



touchPANEL DISCUSSION

Have the next generation of BTK inhibitors come of age for the treatment of Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia?

An expert panel discussion
recorded in June 2020

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BTK, Bruton's tyrosine kinase.

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Expert panel



Dr Roger Owen (Chair)

Consultant Hematologist/Hematopathologist,
St James's Institute of Oncology,
Leeds, UK



Prof. Christian Buske

Medical Director,
Comprehensive Cancer Center Ulm,
University Hospital Ulm,
Germany



Prof. Veronique Leblond

Professor in Hematology,
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Agenda

What are the failings of first-generation BTK inhibitors?

Presentation: Roger Owen

Panel discussion: Christian Buske and Veronique Leblond; moderated by Roger Owen

New generation, new hope?

Presentation: Roger Owen

Panel discussion: Christian Buske and Veronique Leblond; moderated by Roger Owen

Safety's generation gap

Presentation: Roger Owen

Panel discussion: Christian Buske and Veronique Leblond; moderated by Roger Owen

First-generation BTK inhibitors in WM

Ibrutinib has been approved by the EMA for patients with WM who have relapsed after primary therapy and for the first-line treatment of patients who are not eligible for chemoimmunotherapy¹



Oral, irreversible BTK inhibitor that covalently binds to cysteine at position 481 in the kinase domain and thereby blocks kinase activity²



iNNOVATE phase III study³

- Ibrutinib with rituximab vs rituximab monotherapy in patients who had received no previous treatment or in pretreated, rituximab-sensitive patients
- PFS was 82% with ibrutinib/rituximab vs 28% with placebo/rituximab (HR, 0.2; 95% CI, 0.11–0.38)



Effectiveness of ibrutinib depends on the mutational status of the *MYD88* and *CXCR4* genes¹

Number of off-target effects and can inhibit other tyrosine kinases⁴

Known to cause bleeding and atrial fibrillation⁴

Why mutational status matters



Common mutations

- MYD88 L265P is found in over 90% of patients with WM
- Patients with wild-type *MYD88* have a higher risk of aggressive transformation to DLBCL and a worse survival rate
- Recurrent mutations in *CXCR4* have been detected in 30–40% of patients with WM
- Patients with *CXCR4* mutations tend to have higher serum IgM levels, a higher risk of developing symptomatic hyperviscosity and lower rates of extramedullary disease



Response to ibrutinib

- Patients with *MYD88* L265P tend to have deeper and more sustained responses to ibrutinib with a major response rate of 80% and a 5-year PFS rate of 75%
- Patients with WM with concurrent *MYD88* and *CXCR4* mutations had a major response rate of 60% and a median PFS of 4 years
- None of the patients with WM and wild-type *MYD88* achieved a partial response, and the median PFS was shorter at 2 years

ASPEN: Phase III randomized trial of zanubrutinib vs ibrutinib for patients with WM

- WM with *MYD88* mutation
- Assigned 1:1 to receive zanubrutinib (160 mg twice daily) or ibrutinib (420 mg once daily)
- Randomization was stratified by *CXCR4* mutational status and the number of lines of prior therapy (0 vs 1–3 vs >3)



CR (%)

Zanubrutinib: **0.00**

Ibrutinib: **0.00**



VGPR (%)

Zanubrutinib: **28.4**

Ibrutinib: **19.2**

Adverse events	Zanubrutinib (%)	Ibrutinib (%)
Grade ≥3	58.4	63.3
Leading to dose reduction	13.9	23.5
Leading to discontinuation	4.0	9.2
Leading to death	1.0	4.1
Atrial fibrillation or flutter	2.0	15.3
Minor haemorrhage	36.6	42.9
Major haemorrhage	5.9	9.2
Hypertension	10.9	17.3
Neutropenia	29.7	13.3

- Improvement in CR+VGPR was not statistically significant between arms
- The zanubrutinib arm reported a safer and more tolerable adverse event profile

CR, complete response; VGPR, very good partial response; WM, Waldenström's macroglobulinemia.

1. Dimopoulos M, et al. Presented at 25th European Hematology Association Annual Congress. June 11–21, 2020. Abstract S225.

Single-arm, Phase II study of acalabrutinib monotherapy in patients with WM



- Patients were either treatment-naive (n=14; declined or not eligible for chemoimmunotherapy) or relapsed/refractory (n=92; at least one previous therapy)
- Acalabrutinib (100 mg twice daily) in 28-day cycles until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity



Treatment-naive

OR: 93% (CI 66–100)



Relapsed/refractory

OR: 93% (CI 86–98)

Adverse events	Grade 1–2 (%)	Grade ≥3 (%)
Contusion	29	0
Epistaxis	10	1
Hypertension	2	3
Atrial fibrillation	4	1
Headache	39	0
Neutropenia	1	16

- Tolerable safety profile in patients with treatment-naive or relapsed/refractory WM
- Additional trials needed to compare efficacy with other treatment options

Adverse events of grade ≥ 3 with ibrutinib



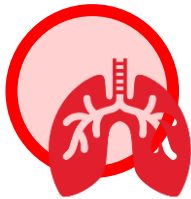
Anemia

Ibrutinib + rituximab: 11%
Rituximab + placebo: 17%



Atrial fibrillation

Ibrutinib + rituximab: 12%
Rituximab + placebo: 1%



Hypertension

Ibrutinib + rituximab: 13%
Rituximab + placebo: 4%

Management of adverse events for patients receiving ibrutinib therapy requires careful planning and recognition of the reported safety profile

Potential mechanisms for ibrutinib-related adverse events



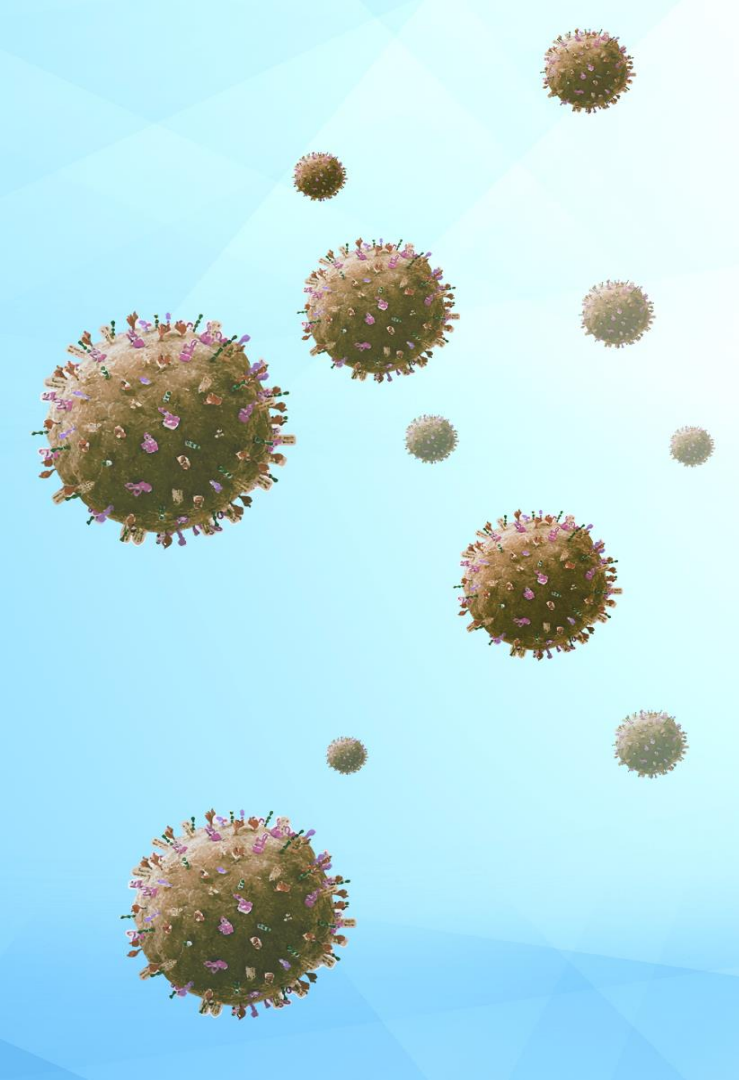
Atrial fibrillation: inhibition of PI3K



Bleeding: inhibition of platelet aggregation via glycoprotein VI



Infection: inhibition of ITK and/or macrophages



**Thank you for watching
this on-demand event**

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