INTRODUCTION

BT1718 is a novel first in class bicyclic targeting peptide that selectively binds MT1-MMP (MMP-14) and is linked to the maytansinoid tubulin inhibitor DM1 by a cleavable disulfide linker. Bicycle Toxin Conjugates have a low molecular weight compared to other conjugated toxin approaches, enabling rapid tumour penetration and a short systemic half-life (up to 40 minutes in non-human primates) potentially reducing toxicity.

The target MT1-MMP (MT1) is a surface metalloproteinase involved in tissue remodelling through proteolysis of extracellular matrix components.

- Highly expressed in tumours with urgent medical need, such as triple negative breast cancer, non small cell lung cancer and ovarian cancer
- Strong link with cell invasion and metastasis
- High tumour MT1 expression is correlated with poor outcomes in multiple tumour types
- High adjacent stromal expression and low expression in adult normal tissue

BT1718 has shown potent anti-tumour preclinical activity, causing complete regressions in CDX and PDX models at doses ranging from 3 - 10 mg/kg.

STUDY DESIGN

Open label, first in human phase I/IIa study: primary objective to determine a recommended phase 2 dose (RP2D) and schedule of BT1718. Secondary objectives: pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters, and preliminary efficacy in biomarker pre-defined cohorts. Tertiary objectives: correlative blood and tissue biomarker questions.

- Accelerated dose escalation design with single patient cohorts until grade 2 drug related toxicity, then a 3 + 3 design to maximum tolerated dose and RP2D
- Two schedules being evaluated; twice a week and once a week dosing (1 hour intravenous (IV) infusion)
- Parallel expansions in patients with high MT1 expression, exploring clinical & biological activity, to refine schedule, biomarkers & population for final efficacy expansions

RESULTS: Pharmacokinetics and Safety

• BT1718 AUC increased with dose following a 1h IV administration
• Plasma concentrations were in line with preclinical data
• Plasma clearance (CLp) ranged from 4-17mL/min/kg, with a volume of distribution (Vss) of 0.15-0.30 L/kg, resulting in a terminal half-life (t1/2) of 6 to 17 minutes

Safety summary

- Two DLTs were reported in cohort 5, increased GGT (grade 4) and fatigue (grade 3) both of which resolved following cessation or interruption of treatment with BT1718.
- The first DLT occurred in a patient with a history of prior GGT elevation and who had the highest drug exposure (31.3mg/m²) – (see above). Other causes were explored and only one concomitant use of paracetamol was noted. This patient had SD at the time of stopping the study.

CONCLUSIONS/SUMMARY

• The clinical pharmacokinetic profile of BT1718 is consistent with preclinical rodent and primate data (not shown). The AUC of BT1718 increased proportionally with dose following a 1h IV infusion.
• Additional cohorts are being recruited to determine the RP2D for once or twice weekly dosing. Once the RP2D has been determined, efficacy will be assessed in patients selected for high levels of MT1-MMP expression.

AUTHOR AFFILIATIONS

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Thank you to all the patients who have kindly participated in this trial.