

Potential Role of CAR T Therapy in Patients with MM

Edward A. Stadtmauer, MD Chief, Hematologic Malignancies Section Professor of Medicine Abramson Cancer Center University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, PA



Adoptive T-cell therapy (three major approaches)



June et al Sci Trans Med 2015

Courtesy of Edward A Stadtmauer, MD

CAR for Plasma Cell Malignancy: Autologous T Cells Transduced w/ Anti-BCMA Receptor Spliced to CD3 zeta and 4-1BB Signaling Domains





Anti-CD3/anti-CD28 mab coated bead stimulation (artificial DC) Expands the cells

Adapted from: Maus MV, et al. Blood. 2014;123:2625-35.

Anti-BCMA CAR T cells – initial studies, refractory pts

Trial (Sponsor)	n	CAR	Condi- tioning	# lines	% hi risk [†]	Dosing	ORR	ORR (optimal doses)	VGPR/CR (optimal doses)
Phase I (NCI) ¹	26*	Murine, CD3/CD28	Cy/Flu	7.5	42%	0.3 – 9 x 10 ⁶ /kg	58%	81% (13/16)	63% (10/16)
Phase I (Penn)²	25	Human, CD3/41BB	None or Cy	7	76%	0.5 – 5 x 10 ⁸	48%	64% (7/11)	36% (4/11)
Phase I (Pharma) ³	43	Human, CD3/41BB	Cy/Flu	7.5	40%	0.5 – 8 x 10 ⁸	77% (30/39)	96% (21/22)	86% (19/22)

*2 treated twice; counted separately for response. [†] FISH +t(4;14), t(14;16), del 17p

Trial (Sponsor)	n	CRS %	CRS G3-4 %	Neurotox %	Neuro tox G3-4 %	Tocilizumab
Phase I (NCI) ¹	26*	73%	23%	NR	12%	19%
Phase I (Penn) ²	25	88%	32%	32%	12%	28%
Phase I (Pharma) ³	43	63%	5%	33%	2%	21%

*excluded high tumor burden in last 14 pts. NR = not reported

¹Ali, Blood 2016 and Brudno, J Clin Oncol 2018; ²Cohen, ASH 2017. 2018; and JCI 2019 in press ³Raje, ASCO 2018





BCMA Directed CAR T Studies: ASH 2019, ASCO 2020



R, complete response rate; Cy, cyclophosphamide; DDR, duration of response; Flu, Budarabine; GEP in BM, gene expression profile in bone marrow; HEOR, health economics and outcomes researc D, incrumomodulatory drug; BWHG, Identational Myeloma Working Group; MRD, minimal residual disease; ORR, overail response rate; OS, overail survival; PD, progressive disease; PFS, progressive

EudraCT: 2017-002245-29 ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT03361748

EVOLVE: Study Design



Mailankody, ASCO 2020. Abstr 8504

CARTITUDE-1: Phase 1b/2 Study Design

Primary Objectives

- Phase 1b: Characterize safety and confirm phase 2 dose as informed by the LEGEND-2 study
- Phase 2: Evaluate efficacy of JNJ-4528

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Progressive MM per IMWG criteria
- ECOG PS s1
- Measurable disease
- Received ≥3 prior therapies or double refractory. Prior PI, IMiD, anti-CD38 therapy
- Median administered dose = 0.73x10⁶ (0.52 - 0.89x10⁶) CAR+ viable T cells/kg
- Median follow-up at data cut-off = 6 mo (3 14)



ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER

Similar approach in 3 studies:

R/R MM Steady state T cell collection CY/FLU lymphodepletion Single infusion

BCMA Directed CAR T Studies: ASH 2019, ASCO 2020

Patient Characteristics

	KarMMa: idecabtagene vicleucel (n=128)	EVOLVE: orvacabtagene autoleucel (n=62)	CARTITUDE-1: JNJ-4528 (n = 29)
Age	61 (33-78)	61 (33-77)	60 (50-75)
High Risk Cytogenetics, %	35	41*	27
Tumor Burden in BM, %	>50% PC = 51	_	≥60% PC = 24
Extramedullary PCs, %	39	23	10
Median prior lines of therapy	6 (3-16)	6 (3-18)	5 (3-18)
Triple refractory, %	84	94	86
Bridging therapy, %	88	63	79
Unique properties	Human BCMA, 4-1BB, CD3z	Modified spacer, CD4:CD8 enriched for CM	Median cell dose 0.72x10⁶ cells/kg 2 BCMA single chain antibodies

BCMA Directed CAR T Studies: ASH 2019, ASCO 2020

Response Rates

	KarMMa	EVOLVE	CARTITUDE-1
↓ ANC ≥G3, %	89	90	100
↓ plts ≥G3, %	52	47	69
CRS: all, ≥G3,%	84, 6	89, 3	93, 7
Med. time to CRS, duration, days	1 (1-12) 5 (1-63)	2 (1-4) 4 (1-10)	7 (2-12) 4 (2-64)
ICANS: all, ≥G3,%	17, 3	13, 3	10, 3
HLH/MAS, %		5	? 7 (lfts)
Infections: all, \geq G3 %	69,	40, 13	, 19
Toci/steroid/ anakinra use, %	52/15/0	76/52/23	79/21/ <mark>21</mark>

	KarMMa (n = 128)	EVOLVE (n = 62)	CARTITUDE-1 (n = 29)
ORR, %	73 (66-81)	92	100
sCR/CR, %	33	36	86
MRD neg ≥10 ⁻⁵ , % (of evaluable)	94	84	81
PFS/DoR, months	8.8/10.7	NR*	NR**
Screened Apheresed Treated	150 140 128		35 35 29

BCMA Directed CAR T Studies: KarMMa

Duration of Response, Progression Free and Overall Survival







CAR+ T Cell Expansion, Persistence, and Peak Exposure





	Mo 1	Mo 3	Mo 6	Mo 9	Mo 12
Evaluable patients, n	118	100	49	27	11
Patients with detectable vector, n (%)	117 (99)	75 (75)	29 (59)	10 (37)	4 (36)

Peak Vector Copies in Responders (≥PR) vs Nonresponders (<PR)



- Median peak CAR+ T cell expansion was at 11 d
- Median expansion increased at higher target doses with overlapping profiles
- Peak exposure higher in responders than
 nonresponders
- Durable persistence was observed up to 1 y

Data cutoff: 19 April 2019. Pharmacokinetic (PK) analysis population (N=127). One patient died on day 4 and had no evaluable PK samples and was therefore excluded. Error bars represent interquartile range. BL, baseline; C_{max}, maximum concentration; LLOQ, lower limit of quantitation; M, month.



EVOLVE: Tumor Burden Reduction According to Dose



- Serologic responses (serum or urine paraprotein, free light chains) were observed in all patients treated at 450 x 10⁶ and 600 x 10⁶ dose levels
- Orva-cel activity not impacted by high baseline sBCMA
 - − 12/12 patients achieved ≥ PR; $8/12 \ge VGPR$

Mailankody. ASCO 2020. Abstr 8504.

CARTITUDE-1: Duration of Response



AML=acute myeloid leukemia (biphenotypic); PD=progressive disease; PFS=progression-free survival

Presented By Jesus Berdeja at TBD

Courtesy of Edward A Stadtmauer, MD

56th ASCO Annual Meeting 2020, Berdeja et al. Abstract #8505 9

Anti-BCMA CAR T cells – lessons from initial studies

• Probably not curative in refractory patients



Phase I Trial – dose escalation





Phase I/II Trial



the cure is wit

ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER



Anti-BCMA CAR T cells – lessons from initial studies

• Probably not curative in refractory patients





Courtesy of Edward A Stadtmauer, MD

ABRAMSON CANCER CENTER

Why not more durable responses?

CAR-intrinsic factors

- Binding affinity, epitopes
- Tonic signaling
- Co-stimulation

T-cell intrinsic factors

- Pre-manufacturing
- Post-manufacturing
- Post-infusion
- Tumor-intrinsic factors
 - Myeloma cell
 - Microenvironment
- Other
 - Lymphodepletion regimen?





How to improve clinical outcomes?



Manufacturing NYCE T cells: *Multiplexed Genomic Editing*

- Autologous T cells
- Anti-CD3/CD28 bead stimulation
- Electroporation with ribonucleoprotein (RNP) complexes:
 - TRAC/TRBC/PDCD1 gRNAs + Cas9 Protein
- Transduction with NY-ESO-1 TCR lentiviral vector
- Expansion of engineered T cells



Cell Product Release Criteria

- Viability: ≥ 70%
- NY-ESO TCR Transduction Efficiency (V β 8 Flow Cytometry): \geq 2%
- NY-ESO TCR Transduction Efficiency (WPRE qPCR): \geq 0.02 \leq 5 Avg. copies / cell
- Residual Beads: ≤ 100 beads / 3 x 10⁶ cells
- Endotoxin Content: ≤ 3.5 EU / mL
- Microbial Contamination: Negative
- Long-term Culture: No growth in the presence of IL-2 (no cell transformation)
- Replication Competent Lentivirus (VSV-G): < 50 Avg. copies / µg DNA
- TRAC, TRBC, PDCD1 Disruption: Detectable
- Residual Cas9 Protein: Decreasing concentration from Day 0 to cell harvest

Study Schema: <u>NY-ESO-1-redirected</u> <u>CRISPR</u> <u>Edited</u> T Cells (NYCE T Cells)



Stadtmauer et al, Science, 2020

Penn Medicine

Expansion, Persistence and Trafficking of NYCE T cells: NY-ESO-1 TCR T cells (PCR)



• There is rapid expansion and stable persistence of T cells expressing the NY-ESO-1 transgenic TCR as measured by qPCR in all 3 patients

- The stable PK of NY-ESO-1 expressing T cells is very different from the PK of CAR T cells which tends to decrease more quickly

• Clear trafficking of T cells to the tumor

- The levels of T cells expressing the NY-ESO-1 TCR in bone marrow and tumor is similar to blood

Conclusions (NYCE T Cells Study)

- Generation of multiplexed genetic engineering of autologous T cells expressing NY-ESO-1 TCR and CRISPR/Cas9 gene edited to eliminate endogenous TCR and PD-1 (NYCE T cells) is <u>feasible</u>
- Three patients with advanced cancer have <u>safely</u> received NYCE T cells
 after lymphodepletion
- Engineered T cells <u>expand</u>, survive and persist long-term in patients
- Best overall response achieved after NYCE T cell infusion to date is
 <u>stable disease</u>
- May allow for engineering of off-the-shelf allogeneic CAR T cells



Serial treatment with BCMA-targeted therapies



Cohen et al, Blood Advances 2019



What's Happening in 2020 for Engineered T cells for Myeloma?

Anti-BCMA CAR registration trials in rel/ref MM

- Not perfect, still lots of relapses within 1 year, but remarkable responses in R/R MM without other options
- Ongoing ph 1/2 for next-gen CAR products
- CAR T cells against CD38, SLAMF7 (CS1), GPRC5D, NY-ESO-1
 - These are all reasonable targets, but much more limited experience

Anti-BCMA CAR trials for less-heavily treated patients

- 1-3 priors
- Post-induction in hi risk
 - CART-BCMA +/- CART-19
- Post-autoSCT
 - ASCT + CAR T in High Risk or Poor Response
- Anti-BCMA CAR combo trials
 - Other CAR T cells, IMiDs, checkpoint inhibitors
- Gene-edited T cells
 - "Off-the-shelf" allogeneic CAR T cells
 - PD-1 deficient, endogenous TCR edited T cells (Science 2020)

Case #1 CAR-T Related CRS

- 66-year-old man with an 11-year history of IgG kappa multiple myeloma.
- VTD → VRD, stem cell harvest, HD Melphalan and stem cell transplant → revlimid maintenance therapy x 5 years.
- PD → radiation to T2 and S4, → RVD and biaxin, → CAR/REV/DEX → CYBOR → one cycle of VD-PACE → CAR/POM/CY/DEX → ELO/POM/DEX → filanesib clinical trial → pomalidomide and decadron, with relatively stable disease
- Hgb 13.8, WBC 5.3, Plt 146,000, ANC of 2300, ALC of 1700, Creatinine 1.44, IgA 43, IgG 2292, IgM 20, Kappa 63, Lambda 11.5, Ratio 5.5, SPEP 1.7
- Enrolled on BCMA CAR-T protocol

Case # 1 CAR-T Patient cont.

- Steady state T-cell harvest and during manufacturing continued pomalidomide and dexamethasone. As per protocol, he received no lymphodepleting therapy. He then received the CAR T infusion in planned 3 daily doses of 10%, 30% and 60% total dose. He successfully received as an outpatient the first 2 doses.
- D+3 (11/5/15) he was admitted, with fever and hypotension. He did not receive Day 3 infusion.
- He was begun on empiric antibiotics. Chest X-ray showed interval development of bilateral patchy opacities. He gradually improved and lost his oxygen requirement with diuretics.
- Initially he had low ferritin, but by D+8, his ferritin had peaked to 4453 and CRP 5.3. He developed further fever and hypotension and received tocilizumab. When he developed worsening hypoxia and persistent fevers, he received a second dose a day later. He had worsening renal insufficiency. His creatinine peaked 11/10/15 at 2.85. He did have some mild elevation of his AST and ALT 11/11/10, most consistent with some mild toci related reaction. He symptomatically improved substantially and was discharged D+12.
- D+28 No fevers, shortness of breath or CRS
- Hgb 12.3, WBC 6.0 platelet 151,000. A normal differential. All other serum chemistries are within normal limits. His CRP is normal at 0.7. A ferritin is WNL
- IgA <2, IgG 765, IgM <10. He has immune paresis. An SPEP shows an M-spike of 0.6 (significantly decreased from 1.7 prior to treatment)

Case # 1 CAR-T Patient cont.

- D + 60 No fevers, no neurotoxicity or CRS and is feeling great. Hgb 13, WBC 9.6, platelets 225,000. Normal differential. Serum chemistries WNL. Ferritin that is down to 27 CRP is 1.3. SPEP 0.4 g/dl. BMBx biopsy which shows a 55% cellular marrow with no evidence of myeloma
- +11 mos, Hgb 13.4, WBC 7.4, platelet 174,000. ANC of 4,200. IgA 47, IgG 699, IgM 89. Kappa 10.2, Lambda 11.2, Ratio 0.91. SPEP is negative
- Did well untill biochemical progression +32 months. +35 months received Flu-Cy lymphodepleting therapy followed by infusion of the remaining 60% dose of BCMA directed CAR T-cell infusion.
- The patient required admission D+5 for cough and fatigue with fever. Evaluation revealed a new oxygen requirement, mild tachycardia, and borderline hypotension. He received intravenous fluids and admitted for further evaluation, which included a chest x-ray, which showed bibasilar infiltrates. His ferritin peaked at 94, and a CRP peaked at 14.3. He was felt to have a grade 1 CRS and a pneumonia. He became afebrile and was discharged D+8.
- D+28 clear signs of continued progression.

CAR-T Toxicities Timeline



CAR T-Cell Toxicity/Treatments

Cytokine Release Syndrome

Cause:

Activation/expansion of CAR T-cells increased levels of cytokines (IL-6, IL-15, INF-γ, GM-CSF, others) **Onset:** variable; 1 to 3 days CD28; 3 to 5 days 4-1BB **Duration:** 3 to 5 days **Risk:** variable up to 30% grade 3

- Disease burden
- Peak CAR T-cell levels
- Pre-treatment and peak cytokine levels

Neurotoxicity

Cause:

Mechanism less understood

- High CSF: blood cytokine levels
- CAR-positive and CAR-negative T-cells in CSF

Onset: 5 to 7 days; later than CRS **Duration:** 5 to 10 days

 Fully reversible except in cases of fatal cerebral edema

Risk: variable, up to 40% grade 3

- Disease burden
- Peak CAR T-cell levels
- Early and high-grade CRS
- Pre-treatment and peak cytokine levels
- DIC

• Santomasso B, et al. Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2019;39:433-444.

ASTCT Consensus Grading of CRS

CRS Parameter*	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	
Fever ^{#†}	Temperature ≥38°C	Temperature ≥38°C	Temperature ≥38°C	Temperature ≥38°C	
		With			
Hypotension [#]	None	Not requiring vasopressors	Requiring one vasopressor with or without vasopressin	Requiring multiple vasopressors (excluding vasopressin)	
		And/ or [‡]			
Hypoxia [#]	None	Requiring low-flow nasal cannula [^] or blow-by	Requiring high-flow nasal cannula^, facemask, non- rebreather mask, or Venturi mask	Requiring positive pressure (eg: CPAP, BiPAP, intubation and mechanical ventilation)	

#Not attributable to any other cause

[†]In patients who have CRS then receive tocilizumab or steroids, fever is no longer required to grade subsequent CRS severity

[‡]CRS grade is determined by the more severe event

^Low-flow nasal cannula is \leq 6 L/min and high-flow nasal cannula is > 6 L/min

*Organ toxicities associated with CRS may be graded according to CTCAE v5.0 but they do not influence CRS grading

Courtesy of Edward A Stadtmauer, MD

Lee et al. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant, 2019 Apr;25 (4):625-638

Management of CRS

ASTCT	
CRS Grade	Management
Grade 1	 Antipyretics and IV hydration Diagnostic work-up to rule out infection Consider growth factors and antibiotics if neutropenic
Grade 2	 Supportive care as in grade 1 IV fluid boluses and/or supplemental oxygen Tocilizumab +/- dexamethasone or its equivalent of methylprednisolone
Grade 3	 Supportive care as in grade 1 Consider monitoring in ICU Vasopressor support and/or supplemental oxygen Tocilizumab + dexamethasone 10 mg to 20 mg IV every 6 h or its equivalent of methylprednisolone
Grade 4	 Supportive care as in grade 1 Monitoring in ICU Vasopressor support and/or supplemental oxygen via positive pressure ventilation Tocilizumab + methylprednisolone 1000 mg/day

• Neelapu SS, et al. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2018;15:47-62; Neelapu SS. Hematol Oncol. 2019;37:48-52.

Courtesy of Edward A Stadtmauer, MD

These materials are provided to you solely as an educational resource for your personal use. Any commercial use or distribution of these materials or any portion thereof is strictly prohibited.

Case # 2 CAR T Related Neurotoxicity

- 55-year-old man with a heavily treated IgA lambda MM manifested by bone marrow plasmacytosis, lytic bone lesions, serum and urine monoclonal protein and an 11;14 translocation
- VRD → HD melphalan and autologous stem cell transplant → VRd maintenance therapy for 2 years → VGPR
- Progressed and received following regimens: Cy-Pom-Dex → VPD → bendamustine, daratumumab → Dara-Rev-Dex → Car-Pom-Pred with biochemical progression.
- Enrolled on a BCMA directed CAR T protocol, underwent steady-state harvest. Did not require bridging therapy. Successful manufacturing, fludarabine/cyclophosphamide lymphodepleting therapy followed by infusion of target dose of CAR T cells 5/6/19.





Case # 2 Continues

- On D+ 2 had fevers to 103, rigors, hypotension, desaturations to 83%, and altered mental status of lethargy. Ferritin slightly increased to 480 with CRP significantly increased to 13.
- Empirically started on cefepime and was given tocilizumab x1 dose (CRS was thought to be more likely etiology of his symptoms).
- Transferred to the MICU for worsening mental status. Persistent profound agitated delirium. Neuro workup included LP, CT and MRI which were unrevealing for a source of his agitation and as such his agitation was thought to be due to neurotoxicity.
- Started on dexamethasone 10 mg q6h. Anakinra (D+4 D+11) for CRS treatment and heavily
- Intubated for airway protection (D+3 D+12)



Case # 2 Continues

• D+12

- Hgb 10.4, WBC 20.4, platelet 99,000
- Ferritin of 184, CRP of 0.30
- SPEP shows an M-spike of 2.1 g/dl (decreased from 2.8) IgA 1,856 (decreases from 2,416).
- CT scan of his head \rightarrow no evidence of an acute process, and numerous bone lesions in his skull.
- D+22 Neurologic symptoms resolved. Performance status improved rapidly. Discharged D +28
- D+60 IgA 323
- PD 11.9 months later (IgA 667) started Car-Pom-Dex →NR
- Enrolled on a BCMA bispecific Ab protocol. Well tolerated without neurotoxicity. PR.
- May 2020 IgA 287 → high-dose melphalan 200 mg/m² and autologous transplantation. D+ 75 IgA 179
- +4 months from his salvage stem-cell transplant in remission and started on maintenance Elo-Rev-Dex





ASTCT Consensus Grading of ICANS for Adults

(IEC-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome)

Neurotoxicity Domain [‡]	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
ICE Score	7-9	3-6	0-2	0 (patient is unarousable and unable to perform ICE)
Depressed level of consciousness	Awakens spontaneously	Awakens to voice	Awakens only to tactile stimulus	Patient is unarousable or requires vigorous or repetitive tactile stimuli to arouse or stupor or coma
Seizure	N/A	N/A	Any clinical seizure focal or generalized that resolves rapidly ; or Non- convulsive seizures on EEG that resolve with intervention	Life-threatening prolonged seizure (>5 min); or Repetitive clinical or electrical seizures without return to baseline in between
Motor findings	N/A	N/A	N/A	Deep focal motor weakness such as hemiparesis or paraparesis
Raised intracranial pressure / Cerebral edema	N/A	N/A	Focal/local edema on neuroimaging#	Diffuse cerebral edema on neuroimaging; Decerebrate or decorticate posturing; or Cranial nerve VI palsy; or Papilledema; or Cushing's triad

[‡]ICANS grade is determined by the most severe event (ICE score, level of consciousness, seizure, motor findings, raised ICP/cerebral edema) not attributable to any other cause

Lee et al. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant, 2019 Apr;25 (4):625-638

Courtesy of Edward A Stadtmauer, MD

These materials are provided to you solely as an educational resource for your personal use. Any commercial use or distribution of these materials or any portion thereof is strictly prohibited.