# Talquetamab in multiple myeloma

Lawrence Liu and Amrita Krishnan

Judy and Bernard Briskin Center for Multiple Myeloma Research, Department of Hematology and Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, Duarte, CA, USA

Correspondence: L. Liu

laliu@coh.org

Received: August 9, 2023. October 10, 2023. Accepted: October 19, 2023. Early view:

https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.2023.283931

©2024 Ferrata Storti Foundation Published under a CC BY-NC license



#### **Abstract**

Initial results of the phase I trial of talquetamab, a bispecific antibody targeting GPRC5D and CD3, were reported in December of 2022 for the treatment of relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma in the fourth line or later setting. It demonstrated a similar efficacy profile and durability of response to teclistamab, the first bispecific antibody therapy to be approved in multiple myeloma. Additionally, it has less infections than teclistamab but demonstrates unique class-specific side effects including skin, oral, and nail-related adverse events. Despite this, it is still a highly efficacious and well-tolerated therapy that will add to the armamentarium of therapeutics against heavily pretreated multiple myeloma.

#### Introduction

Historically, relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM) has been associated with a median overall survival of 6.6-8 months in penta-refractory or penta-exposed patients. The arsenal of T-cell redirecting therapies like chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells and bispecific antibody (BsAb) represent a step forward in improving outcomes. B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-targeting agents were the first approved including idecabtagene vicleucel demonstrating a 73% overall response rate (ORR) and complete response (CR) or better rate of 33% and median progression-free survival (mPFS) of 8.8 months in a heavily pretreated population in the original report.<sup>2</sup> This was followed by ciltacabtagene autoleucel which demonstrated an impressive ORR of 97%, CR/stringent CR (sCR) rate of 67%, and mPFS that was not reached (12-month PFS was 77%) in a very similar patient population.3 In August of 2022, the results of teclistamab trial came out demonstrating an ORR of 63% with CR/ sCR of 39.4% and mPFS of 11.3 months4 transforming the landscape of relapsed and refractory disease. However, as we recognize that patients relapse post CAR T and teclistamab with different mechanisms including mutations and deletions in the BCMA target there remains a need for new targets and new drugs.

Talquetamab is an immunoglobulin (Ig)G4 BsAb binding to G-protein-coupled receptor class 5 member D (GPRC5D) and CD3 to recruit and activate T cells to target myeloma cells. 5 GPRC5D is cell surface receptor that was initially discovered in highly keratinized tissue like nails and hair.6 Gene expression studies of MM bone marrow samples have demonstrated high levels of GPRC5D in plasma cells and the levels correspond to MM disease burden. 7,8 It has been demonstrated to have low RNA expression in other tissue, like lung and inferior olivary nucleus neurons. However, actual GPRC5D protein expression in lung and inferior olivary nucleus neurons was not identified. 9,10 Although a preclinical study noted low level GPRC5D RNA expression in the cerebellum,<sup>11</sup> neither RNA transcript or protein expression was noted in the translational studies of the trial. Following these findings, GPRC5D has become a therapeutic target for MM via CAR T-cell and BsAb therapy.11 An initial CAR T targeting GPRC5D demonstrated activity in MM resistant to BCMA CAR T in studies of xenografts in mice.9 In preclinical studies, talquetamab demonstrated high cytotoxicity in bone marrow samples with MM.<sup>12,13</sup> As such, this therapy was an ideal candidate to move forward to clinical studies.

## **Efficacy**

Talquetamab was initially studied in the phase I open-label MonumenTAL-1 trial demonstrating high efficacy in a heavily pretreated population with a median of six previous lines of therapy. Especially notable was that 79% of the patients were triple-class refractory and 30% were penta-refractory. In the group treated with subcutaneous talquetamab, almost a third had extramedullary disease, 17% had high disease burden (60% or more bone marrow plasma cells), and 16% had high-risk cytogenetic abnormalities.<sup>5</sup> This is similar to the study population for teclistamab, the first approved BsAb in RRMM targeting BCMA,<sup>14</sup> with the exception of talquetamab having had MM with extramedullary disease (32% vs. 17%) and teclistamab with slightly more high-risk cytogenetics (25.7% vs. 16%).<sup>4</sup> Additionally, the talquetamab trial had higher percentage of International Staging System (ISS) class 2 (45% vs. 35.2%) and 3 (19% vs. 12.3%).<sup>4,5</sup>

Talquetamab administered subcutaneously at 800 mcg/ kg every 2 weeks (Q2W) or 405 mcg/kg weekly (QW) with step-up doses demonstrated similar efficacy across both levels. At a median follow-up of 12.7 months, the 0.8 mg/ kg dose level had an ORR of 71.7% and very good partial response (VGPR) or better rate of 60.7%: 9% with CR and 29.7% with sCR with a median duration of response of 7.8 months. At a median follow-up of 18.8 months, the 0.4 mg/ kg dose level achieved an ORR of 74.1% and 59.4% VGPR or better: 9.8% CR and 23.8% sCR with a median duration of response of 10.2 months.5 These results in patients with heavily pretreated and very refractory disease led to the US Food and Drug Administration granting Breakthrough Therapy Designation for talguetamab on June 29, 2022.15 The updated phase II results reported at ASCO 2023 are very similar.<sup>16</sup> Additional benefits of talquetamab were high efficacy in high-risk MM and extramedullary disease which had ORR/CR/sCR of 55.6/33.3/11.1 and 40/6.7/6.7 for the 800 mcg/kg Q2W dosing respectively.5 These results are similar to those of teclistamab and offers another therapeutic targeting option for patients.

Of special interest is the efficacy in patients who have had prior T-cell redirection therapy such as CAR T-cell therapy or other BsAb therapy due to concern for T-cell fatigue or exhaustion. 17-19 The MonumenTAL-1 phase II results were recently presented at ASCO 2023 demonstrating an ORR 63%, 53% with VGPR or better at median follow-up of 11.8 months in patients with prior BsAb or CAR T. In this cohort, 71% had prior CAR T, 35% had prior BsAb, and 6% had both. The mPFS was 5.1 months. 16 The results demonstrate that talquetamab retains efficacy even in a population with prior T-cell redirection therapies. Combination therapies with talguetamab could address this area of T-cell exhaustion/ fatigue. Of particular interest is whether daratumumab can help overcome T-cell fatigue/exhaustion since it has demonstrated the ability to alter T-cell subsets to promote expansion of effector T cells and deplete regulatory T cells. Initial results of the TRIMM-2 phase Ib study with correlatives showing that the combination increased proinflammatory cytokines and levels of effector T cells supporting the ability of a daratumumab to overcome T-cell exhaustion/ fatigue when administered with a BsAb.<sup>20</sup>

Talquetamab is also being studied in combination with da-

ratumumab in the TRIMM-2 trial in patients with three or more prior lines of therapy, including a proteasome inhibitor (PI) and immunomodulatory drug (IMiD). The phase II trial recently reported results at ASCO 2023 in a population that had a median five prior lines of therapy, 18% with high-risk cytogenetics, 25% with extramedullary disease, and 58% triple-class refractory (77% were refractory to anti-CD38 therapy). With a median follow-up of 11.5 months, the ORR was 78% in the whole cohort (100% in patients without prior anti-CD38 therapy) with 45% CR/sCR and 66% VG-PR or greater. The mPFS was 19.4 months and 12-month overall survival (OS) was 93%. Even in patients refractory to anti-CD38, anti-BCMA, and BsAb therapy, the ORR was 76%, 64%, and 75% respectively.<sup>21</sup>

Beyond talquetamab, the GPRC5D target has been studied as a CAR T construct. Based on preclinical data from Smith et al. of a GPRC5D CAR T with high efficacy in BCMA CAR T resistant MM,9 Mailankody et al. studied this CAR T in a phase I trial and found that in patients receiving the MTD of 150x10<sup>6</sup> cells or lower, the response rate was 58% with a median duration of response of 7.8 months.<sup>22</sup> Of note, this trial had a broader inclusion criteria recruiting patients suffering from MM with: history of allogeneic stem cell transplantation (18%), extramedullary disease (47%), prior BCMA-directed therapy (59%), triple-class refractory status (94%), high-risk cytogenetic abnormalities (76%). Other GPRC5D CAR T constructs have been studied with ORR ranging from 86-100% and 60-64% CR/ sCR rates. 23-25 Another BsAb with a two GPRC5D binding sites, RG6234, is undergoing investigation and reported ORR of 71.4% and 60.4% with CR/sCR rates of 28.5% and 18.8% for intravenous and subcutaneous administration respectively.26 (Table 1)

# Safety and tolerability

All patients had adverse events (AE) and grade 3 or 4 AE were 78%. However, there were no deaths related to talquetamab use as compared to teclistamab with 5 deaths (3%).<sup>4,16</sup> CRS was experienced in 78% with a median duration of 2 days. None of the CRS events were grade 3 or greater. Other common AE were hypogammaglobulinemia, oral AE, infections, anemia, asthenia, and skin exfoliation (all greater than 40%). Of the 63% with infections, 22% were grade 3 or 4; however, there were two patients (3%) with grade 5 (pneumonia) possibly related to the therapy. Neutropenia was noted in 38% with 26% reaching grade 3 or 4. Hypogammaglobulinemia was noted in 85% of patients; however, intravenous immunoglobulin supplementation was only utilized in 32% of patients.

The initial MonumenTAL-1 phase I study reported four dose-limiting toxicities: one was pancreatitis related to extramedullary disease in the pancreas and the other three were grade 3 rashes that resolved on stopping therapy with

Table 1. Bispecific antibody monotherapy trials.

BsAb	Phase	Acronym (NCT number)	Target	Minimum prior lines of therapy (median)	Median follow-up time in months	Administration	ORR %	CR/ sCR rate %	mDOR in months	mPFS in months	mOS in months
Talquetama b (SC: 405 mcg QW) <sup>16</sup>		Monumen TAL-1 (NCT03399799)	GPRC5D	2 (6)	18.8	SC	74	33.6	9.5	7.5	76.4% 12-months OS
Talquetamab (SC: 800 mcg Q2W) <sup>16</sup>	2			2 (5)	12.7	SC	73	38.7	NR	11.9	77.4% 12-months OS
Talquetamab (IV) <sup>5</sup>				2 (6)	10.2	IV	72	72.2	27.8	-	-
Teclistamab <sup>4</sup>	1-2	MajesTEC-1 (NCT03145181/ NCT04557098)	ВСМА	4 (5)	14.1	SC	63	65	18.4	11.3	18.3
Elranatamab <sup>36*</sup>	2	MagnetisMM (NCT03269136 /NCT04649359 /NCT05014412)	ВСМА	2 (7)	10.3	SC	45.3	17.4	NR (9 months DOR was 72.4%)	4.8	NR (9- months OS was 60.1%)
Cevostamab <sup>37</sup>	1	NCT03275103	FcRH5	2 (6)	6.1	SC	100	62.5	50% had DOR ≥ 6 months	NA	NA

<sup>\*</sup>These results were from the pooled results of MM-1, MM-3, and MM-9 which included patients in the initial dose finding and safety study and later patients who received the subcutaneous 76 mg weekly dose. Additionally, all patients had prior B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-targeting therapy.<sup>36</sup> BsAb: bispecific antibody; NCT: national clinical trial; ORR: overall response rate; CR: complete response; sCR: stringent complete response; mDOR: median duration of response; mPFS: median progression-free survival; mOS: median overall survival; SC: subcutaneous; IV: intravenous; GPRC5D: G-protein coupled receptor, class C, group 5 member D; FcRH5: Fc receptor-homolog-5; QW: weekly; Q2W: every 2 weeks; NR: not reached; NA: not available.

two of those patients able to resume therapy without recurrence of the rash. Skin AE (largely xeroderma, pruritis, and peeling), taste issues, cytopenias, fatigue, rashes, nail issues, dry mouth, dysphagia, weight loss, fevers, diarrhea, and decreased appetite were the most common AE across all dose levels.

Cytokine-release syndrome (CRS) was noted in around 80% of the patients receiving subcutaneous talquetamab with a median duration of 2 days. However, grade 3 or greater CRS was rare (3% in the 405 mcg dose level and none in the 800 mcg dose level). Most of the CRS events (81.7%) occurred during the step-up doses. Recurrent CRS episodes with the step-up and target doses occurred in around 30% of patients for both subcutaneous dose levels; 63% of patients in 405 mcg dose level and 54% in the 800 mcg dose level received tocilizumab. Corticosteroid administration for CRS was relatively minimal (3% at the 405 mcg dose and 7% at the 800 mcg dose). Vasopressor use occurred in one patient at the 405 mcg dose level (3.3%). One patient (3.3%) in the 405 mcg dose level and two patients (4.5%) in the 800 mcg dose level required supplemental oxygen. Overall, around half of patients in both subcutaneous dose levels required other supportive care measures for CRS including intravenous fluids and anti-pyretics.

Neurotoxicity was noted in 10% of patients receiving the 405 mcg dose and 5% of patients receiving the 800 mcg

dose and were grade 1 or two and resolved. In each subcutaneous dose level, there was one event of encephalopathy occurring during the step-up doses and target dose. In the group receiving intravenous talquetamab, 3% experienced grade 3 ICANS. As such, the intravenous dose level was not pursued for the phase II trial. In the phase II trial results, ICANS was reported at a rate of 10.7% and 11% for the 0.4 mg/kg and 0.8 mg/kg groups respectively.

Nail issues and taste changes were frequent and likely related to the expression of GPRC5D in these tissue. 5,10 Nail AE tended to occur at a median of 50.5 days with a wide range. These AE can range from nail thinning to complete separation of the nail plate from the matrix due to disruption of growth, onychomadesis, as noted in an early case report.<sup>27</sup> In this report, topical corticosteroids were heavily applied to the hands, feet, and skin in general due to the patient's diffuse xerosis and pruritis but only the pruritis and xerosis resolved with the topical corticosteroids. Despite the potential for severe nail-related AE, no discontinuations resulted from them.16 In another study, nail and skin AE were managed with ammonium lactate cream, triamcinolone cream, and Vaseline applied twice a day.28 Grade 3 rashes resolved with oral and topical corticosteroids and treatment resumption was possible afterwards in most patients.28 Oral antihistamines can also be employed to reduce associated pruritis.29 The median time to skin tox-

Table 2. Bispecific antibody adverse events.

BsAb	Grade 3 or 4 AE %	Anemia grade ≥3, %	Neutr grade ≥3, %	Lymph grade ≥3, %	Thromb grade ≥3, %	CRS any grade	CRS grade ≥3, %	ICANS any grade %	ICANS grade ≥3, %	Grade 5 AE %	Dysg %	SRE %	NRE %
Talquetamab 405 μg	87	30	60	40	23	77	3	10*	0	0	63	67	57
Talquetamab 800 μg	86	23	32	39	11	80	0	5*	0	0	57	70	27
IV Talquetamab	92	33	26	47	13	49	5	-	3	0	37	24	20
Teclistamab	94.5	37	64.2	32.7	21.2	72.1	0.6	14.5	0.6	3	NA	NA	NA
Elranatamab	-	46.5	40.7	30.2	29.1	65.1	1.2	5.8	2.3	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cevostamab	58.8	21.9	16.3	NA	NA	80	1.3	13.1	NA	15 (0.6)	NA	NA	NA

<sup>\*</sup>In the phase II trial update at ASCO, these were reported at 10.7% and 11% for the 0.4 mg/kg subcutaneous weekly and 0.8 mg/kg subcutaneous every 2 weeks dosing respectively. AE: adverse events; BsAb: bispecific antibody; Neutr: neutropenia; Lymph: lymphopenia; Thromb: thrombocytopenia; CRS: cytokine release syndrome; ICANS: immune effector cell associated neurotoxicity syndrome; IV: intravenous; Dysg: dysgeusia; SRE: skin-related events; NRE: nail-related events: NA: not available.

icities was 24 days in the subcutaneous dosing group with close to half resolving at a median duration was 39 days. Taste AE tended to occur at a median of 13.5 days. This and other oral AE including dysphagia, appetite loss, dry mouth can lead to significant malnutrition and weight loss. Many clinicians recommend extra vigilance for oral and esophageal candidiasis and early treatment if suspected. Other management strategies include biotin sprays and mouthwashes geared towards managing mucositis and the incorporation of thin liquids and nutritional supplement shakes to improve nutrition and caloric intake.<sup>29</sup> Artificial saliva has been tried with limited success. Early dose and schedule adjustments seem the optimal management strategy<sup>28</sup> (Table 2).

Infections occurred in 58.7% at the 0.4 mg/kg dose (grade 3 or 4 in 19.6%) and 66.2% at the 0.8 mg/kg dose (grade 3 or greater in 14.5%).16 Opportunistic infections were noted at 3.5% and 5.5% in the 0.4 mg/kg and 0.8 mg/kg dose groups respectively. Overall, the most common infections noted in real world studies were viral and bacterial.30,31 COVID-19 infection occurred in 13% at the 405 mcg dose and 2% at the 800 mcg dose. However, there were no fatalities related to COVID-19 infection with talquetamab use as compared to teclistamab use (7.3%). A recent pooled analysis demonstrated that in patients treated with BsAb, around half developed an infection and BCMA-targeting BsAb had almost three times more grade 3 or 4 infections compared to non-BCMA targeting BsAb. Additionally, neutropenia was lower in non-BCMA BsAb. COVID-19 infections were common although more frequent and more likely to be fatal in the BCMA-targeting BsAb.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, a quarter of the deaths were attributed to infections, including COVID-19, Streptococcus pneumoniae, and influenza which further supports the need for vaccination counseling.<sup>32</sup> Opportunistic infections like cytomegalovirus (CMV), Pneumocystis jirovecii, herpes simplex virus (HSV), varicella-zoster virus (VZV) were also reported. As such, prophylaxis with acyclovir or valacyclovir, shingles vaccination, and Bactrim is routinely employed at our institution for patients receiving BsAb therapy. Hypogammaglobulinemia was reported in 87% at the 405 mcg dose and 71% at the 800 mcg dose.<sup>5</sup> Our institution employed the practice of aggressive repletion with intravenous immunoglobulins if patients have recurrent infections or immunoglobulin levels under 400 mg/dL (Table 3).

Serious AE (SAE) occurred in 43% of patients receiving the 405 mcg dose and 34% of patients receiving the 800 mcg dose per the original report by Chari *et al.*<sup>5</sup> In the phase II update, 14.7% and 8.3% of patients had dose reductions and 4.9% and 8.3% of patients had dose discontinuations in the 0.4 mg/kg QW and 0.8 mg/kg Q2W groups respectively. Despite the potential for extensive skin AE and oral AE, there were only five discontinuations for these events across the combined cohort including 288 patients.

## **Initiation of therapy**

Talquetamab offers the advantage of subcutaneous administration with a QW and Q2W dosing schedule depending on patient preference. At our institution, patients are admitted for the step up dosing to monitor for CRS or other complications. The 405 mcg QW dosing strategy offers the advantage of quicker arrival at target dose since it only requires two step-up doses (10 and 60 mcg per kg). The 800 mcg Q2W dose requires three step-up doses (10, 60, and 300 mcg) which means a longer admission to reach the target dose but with the benefit of less frequent administration and visits for the patient. Side effects, as mentioned above, are similar between both dosing strategies with the 805 mcg Q2W dosing strategy having less infections, hypogammaglobulinemia, and neurotoxicity but with slightly increased incidence of grade 3 or greater rashes.

### **Managing toxicities**

First, and foremost, talquetamab should be initiated with close monitoring in a setting with direct access to tocilizumab, critical care facilities, and capacity of neurologic evaluation and treatment.

Adverse events related to the nails can be managed with ammonium lactate cream, Vaseline, and various topical steroid ointments. Skin changes like xerosis and pruritis can be managed similarly with topical steroids and oral antihistamines for itchiness. Grade 3 rashes in the original study resolved after oral or topical corticosteroid use and talquetamab was able to be restarted in most patients with this issue.

Taste and other oral adverse events can lead to significant malnourishment and weight loss and need extra vigilance. Artificial saliva, biotin sprays and anesthetic mouthwashes can improve dry mouth, mucositis, oral cavity pain. Close monitoring for candidiasis and early treatment is necessary. It can be helpful to encourage softer diets and nutritional supplements in the form of shakes.

Infections remain a significant challenge in the field of MM immunotherapies. At our institution, acyclovir/valacyclovir and Bactrim for prophylaxis is regularly employed. Patients are encouraged to get shingles, COVID, and influenza vaccination and any other vaccines that are indicated. We regularly check immunoglobulin levels and our institution recommends intravenous immunoglobulin repletion for recurrent infections or levels below 400 mg/dL.

# Sequencing of therapy

The ideal time to use talquetamab in MM is a challenging

Table 3. Infectious complications of bispecific antibodies

BsAb	Infections %	Infections grade ≥3, %	Hypogammaglobulinemia %	COVID-19 %	CMV %	PJP %	PML %
Talquetamab 405 μg	47	7	87	13	0	NA	NA
Talquetamab 800 μg	34	7	71	2	0	NA	NA
IV talquetamab	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Teclistamab	76.4	44.8	74.5	17.6 (12.1 grade ≥3; 11 deaths)	NA	NA	0.01
Elranatamab <sup>38,39</sup>	73.6	26.4	NA	25.3	NA	NA	NA
Cevostamab	42.5	18.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

CMV: cytomegalovirus; PJP: Pneumocystis jirovecii; PML: progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy; IV: intravenous; NA: not available.

Table 4. Bispecific antibody combination therapy trials.

NCT number	Acronym	Combination	Minimum prior lines of therapy	Primary outcome	Start date	Primary completion ate	
NCT05455320	MonumenTAL-3	Talq/Dara <i>vs.</i> Talq/ Dara/Pom <i>vs.</i> DPd	1	PFS	10/13/2022	2/6/2026	
NCT04586426	RedirecTT-1	Talq/Tec with or without Dara	Triple class exposed	Toxicity	12/15/2020	6/27/2025	
NCT05050097	MonumenTAL-2	Combination with Talq, CFZ, Dara, Len, Pom	NS	Toxicity	9/22/2021	9/30/2024	
NCT05552222	MajesTEC-7	Tec/Dara/Len vs. Talq/Dara/Len vs. DRd	NDMM	PFS and sustained MRD-negative CR	10/25/2022	5/25/2029	
NCT05338775	TRIMM-3	Talq or Tec with PD-1 inhibitor	RRMM*	Toxicity	5/25/2022	9/21/2024	
NCT05849610	GEM-TECTAL	DaraVRd followed by Tec/Dara or Talq/Dara***	NDMM**	MRD negative CR rate	5/2023	1/2025	
NCT04108195	NA	Dara/Talq/Tec/Pom	3	Toxicity	2/21/2020	9/9/2024	

<sup>\*</sup>Cannot be a candidate for an available therapy. \*\*High risk MM only. \*\*\*After DaraVRd, patients will receive intensification with Tec/Dara. If MRD-negative after, patients will receive Tec/Dara for 2 years. MRD-positive patients or those who become MRD positive or relapse in the Tec/Dara arm will receive Talq/Dara for 6 cycles. If MRD-negative after, patients will receive Talq/Dara for 2 years as maintenance and if MRD-positive, they will receive salvage therapy per investigator choice. NCT: national clinical trial; Talq: talquetamab; Dara: daratumumab; Pom: pomalidomide; Dpd: daratumumab/pomalidomide/dexamethasone; PFS: progression-free survival; CFZ: carfilzomib; Len: lenalidomide; DRds: daratumumab/lenalidomide/dexamethasone; NDMM: newly diagnosed multiple myeloma; RRMM: relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma; DaraVRd: daratumumab/bortezomib/lenalidomide/dexamethasone; MRD: measurable residual disease; CR: complete response; Tec: teclistamab; NA: not available; NS: not specified.

question to answer. It can depend on many factors including, but not limited to, prior therapies (especially BC-MA-directed ones), speed of progression, and institutional time from leukapheresis to CAR T administration. It has utility in post-BCMA CAR T relapse as a quick off-the-shelf option to get disease control while using a different target. Additionally, it could be utilized as a bridge to BCMA CAR T in rapid progressors or MM with high disease burden. In patients with frequent or chronic infections, this may present a therapeutic option with less suppression of humoral immunity compared to the BCMA-directed therapies. A major consideration is the potential for T-cell fatigue related to chronic antigenic stimulation from BsAb therapies which can provide a rationale not to use it before CAR T-cell therapy leukapheresis.

# Combination therapies with talquetamab

Furthermore, preclinical studies have demonstrated mechanisms of antigen escape from BCMA and GPRC5D directed immunotherapy involving mutational changes in the proteins leading to disruption of BsAb or CAR T binding to the epitope.<sup>33</sup> Preclinical studies of BsAb CAR T constructs targeting BCMA and GPRC5D demonstrated higher survival than CAR T directed to either target alone.<sup>34,35</sup> This suggests that the simultaneous targeting of BCMA and GPRC5D or other targets may lead to improved efficacy whether it be via im-

munotherapies with two targets or combination therapies. In addition to the previously mentioned TRIMM-2 study evaluating the daratumumab/teclistamab and daratumumab/talquetamab combinations in RRMM, there are many other studies evaluating combination therapies to improve on the efficacy of talquetamab. These combinations span the range of different lines of therapy to elucidate the best combination with talquetamab and inform the sequencing of therapy (Table 4).

#### **Conclusion**

Talquetamab represents yet another T-cell redirection option for patients with RRMM. Future trials are ongoing to answer the question of optimal sequencing of these T-cell redirecting therapies as well as optimal combinations.

#### **Disclosures**

LL has received honoraria from CancerNetwork; AK acts as a consultant/speaker for AbbVie (relationship has ended), Adaptive Biotechnologies, Bristol Myers Squibb, GlaxoSmith-Kline, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals (relationship has ended), Sanofi, Sutro Biopharma, and Takeda Pharmaceuticals USA.

#### **Contributions**

LL performed data search, literature review, and manuscript writing. AK provided supervision, performed manuscript writing and editing.

#### References

- 1. Gill SK, Unawane R, Wang S, Ahn J, et al. I-OPen: inferior outcomes of penta-refractory compared to penta-exposed multiple myeloma patients. Blood Cancer J. 2022;12(9):138.
- 2. Munshi NC, Anderson LD, Shah N, et al. Idecabtagene vicleucel in relapsed and refractory multiple yeloma. N Engl J Med. 2021;384(8):705-716.
- 3. Berdeja JG, Madduri D, Usmani SZ, et al. Ciltacabtagene autoleucel, a B-cell maturation antigen-directed chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (CARTITUDE-1): a phase 1b/2 open-label study. Lancet. 2021;398(10297):314-324.
- 4. Moreau P, Garfall AL, Van De Donk NWCJ, et al. Teclistamab in relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. N Engl J Med. 2022;387(6):495-505.
- 5. Chari A, Minnema MC, Berdeja JG, et al. Talquetamab, a T-cell-redirecting GPRC5D bispecific antibody for multiple myeloma. N Engl J Med. 2022;387(24):2232-2244.
- 6. Inoue S, Nambu T, Shimomura T. The RAIG family member, GPRC5D, is associated with hard-keratinized structures. J Invest Dermatol. 2004;122(3):565-573.
- 7. Atamaniuk J, Gleiss A, Porpaczy E, et al. Overexpression of G protein-coupled receptor 5D in the bone marrow is associated with poor prognosis in patients with multiple myeloma: GPRC5D mRNA, a novel prognostic marker in MM. Eur J Clin Invest. 2012;42(9):953-960.

- 8. Cohen Y, Gutwein O, Garach-Jehoshua O, Bar-Haim A, Kornberg A. GPRC5D is a promising marker for monitoring the tumor load and to target multiple myeloma cells. Hematology. 2013;18(6):348-351.
- 9. Smith EL, Harrington K, Staehr M, et al. GPRC5D is a target for the immunotherapy of multiple myeloma with rationally designed CAR T cells. Sci Transl Med. 2019;11(485):eaau7746.
- 10. Goldsmith R, Cornax I, Ma JY, Yao X, Peng P, Carreira V. P-095: normal human tissue expression of G-protein coupled receptor 5D (GPRC5D), a promising novel target for multiple myeloma, is restricted to plasma cells and hard keratinized tissues. Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk. 2021;21:(Suppl 2):S91.
- 11. Pillarisetti K, Edavettal S, Mendonça M, et al. A T-cell-redirecting bispecific G-protein-coupled receptor class 5 member D x CD3 antibody to treat multiple myeloma. Blood. 2020;135(15):1232-1243.
- 12. Kodama T, Kochi Y, Nakai W, et al. Anti-GPRC5D/CD3 bispecific T-cell-redirecting antibody for the treatment of multiple myeloma. Mol Cancer Ther. 2019;18(9):1555-1564.
- 13. Verkleij CPM, Broekmans MEC, Van Duin M, et al. Preclinical activity and determinants of response of the GPRC5DxCD3 bispecific antibody talquetamab in multiple myeloma. Blood Adv. 2021;5(8):2196-2215.
- 14. Authors missing FDA approves teclistamab-cqyv for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. FDA. https://www.fda.gov/drugs/

- resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-teclistamab-cqyv-relapsed-or-refractory-multiple-myeloma. Accessed August 6, 2023.
- 15. Authors missing Janssen announces U.S. FDA breakthrough therapy designation granted for talquetamab for the treatment of relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. Johnson & Johnson. https://www.jnj.com/janssen-announces-u-s-fda-breakthrough-therapy-designation-granted-for-talquetamab-for-the-treatment-of-relapsed-or-refractory-multiple-myeloma. Accessed August 5, 2023.
- 16. Schinke CD, Touzeau C, Minnema MC, et al. Pivotal phase 2 MonumenTAL-1 results of talquetamab (tal), a GPRC5DxCD3 bispecific antibody (BsAb), for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM). J Clin Oncol. 2023;41(Suppl 16):8036.
- 17. Philipp N, Kazerani M, Nicholls A, et al. T-cell exhaustion induced by continuous bispecific molecule exposure is ameliorated by treatment-free intervals. Blood. 2022;140(10):1104-1118.
- 18. Zebley CC, Brown C, Mi T, et al. CD19-CAR T cells undergo exhaustion DNA methylation programming in patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Cell Rep. 2021;37(9):110079.
- 19. Tang L, Zhang Y, Hu Y, Mei H. T Cell Exhaustion and CAR-T immunotherapy in Hematological Malignancies. Biomed Res Int. 2021;2021:6616391.
- 20. Rodríguez-Otero P, D'Souza A, Reece DE, et al. A novel, immunotherapy-based approach for the treatment of relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM): updated phase 1b results for daratumumab in combination with teclistamab (a BCMA x CD3 bispecific antibody). J Clin Oncol. 2022;40(Suppl 16):8032.
- 21. Dholaria BR, Weisel K, Mateos MV, et al. Talquetamab (tal) + daratumumab (dara) in patients (pts) with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM): updated TRIMM-2 results. J Clin Oncol. 2023;41(Suppl 16):8003.
- 22. Mailankody S, Devlin SM, Landa J, et al. GPRC5D-targeted CAR T cells for myeloma. N Engl J Med. 2022;387(13):1196-1206.
- 23. Xia J, Li H, Yan Z, et al. Anti-G protein-coupled receptor, class C group 5 member D chimeric antigen receptor T cells in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma: a single-arm, phase II trial. J Clin Oncol. 2023;41(14):2583-2593.
- 24. Zhang M, Wei G, Zhou L, et al. GPRC5D CAR T cells (OriCAR-017) in patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma (POLARIS): a first-in-human, single-centre, single-arm, phase 1 trial. Lancet Haematol. 2023;10(2):e107-e116.
- 25. Bal, Susan. BMS-986393 (CC-95266), A G protein-coupled receptor class C group 5 member (GPRC5D)- targeted CAR T-cell therapy for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM): results from pahse 1 study. Presented at: European Hematology Association Annual Meeting 2023; June 9, 2023. Accessed September 15, 2023.
- 26. Carlo-Stella C, Mazza R, Manier S, et al. RG6234, a GPRC5DxCD3 T-cell engaging bispecific antibody, is highly active in patients (pts) with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM): updated intravenous (IV) and first subcutaneous (SC) results from a phase I dose-escalation study. Blood. 2022;140(Suppl 1):397-399.
- 27. Narayan N, Williams B, Lipe B, De Benedetto A. Onychomadesis

- and palmoplantar keratoderma associated with talquetamab therapy for relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma. JAAD Case Rep. 2023;31:66-68.
- 28. Mancia SS, Farrell A, Louw K, et al Characterization and management of oral and dermatological toxicities in patients receiving the CD3 X GPRC5D bispecific antibody talquetamab (JNJ-64407564) for the treatment of relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma. Blood. 2021;138(Suppl 1):1658.
- 29. Authors missing Oral and dermatologic toxicities associated with talquetamab can be mitigated with nurse intervention. https://www.oncnursingnews.com/view/oral-and-dermatologic-toxicities-associated-with-talquetamab-can-be-mitigated-with-nurse-intervention. Accessed August 5, 2023
- 30. Sim BZ, Longhitano A, Er J, Harrison SJ, Slavin MA, Teh BW. Infectious complications of bispecific antibody therapy in patients with multiple myeloma. Blood Cancer J. 2023;13(1):34.
- 31. Hammons LR, Szabo A, Janardan A, et al. Kinetics of humoral immunodeficiency with bispecific antibody therapy in relapsed refractory multiple myeloma. JAMA Netw Open. 2022;5(10):e2238961.
- 32. Mazahreh F, Mazahreh L, Schinke C, et al. Risk of infections associated with the use of bispecific antibodies in multiple myeloma: a pooled analysis. Blood Adv. 2023;7(13):3069-3074.
- 33. Lee H, Ahn S, Maity R, et al. Mechanisms of antigen escape from BCMA- or GPRC5D-targeted immunotherapies in multiple myeloma. Nat Med. 2023;29(9):2295-2306.
- 34. Fernández de Larrea C, Staehr M, Lopez AV, et al. Defining an optimal dual-targeted CAR T-cell therapy approach simultaneously targeting BCMA and GPRC5D to prevent BCMA escape-driven relapse in multiple myeloma. Blood Cancer Discov. 2020;1(2):146-154.
- 35. Fernandez De Larrea C, Staehr M, Lopez A, et al. Optimal dual-targeted CAR construct simultaneously targeting Bcma and GPRC5D prevents Bcma-escape driven relapse in multiple myeloma. Blood. 2019;134(Suppl 1):136.
- 36. Nooka AK, Lesokhin AM, Mohty M, et al. Efficacy and safety of elranatamab in patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM) and prior B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-directed therapies: a pooled analysis from MagnetisMM studies. J Clin Oncol. 2023;41(Suppl 16):8008.
- 37. Lesokhin AM, Richter J, Trudel S, et al. Enduring responses after 1-year, fixed-duration cevostamab therapy in patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma: early experience from a phase I study. Blood. 2022;140(Suppl 1):4415-4417.
- 38. Ryan C. Elranatamab induces responses in patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma following BCMA-directed herapy. https://www.oncnursingnews.com/view/elranatamab-induces-responses-in-patients-with-relapsed-refractory-multiple-myeloma-following-bcma-directed-therapy. Accessed August 7, 2023.
- 39. Mohty M, Tomasson MH, Arnulf B, et al. Elranatamab, a B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-CD3 bispecific antibody, for patients (pts) with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma (RRMM): Extended follow up and biweekly administration from the MagnetisMM-3 study. J Clin Oncol. 2023;41(Suppl 16):8039.