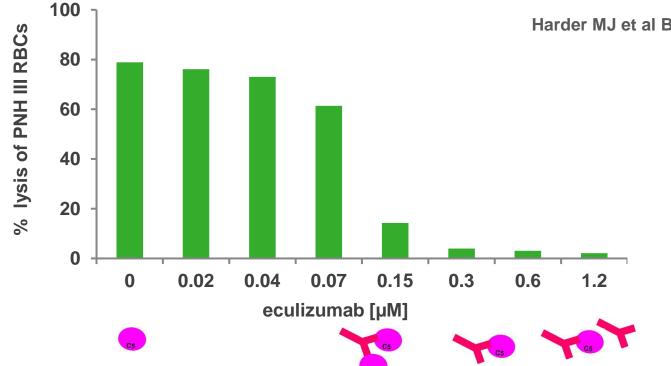
> Sera from different PNH patients have different levels of residual haemolysis
 > C5 double inhibition efficiently & completely inhibits C5 activation

Harder MJ et al Blood. 2017 129:970-980; Schatz-Jakobsen JA et al J Immunol. (2016) 197(1):337-344.; Jore MM et al Nat Struct Mol Biol. (2016) 23(5):378-386

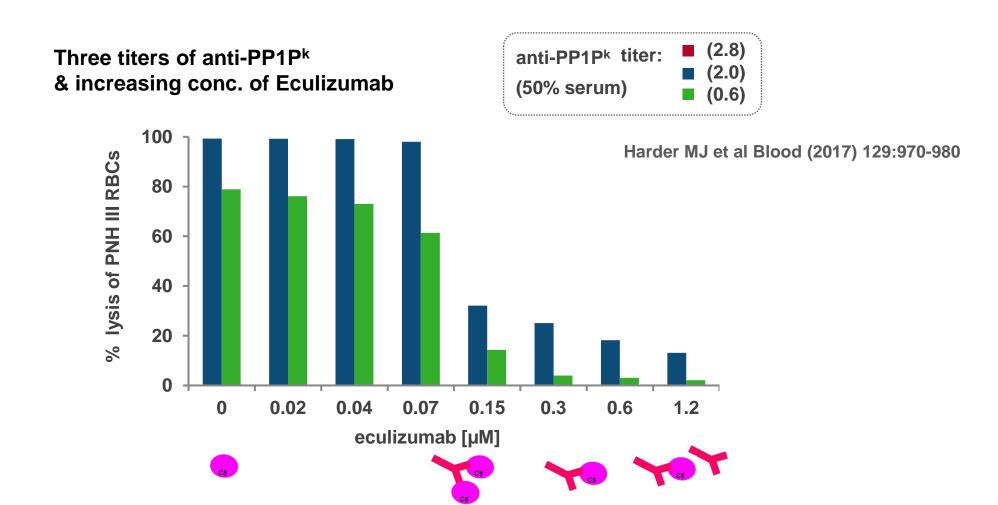






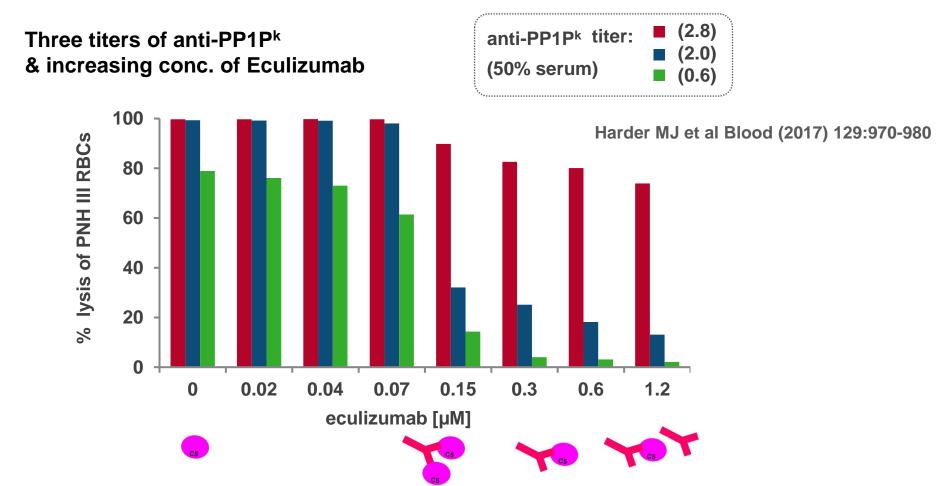


Harder MJ et al Blood (2017) 129:970-980



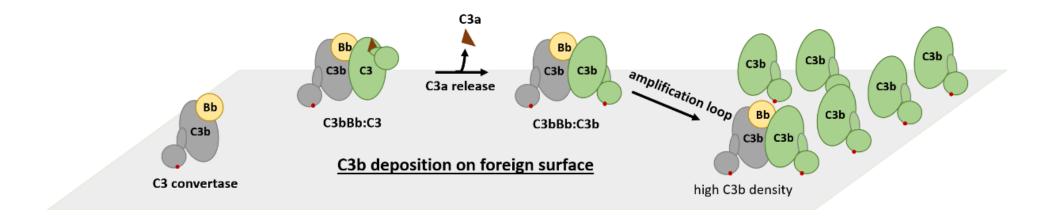
"pharmacodynamic breakthrough"

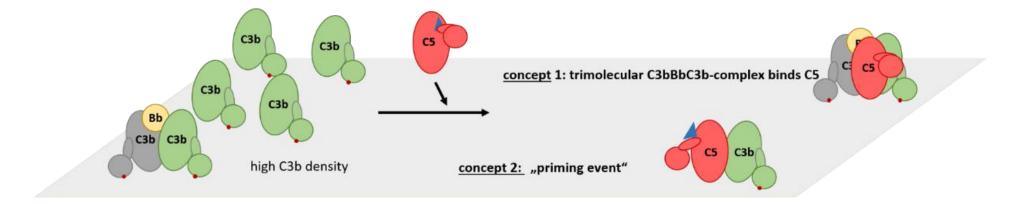
 depends on the strength of complement activation (C3b density)



Molecular mechanism of activating the Complement component C5 and implication for its inhibition

TEXTBOOK KNOWLEDGE, QUESTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS







How is C5 activated?

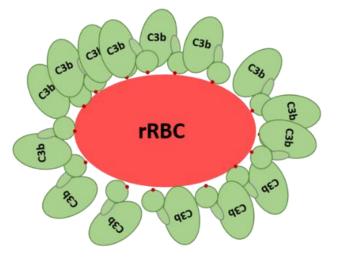
What is the molecular arrangement of the C5 convertase?

What implications do these questions have on Complement inhibition?

REQUIREMENTS FOR C5 ACTIVATION

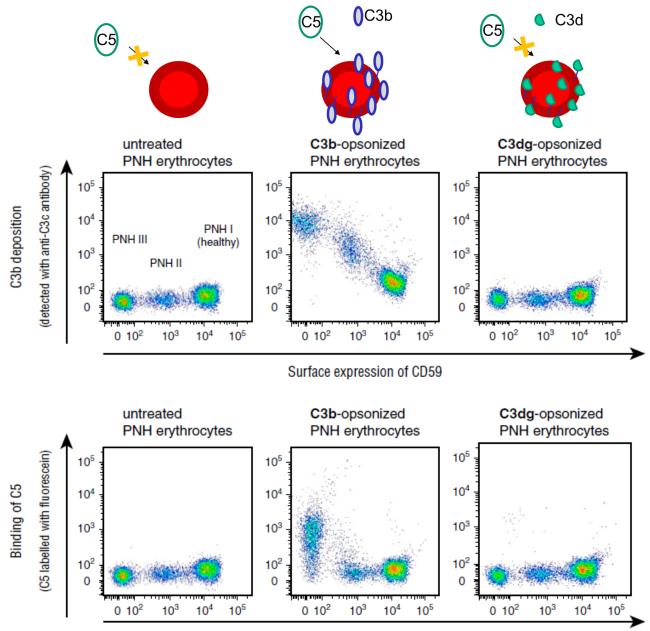
Berends et al. BMC Biology. 2015: 13:93

- Fluid phase: >> next to no C5 activation
 - High C3b density (on a surface) needed for C5 activation



- \rightarrow Is a fluid phase convertase really sufficient?
- \rightarrow Is this convertase then bi- or trimolecular?

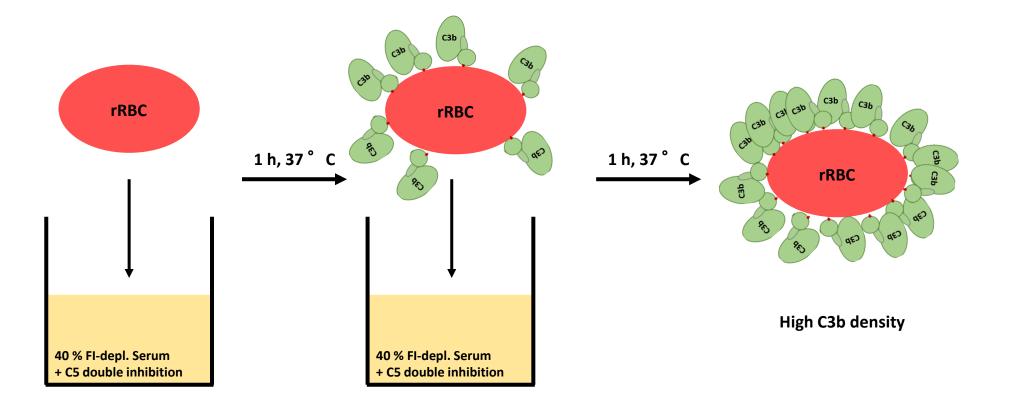
C5 BINDING TO C3B ON ERYTHROCYTES



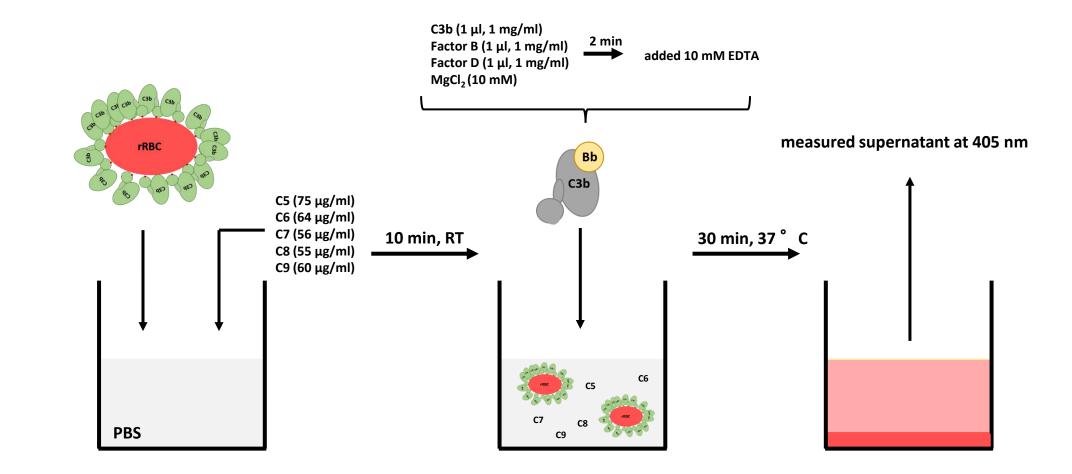
Surface expression of CD59

Harder MJ et al BLOOD (2017) 129(8):970-980

HEMOLYSIS POSSIBLE WITH FLUID PHASE CONVERTASE?

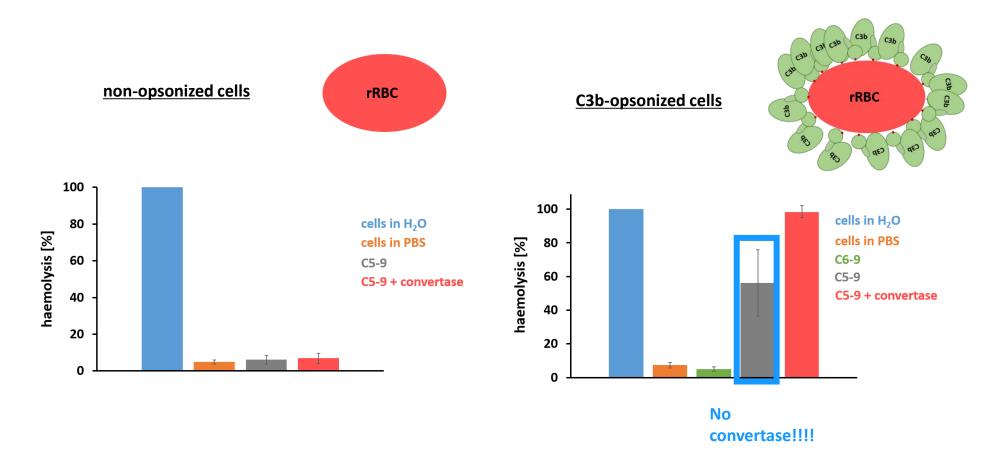


HEMOLYSIS POSSIBLE WITH FLUID PHASE CONVERTASE?



Mannes M et al. Blood. 2021. 137:443-455

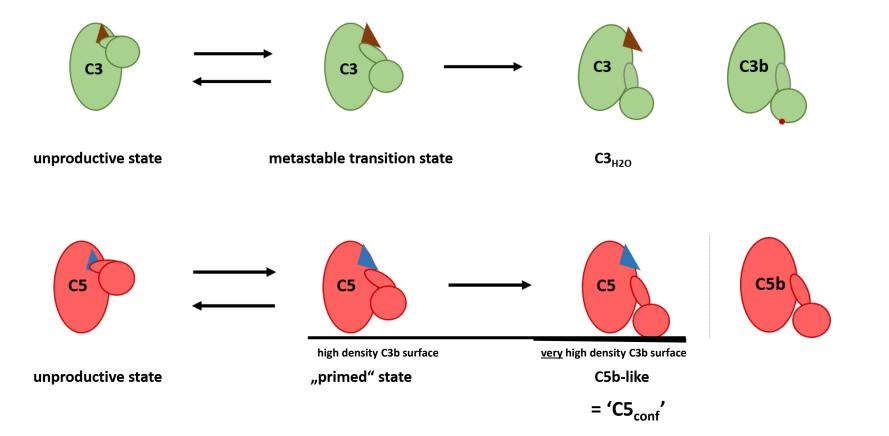
HEMOLYSIS POSSIBLE WITH FLUID PHASE CONVERTASE?



 \rightarrow Fluid phase convertase is sufficient for lysis

→ High C3b density cause lysis without convertase activity

HYPOTHETICAL C5 CONFORMATION MODEL



C5 BINDING TO C3B – CONCLUSIONS & LITERATURE

- 1. C5 can be cleaved (activated) only when in addition to the enzymegenerating components C3b is present on a solid surface
- Newly discovered property of surface-bound C3b: C3b is capable of reversibly binding C5

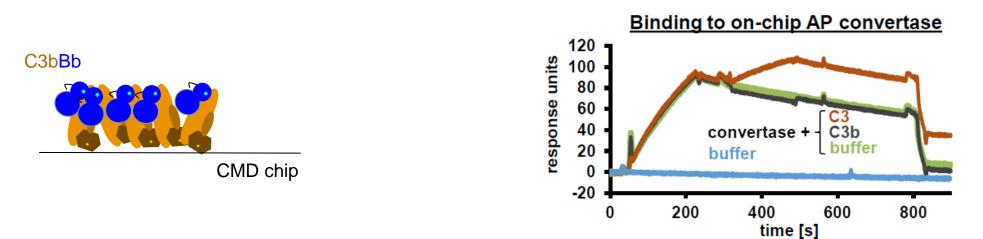
3. A special configuration of surface-fixed C3b prepares or modulates the substrate C5 to make it accessible for cleavage by (fluid) C3 convertases

> A new function of the activated third component of complement: binding to C5, an essential step for C5 activation

W. VOGT, GJSA SCHMIDT, BEATE VON BUTTLAR & L. DIEMINGER Max-Planck-Institut für experimentelle Medizin, Department of Biochemical Pharmacology, Göttingen, Germany

IS THE C5 CONVERTASE A TRIMOLECULAR COMPLEX OF C3bBb3b?

SPR experiment with chip assembled convertases C3bBb:

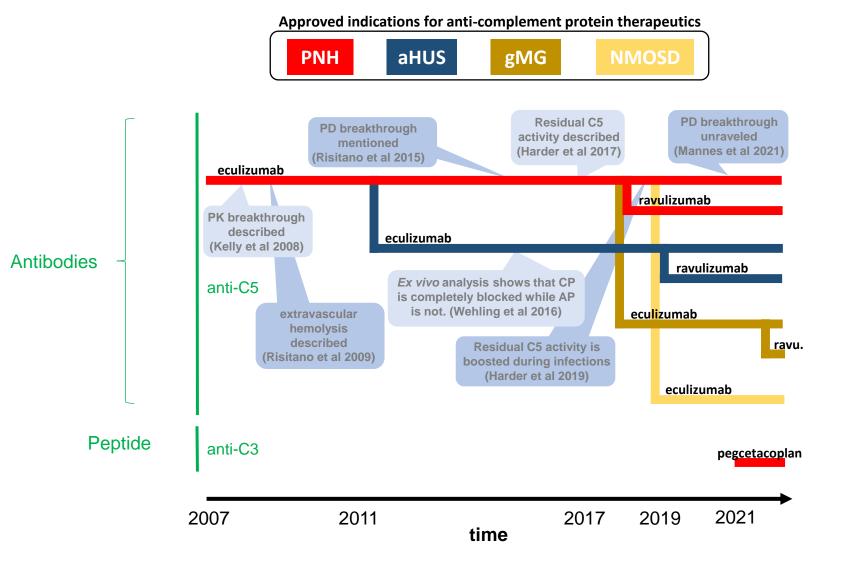


SUMMARY POINTS PHARMACODYNAMIC BREAKTHROUGH OF C5

- Strong complement activation (high C3b densities) overrides the terminal pathway inhibition by eculizumab or other stoichiometric C5 inhibitors
- 2. These C5 inhibitors reduce but do not abolish terminal complement activity (unless <u>two</u> orthogonal C5 inhibitors)
- 3. The more powerful complement is activated, the less effective is terminal pathway inhibition by diverse anti-C5 agents = <u>pharmacodynamic breakthrough</u>

Bimolecular (fluid phase) convertase is sufficient for C5 conversion after priming on a C3b opsonized surface

'EVOLUTION' OF APPROVED COMPLEMENT THERAPEUTICS:



C5i >>> C3i

Can these remaining problems be addressed by C3 inhibitors? Other Complement inhibitors to overcome the short-coming of the C5 inhibiting approach

C3 PEPTIDE INHIBITORS : COMPSTATIN FAMILY

PEGCETACOPLAN: Two compstatin Cp05 moieties are bridged by a 40 kDa polyethylene glycol (PEG)

 K_{D} (nM)

1600

150

12

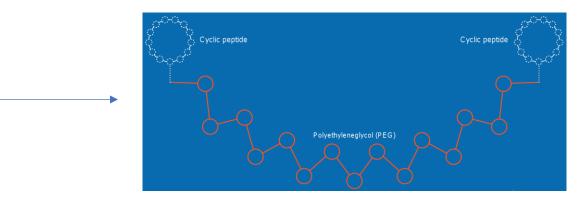
4.4

2.3

0.5

0.15 0.21

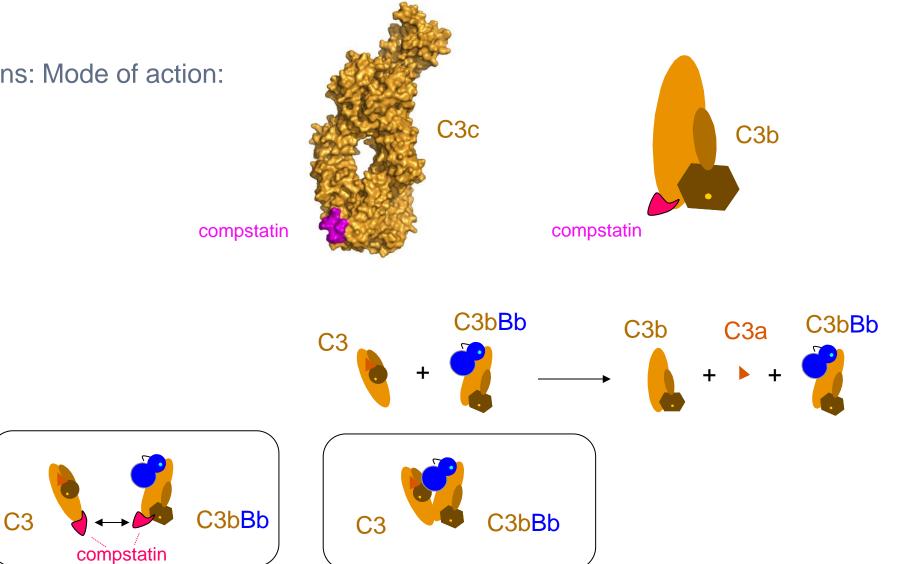
(A)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
Compstatin	I-[C-V-VQ-D-W-GH-H-R-C]-T
Analog Cp01	AC-I-[C-V-WQ-D-W-GA-H-R-C]-T
Analog Cp05	Ac-I-[C-V-1MeW-Q-D-W-GA-H-R-C]-T
Analog Cp10	Ac-I-[C-V-1MeW-Q-D-W-Sar-A-H-R-C]-I
Analog Cp20	Ac-I-[C-V-1MeW-Q-D-W-Sar-A-H-R-C]-mI
Analog Cp40	y-I-[C-V- 1MeW -Q-D-W-Sar-A-H-R-C]-mI
ABM2-Cp20 Cp40-KKK	$\frac{ABM2}{I} = \left[C - V - \frac{1MeW}{Q} - D - W - \frac{Sar}{A} - H - R - C\right] - mI$ $\frac{y - I}{C} = \left[C - V - \frac{1MeW}{Q} - D - W - \frac{Sar}{A} - H - R - C\right] - mI - KKK$





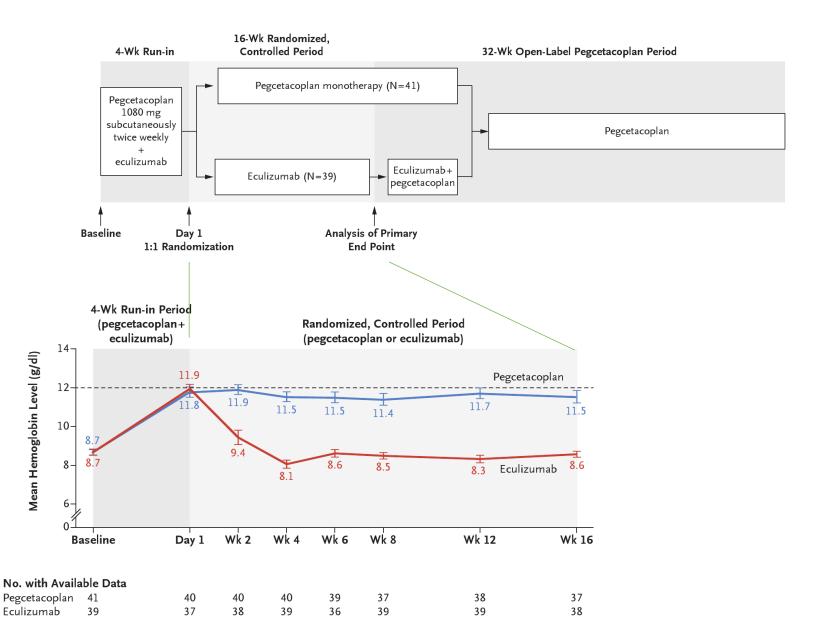
C3 PEPTIDE INHIBITORS : COMPSTATIN FAMILY





PNH & C3 INHIBITION BY PEGCETACOPLAN VS. ECU

PEGASUS phase 3 clinical trial



NEW GENERATION OF COMPLEMENT THERAPEUTICS: A PROXIMAL INHIBITOR

2021:

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

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.

2022:

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

REVIEW ARTICLE

Dan L. Longo, M.D., Editor

Breakthrough Hemolysis in PNH with Proximal or Terminal Complement Inhibition

Rosario Notaro, M.D., and Lucio Luzzatto, M.D.

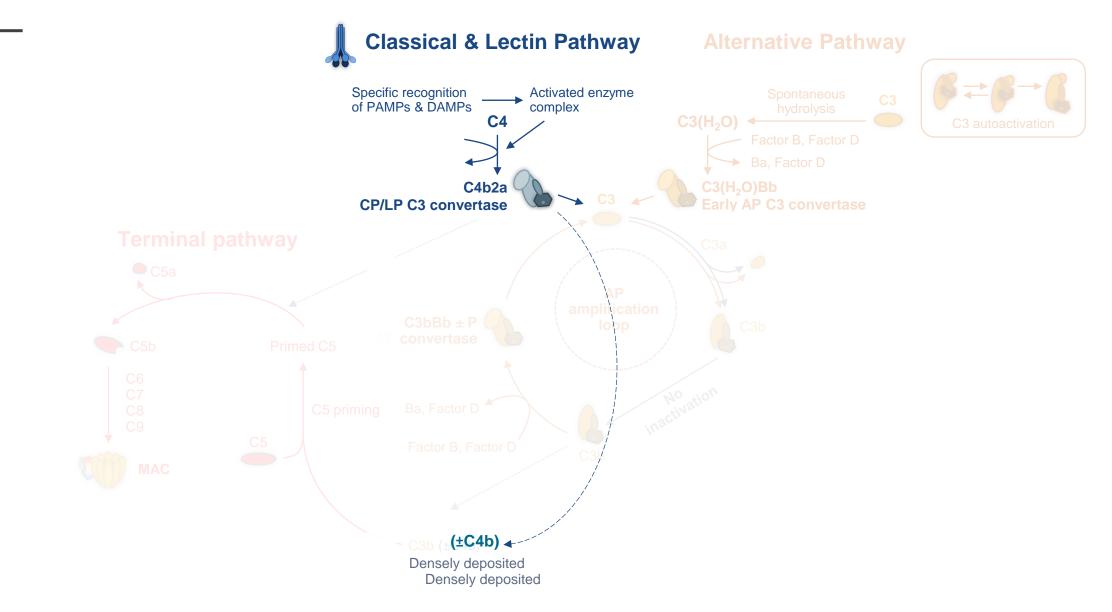
BREAKTHROUGH HAEMOLYSIS WITH PROXIMAL INHIBITORS

• Could it be pharmacokinetic BTH (PK-BTH)?

- Could it be pharmacodynamic BTH (PD-BTH)?
 - MAC-mediated erythrocyte lysis despite excess of C3 inhibitor over C3

Can there be a C5 convertase without C3b?

COMPLEMENT CASCADE UNDER C3 INHIBITION (1)



C5 ACTIVATION WITHOUT C3 (1)

REGULAR ARTICLE

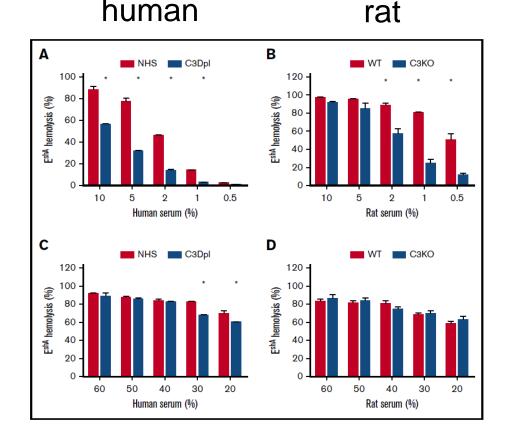
S blood advances

Absence of complement component 3 does not prevent classical pathway–mediated hemolysis

Lingjun Zhang,¹ Yang Dai,¹ Ping Huang,¹ Thomas L. Saunders,² David A. Fox,³ Jijun Xu,^{1,4} and Feng Lin^{1,5}

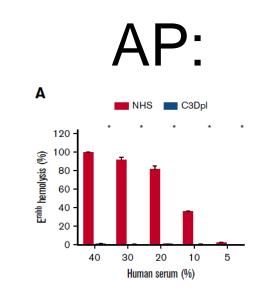
¹Department of Inflammation and Immunity, Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH; ²Transgenic Animal Model Core and ³Division of Rheumatology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; and ⁴Department of Pain Management, Anesthesiology Institute, and ⁵Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

CP:

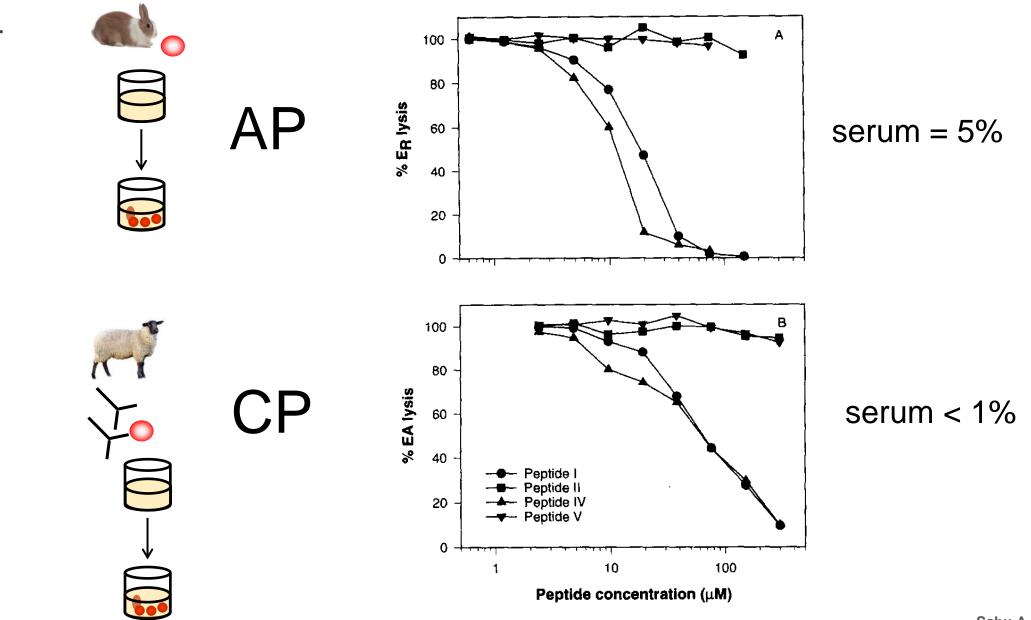


Key Points

- Absence of C3 does not prevent classical pathway-mediated hemolysis.
- Absence of C3 abolishes alternative pathway-mediated hemolysis.



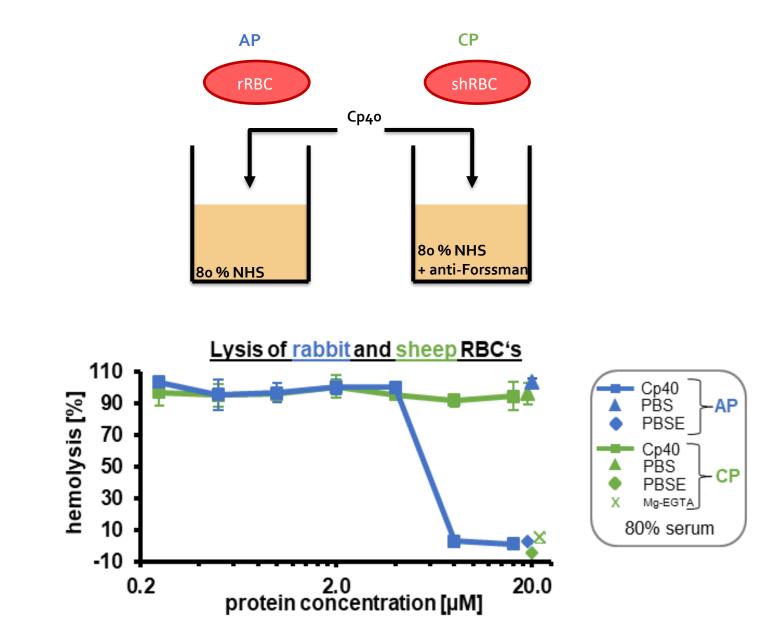
COMPSTATINS: C3 INHIBITING CYCLIC PEPTIDES – THE BEGINNINGS



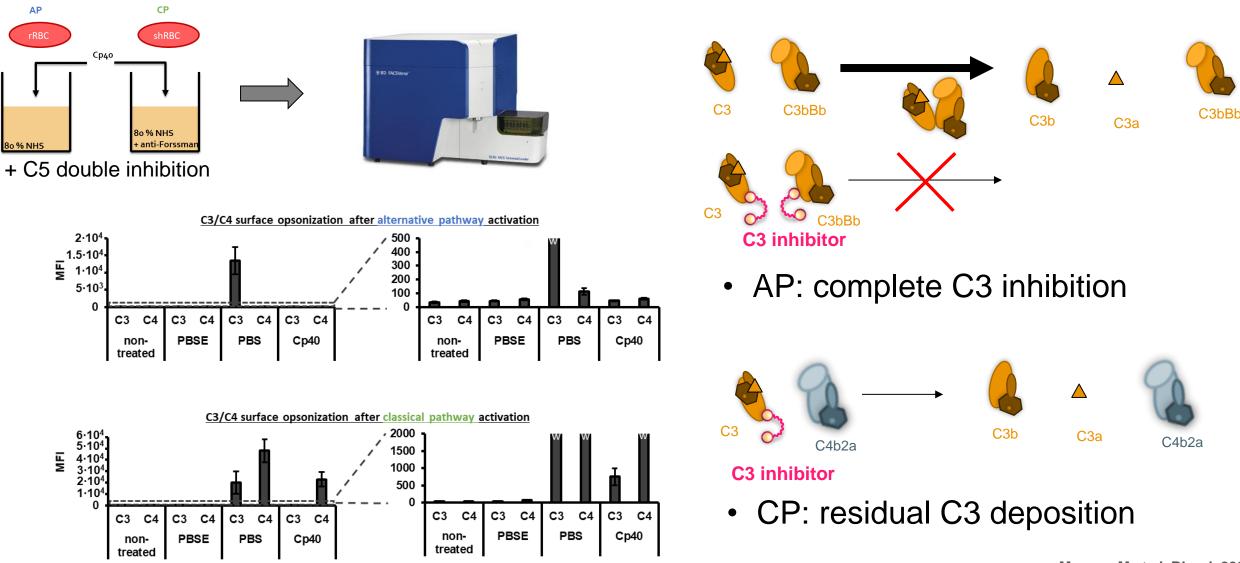
Yes, there can be 'a C5 convertase' without C3b!

How does it work?

EFFECT OF C3 BLOCKAGE DURING STRONG AP / CP ACTIVATION



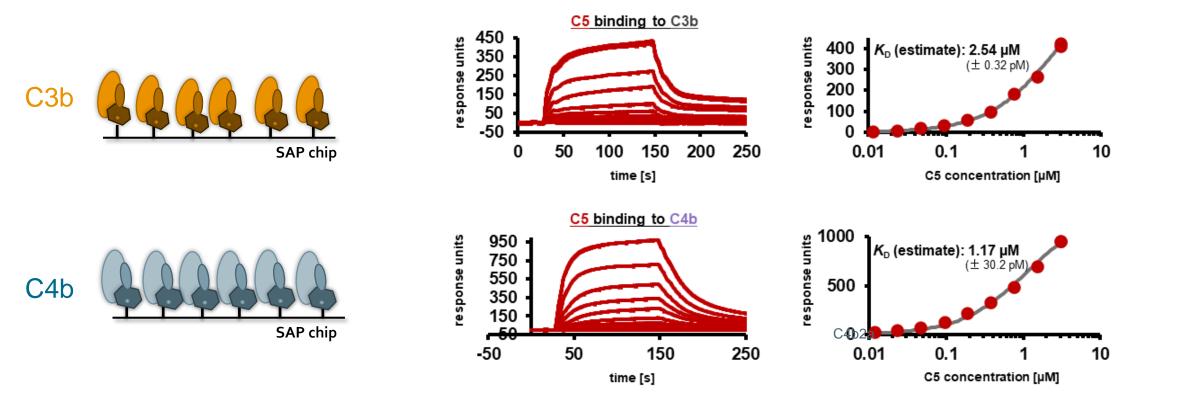
C3/C4 SURFACE DEPOSITION AFTER AP/CP ACTIVATION WITH C3 INHIBITORS



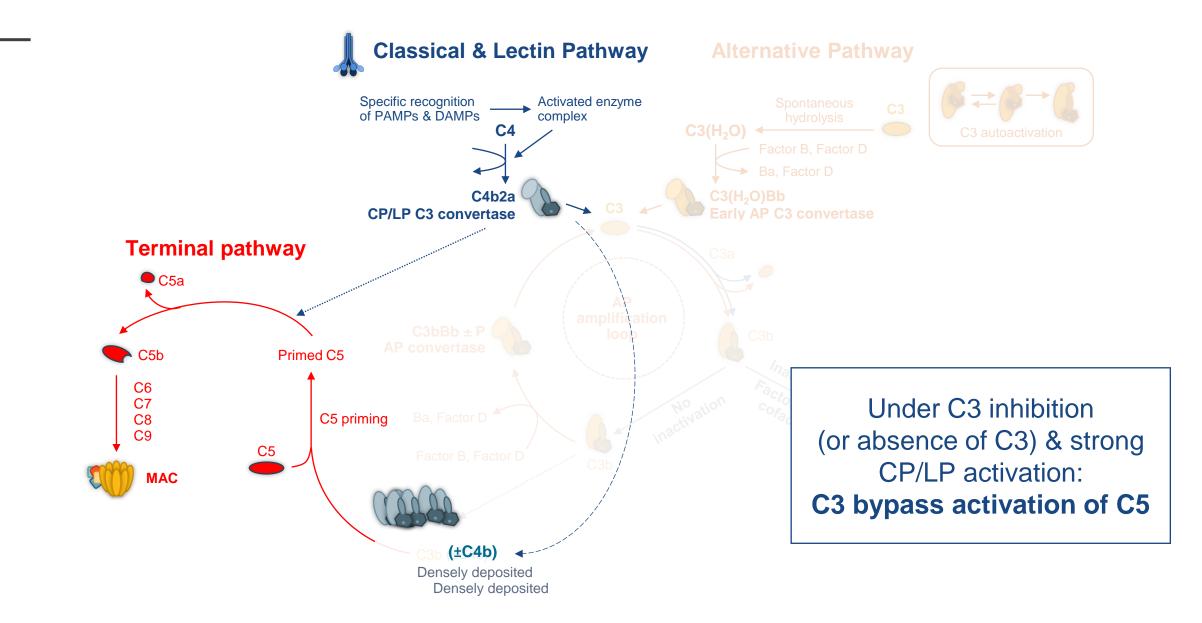
Mannes M et al. Blood. 2021

C4b BINDS C5 IN A SIMILAR MANNER TO C3b

SPR experiment with chip immobilised C3b or C4b:



COMPLEMENT CASCADE UNDER C3 INHIBITION (2)



C3 BYPASS IN PRECLINICAL MODELS – 'HISTORIC REPORTS'

Detection of C5 activation products in C3 knockout or C3-depleted animals: (often attributed to extrinsic pathway activation)

Huber-Lang M, Sarma JV, Zetoune FS, et al. Generation of C5a in the absence of C3: a new complement activation pathway. *Nat. Med.* 2006;12(6):682–687.

Ramos TN, Darley MM, Weckbach S, et al.

The C5 convertase is not required for activation of the terminal complement pathway in murine experimental cerebral malaria.

J. Biol. Chem. 2012;287(29):24734-24738.

Auger JL, Haasken S, Binstadt BA.

Autoantibody-mediated arthritis in the absence of C3 and activating Fcy receptors: C5 is activated by the coagulation cascade.

Arthritis Res. Ther. 2012;14(6):R269.

CLINICAL MEANING OF C3 BYPASS: EXAMPLE AMY-101 IN SEVERE COVID-19

CLINICAL MEANING OF C3 BYPASS: EXAMPLE AMY-101 IN SEVERE COVID-19

SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

CORONAVIRUS

Complement C3 inhibition in severe COVID-19 using compstatin AMY-101

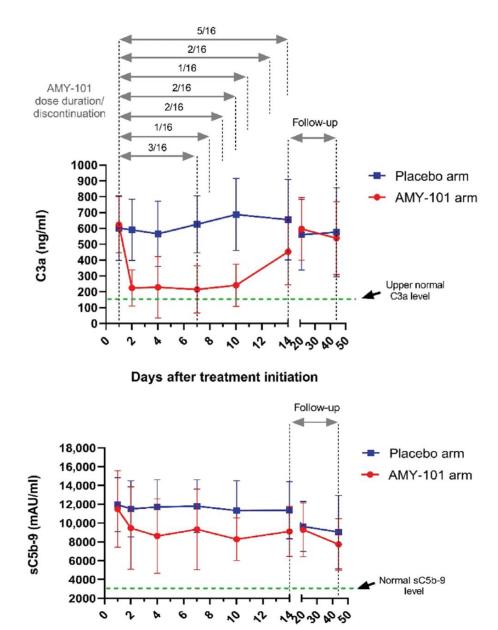
Panagiotis Skendros¹, Georgios Germanidis², Dimitrios C. Mastellos³, Christina Antoniadou¹, Efstratios Gavriilidis¹, Georgios Kalopitas², Anna Samakidou⁴, Angelos Liontos⁵, Akrivi Chrysanthopoulou¹, Maria Ntinopoulou¹, Dionysios Kogias¹, Ioanna Karanika², Andreas Smyrlis¹, Dainora Cepaityte², Iliana Fotiadou¹, Nikoleta Zioga¹, Ioannis Mitroulis¹, Nikolaos K. Gatselis⁴, Charalampos Papagoras¹, Simeon Metallidis², Haralampos Milionis⁵, George N. Dalekos⁴, Loek Willems⁶, Barbro Persson⁷, Vivek Anand Manivel⁷, Bo Nilsson⁷, E. Sander Connolly⁸, Simona Iacobelli⁹, Vasileios Papadopoulos¹, Rodrigo T. Calado¹⁰, Markus Huber-Lang¹¹, Antonio M. Risitano¹², Despina Yancopoulou¹³, Konstantinos Ritis¹, John D. Lambris¹⁴*

Complement C3 activation contributes to COVID-19 pathology, and C3 targeting has emerged as a promising therapeutic strategy. We provide interim data from ITHACA, the first randomized trial evaluating a C3 inhibitor, AMY-101, in severe COVID-19 (PaO2/FiO2 \leq 300 mmHg). Patients received AMY-101 (n = 16) or placebo (n = 15) in addition to standard of care. AMY-101 was safe and well tolerated. Compared to placebo (8 of 15, 53.3%), a higher, albeit nonsignificant, proportion of AMY-101–treated patients (13 of 16, 81.3%) were free of supplemental oxygen at day 14. Three nonresponders and two placebo-treated patients succumbed to disease-related complications. AMY-101 significantly reduced CRP and ferritin and restrained thrombin and NET generation. Complete and sustained C3 inhibition was observed in all responders. Residual C3 activity in the three nonresponders suggested the presence of a convertase-independent C3 activation pathway overriding the drug's inhibitory activity. These findings support the design of larger trials exploring the potential of C3-based inhibition in COVID-19 or other complement-mediated diseases.

CLINICAL MEANING OF C3 BYPASS: EXAMPLE AMY-101 IN SEVERE COVID-19

• good C3 inhibition





Skendros P et al. Sci Adv. 2022

Days after treatment initiation

CONCLUSIONS: C3 BYPASS ACTIVATION OF C5

• 'historic' preclinical models in C3-deficient animals reported data that are consistent with a C3 bypass activation of C5

• first indications that such bypass may exist in the clinic

CONCLUSIONS: STOICHIOMETRIC C3 INHIBITORS

• complete inhibition of AP-mediated C5 activation

• insufficient inhibition of CP-mediated C5 activation



potential implications for PD breakthrough events with proximal complement inhibitors in the clinic

Complement cascade: historic milestones



Complement cascade: historic milestones

Fodor (1887):

Nuttall (1888):

Die faehigkeit des Bluts bakterien zu vernichten. Deutsch. Med. Wschr. 13, 745

Experimente uber die bacterienfeindlichen Einfluesse des thierischen Korpers. Z. Hyg. Infectionskir. 4, 353.

Buchner (1889, 1891): Uber die nahere Natur der bakterientodtenden Substanz in Blutserum. Zbl. Bakt. (Naturwiss.) 6, 561. >>> "heat labile substance in blood" <u>Alexine</u>

Bactericidal activity in serum



Hans Ernst August Buchner (1850 – 1902) German bacteriologist (Munich)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Ernst_August_Buchner

Bordet (1895):

Immune lysis by of two factors: a heatlabile lytic factor (similar to alexin) and a heatstable factor kills Vibrios; heat stable factor was termed sensitiser (antibody)

Bordet & Ehrlich (1898/1899):

Immune lysis of erythrocytes by of two factors; Ehrlich coined 'Complement'

Complement cascade: historic milestones



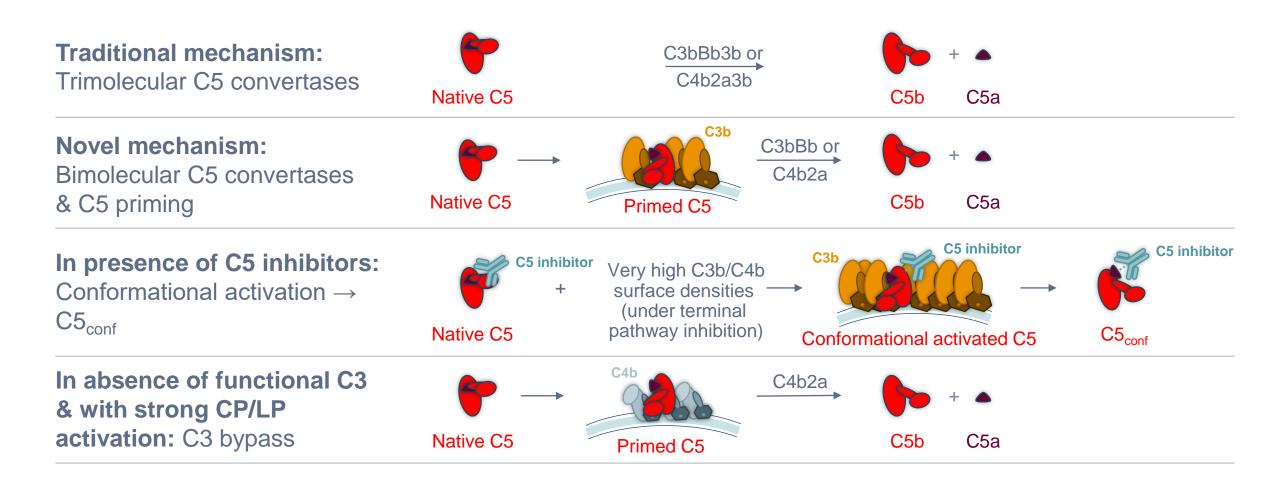
HIGHLIGHTS

REVIEW

The complement model disease paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria

Christoph Q. Schmidt¹, Britta Höchsmann^{2,3} and Hubert Schrezenmeier^{2,3}

GRAPHICAL SUMMARY: UNEXPECTED RESULTS >>> NEW COMPLEMENT INSIGHTS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria:

Firenze, 3-4 ottobre 2024 Grand Hotel Baglioni

at the crossroads of somatic mutations, clonal expansion and immunity

COMPLEMENT CASCADE UNDER C3 INHIBITION (2)

