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# Breaking New Ground In The Treatment Of Guillain-Barré Syndrome

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June

Peripheral Nerve Society, 2024 Annual Meeting Montréal, Québec, Canada

#### **Disclosures**

- Consultant: Annexon Biosciences, AstralBio, Avilar Therapeutics, Boehringer Ingelheim, Dianthus Therapeutics, Grifols S.A., Immunovant, Johnson & Johnson, Longboard Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Nuvig Pharma, Octapharma AG, Seattle Genetics Inc.
- Data Safety Monitoring Board: Avidity Bio, PledPharma AB, Hansa Medical AB, Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma Corporation, Passage Bio, Sanofi, Vertex
- Technology Licensing: Worldwide Clinical Trials, Inc., Beijing 3E-Regenacy Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd., Passage Bio, CMIC, MedImmune Ltd., Fundacion GELTAMO, RWS Life Sciences
- SAB: Algotherapeutics, Nervosave



## Topline Results of the Phase 3 Trial of ANX005 in patients with Guillain-Barré Syndrome will be presented at the Hughes Clinical Highlights Session



# **Symposium Goals and Objectives**

- 1. Address the risk of GBS as a serious life-threatening neurological emergency that requires early diagnosis and targeted treatment
- 2. Review the role of classical complement activity as a key mediator of nerve fiber damage and nerve fiber repair in GBS

3. Present data on the potential role of inhibiting C1q to improve the overall health status of patients with GBS



#### **Opportunities for Advancements in Treating GBS** Treatment for GBS has not changed in the last 30 years

#### **Targeted immunotherapy approaches to prevent extensive nerve damage**

Treatment goal is to target complement-mediated acute nerve damage and inflammation to prevent paralysis, severe morbidity, disability and mortality

2 Rapid administration and onset of action Block acute and ongoing destruction of nerves immediately

# **3** Clinical benefit across entire disease spectrum

Effective in all GBS patients, and impacting all aspects of the disease that are important to patients

#### 4 Minimal side-effects

Single infusion with manageable infusion related reactions



## **Symposium Faculty**











David R. Cornblath, MD Professor Emeritus John Hopkins University Medical Center Bart C. Jacobs, MD, PhD Professor, Immunology & Neurology Erasmus University Medical Center Luis Querol, MD, PhD Attending Neurologist Neuromuscular Unit Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau

Jeff Allen, MD Associate Professor Department of Neurology University of Minnesota Lisa Butler Executive Director GBS-CIDP Foundation International



6

## Symposium Agenda

Breaking New Ground In The Treatment Of Guillain-Barré Syndrome		
Time	Торіс	Speaker
13:15 PM	Welcome & Introduction	David R. Cornblath, MD
13:25 PM	GBS Revisited	Bart Jacobs, MD
13:35 PM	Role of Complement & Biomarkers in GBS Pathogenesis	Luis Querol, MD, PhD
13:45 PM	GBS Treatment: Can We Do Better?	Jeff Allen, MD
14:00 PM	Panel Discussion	David R. Cornblath, MD
14:15 PM	Closing	David R. Cornblath, MD





# Guillain-Barré Syndrome Revisited



Bart C. Jacobs, MD, PhD Professor of Immunology & Neurology Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands

#### **Disclosures**

Sponsoring for scientific research projects:

- EU Horizon 2020 (ZikaPLAN)
- NWO and ZonMW
- Spierfonds (Prinses Beatrix Spierfonds, Spieren voor Spieren)
- GBS-CIDP Foundation International (IGOS)
- Grifols (eSPIN Award, I-SID trial)
- CSL-Behring (ICOS, Interlaken Leadership Award)
- Hansa Biopharma
- Roche
- Annexon Biosciences



 Understand how GBS is a neurological emergency with significant long-term residual morbidity

• Recognize that GBS subtypes do not have a role in clinical management

• Convey the importance for treating GBS with a targeted intervention



# **Impact of GBS: A Neurological Emergency**

- Predominant form of acute flaccid symmetrical paralysis
- Worldwide incidence 150,000 patients per year
- Immune-mediated polyradiculoneuropathy, usually post-infectious



- Usually sporadic, but also in outbreaks due to infections
- Neurological emergency
  - 20% develop respiratory failure requiring ventilation
  - 10% develop severe autonomic dysfunction
  - Mortality rate 2-5% (or higher)



#### **Targeted Treatment Given Early Could Maximize Outcome**





## **GBS Requires Rapid Diagnosis and Management**

- Early diagnosis can be challenging
  - Differential diagnosis and rarity and variability of GBS



- Current treatments with IVIg or PE frequently insufficient
  - Disease progression in 20-30%
  - Treatment-related fluctuations 15%
  - Prolonged and incomplete recovery
- An ideal treatment would rapidly and completely stop antibody/complementdriven nerve injury



## Prediction of Recovery in GBS is Mainly Driven by MRC Sumscore





14

# The Role of Complement in GBS Subtypes

Complement is activated by autoantibodies on axon and myelin

#### Acute Inflammatory Demyelinating Polyneuropathy (AIDP)

# C3d

#### Acute Motor Axonal Neuropathy (AMAN)





## What is the Relevance of GBS Subtypes for Treatment?

- Histopathology rarely available
- Nerve conduction studies
  - Various sets of criteria in use
  - Frequently equivocal subtype
  - Subtype classification may change over time
- Complement involved in all subtypes
- Treatment is the same
- Limited independent prognostic value



## **GBS is Associated with Significant Morbidity Even After 3 Years**

Quality of life (QoL) after diagnosis in patients from US/Europe<sup>\*</sup>







#### **Conclusions**

• GBS is a rapidly progressive neurological emergency that requires early diagnosis and treatment

• Current treatments do not prevent severe residual effects in many patients

• Complement inhibition is an attractive therapeutic target in all GBS subtypes





# Role of Complement & Biomarkers in GBS Pathogenesis



Luis Querol, MD, PhD Neuromuscular Clinic Unit Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau Barcelona, Spain

#### **Disclosures**

- LQ received research grants from Instituto de Salud Carlos III Ministry of Economy and Innovation (Spain), CIBERER, Fundació La Marató, GBS-CIDP Foundation International, UCB, ArgenX and Grifols
- LQ received speaker or expert testimony honoraria from CSL Behring, Novartis, Sanofi-Genzyme, Merck, Annexon, Alnylam, Janssen, ArgenX, UCB, Dianthus, LFB, Avilar Therapeutics, Nuvig Therapeutics, Takeda and Roche
- LQ serves at Clinical Trial Steering Committees for Sanofi Genzyme, Takeda and ArgenX, and was Principal Investigator for UCB's CIDP01 trial.



• Review the role of triggers and autoantibodies in GBS pathogenesis

• Discuss the importance of humoral immunity and upstream classical complement in neuroinflammation in GBS

• Address the role of biomarkers and neurotypes in GBS prognosis



## Immunopathogenesis of GBS: Molecular Mimicry and Antiganglioside Antibodies

Autoantibodies are the humoral factor linking trigger and nerve damage in GBS





## **Campylobacter is the Most Prevalent Preceding Infection in GBS**

#### **No Clear Association Between Infection and GBS Neurotype**





#### **Oedema Precedes Cellular Infiltration in GBS Course**

Ventral root: Inflammatory Oedema





Ventral root: swelling, myelin, and axonal damage



#### Autoantibodies Targeting Nerves are Common in GBS Across Subtypes





## Antibody-Mediated Complement Activation Occurs Both on Myelin and Axons



#### Myelin

#### Node of Ranvier





# C1q Drives Harmful Neuroinflammation and Extensive Damage to Peripheral Nerve Fibers in GBS

C1q Inhibition Blocks Essential Effector Cells' Function Upstream

**Classical Complement Cascade** 

**Inflammatory Antibodies and Cells** 



#### **Complement Inhibition Stopped Nerve Damage During Acute Autoimmune Injury while Inhibition During Recovery Phase Slowed Repair in Rat Models**

#### Complement inhibition blocks acute nerve damage in an autoimmune neuropathy model

- Animals developed autoantibodies that activated complement and damaged peripheral nerves
- Acute damage blocked by complement inhibition

#### Complement Inhibition Protects Against Acute Nerve Damage in Autoimmune Neuritis



Complement inhibition during recovery phase slowed debris clearance and repair in an acute nerve injury model

• Wallerian degeneration with macrophage infiltration, myelin removal and axonal regrowth



28

#### **C1q Mediates Neuroinflammatory Axonal and Myelin Damage**

C1q binds to IgG & IgM antibodies on nerve, activates classical complement pathway





#### **Elevated NfL Levels Indicate Axonal Damage**

Magnitude of NfL elevations, an indicator of axonal damage, is prognostic and a marker of severity



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1.van Tilburg, et al. eBioMedicine 2024;102: 105072 doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2024.105072; 2.Martín-Aguilar L, Camps-Renom P, Lleixà C, et al. medRxiv. 2020:2020.03.24.20042200. doi:10.1101/2020.03.24.20042200; 3.Collaboration with Badrul Islam, Zhahirul Islam (ICDDR, Bangladesh) and Deen Mohammed (Dhaka Medical College and Hospital); 4.Annexon data on file

## **Characterizing the Course of GBS**





#### **Complement Inhibition During the Active Disease Phase is Key**

Acute disease phase of GBS is generally short and varies by patient



- GBS has an acute disease phase followed by spontaneous recovery
- **Objectives of anti-C1q treatment in GBS** 
  - ✓ <u>Block</u> complement-mediated nerve damage during the acute disease
  - × <u>Do not block complement-facilitated</u> nerve repair during recovery phase
- Target treatment window is likely within first 2 weeks

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# The Treatment of Guillain-Barré Syndrome: Can we do better?



Jeff A. Allen, MD Professor of Neurology University of Minnesota



#### **Disclosures**

 Jeff Allen is a consultant for Alexion, Annexon, Alnylym, AstraZeneca, Argenx, Octaphama, CSL Behring, Takeda, Pfizer, Immunopharma, Immunovant, Grifols, Sanofi, and Jonson & Johnson.

- Review current standards of care in GBS
- Address key characteristics of optimal GBS treatment
- Outline key characteristics of ANX005 Ph1b and pivotal Ph3 study
- Patients with GBS can <u>Get</u> <u>Better</u> <u>Sooner</u>



### **Current GBS Treatments: What do we know?**





Plasma Exchange/Sandoglobulin Guillain-Barré Syndrome Trial Group. Randomised trial of plasma exchange, intravenous immunoglobulin, and combined treatments in Guillain-Barré syndrome. Lancet 1997

#### **Current GBS Treatment: IVIg and PE Appear to be Equally Effective** No placebo-controlled IVIg trials



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Plasma Exchange/Sandoglobulin Guillain-Barré Syndrome Trial Group. Randomised trial of plasma exchange, intravenous immunoglobulin, and combined treatments in Guillain-Barré syndrome. Lancet 1997

#### **IVIG: Some is Important...**

SID-GBS study evaluated 2<sup>nd</sup> IVIg dose in patients with GBS with poor prognosis

#### **Key Study Outcomes**

- No improvement in disability at week 4 in re-treated group
- More SAEs (35% vs 16%) in re-treated group
  - Including thromboembolic events
  - N=4 died in the intervention group



Figure 2: Guillain-Barré syndrome disability score at 4 weeks in the modified intention-to-treat population

# ...but more is not always better

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#### **ANX005** has the Characteristics Required to Treat GBS



#### ANX005

- Humanized monoclonal antibody
- Rapidly inhibits C1q and the entire classical complement pathway
- Single infusion in GBS



#### C1q Inhibition Blocks Harmful Neuroinflammation and Extensive Damage to **Peripheral Nerve Fibers in GBS**



# The Dose-Ranging Ph1b Study Laid Foundation for Phase 3 Design



- Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study
- N=26<sup>1</sup> Adults with GBS in Bangladesh
- Mean time from onset of weakness: 8.1 days
- Mean GBS-DS at baseline: 4<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>18-75mg/kg double-blinded dose cohorts

#### **Key Learnings Applied to Phase 3**

- ✓ Rapid and full C1q inhibition observed at all doses
- ✓ Stratified by key prognostic factors

✓ MRC

- ✓ Time from onset of weakness
- ✓ Treat as early as possible (day of randomization)

Phase 3 Designed to Define the Appropriate Duration of Complement Inhibition in GBS



#### Phase 1b Evaluated Shorter & Longer Durations of Complement Inhibition



Immediate full complement inhibition with single infusion
C1q inhibition lasts 1-3 weeks with lower and higher dose

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#### Phase 1b Suggested Shorter Duration of Complement Inhibition had a Greater Effect

Patients Gaining ≥ 3 Points on GBS-DS At Week 8

NfL Reduction Wks 2-4



Ph1b % Reduction NfL Weeks 2-4





#### **Complement Inhibition During the Active Disease Phase is Key** Acute disease phase of GBS is generally short and varies by patient



- GBS has an acute disease phase followed by spontaneous recovery
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  - ✓ <u>Block</u> complement-mediated nerve damage during the acute disease
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## **Pivotal Phase 3 Trial of ANX005 in GBS**

Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study (Best Supportive Care, no IVIg or PE)

#### **PATIENT SELECTION**

- Baseline GBS-DS score 3-5
- <10 days from onset of weakness</li>
- Stratified by baseline prognostic factors: muscle strength and time from onset of weakness
- Males & females 16 years of age and older

#### **KEY ENDPOINTS**

- Primary Outcome Measure: GBS-DS<sup>1</sup> at week 8: wellaccepted regulatory endpoint assessing functional status
- Secondary Endpoints: Muscle strength (MRC sumscore), Motor Disability (ONLS), Duration of Ventilation

<sup>1</sup>Analyzed using a proportional odds model, a common statistical analysis method (van Leeuwen, et al., 2019, <u>doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0211404</u>)

#### 2 DOSES SELECTED TO DETERMINE MOST EFFECTIVE DURATION OF INHIBITION



#### Conducted at Sites in Bangladesh and Philippines



Topline Results of the Phase 3 Trial of ANX005 in patients with Guillain-Barré Syndrome will be presented at the Hughes Clinical Highlights Session

5:00pm, Room 517d



#### **Panel Discussion**











David R. Cornblath, MD Professor Emeritus John Hopkins University Medical Center Bart C. Jacobs, MD, PhD Professor, Immunology & Neurology Erasmus University Medical Center Luis Querol, MD, PhD Attending Neurologist Neuromuscular Unit Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau

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