EFFECTS OF K201 ON REPOLARIZATION AND ARRHYTHMOGENESIS IN DOGS WITH CHRONIC COMPLETE ATRIOVENTRICULAR BLOCK

ACC Poster Contributions
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Authors: Thom R. Stams, Avram Oros, Roel van der Nagel, Jet D. Beekman, Paul Chamberlin, Howard C. Dittrich, Marc A. Vos, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands, Sequel Pharmaceuticals Inc., San Diego, CA

Background: The new antiarrhythmic drug K201 is currently in development for treatment of atrial fibrillation. K201 controls intracellular calcium release by the ryanodine receptors, but also has a ventricular class III action that might predispose to Torsade de Pointes (TdP) arrhythmias. In this study anti- and proarrhythmic effects of K201 were investigated at two doses in dogs with chronic complete atrioventricular block (CAVB) susceptible to dofetilide-induced TdP.

Methods: Under general anesthesia two doses of K201 (0.1 and 0.3 mg/kg/2 min followed by 0.01 and 0.03 mg/kg/min for 30 min intravenously, respectively) were tested serially in normal sinus rhythm dogs (n=10) and CAVB dogs. TdP-susceptibility was assessed with dofetilide (0.025 mg/kg/5 min intravenously). In susceptible dogs, K201 was administered in 3 serial experiments, after dofetilide (n=8) and before dofetilide (n=7 for either dose). Beat-to-beat variability was quantified as short-term variability of left ventricular monophasic action potential duration (STV). A pacing protocol was included to increase sensitivity of the model to TdP.

Results: In normal sinus rhythm dogs both doses of K201 prolonged ventricular repolarization whereas only the higher dose prolonged atrial repolarization. At CAVB, dofetilide induced TdP in 9 of 10 dogs preceded by an increase in STV. K201 did not suppress dofetilide-induced TdP. Administered before dofetilide, K201 dose-dependently prolonged ventricular repolarization. The lower dose did not induce TdP and did not increase STV (from 1.0±0.5 to 1.3±0.7 ms, p=NS) whereas the higher dose increased STV (from 1.2±0.4 to 2.9±0.8 ms, p<0.05) and resulted in spontaneous repetitive TdP in 1 dog; with inclusion of the pacing protocol TdP-inducibility increased to 3 of 7 dogs (vs. 0 of 7 at baseline, p=NS). No preventive effects against dofetilide-induced TdP were seen at either dose.

Conclusions: Both doses of K201 showed a class III effect. In TdP-sensitive CAVB dogs no relevant antiarrhythmic effects against dofetilide-induced TdP were seen. Only at the higher dose a proarrhythmic signal was observed preceded by an increase in STV. This indicates a small safety margin.