MODERATE EFFICACY OF ORAL SINGLE-AGENT TAF AGAINST VAGINAL SHIV INFECTION IN MACAQUES

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Disclosure: Nothing to Disclose

Tenofovir alafenamide (TAF) for PrEP

- Daily PrEP with FTC/TDF is a safe and effective option to prevent HIV acquisition among men and women
- TAF is considered an alternative to TDF for oral tenofovir-based PrEP
  - Higher TFV-diphosphate concentrations in PBMC; prolonged drug persistence
  - Significantly lower dose and ~10-fold lower TFV in plasma
- Under evaluation as a long-acting single agent delivered from implants
Preclinical studies with TAF for PrEP

- No protection with a low 0.1 mg dose of oral TAF in newborn macaques exposed orally to SIVmac251 (Van Rompay et al., J AIDS 2006)

- No protection with a high 13.7 mg/kg dose of oral TAF administered 3 days before rectal SHIV exposure (Garcia-Lerma et al., J Virol 2011)

- High efficacy with a clinically equivalent dose of oral FTC/TAF combination against vaginal and rectal SHIV infection (Massud et al., CROI 2018 and JID 2016)

High efficacy of FTC/TAF against vaginal and rectal SHIV infection
Objective

To investigate if single-agent TAF is effective in preventing vaginal SHIV infection

Study design

- Female pigtail macaques (n=9) with regular menstrual cycles
  - Two macaques did not dose well with TAF and excluded (15 to 16 fmols/10⁶ cells)
- Clinically equivalent dose of TAF (1.5 mg/kg) given orally by gavage before and after SHIV challenge (24h/+2h)
  - Macaques exposed to a low dose of SHIV162p3 once a week for up to 15 weeks
- TFV-DP and dATP levels measured in PBMC by LC-MS/MS
- Infection monitored by serology and PCR amplification of SHIV RNA and DNA
- Infection outcome compared to 21 untreated controls; 6 real-time and 15 historical exposed to the same virus stock and dose
Similar infection outcome in real time and historical controls

- No difference in infection rates ($p=0.5$, Fisher’s Exact test)
- No difference in time to RNA detection ($p=0.32$, Log-Rank Test)

Efficacy of single-agent TAF against vaginal SHIV infection

- $p = 0.036$
- 73% efficacy (CI: 0.6-91.6)

($p=0.194$ vs real time controls only)
Similar TFV-DP levels and TFV-DP/dATP ratios in PBMCs among protected and infected animals

![Graphs showing TFV-DP and TFV-DP/dATP levels over weeks for uninfected and infected groups.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>TFV-DP</th>
<th>TFV-DP/dATP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infected (n=3)</td>
<td>351 (143, 1568)</td>
<td>0.68 (0.37, 2.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uninfected (n=4)</td>
<td>331 (236, 584)</td>
<td>1.04 (0.70, 1.2)</td>
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$p = 0.36$

Conclusions

- A clinically equivalent dose of TAF administered orally -24h/+2h after virus exposure resulted in higher TFV-DP levels in PBMCs compared to TDF but conferred moderate vaginal protection
  - High (~350 fmols/10^6 cells) TFV-DP levels in protected and infected animals
  - dATP levels not related to the lack of protection seen in some animals
  - Threshold for high protection likely above 350 fmols/10^6 cells
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- Results highlight the importance of defining the TFV-DP levels in PBMC associated with complete vaginal protection from single agent TAF
Study limitations

- Only 2 doses of TAF (-24h/+2h) per week
  - Limited TFV-DP accumulation in PBMC and vaginal tissues possible
  - Unknown if TDF alone given at -24h/+2h confers vaginal protection in the macaque model

- Unknown if other routes of TAF delivery (i.e. implants) would increase efficacy