



Neutralization of APRIL with BION-1301: A Targeted, Potentially Disease-Modifying Approach to IgA Nephropathy

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Outline

- Excess production of galactose-deficient IgA1 (Gd-IgA1) by IgA-secreting plasma cells is considered the initiating pathogenic event (Hit 1) in IgA nephropathy
- A Proliferation-Inducing Ligand (APRIL), a TNF-family cytokine, drives IgA class-switching, survival of IgA-secreting plasma cells and stimulates Gd-IgA1 secretion
- BION-1301, a novel humanized monoclonal antibody, binds and blocks APRIL, and has demonstrated initial validation of this targeted mechanism in patients with IgA nephropathy in a Phase 1/2 clinical study



IgA Nephropathy (IgAN) Overview

A Potentially Progressive, Chronic Glomerular Disease with Limited Treatment Options

Although considered a rare disease, IgAN is the most common primary glomerulonephritis globally

Approximately 30-45% of IgAN patients will develop end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) over a period of 20-25 years

Limited treatment options for high-risk patients and currently no targeted disease-modifying therapies are available

• RAS inhibition (ACEi/ARB) is frontline (KDIGO 1B)

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- Steroids & immunosuppressive agents provide inconsistent therapeutic benefit and are accompanied by significant side effects (KDIGO 2B); Tarpeyo (budesonide) recently approved
- DAPA-CKD suggests benefit of SGLT2i in non-diabetic CKD, including IgAN

Clear need for novel strategies to directly target the initiating molecular events in the complex pathogenesis of IgAN

Model of Multi-Hit IgAN Pathogenesis





Gd-IgA1: The Target Antigen Leading to the Formation of Pathogenic Circulating Immune Complexes

Glomerular Immuno-deposits are Enriched for Aberrantly Glycosylated IgA1 Glycoforms (Gd-IgA1)



Example of a Gal-deficient hinge-region glycopeptide (altered expression and activity of key glycosyltransferases in IgAN)

Gd-IgA1 Depletion Represents a Potentially Disease Modifying Strategy to Treat IgAN





<u>A PRoliferation Inducing Ligand (APRIL)</u>

TNF-superfamily cytokine (TNFSF13) involved in B-cell signaling

APRIL drives IgA class switching and survival of IgAsecreting plasma cells, via TACI and BCMA



Strong genetic and clinical associations for APRIL in IgAN

- Higher APRIL levels in IgAN patients correlated with higher Gd-IgA1 and proteinuria and lower eGFR
- APRIL gene variants confer increased risk of IgAN
- Shown to increase Gd-IgA1 secretion from IgAN patient lymphocytes





APRIL Action Primarily Targeted to Plasma-blasts/cells

Preferential impact on IgA vs. IgG secreting cells

CMA and TACI Expression Primarily Restricted to ا Secreting Plasmablasts and Plasma cells [#]											
19 =	Pro-B	Pre-B-I	Large Small Pre-B-II	IgM Č	IgM IgD	IgM IgD	Centroblast	Centrocyte	IgM, IgA	i, igG or igE	Plasma ce
20 52 = 138 ntegrin =										_	
F-R 1A					Increas	ing deve	lopment				

Modulation of APRIL has the potential to target IgA production while minimizing impact on IgG and immature lymphocyte populations

[#]Also expressed on memory B cells

* IgM secreting plasmablasts and plasma cells, have similar receptor expression profile and APRIL responsiveness as IgA secreting cells

Nature Reviews Neurology volume 8, pages613–623 (2012), Paul Vink, John Dulos, Jeroen Bakker, Maurice Habraken, Lilian Driessen, David Lutje Hulsik, Joost Kreijtz, Hans van Eenennaam, Andrea van Elsas and Barratt lab

Differential Receptor Expression and APRIL Responsiveness: IgA* vs. IgG Secreting Plasma Cells



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huAPRIL Transgenic Mice Demonstrate Increased Serum IgA, Kidney IgA Deposits and Increased IgA-Secreting Cells



Kidney IgA Deposits



Despite IgA deposition in the kidney huAPRIL Tg mice do not develop an IgAN phenotype (multi-hit IgAN pathogenesis)



The phenotype of huAPRIL Tg mice was reversed by an anti-huAPRIL mAb (IgA & IgM > IgG)



BION-1301: A humanized anti-APRIL mAb

A Potentially Disease-Modifying Approach to Reduce IgA Immune Complex Formation

BION-1301: humanized IgG4 monoclonal antibody that blocks APRIL binding to its receptors (BCMA/TACI)

- Potently binds recombinant human and cynomolgus APRIL (but does not bind rodent APRIL)
- Functional blocking of APRIL at BCMA and TACI receptors
- Does not induce cytokine release in human PBMCs



Therapeutic Hypothesis BION-1301* in IgAN







BION-1301: Well Tolerated in NHPs and Demonstrates Anticipated Pharmacodynamic Response

- BION-1301 was well-tolerated in NHPs when dosed biweekly (IV) up to 100mg/kg for 26 weeks or when dosed weekly (SC) up to 180 mg/kg for 4 weeks with no BION-1301 related tox findings
- NHP a relevant translational model, due to BION-1301 cross-reactivity
 - Significant APRIL reductions
 - Robust IgA (& IgM) reductions with fairly modest IgG reductions, even at toxicological doses

Modulation of APRIL has the potential to target IgA production while minimizing impact on IgG

BION-1301 Reduces Serum IgA (and IgM) levels in NHPs, With Less Impact on IgG

BION-1301 IV administration





Phase 1 Study in Healthy Volunteers (HVs)

Study Design, Safety and Pharmacokinetics (PK)

Primary Objective

• Assess safety and tolerability

Secondary Objective

 Characterize PK/PD and immunogenicity of BION-1301 administered by IV infusion

Exploratory Objectives

 Characterize select biomarkers of pharmacodynamic activity



- BION-1301 was well-tolerated in HVs; no SAEs, treatment discontinuations or events meeting stopping criteria
- PK of BION-1301 was well behaved, generally dose-proportional, T ½ ~ 33 days; low incidence of nonneutralizing ADAs (no difference in incidence of ADA between placebo and BION-1301 group)

Phase 1 Study in Healthy Volunteers (HVs)

Pharmacodynamic Biomarker Responses (MAD)



- Immediate, dose-dependent and sustained neutralization of APRIL
- Dose-dependent and durable reductions in IgA & IgM, with lesser effects on IgG (remaining in normal range)
- Offers a pharmacodynamic window to exploit IgA reduction while minimizing impact on IgG





Phase 1 Subcutaneous Bioavailability Study in HVs: Supports Transition to SC Administration of BION-1301

A Phase 1, Open Label, Randomized, Single Dose, Parallel Group Safety and Bioavailability Study of BION-1301 Administered by Intravenous (IV) and Subcutaneous (SC) Routes



BION-1301 was well tolerated:

- No SAES or early terminations due to a TRAE
- No ISRs or IRRs
- No ADAs in the SC cohort



The PK profile of BION-1301 was consistent with previous clinical studies and minimal differences in drug concentration were observed between administration routes after 1 week









Phase 1/2 Study in Patients with IgAN

Objectives

- ⊘ Safety, tolerability, PK, biomarker effects and preliminary proteinuria
 - Proof of mechanism
 - Proof of concept
- Explore dose/schedule, intravenous (IV) and subcutaneous (SC) administration

Key Eligibility Criteria

- \odot Biopsy-proven IgAN within past 10 years
- \odot Urine protein ≥ 0.5 g/24h OR UPCR ≥ 0.5 g/g
- \odot eGFR over 45 mL/min per 1.73 m^{2*}
- Stable on an optimized dose of RASi for ≥ 3 months prior to screening (or intolerant to RASi)

RASi, renin-angiotensin system inhibitors; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; PK, pharmacokinetics; Q2W, every 2 weeks; UPCR, urine protein/creatinine ratio.

Open-label, multicenter, multiple-dose study in patients with IgAN





Demographics & Baseline Characteristics

Demographics (n=10)					
Age, years Median (min, max)	39 (27, 59)				
Sex, male n (%)	9 (90)				
Race, white n (%)	10 (100)				
Ethnicity, Hispanic n (%)	2 (20)				
Country, US n (%)	10 (100)				

Baseline Characteristics					
Renin-angiotensin system inhibitor use %	100				
Time from biopsy, years Median (min, max)	2.0 (0.2, 3.4)				
Blood pressure (mmHg) Systolic - Median (min, max) Diastolic - Median (min, max)	127 (113, 133) 83 (69, 88)				
eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m ²) [*] Median (min, max)	69 (30, 122)				
24-hour urine protein excretion (g/day) Median (min, max)	1.22 (0.74, 6.47)				
24-hour UPCR (g/g) Median (min, max)	0.64 (0.41, 4.55)				



* eGFR by CKD-EPI, Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration

Safety and Tolerability

• To date, BION-1301 has been well-tolerated in IgAN patients (n=10)

AE Category	n (%)
Subjects with any TEAE	5 (50)
Any TEAE occurring in N>1 subjects	0 (0)
Treatment-related AE	0 (0)
AE leading to discontinuation	0 (0)
SAE	0 (0)
Infusion-related reactions	0 (0)

• Data cutoff: October 6, 2021

- IgG concentrations remained above study-defined threshold in all patients
- No notable changes in frequency of circulating naïve and memory B-cell subsets
- 8/10 patients remain on treatment, with time on treatment ranging from <1 month to >14 months





Changes in Free APRIL Concentrations

Serum Concentration of Free APRIL



- Rapid and durable reductions in free APRIL confirm effective target neutralization sustained through 1 year
- BION-1301 pharmacokinetics in patients with IgAN is consistent with previous experience in healthy volunteers
- No anti-drug antibodies (ADAs) observed in patients with IgAN to date



Changes in Serum Ig Concentrations from Baseline



- BION-1301 durably reduces IgA, IgM, and to a lesser extent, IgG in patients with IgAN
- BION-1301 produces sustained reductions in serum Gd-IgA1
 - The depletion of this pathogenic IgA isoform (Hit 1) in patients with IgAN demonstrates the potential disease-modifying mechanism of BION-1301
- IgG concentrations remained above the study-defined threshold in all patients, providing a pharmacodynamic window to deplete IgA while minimizing impact on IgG



Effects on Proteinuria



% Reduction in UPCR

- Median baseline 24-h urine protein excretion*:
 1.22 g/day (range: 0.74 6.47 g/day)
- BION-1301 treatment results in clinically meaningful proteinuria reductions within 3 months in patients across a range of disease severities



Summary

- A PRoliferation Inducing Ligand (APRIL), a TNF-family cytokine, drives IgA class-switching, survival of IgA-secreting plasma cells and stimulates Gd-IgA1 secretion (Hit 1)
- **BION-1301**, a novel humanized monoclonal antibody, binds and blocks APRIL, and has demonstrated initial validation of this **targeted mechanism** in patients with IgAN in a Phase 1/2 clinical study
 - ✓ Well-tolerated, with no early terminations due to AEs and no SAEs
 - ✓ Rapid and sustained free **APRIL reductions**
 - ✓ Durable reductions in **Gd-IgA1**, IgA and IgM, with smaller reductions in IgG
 - ✓ Clinically meaningful reductions in proteinuria (24-hour UPCR) within 3 months

These data provide early proof-of-concept for the disease-modifying potential of BION-1301 to deplete pathogenic Gd-IgA1 and reduce proteinuria in patients with IgAN who remain at risk for progression with residual proteinuria despite optimized standard-of-care treatment





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