

Blarcamesine in Early Alzheimer's Disease: Phase IIb/III Randomized Clinical Trial

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Disclosures

Dr. Sabbagh discloses ownership interest (stock or stock options) in uMethod Health, Athira, Lighthouse Pharmaceuticals, Alzheon; consulting in Roche-Genentech, Eisai, Lilly, Synaptogenix, NeuroTherapia, Signant Health, Novo Nordisk, Prothena, Anavex, Cognito Therapeutics, GSK, AbbVie; and board of directors' membership in EIP Pharma/CervoMed.





Blarcamesine: Mechanism of Action in Alzheimer's Disease (AD)

AD Pathology Is Highly Heterogeneous and Complex



... influenced by genotype, environment, cognitive reserve, and a range of demographic factors

... multiple biologic pathways
contribute to AD presentation,
including defective amyloid-beta
(Aβ) and tau-clearing mechanisms

Potential solution: activation of an upstream, endogenous pathway for clearing protein aggregates

Gouveia Roque C, Phatnani H, Hengst U. The broken Alzheimer's disease genome. Cell Genom. 2024;4(5):100555.

Blarcamesine Improves Upstream Autophagy and Clearance of Misfolded Proteins in AD Amyloid-β Tau Lysosomal enzyme **Neurotoxicity** Lysosomal dysfunction SIGMAR1/sigma-1 receptor (no fusion) Blarcamesine Cell stress Accumulation of protein aggregates **Neuroprotection** Vesicle Maturation formation **Protein aggregates** Degradation Blarcamesine SIGMAR1 Autolysosome activation (oral drug) Recycling Docking **Functional lysosomes** (fusion)

Mana

Schematic representation.

Christ, MG, et al. Sigma-1 receptor activation induces autophagy and increases proteostasis capacity in vitro and in vivo. Cells. 2019;8(3):211.

Yang H, et al. SIGMAR1/sigma-1 receptor ablation impairs autophagosome clearance. Autophagy. 2019;15(9):1539-1557.

Lee JH, et al. Faulty autolysosome acidification in Alzheimer's disease mouse models induces autophagic build-up of Aβ in neurons, yielding senile plaques. Nature Neuroscience. 2022;25(6):688-701.

Autophagy: An Upstream Compensatory Therapeutic Intervention in AD



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- Orally-administered blarcamesine (ANAVEX[®]2-73) is a novel, investigational small molecule that activates an upstream compensatory process: autophagy through SIGMAR1 activation
- Blarcamesine is a scalable potential therapeutic solution for AD by:
 - ✓ Countering neurodegeneration
 - ✓ Improving autophagy—a key clearance mechanism that removes protein aggregates and misfolded proteins



Blarcamesine PoC: Previous Preclinical and Clinical ANAVEX[®]2-73-002/3 Phase 2a Studies in Alzheimer's Disease

Blarcamesine inhibits Aβ1-42 and tau phosphorylation generation and demonstrated exploratory interim proofof-concept effect on cognition and function over 148 weeks

Treatment with blarcamesine
 (ANAVEX2-73) inhibits amyloid
 peptide-induced generation of
 Aβ1-42 (but not Aβ1-40).

Tau hyperphosphorylation (S202, T205 and S212, T214) is also inhibited in a dose-dependent manner.









ANAVEX[®]2-73-AD-004 Program Phase IIb/III Trial in Early Alzheimer's Disease

AD-004 Phase IIb/III Early Alzheimer's Disease Trial

Global, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group, 48-week trial evaluating blarcamesine (ANAVEX[®]2-73) once-daily oral capsules



¹AD status supported by the elevated baseline levels of plasma p-tau(181) and p-tau(231).

²Titration occurred from days 1-21.

AD, Alzheimer's disease; ADAS-Cog13, a 13-item cognitive subscale of the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale; ADCS-ADL, AD Cooperative Study-Activities of Daily Living Scale; CDR-SB, Clinical Dementia Rating-Sum of Boxes; MCI, mild cognitive impairment; MMSE, Mini-Mental State Examination; NIA-AA, National Institute on Aging-Alzheimer's Association; Nf-L, neurofilament light chain.



Baseline Demographics

Demographic Characteristics	Blarcamesine 30 mg (n=154)	Blarcamesine 50 mg (n=144)	Blarcamesine Pooled (n=298)	Placebo (n=164)
Sex, n (%) Female Male	74 (48.1) 80 (51.9)	69 (47.9) 75 (52.1)	143 (48.0) 155 (52.0)	82 (50.0) 82 (50.0)
Age, Mean (SD)	73.7 (6.6)	74.1 (6.3)	73.9 (6.5)	73.5 (6.3)
Race, n (%) Asian Black or other African American Other White	3 (1.9) 0 (0) 1 (0.6) 150 (97.4)	4 (2.8) 0 (0) 0 (0) 140 (97.2)	7 (2.3) 0 (0) 1 (0.3) 290 (97.3)	2 (1.2) 2 (1.2) 3 (1.8) 157 (95.7)
Ethnicity, n (%) Hispanic or Latino/a or of Spanish origin Not disclosed Not Hispanic or Latino/a or of Spanish origin	5 (3.2) 7 (4.5) 142 (92.2)	2 (1.4) 6 (4.2) 136 (94.4)	7 (2.3) 13 (4.4) 278 (93.3)	1 (0.6) 8 (4.9) 155 (94.5)
APOE ε4 genotype, n (%) Noncarrier Carrier Heterozygotes Homozygotes Missing	47 (30.5) 99 (64.3) 69 (44.8) 30 (19.5) 8 (5.2)	47 (32.6) 89 (61.8) 65 (45.1) 24 (16.7) 8 (5.6)	94 (31.5) 188 (63.1) 134 (45.0) 54 (18.1) 16 (4.0)	46 (28.0) 106 (64.6) 76 (46.3) 30 (18.3) 12 (7.3)



Baseline Clinical Characteristics

Characteristic	Blarcamesine 30 mg (n=154)	Blarcamesine 50 mg (n=144)	Blarcamesine Pooled (n=298)	Placebo (n=164)
Baseline Clinical Scores, Mean (SD) ADAS-Cog13 ADCS-ADL CDR-SB MMSE	28.4 (8.4) 66.7 (7.4) 3.8 (1.6) 23.6 (3.1)	28.9 (9.1) 67 (7.9) 3.8 (1.8) 23.6 (2.8)	28.5 (8.5) 66.9 (7.6) 3.8 (1.7) 23.6 (2.9)	30.4 (8.4) 66.4 (7.1) 4.1 (1.8) 23.0 (2.7)
Baseline CDR-Global scores, n (%) 0 0.5 1.0 2.0 3.0	0 (0) 98 (63.6) 54 (35.1) 1 (0.6) 1 (0.6)	1 (0.7) 96 (66.7) 45 (31.3) 2 (1.4) 0 (0)	1 (0.3) 194 (65.1) 99 (33.2) 3 (1.0) 1 (0.3)	0 (0) 94 (57.3) 68 (41.5) 2 (1.2) 0 (0)
MMSE score at baseline, n (%) <20 ≥20	11 (7.1) 143 (92.9)	9 (6.3) 135 (93.8)	20 (6.7) 278 (93.3)	10 (6.1) 154 (93.9)
Concomitant AD medication, n (%) Cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEls) Memantine	102 (66.2) 19 (12.3)	104 (72.2) 17 (11.8)	206 (69.1) 36 (12.1)	108 (65.9) 18 (11.0)
Baseline Plasma p-tau (181) No. of participants evaluated at baseline Baseline mean (SD), pg/mL	145 61.88 (25.44)	132 62.62 (25.75)	277 62.23 (25.54)	153 65.42 (28.04)
Baseline Plasma p-tau (231) No. of participants evaluated at baseline Baseline mean (SD), pg/mL	102 29.02 (29.55)	97 34.19 (50.76)	199 31.54 (41.24)	123 27.08 (34.58)



Coprimary Endpoint: ADAS-Cog13



Clinical efficacy endpoints were analyzed using mixed model for repeated measures (MMRM) estimates for the least-squares mean change from baseline at 12, 24, 36, and 48 weeks, with error bars representing standard error (SE).



Coprimary Endpoint: ADCS-ADL



Clinical efficacy endpoints were analyzed using mixed model for repeated measures (MMRM) estimates for the least-squares mean change from baseline at 12, 24, 36, and 48 weeks, with error bars representing standard error (SE).

Key Secondary Endpoint: CDR-SB



Clinical efficacy endpoints were analyzed using mixed model for repeated measures (MMRM) estimates for the least-squares mean change from baseline at 12, 24, 36, and 48 weeks, with error bars representing standard error (SE).



Exploratory Endpoint: CGI-I



Clinical efficacy endpoints were analyzed using mixed model for repeated measures (MMRM) estimates for the least-squares mean change from baseline at 12, 24, 36, and 48 weeks, with error bars representing standard error (SE).

Clinical Global Impression – Improvement scale (CGI-I). CGI-I baseline is represented as a score of 4, which represents "no change" in clinical improvement.



Reduced Atrophy of the Brain in Blarcamesine-Treated Patients

Brain volume loss (atrophy) in Alzheimer's disease¹

Significantly slowed atrophy in brain regions after 48 weeks of treatment compared to placebo²



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1. Exemplified by defying dementia. lancaster.ac.uk/defyingdementia

2. Data on file. Anavex Life Sciences Corp. https://www.anavex.com/post/anavex-sphase2b-3trialofblarcamesine-anavex-2-73-inpatientswithalzheimer-sdisease

Reduced Brain Atrophy in Blarcamesine-Treated Patients Compared to Placebo

Annualized percent change in volumetric MRI at 48 weeks, pooled blarcamesine vs placebo





Exploratory Outcome: Plasma Amyloid Beta 42/40

Plasma amyloid beta 42/40 ratio significantly increased in blarcamesine-treated patients compared to placebo at 48 weeks.





Pooled blarcamesine 30 mg and 50 mg results. AB, amyloid beta; SE, standard error.

Exploratory Outcome: Plasma Biomarkers (Nf-L)



Mean Change (SD) in Plasma Nf-L

Pooled blarcamesine 30 mg and 50 mg results.



Exploratory Outcome: Plasma Biomarkers (p-Tau)





Nf-L, neurofilament light chain; mL, milliliter; pg, picogram; SD, standard deviation.



Mean Change (SD) in Plasma p-Tau (231)

Adverse Events Summary, Full Safety Population

Adverse Events Summary	Blarcamesine 30 mg	Blarcamesine 50 mg	Blarcamesine	Placebo
Patients, n	167	168	335	168
Death, n (%)	0	1 (0.6)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.6)
Death considered related to treatment	0	0	0	0
Participants with ≥1 serious TEAEs, n (%)	25 (15.0)	31 (18.5)	56 (16.7)	17 (10.1)
TEAE, n (%)	159 (95.2)	165 (98.2)	324 (96.7)	129 (76.8)
TEAE leading to treatment and study discontinuation, n (%)	41 (24.6)	67 (39.9)	108 (32.2)	12 (7.1)
Blarcamesine titration AE ≥5%, n (%)	167	168	335	168
Dizziness	53 (31.7)	67 (39.9)	120 (35.8)	10 (6.0)
Confusional state	24 (14.4)	24 (14.3)	48 (14.3)	1 (0.6)
Balance disorder	12 (7.2)	13 (7.7)	25 (7.5)	1 (0.6)
Fatigue	9 (5.4)	10 (6.0)	19 (5.7)	0
Anxiety	8 (4.8)	10 (6.0)	18 (5.4)	0
Nausea	8 (4.8)	13 (7.7)	21 (6.3)	8 (4.8)
Blarcamesine Maintenance TEAE ≥5.0%, n (%)	148	153	301	161
Dizziness	28 (18.9)	48 (31.4)	76 (25.2)	9 (5.6)
Confusional state	16 (10.8)	24 (15.7)	40 (13.3)	4 (2.5)
Fall	12 (8.1)	9 (5.9)	21 (7.0)	16 (9.9)
Depressed mood	8 (5.4)	7 (4.6)	15 (5.0)	3 (1.9)
Headache	8 (5.4)	11 (7.2)	19 (6.3)	6 (3.7)
Anxiety	6 (4.1)	11 (7.2)	17 (5.6)	6 (3.7)
Balance disorder	5 (3.4)	11 (7.2)	16 (5.3)	2 (1.2)

AEs including dizziness were transient and are manageable.



TEAEs tend to occur in first 24 weeks and might be related to titration schedule.

Summary: Safety Population

- TEAEs tend to occur in first 24 weeks and related to titration schedule
- AEs including dizziness:
 - Mostly Grade 1 or 2 (mild)
 - Transient (approx. 7-11 days)
 - Manageable by adjusting titration and dosing time

Early Discontinuations (Due to Titration Schedule)

- Early discontinuations due to TEAE (**blue**) before Week 24 might be related to up-titration of blarcamesine to the target doses coupled with administration early in the morning
- These events can be addressed by adjusting titration schedule to slower titration and nighttime dosing, as has been positively observed in the blarcamesine compassionate use program
- The low dropouts for non-TEAE reasons, 'Other' (yellow) are consistent across blarcamesine and placebo groups, which suggests that there are no dropouts due to lack of efficacy in the blarcamesine group
- There is no evidence that early discontinuations introduced a bias in favor of blarcamesine





Blarcamesine 30 mg group and 50 mg group results.

TEAE, Treatment Emergent Adverse Events.

Summary: Blarcamesine AD-004 Phase IIb/III Study in Early Alzheimer's Disease

- Blarcamesine once daily orally significantly slowed clinical decline:
 - ✓ ADAS-Cog13 at 48 Weeks: by **38.5%** (50-mg group) and by **34.6%** (30-mg group).
 - ✓ Key Secondary Endpoint CDR-SB at 48 Weeks: by 26.5% (50-mg group) and by 28.6% (30-mg group).
- ADCS-ADL was trending positive but did not reach significance at Week 48.
- Blarcamesine significantly slowed brain atrophy in key regions of interest, including the whole brain, total grey matter, and lateral ventricles.
- Clinical outcomes were also corroborated by biomarkers from the A/T/N spectrum, including a significant increase in plasma Aβ 42/40 ratio (mean increase 0.013).
- Blarcamesine was relatively safe and no associated neuroimaging adverse events.



Conclusions

Blarcamesine once orally daily restores autophagy through SIGMAR1 activation.

In the Phase IIb/III clinical trial, blarcamesine demonstrated:

✓ Good comparative safety profile (no ARIA)

✓ Improvement in ADAS-Cog13 coprimary efficacy endpoint

 Meaningful treatment effect on predesignated biomarkers within the A/T/N spectrum

✓ Promising clinical results:

The positive results from this trial are encouraging as the recent FDA guidance to consider approval may be based on a single cognitive endpoint (like ADAS-Cog) in Early Alzheimer's disease trials¹

1. US Food and Drug Administration. Early Alzheimer's Disease: Developing Drugs for Treatment: Guidance for Industry. Accessed July 2, 2024. https://www.fda.gov/media/110903/download



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