ASSESSMENT OF F/HN-PSEUDOTYPED LENTIVIRUS AS A CLINICALLY RELEVANT VECTOR FOR LUNG GENE THERAPY

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1U Griesenbach, 'M Inoue, 'C Meng, 'R Farley, 'M Chan, 'NK Newman, 'A Brum, 'Y You, 'A Kerton, 'A Shoemark, 'AC Boyd, 'JC Davies, 'TE Higgins, 'DR Gill, 'SC Hyde, 'JA Innes, 'DJ Porteous, 'M Hasegawa, 'EWFW Alton. 1Department of Gene Therapy, Imperial College London, London, UK; 2DNAVEC Corporation, Tsukuba, Japan; 3Central Biomedical Services, Imperial College London, London, UK; 4Paediatric Department, Royal Brompton Hospital, London, UK; 5Medical Genetics Section, Centre for Molecular Medicine, MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine University of Edinburgh, Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, UK; 6Gene Medicine Group, Nuffield Dept of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, University of Oxford, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK

Rational Our ongoing efforts to improve pulmonary gene transfer thereby enabling gene therapy for the treatment of lung diseases such as cystic fibrosis (CF) has lead to the development of a lentiviral vector (SIV) pseudotyped with the Sendai virus envelope proteins F and HN.

Objectives Here, we begin to place this vector onto a translational pathway to the clinic, by addressing some key milestones that have to be achieved.

Main results These include: (1) a single dose produces lung expression for the life-time of the mouse (approximately 2 years), (2) only brief contact time is needed to achieve transduction, (3) repeated daily administration leads to a dose-related increase in gene expression, (4) repeated monthly administration to mouse lower airways is feasible without loss of gene expression, (5) there is no evidence of chronic toxicity during a 2 year study period, (6) F/HN-SIV transduction generates persistent gene expression in human differentiated airway cultures, and human lung slices and transduces freshly obtained primary human airway epithelial cells.

Conclusions The data support F/HN-pseudotyped SIV as a promising vector for pulmonary gene therapy for a number of diseases including CF and we are now undertaking the necessary refinements to progress this vector into clinical trials.

REPEATE ADMINISTRATION OF GL67A/PGM169 IS FEASIBLE, SAFE, AND PRODUCES ENDOGENOUS LEVELS OF CFTR EXPRESSION AFTER 12 DOSES

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For gene therapy to improve lung function in CF subjects, repeated administration of the gene transfer agent over the lifetime of a patient will be necessary. This requirement limits the usefulness of adenoviral and adeno-associated viral vectors (both commonly used in CF gene therapy in the past), because these viral vectors induce adaptive immune responses which render repeat dosing ineffective. Thus, for CF gene therapy non-viral vectors are currently the only viable option. We have, therefore, undertaken an extensive pre-clinical research programme to select the most efficient non-viral vector for a Multi-dose CF trial. The cationic lipid formulation GL67A was ultimately chosen and combined with a CpG-free CFTR plasmid (pGM169). We recently completed a single-dose Phase 2a clinical safety and molecular efficacy study, which demonstrated proof-of-principle for long lasting (several weeks) correction of the CF-specific chloride transport defect, but also indicated that the toxicity-efficacy window is comparatively narrow. To support the trial, we undertook a murine repeat dose (12 doses over 6 months) efficacy, biodistribution and toxicology study. We show that (a) repeated lung administration of pGM169/GL67A is safe and feasible using a clinically relevant nebuliser, (b) achieves reproducible, dose-dependent and persistent gene expression (>140 days after each dose) and importantly (c) allows for a cumulative treatment effect (as measured by levels of vector-specific mRNA) particularly when working in a clinically relevant dosing range (dose 1: 0.8% vector-specific/endogenous mCFtr (range 0–1.8), dose 12: 74% vector-specific/endogenous mCFtr (range 31.6–204). The results of this repeat dosing study in the mouse therefore (1) demonstrate that endogenous levels of CFTR mRNA can be achieved by exogenous applied gene therapy (cumulative effect), and (2) affirm the UK CF Gene Therapy Consortium’s strategy of repeat dosing.

TRANSITION FROM A DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL (DGH) CLINIC TO A DISTANT ADULT CENTRE

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1SL Prudon, R Casans, F Hampton. James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, United kingdom

Background Transition between CF centres in the same town is well reported but there is less work on transition from large DGH clinics to distant adult centres. Our local paediatric unit provides total care for 60 patients. The majority will move on to the adult centre in a city 45 miles away. Until the last 2 years transition had been taking place very late because low staffing at the adult unit limited outreach support for the local patients who were thus reluctant to move on. The paediatric team felt that although transition was hampered by the lack of a local adult centre an increase in adult staffing was an opportunity to review current practices and identify areas for improvement.

Aims To identify ways in which the transition process could be improved and to explore the need for the introduction of formal transition clinics.

Methods Adolescents (13–18 years) within the paediatric clinic and young adults (18–26 years) who had completed transition to the adult centre in the last two years were surveyed using a pro-forma merging the standards of the CF trust and Department of Health. The CF nurses also completed questionnaires about these patients.

Results 16/19 identified patients took part. CF nurse results showed that only 37% of patients started transition between ages 13 and 16 and only 50% had a key worker. Whilst the nurses felt that they offered most teenagers the opportunity to be seen alone at ages 13 and 16 only 37% of patients started transition between ages 13 and 16 and only 50% had a key worker. Whilst the nurses felt that they offered most teenagers the opportunity to be seen alone only 14% of patients stated they were seen on their own and most said they would strongly prefer it. Discussions of careers, finance, higher education and fertility took place in up to 43%, but commonly after age 16. Patients reported wanting more information on these topics. Although 60% of patients marked the adult clinic was easy to reach and had appropriate facilities, the ‘free comments’ section revealed difficulties.

Conclusions There are areas of practise that can be improved in the paediatric clinic independently of the setting up of transition clinics. More teenagers need to be seen on their own and check lists are needed to ensure all relevant areas are discussed.

CF TRAINING IN THE UK

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1DN Nazareth, M Walshaw. BTS CF Specialist Advisory Group, London, United Kingdom

Background As survival in CF improves and the adult population continues to grow, there is an increasing need for the adequate training of chest physicians to care for this patient group. To reflect this, in 2010 the UK respiratory specialist training
Pulmonary rehabilitation

Poster sessions

P99 PULMONARY REHABILITATION IN INTERSTITIAL LUNG DISEASE PATIENTS: EFFECTS ON MAXIMUM EXERCISE CAPACITY, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

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1MM Peasey, 2SS Kon, 1D Dilaver, 1JL Canavan, 1MG Ng, 1SE Jones, 1AL Clark, 1MI Polkey, 1WD C Man. 1Harefield Pulmonary Rehabilitation Team, Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, Harefield, Middlesex, United Kingdom; 2Respiratory Biomedical Research Unit, Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, Harefield, Middlesex, United Kingdom

Background There is increasing evidence to support the use of Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) in patients with Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD). Several studies have shown significant improvements in six minute walk distance and health related quality of life measures, such as the Chronic Respiratory Disease Questionnaire (CRQ), following PR (Holland et al; 2008). However there is a paucity of data surrounding other outcome measures such as maximal walking exercise tests (the incremental shuttle walk: ISW) or anxiety and depression levels. As the ISW and the Hospital Anxiety and Depression scale (HAD) are commonly used outcome measures in UK PR programmes, the aim of the study was to assess the response of these outcomes to PR in the ILD population.

Methods We analysed outcome data in 62 (30 male:32 female) consecutive ILD patients completing an 8-week outpatient PR programme. Diagnoses were idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (n=29), connective tissue related ILD (n=8), sarcoidosis (n=14), hypersensitivity pneumonitis (n=3), asbestosis (n=4), drug induced ILD (n=4). Pre- and post-PR data was analysed using either Paired T-Tests or Wilcoxon Tests.

Results Baseline mean (standard deviation) age was 70(11) years, FVC 69 (22)% predicted and median (25th, 75th) centiles MRC dyspnoea score was 4 (3, 4). There was a significant improvement in ISW (95% confidence intervals 31, 69 metres), HAD-Anxiety (95% CI –0.8, –2.4) and HAD-Depression (95% CI –0.7, –2.3). There were also significant improvements in all domains of the CRQ.

Conclusion The ISW and HAD scores are responsive to PR in patients with ILD.

Abstract P100 Table 1 Relationship between change in CCQ and change in CRQ, SGRQ and CAT with PR. ∆ = Change in PR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Measure</th>
<th>Rho</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ΔCCQ Dyspnoea</td>
<td>-0.44</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔCCQ Fatigue</td>
<td>-0.44</td>
<td>0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔCCQ Emotion</td>
<td>-0.34</td>
<td>0.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>ΔCCQ Mastery</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<td>ΔSGRQ Symptoms</td>
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<td>0.005</td>
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<tr>
<td>ΔSGRQ Activities</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td>ΔSGRQ Impact</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔSGRQ Total</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ΔCAT</td>
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<td>&lt;0.001</td>
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