

Chicago Medical Center, Maywood, IL; ¹¹ The Blood and Marrow Transplant Program at Northside Hospital, Atlanta, GA; ¹² Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc., Princeton, NJ; ¹³ Medical Oncology and Hematology, Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada

The aim of this prospective, multicenter Phase IIa study was to investigate whether daily intravenous busulfan (IV Bu) with bortezomib is a safe and effective conditioning regimen prior to second, salvage autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (ASCT) for relapsed multiple myeloma (MM) patients.

Thirty patients with relapsed MM were enrolled at 11 centers in the US and Canada. Median age at second ASCT was 59 years (range: 48–73). Median time from first ASCT to second ASCT was 28.0 months (range: 12–119). At the time of second ASCT, 7 (23.3%) patients were in very good partial response (VGPR), 12 (40.0%) in partial response (PR), 2 (6.7%) in stable disease (SD), and 9 (30.0%) in progressive disease (PD).

Patients received a test IV Bu dose (0.8 mg/kg) over 2 hours between Days -12 and -9. The test PK dosing was based on adjusted ideal body weight (AIBW = ideal BW + 0.25 [actual BW – ideal BW]) for all patients except for those whose actual BW is less than or equal to the ideal BW. For those subjects, actual BW was used. Pharmacokinetic (PK) analysis determined Bu exposure as area under the concentration-time curve (AUC), and provided optimized doses so that a total target AUC would achieve 20,000 mMmin. These optimized doses were administered over 3 hours, once daily from Day -5 to Day -2. Confirmatory PK was conducted on Day -5; Bu doses were further adjusted on Days -3 and -2, if needed. Bortezomib (1.3 mg/m²) was intravenously administered on Day -1.

The most common grade 3 or 4 adverse events (CTCAE v3.0) were febrile neutropenia (50.0%), stomatitis (43.3%), and nausea (13.3%). One transplant-related death occurred due to pulmonary complications in a patient with Parkinson's disease on Day 20. There were no reported instances of seizure, worsening neuropathy, or hepatic veno-occlusive disease meeting the Baltimore criteria.

Post-transplant disease response using the 2006 IMWG criteria was available for 28 patients. At 3 months, there were 2 (6.7%) CR, 5 (16.7%) VGPR, 4 (13.3%) PR, 8 (26.7%) SD, and 9 (30.0%) PD. At 6 months, there was 1 (3.3%) stringent CR, 1 (3.3%) CR, 4 (13.3%) VGPR, 7 (23.3%) SD, and 14 (46.7%) PD. Median progression-free survival was 191 days, while median overall survival was not reached.

Test PK showed that 40.0% (n=12/30) of patients had AUC <1,000 (n=11) and AUC >1,500 μM*min (n=1). If body weight-based doses had been used *without test PK*, these patients (40%) would have been dosed outside the target total AUC range (>24,000 or < 16, 000 μM*min) for conditioning. The confirmatory PK on Day -5 revealed that a total AUC fell within the target range in 28 patients (93.3%), while two (6.7%) needed dose reduction on Days -3 and -2.

In conclusion, a combination of IV Bu and bortezomib prior to second ASCT had acceptable safety profile and induced 20% VGPR or better responses at 6 months. No cases of VOD were observed in this group of patients in whom dose optimization using pre-transplant test PK was utilized.

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Delayed Neutrophil Engraftment Associated with Early CD 8 Polyclonal Lymphocyte Recovery Post Autologous Stem Cell Transplant for Multiple Myeloma

Liza Rodriguez¹, Da Zhang², Siddhartha Ganguly³, Tara Lin², Sunil Abhyankar⁴, Joseph McGuirk⁵, Omar Aljitawi⁶.

¹ Hematology/Oncology, KUPL, Inc., Westwood, KS; ² University

of Kansas Medical Center; ³ BMT Program/ Division of Hematology-Oncology, University of Kansas Medical Center, Westwood, KS; ⁴ Blood and Marrow Transplant, University of Kansas Medical Center, Westwood, KS; ⁵ University of Kansas Medical Center, Westwood, KS; ⁶ Hematology/BMT, University of Kansas Medical Center, Westwood, KS

Delayed engraftment following high-dose chemotherapy and autologous peripheral stem cell transplantation is a rare event. Here, we report two cases of delayed engraftment following autologous peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT) for Multiple Myeloma (MM) associated with early recovery of polyclonal lymphocytes and response to steroids. Both of our patients were 51 years old at time of transplant and women. The preparative regimen consisted of Melphalan 200mg/m² prior to stem cell infusion; the stem cell doses were between 2.5 and 2.8 million per kilogram. Per protocol, each received growth factor beginning at day 5 post-transplant. Both patients demonstrated a relative increase in their peripheral blood lymphocyte count without neutrophil recovery by day 15 in one patient and day 25 post-transplant in the other. Peripheral blood for flow cytometry was negative for lymphoproliferative disorder or recurrence of their disease. However, it was noted that their CD4:CD8 ratio was 1:6.5 and 1:6.3 with marked increase in CD8 lymphocytes. This expansion of CD8+ cells has been implicated in autoimmune cytopenias in patients with autoimmune diseases and was thought to be the cause of cytopenias in our patients. Given the delay in neutrophil recovery, prednisone 1mg/kg was started for concerns that the predominantly CD 8 polyclonal lymphocytes were responsible for suppressing hematopoiesis. Within 48–72 hours of starting steroids, the peripheral blood lymphocytes decreased significantly, and both patients demonstrated neutrophil engraftment followed by platelet engraftment in the subsequent two-week period. Delayed engraftment following autologous PBSCT is uncommon. Viral infection is a common etiology, and rarely, lymphoproliferative processes like large granular lymphocytes (LGL) have been reported post high-dose therapy and autologous PBSCT for MM. In our patients, no viral cause was found and there was no clonal lymphocyte population. In conclusion, this is the first report of post autologous PBSCT delayed engraftment in association with a predominantly CD 8 polyclonal lymphocyte population. This process was readily reversible with corticosteroid therapy and did not necessitate re-transplantation.

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Evaluating the Effect of High Dose Chemotherapy and Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation (ASCT) on Hypertension (HTN) in Multiple Myeloma (MM) Patients

Chadi y Saad¹, Muneer H. Abidi², Camelia Arsene³. ¹ Internal Medicine/Bone Marrow Transplant, Karmanos Cancer Institute/ Detroit Medical Center, Detroit, MI; ² Internal Medicine- Bone Marrow Transplant, Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Center, Detroit, MI; ³ Assistant Professor-Wayne State School of Medicine, Internal Medicine, Wayne State School of Medicine/ Detroit Medical Center, Detroit, MI

Background: A recent study showed that ASCT may reverse kidney failure in one third of multiple myeloma patients, which can lead to improvement in blood pressure. However, there is very limited published data studying the impact of the treatment on blood pressure control.

Methods: We conducted a review of electronic medical records of 184 patients with established diagnosis of MM that underwent an ASCT at Karmanos Cancer Institute between January 1st, 2009 and December 31st, 2010. We