



מרכז שניידר לרפואת ילדים בישראל  
مرکز تشايدار لطيف الاطفال في اسرائيل  
Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel



Israel CF conference, Caesaria, October, 2017

# Cystic Fibrosis: Current and long term safety data with innovative and future treatments

Hannah Blau, MBBS

Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel



# Disclosures

- I am a member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics Data and Safety Monitoring Board participating in Data Monitoring Committees for several Vertex trials
- I have not further disclosures

# New CFTR modulating therapies

- Exciting
- “almost a cure”
- Address an unmet need
- Change a person’s life
- A dream come true –
  - For the patients
  - For the families
  - For the CF physicians and team
- Therefore....

# Monitoring safety....

- Tolerance levels very high
- No one wants to be taken off a trial
- No one wants to stop a drug that is even normalizing their sweat test

# What is known to date?

- In general, CFTR modulating therapies so far, demonstrated acceptable safety profiles
  - Ivacaftor studies<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor studies<sup>3</sup>
  - Ataluren studies<sup>4</sup>
- What about longer term follow up?
- What about post marketing data?
- What of drugs in earlier stages of development?
- Teratogenicity?

1. Accurso FJ, et al. N Engl J Med 2010; 363: 1991–2003 2. Davies JC, et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2013; 187(11): 1219–1225 3. Wainwright CE, et al. N Engl J Med 2015; 373(3): 220–231 4. Eitan K, et al. Lancet Respir Med 2014; 2(7): 539–547

# Why are these drugs well-tolerated?

- May be related to the specificity to CFTR
- What about effects of metabolism (e.g CYP)?
- How do these effect Drug- Drug interactions?

# Safety Monitoring – Who's responsibility is it?

- The European Medicines Agency (EMA): key role in safety monitoring of medicines in the European Union (EU)
  - “Coordination of the European pharmacovigilance system to provide advice on the safe and effective use of medicines.”<sup>1</sup>
- In Israel – Ministry of Health
- In the US – Food and Drug Administration (FDA)<sup>2</sup>



1. European Medicines Agency. Safety monitoring of medicines. Available at [http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/special\\_topics/general/general\\_content\\_000456.jsp&mid=WCob01ac05801ae8fb](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/special_topics/general/general_content_000456.jsp&mid=WCob01ac05801ae8fb) 2. FDA. Drug Safety Priorities 2015–2016. Available at <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/DrugSafety/UCM523486.pdf>

# PATIENT SAFETY IN CF CLINICAL TRIALS

## Before enrollment

### Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA provides guidelines for study supervision, reviews previous studies to assess safety and approves drug to be tested in humans

### Study Sponsor

Sponsor develops a study plan (protocol), which includes a guide for how safety will be monitored

### Therapeutics Development Network (TDN) Scientific Review

CF research experts from the TDN and community representatives assess the merit of the study drug, study design and safety

### Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)

CF experts from the DSMB review safety data and make a plan to monitor safety during study

## During the study

### Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA receives ongoing notification from sponsor about the safety of the study and provides federal oversight

### Study Sponsor

Sponsor's medical expert reviews adverse events in real time

### Therapeutics Development Network (TDN) Study Oversight

CF researchers from the TDN rely on the DSMB to monitor the study

### Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB)

CF experts from the DSMB monitor all study data and take action if a safety risk is found





### Institutional Review Board (IRB)

IRB at the research site reviews the study to evaluate possible benefits and risks



### Institutional Review Board (IRB)

IRB at the research site provides general oversight and monitoring during the study

### Site Study Team

Doctor at the research site reviews your health to see if you can safely participate in the study



### Site Study Team

Study doctor and research coordinator monitor your health during the study, and can pull you out of the study if your health is a concern

### Patient's Role

In the informed consent process, you are given all the available information about the study plan as well as possible risks and benefits, and your questions are answered



### Patient's Role

You follow the study plan as explained during the consent process, and you keep your physician informed about how you're feeling and any concerns you have

For more information visit [CFF.org/safety](https://cff.org/safety).

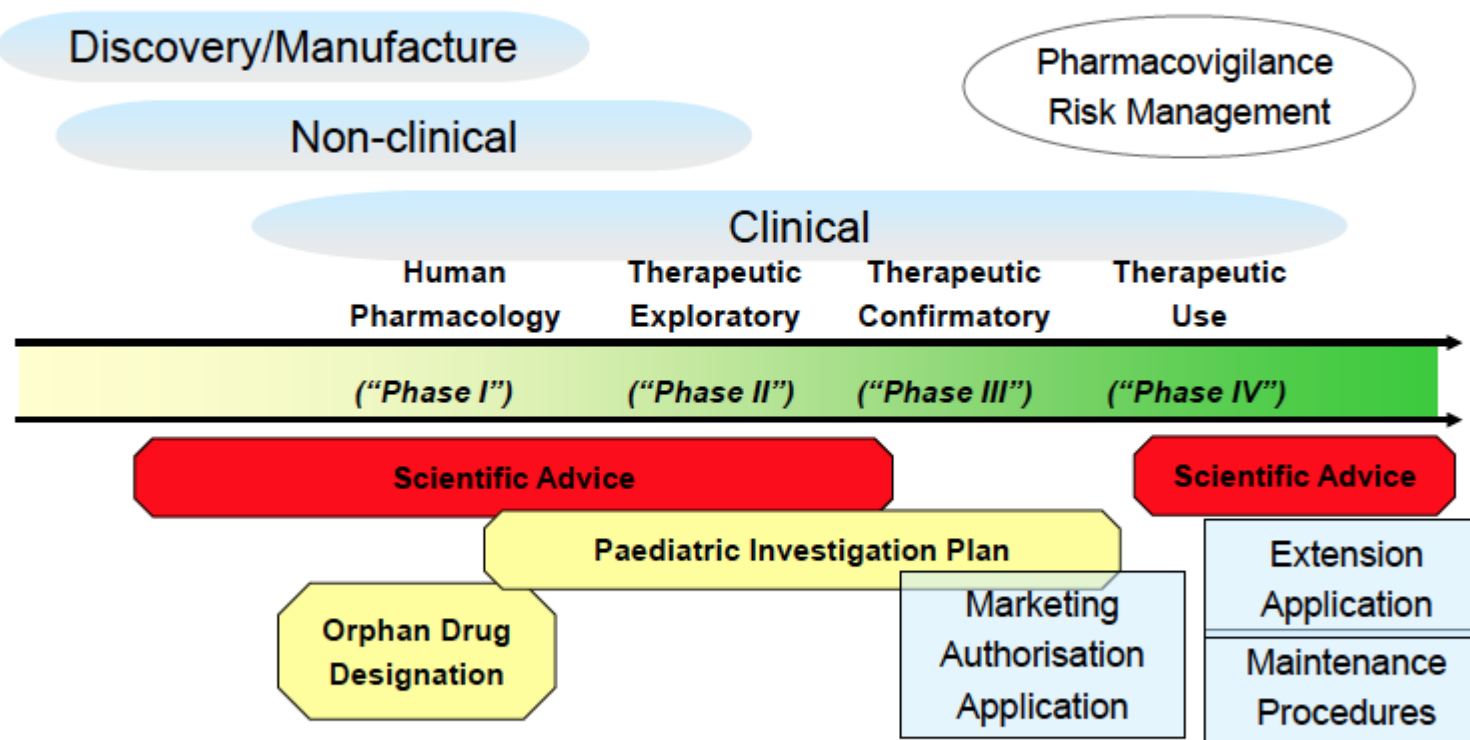
These safeguards are in place for all trials performed through the CFFT Therapeutics Development Network.

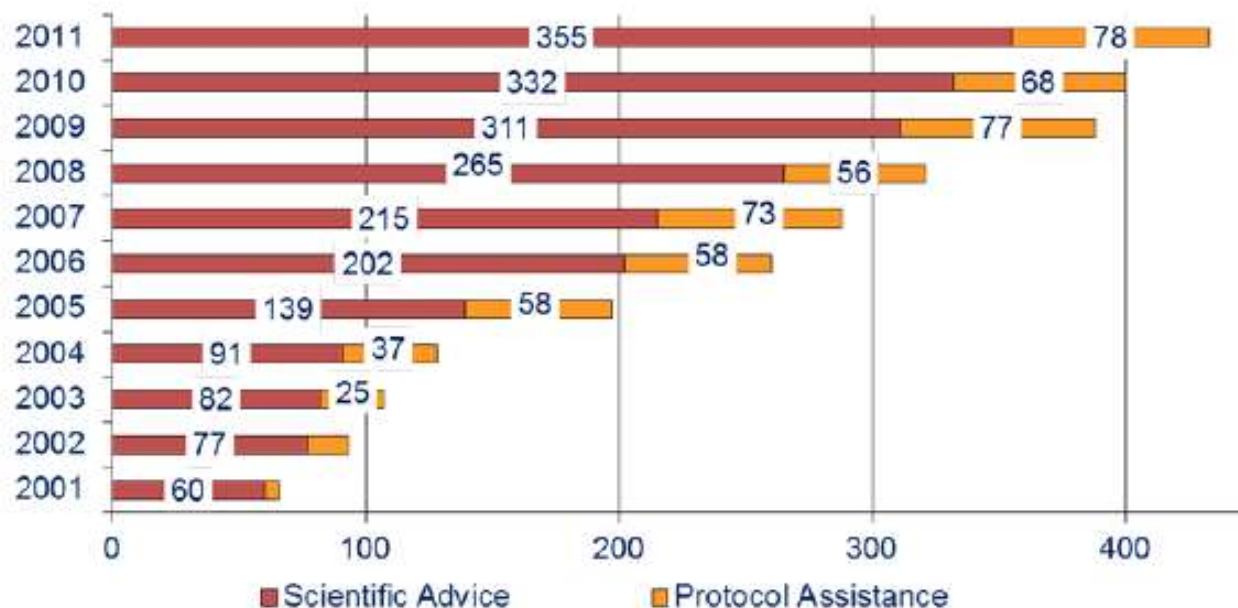


# Drug Development Overview



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY





- **Product related**
- **Qualification of novel methodologies**
- **HTA-EMA parallel advice**
- **FDA-EMA parallel advice**
- **Workshops**
- **1998-Sept 2012: 53 letters on CF products**

# Pharmacovigilance

Monitoring of

- Adverse Drug Reactions
- Safety/toxicity profile of drugs
- Lack of efficacy

During

- Clinical use
- Overdose/ abuse/ non-approved use
- Drug withdrawal
- Pregnancy
- Infant of a nursing mother

# Precision medicine in CF: targeting the defect in CFTR in a genotype-specific manner

## 3 Main targeted approaches:

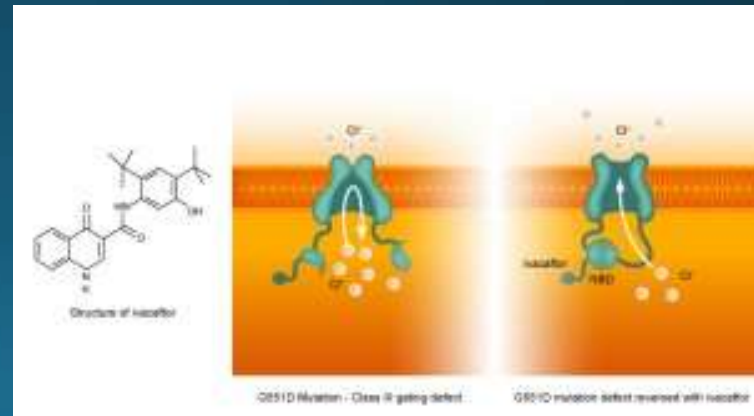
- Potentiators: recover CFTR function at the epithelial cell apical surface for class III and IV mutations.
  - Ivacaftor; FDA approval 2012
- Correctors: Improve intracellular processing of CFTR to increase surface expression for class II mutations
  - Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor combination; FDA approval 2015
- Production correctors: promote transcription (read through) for class I mutations
  - Ataluren in trials

# Ivacaftor: a CFTR potentiator

- Increases chloride transport by potentiating the channel-open probability (or gating) of the CFTR protein at the cell surface.
- Acts on excised membrane patches, therefore appears to act directly on CFTR
- High CFTR selectivity (pharmacodynamics drug interactions unlikely)

## Dosage and administration

- 150 mg oral tablet every 12 hours with fat-containing food<sup>1</sup>



# Ivacaftor: phase III RCT studies for patients with $\geq 1$ GLy551Asp allele

- STRIVE: Ramsey et al, N Eng J Med 2011.
  - 48w,  $\geq 12$ y,  $\geq 1$  GLy551Asp allele
- ENVISION: Davies et al, Am J Resp Crit Care Med, 2013.
  - 48w, 6-11y,  $\geq 1$  GLy551Asp allele
- Adverse events:
  - all similar in ivacaftor and placebo groups across trials
  - fewer serious adverse events (SAEs) in ivacaftor vs placebo groups across trials
  - 1 patient in STRIVE discontinued treatment - raised liver enzymes
- PERSIST: McKone et al, Lancet Respir Med, 2014
  - 144 week roll over of above studies. Adverse event rate similar. No further safety concerns. Sustained efficacy.

# Ivacaftor: phase III RCT studies with mutations other than GLy551Asp

- KONNECTION: De Boeck et al, J Cyst Fibros, 2014.
  - 24w,  $\geq 6y$ ,  $\geq 1$  non GLy551Asp gating mutation
- KONDUCT Moss et al, Lancet Respir Med, 2015.
  - 24w,  $\geq 6y$ ,  $\geq 1$  Arg117His mutation
- Adverse events:
  - Similar in ivacaftor and placebo groups across trials



# Ivacaftor and hepatic impairment

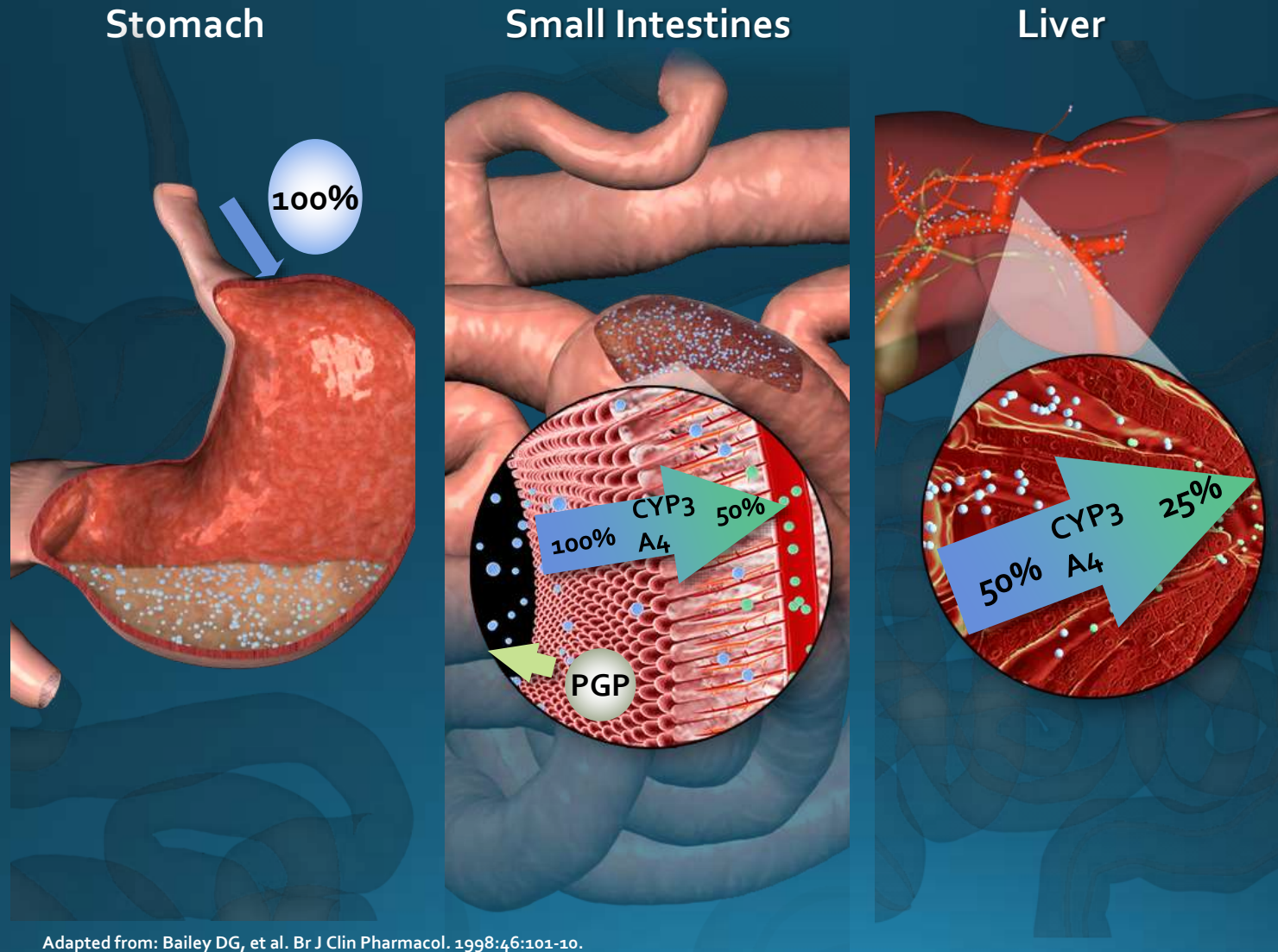
- Monitor ALT and AST before starting, 3 monthly in 1<sup>st</sup> year and then yearly
  - if levels become elevated, monitor closely till resolve.
  - if ALT or AST values rise to >5 ULN, interrupt therapy till return to normal.
  - weigh the benefits and risks of restarting ivacaftor.

Degree of hepatic Impairment	Mild	Moderate	Severe*
Child-Pugh class (score)	A (score 5 to 6)	B (score 7 to 9)	C (score 10 to 15)
Ivacaftor dose adjustment*	None	Reduce to 150 mg once daily <sup>†</sup>	Use with caution at a dose of 150 mg every other day or less frequently after weighing the risks and benefits of treatment <sup>†</sup>

\*Use of Ivacaftor is not recommended in patients with severe hepatic impairment unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risks of overexposure.

<sup>†</sup>Dosing intervals should be modified according to clinical response and tolerability.

# Ivacaftor metabolism: Cytochrome CYP<sub>3</sub>A most relevant



# Ivacaftor drug–drug interactions

Class	Drug examples	Recommendation
Potent inhibitors of CYP <sub>3</sub> A (↑↑ Ivacaftor level)	Ketoconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole, telithromycin, clarithromycin	Ivacaftor should be administered at a dose of 150 mg twice a week
Moderate inhibitors of CYP <sub>3</sub> A (↑ Ivacaftor level)	Fluconazole, erythromycin (and grapefruit, Seville oranges)	Ivacaftor should be administered at a single daily dose of 150 mg
Strong CYP <sub>3</sub> A inducers (↓↓ Ivacaftor level)	Rifampicin, rifabutin, phenobarbital, carbamazepine, phenytoin and St. John's Wort ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> )	Co-administration with Ivacaftor is not recommended
Weak to moderate CYP <sub>3</sub> A inducers (↓ Ivacaftor level)	Dexamethasone, high-dose prednisone	Use with caution as it may reduce Ivacaftor efficacy
CYP <sub>3</sub> A, P-gp or CYP <sub>2</sub> C <sub>9</sub> substrates*	Midazolam, alprazolam, diazepam or triazolam	Use with caution and monitor for benzodiazepine-related side effects
	Digoxin, cyclosporine or tacrolimus	Use with caution and appropriate monitoring
	Warfarin	Monitor the INR (International Normalized Ratio)

# Ivacaftor safety assessment, EMA 2012

Derived from pooled safety assessment on 700 subjects in 23 studies as of 2011:

“The treatment with ivacaftor appears to be well tolerated. Few subjects have discontinued treatment due to adverse events. The majority of adverse events associated with ivacaftor were mild to moderate in severity. There were no deaths in any ivacaftor studies. Population from 6 to 11 years-old) is very limited, therefore safety in these subgroups is addressed with additional pharmacovigilance activities.”

# Ivacaftor safety assessment, EMA 2012

- Related AE leading to study discontinuation: 1.7% for Ivacaftor and 3.8% for placebo
- Increase in ALT (3.1%) and AST (4.1%) was similar to placebo
- a Pregnancy Category B drug and caution is recommended for breastfeeding mothers.
- Caution is recommended with severe renal impairment ( no studies; minimal renal excretion)
- Lens opacities were seen in juvenile rats, but human lens more complete at birth. Unlikely relevant for children >6y . However, as cataracts are seen in CF, baseline and follow up ophthalmological examinations are recommended
- A five year safety surveillance study is ongoing in the US and Europe to better understand long term safety

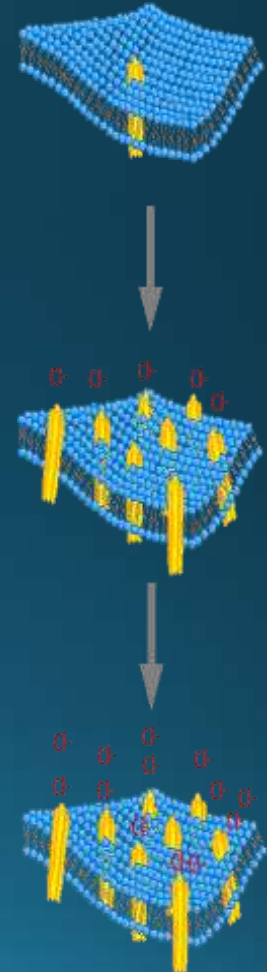
# Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor

## Lumacaftor is a CFTR 'corrector'

Improves the conformational stability of Phe508del-CFTR, resulting in increased processing and trafficking of mature protein to the cell surface

## Ivacaftor is a CFTR 'potentiator'

Facilitates increased chloride transport by potentiating the channel-open probability (or gating) of the CFTR protein at the cell surface



# Phase II RCT lumacaftor/ivacaftor

- Improvement 3-4% in absolute FEV<sub>1</sub> over 56d
- Adverse event :
  - a dose dependent trend towards a decline in FEV<sub>1</sub>% predicted for the groups assigned to higher lumacaftor doses, which was associated with increased dyspnea and chest tightness;
  - this finding was later determined to be an off target adverse event because it was replicated in healthy volunteers.



# Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor: phase III RCT studies for homozygous Phe508del CF patients

- TRAFFIC: Wainwright et al, N Eng J Med, 2015.
  - 24w, 559 patients  $\geq 12y$
- TRANSPORT: Wainwright et al, N Eng J Med, 2015.
  - 24w, 563 patients  $\geq 12y$
- Dosage: lumacaftor either 400mg BID or 600mg QD and ivacaftor 250mg BID



# Adverse Events Summary:

## TRAFFIC/TRANSPORT

- For all groups, pulmonary exacerbation was by far the most common SAE:
  - placebo, 24.1%;
  - pooled LUM/IVA groups, 13.0%
- It was the only SAE reported in  $\geq 10$  patients in any treatment group
- No deaths were reported during the study

Adverse Events: TRAFFIC/ TRANSPORT study	Placebo N=370	LUM (600 mg qd)/ IVA (250 q12h) N=369	LUM (400 mg q12h)/ IVA (250 mg q12h) N=369
Patients reporting any AE, n (%)	355 (96)	356 (97)	351 (95)
Patients who discontinued due to an AE, n (%)	6 (2)	14 (4)	17 (5)
Patients reporting a serious AE, n (%)	106 (29)	84 (23)	64 (17)
Most common AEs, n (%)	182 (49)	145 (39)	132 (36)
Infective pulmonary exacerbation	148 (40)	121 (33)	104 (28)
Cough	58 (16)	58 (16)	58 (16)
Headache	70 (19)	55 (15)	54 (15)
Sputum increased	29 (8)	55 (15)	48 (13)
Dyspnea	22 (6)	40 (11)	32 (9)
Respiration abnormal	50 (14)	52 (14)	50 (14)
Hemoptysis	31 (8)	36 (10)	45 (12)
Diarrhea	28 (8)	29 (8)	46 (13)

# Summary of Liver Function Test Elevations: TRAFFIC/TRANSPORT

- Elevated LFTs (AST or ALT >3 times the ULN) seen in 5.2% of patients receiving LUM/IVA and 5.1% of placebo patients
- In the active group, the 3 bilirubin elevations were accompanied by >3x ULN ALT/AST elevations. These episodes occurred in patients with underlying severe liver disease and/or alternative etiologies
- SAEs related to abnormal liver tests occurred in 0 placebo patients and 7 LUM/IVA patients. Following discontinuation or interruption, LFTs returned to baseline for 6 patients and improved substantially in the other 1.

# Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor Pharmacokinetics

Lumacaftor	Ivacaftor	Co-administration of Lumacaftor with Ivacaftor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strong inducer of CYP<sub>3</sub>A</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sensitive CYP<sub>3</sub>A substrate</li><li>• Weak inhibitor of CYP<sub>3</sub>A when given as monotherapy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Due to the induction effect of lumacaftor on CYP<sub>3</sub>A the net exposure of ivacaftor is not expected to exceed that when given in the absence of lumacaftor at a dose of 150 mg every 12 hours, the approved dose of ivacaftor monotherapy</li></ul>

# Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor and CYP<sub>3</sub>A:

- When initiating Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor in patients taking strong CYP<sub>3</sub>A inhibitors,
  - e.g. Ketoconazole, posaconazole, voriconazole, clarithromycin, reduce Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor to 1 tablet daily lumacaftor 200 mg/ivacaftor 125 mg for 1st week till steady-state induction effect of lumacaftor.
  - Following this period, continue with the recommended daily dose.
- CYP<sub>3</sub>A inducers will decrease the Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor availability: e.g. rifampin (↓lumacaftor, ↓↓↓ ivacaftor), phenytoin, St John's wort, carbamazepine. Efficacy of these drugs may also be reduced
- May need a higher dose of systemic corticosteroids, ibuprofen, consider alternative to benzodiazepines ;
- Avoid use of Lumacaftor/Ivacaftor with cyclosporine, everolimus, sirolimus, tacrolimus as their efficacy may be reduced

# Lumacaftor 200mg bid /Ivacaftor 250mg bid 24w, 6-11 y, n=58

## Improvements in Sweat Chloride, BMI, LCI, CFQR resp. Not in FEV<sub>1</sub>pp

- AEs were mild to moderate in severity. The most frequently reported AEs were cough (n=29), nasal congestion (n = 12), infective pulmonary exacerbation (n=12), and headache (n=12).
- Respiratory symptom-related AEs were infrequent and not associated with any discontinuations or serious AEs.
- Two patients discontinued treatment due
  - Rash (n=1)
  - Elevated liver transaminases (n=1)
  - Both AEs resolved following discontinuation.
- No new safety concerns were identified compared with older subjects.

# Tezacaftor (VX-661)

- Tezacaftor (VX-661) is an investigational, first-generation CFTR corrector
  - Compared with lumacaftor (VX-809), VX-661 has a similar mechanism of action but different pharmacologic properties, including a longer half-life and fewer drug interactions (no cytochrome P<sub>450</sub> 3A induction)
- Currently, it is taken in combination with Ivacaftor in the clinical trials: over 1000 patients with either Phe508del homozogotes or heterozygotes with minimal function, residual function and gating mutations
- Unlike Lumacaftor, not associated with bronchospasm in healthy volunteers<sup>2</sup>

1. Joseph Pilewski, MD, NACFC 2014

2. Data on file. Boston, MA: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated; 2014

# Tezacaftor (VX-661)

Characteristic	Monotherapy				Combination				Placebo
	VX-661 10 mg	VX-661 30 mg	VX-661 100 mg	VX-661 150 mg	VX-661 10 mg Ivacaftor 150 mg	VX-661 30 mg Ivacaftor 150 mg	VX-661 100 mg Ivacaftor 150 mg	VX-661 150 mg Ivacaftor 150 mg	
<b>n</b>	8	8	8	9	18	19	17	17	24
Patients reporting any AE, n (%)	8 (100)	7 (87.5)	7 (87.5)	8 (88.9)	15 (83.3)	18 (94.7)	10 (58.8)	17 (100)	22 (91.7)
Patients reporting any serious AE, n (%)	1 (12.5)	1 (12.5)	0	0	1 (5.6)	2 (10.5)	2 (11.8)	2 (11.8)	4 (16.7)
Serious pulmonary exacerbation	1 (12.5) <sup>a</sup>	1 (12.5)	0	0	1 (5.6)	1 (5.3) <sup>b</sup>	2 (11.8)	1 (5.9) <sup>c</sup>	4 (16.7)
Discontinuation due to AE	1 (12.5)	0	0	0	1 (5.6)	0	2 (11.8)	1 (5.9)	0

1. Joseph Pilewski, MD, NACFC 2014

2. Data on file. Boston, MA: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated; 2014

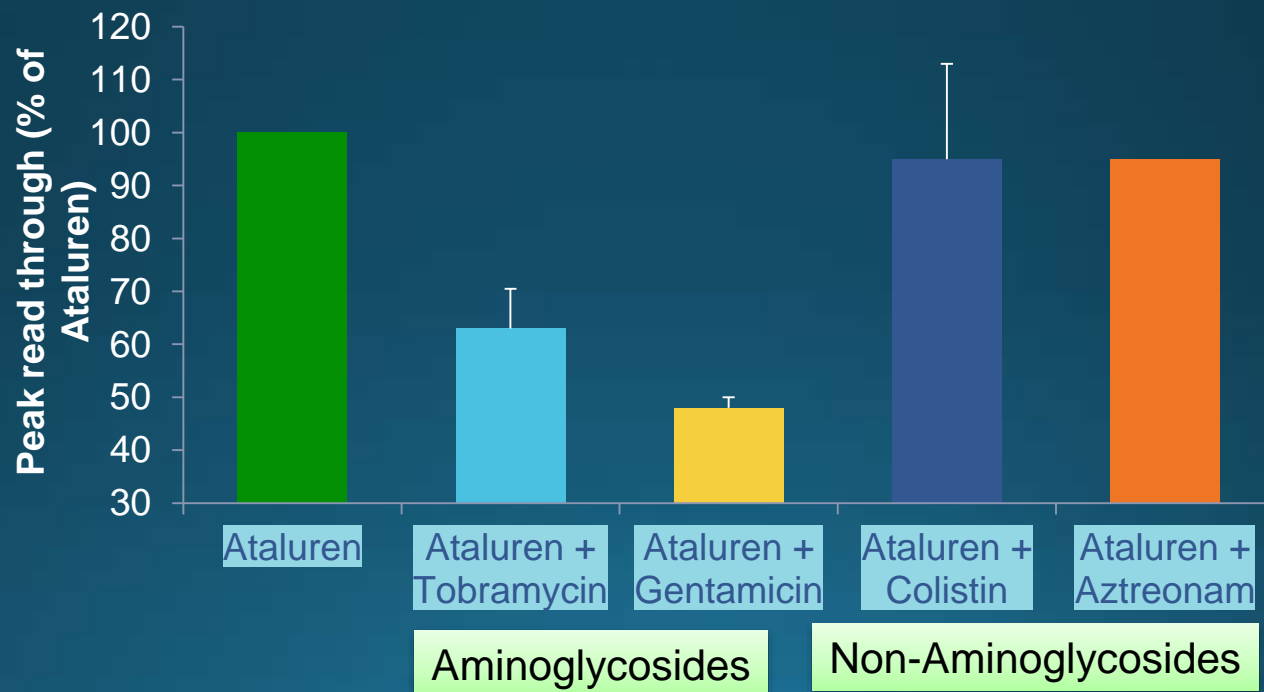


# Study 009: Ataluren safety profile

- Generally well tolerated
- Side-effects generally mild-to-moderate, with similar profile to placebo
- Reversible increase in creatinine concentrations (ie, acute kidney injury) occurred in 18 (15%) of 118 patients in the ataluren group compared with one (<1%) of 120 patients in the placebo group.
- 3 were reversible grade 3-4 creatinine increases in patients who were treated with systemic antibiotics (aminoglycosides and vancomycin) for pulmonary exacerbations, and in some cases were associated with dehydration.
  - Preventing this addressed the issue as the trial proceeded.
- A similar profile was observed in the non-tobramycin group at post hoc analysis

# Chronic aminoglycosides (i.e. tobramycin) inhibit the activity of ataluren in CF patients

- In vitro assay work demonstrated that aminoglycosides inhibit the read-through activity of ataluren



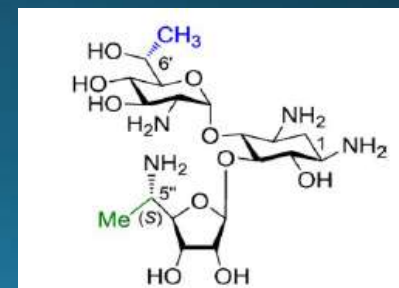
# ELX-02: synthetic drug aminoglycoside-based scaffold



- binds preferentially to the eukaryotic ribosome (improving read-through activity)
- low affinity for the prokaryotic ribosome
- decouples the antibacterial activity from read-through activity.
- When compared to gentamicin: 100-fold lower antibacterial activity and 9-fold higher read-through activity

(Shalev, Rozenberg et al. 2015)

- Target organs of toxicity:
- Kidney: some AE at X6-10 dose in rat and dog
- Ear: (Oto- and vestibular-) no ototoxicity in rats in X14 dose for 4wks
- Injection site
- Human studies on going....



# Ways to Avoid Drug-Drug Interactions

- Always be vigilant for DDIs when starting new therapies
  - Keep an updated list of ALL prescriptions, OTC and herbal products in medical record
  - Review medication list at each clinic visit
  - Be aware of drugs with “narrow” therapeutic indexes, long half-lives and/or that are potent cytochrome P<sub>450</sub> inducers or inhibitors
- Be familiar with metabolic pathways of all agents being used
- Know where to locate information about interactions
  - On-line
  - Health-care resource (e.g. pharmacist)
  - Medical reference book
- Seek advice from other healthcare professionals, e.g. pharmacist, if possible, to help minimize DDIs
  - The more “eyes” the better
- Patients should have all new medications, OTC and herbal products reviewed by their HCP prior to initiation

THANK YOU