Pegcetacoplan in Geographic Atrophy: 24-Month Efficacy Results From the Phase 3 OAKS and DERBY Trials – Impact on Retinal Cells

Sunir Garg

Macula Society 2023 Miami, Florida, USA



Disclosures

- Sunir Garg has the following financial interests or relationships to disclose
 - Consultant/advisor for Allergan, Apellis, Bausch and Lomb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Kanaph, and Merck Manual
 - Leadership or fiduciary role in the American Society of Retina Specialists
 - Receipt of grant or contract from the American Academy of Ophthalmology
 - Receipt of honoraria from Genentech
 - Receipt of research funding from Apellis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Genentech, and NGM Bio

Introduction

- Geographic atrophy can result in poor vision
- Complement plays an important role
- Pegcetacoplan slows the rate of atrophy
- Slowing atrophy can result in better preservation of RPE cells

GA progression over 2 years



Baseline

Total area= 6.35 mm²



+29.8%

Total area= 8.24 mm²

+26.2%

Total area= 10.39 mm²

Pegcetacoplan binds to C3 and C3b regulating the overactive complement system



MAC=membrane attack complex; MBL=mannose-binding lectin; MASP=MBL-associated serine protease.

1. Kolev M et al. Nat Rev Immunol 2014;14:811–20; 2. Holers VM. Annu Rev Immunol 2014;32:433–59; 3. Dunkelberger JR, Song WC. Cell Res 2010;20:34–50;

4. Strunz T et al. Sci Rep 2020;10:1584; 5. Anderson DH et al. Am J Ophthalmol 2002;134:411–31; 6. Boyer DS et al. Retina 2017;37:819–35.

Phase 3 OAKS and DERBY trials: Design and key criteria





Key inclusion criteria

- Age ≥60 years
- BCVA ≥24 letters ETDRS (20/320 Snellen equivalent)
- GA lesion requirements:
 - Total size: ≥2.5 and ≤17.5 mm²; If multifocal, at least 1 focal lesion must be ≥1.25 mm² (0.5 DA)
 - Presence of perilesional hyperautofluorescence
 - GA lesions with or without subfoveal involvement allowed

Key exclusion criteria

- GA secondary to a condition other than AMD, such as Stargardt disease, in either eye
- CNV in the study eye (active or history of), including presence of RPE tear (assessed by reading center)

CNV in the fellow eye was not exclusionary

OAKS, DERBY, GALE CT.gov identifiers: NCT03525613, NCT03525600, NCT04770545, respectively. ^aKey secondary endpoints. AMD=age-related macular degeneration; BCVA=best-corrected visual acuity; CNV=choroidal neovascularization; DA=disc area; EOM=every other month; ETDRS=Early Treatment Diabetic Retinopathy Study; 6 FRI=Functional Reading Independence; GA=geographic atrophy; LL=low luminance; NEI-VFQ=National Eye Institute Visual Function Questionnaire; RPE=retinal pigment epithelium.

OAKS and DERBY combined Reductions in GA lesion growth at Month 24





LS means estimated from MMRM analysis. The piecewise linear mixed-effects model evaluated mean rate of change in GA area between pegcetacoplan arms and sham arm from baseline to Month 24, with knots at Months 6, 12 and 18 allowing for the slope to be linear over each of the 6-month segments but to differ between segments (piecewise slope analysis). The mITT population was used for the analysis, defined as all randomized patients who received at least 1 injection of pegcetacoplan or sham and have baseline and at least one post-baseline value of GA lesion area in the study eye. GA=geographic atrophy; LS=least square; M=month; mITT=modified intent-to-treat; MMRM=mixed-effects model for repeated measures; PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly; SE=standard error.

OAKS DERBY

Lesion growth in treated study eye vs untreated fellow eye 24 M



Sham study eye vs fellow eye: 2% faster growth (p=0.5573)

LS means estimated from a mixed-effects model for repeated measures. Data is presented for subjects with bilateral GA with fellow eyes that satisfied the following characteristics at baseline: absence of CNV in the medical history; baseline GA lesion size between 2.5 and 17.5 mm²; presence of any pattern of hyperautofluorescence in the junctional zone of GA; and GA not confluent with any peripapillary atrophy.

GA=geographic atrophy; LS=least squares; M=month; PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly; SE=standard error.

OAKS and DERBY combined Cumulative preservation of retinal tissue





Absolute cumulative difference in lesion size vs pooled sham at Month 6, Month 12, Month 18, and Month 24 ('preserved area') from main MMRM analysis of mITT population. Fovea size calculated from average diameter of 1.5 mm per Kolb et al., *The Architecture of the Human Fovea.* GA=geographic atrophy; PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly. mITT=modified intent-to-treat; MMRM=mixed-effects model for repeated measures.

Example of GA lesion growth of 1.15 mm² on FAF



(Baseline) 4.581 mm²

(Month 6) 5.726 mm²

How does this translate into retinal cells saved?

Normal macular RPE density¹ ranges from 5082 to 7728 cells/mm²



Represents 0.25mm x 0.25mm

Normal macular rod and cone PR density vary greatly depending on eccentricity from the fovea



Fig. 20. Graph to show rod and cone densities along the horizontal meridian.



Approx 0.04mm in width

PR=photo receptor; RPE=retinal pigment epithelium.

1. Ach T et al. /OVS 2014;55:4832-4841.

Images adapted from Bhatia SK et al. Mol Vis 2016;22:898–916, Thumann G et al. Retina (5th edition), and Curcio CA et al. J Comp Neurol 1990;292:497–523.

Retina tissue and RPE preservation with pegcetacoplan monthly (estimated)



OAKS and DERBY combinedPM
(n=403)PEOM
(n=406)Tissue saved0.82 mm²0.69 mm²RPE cells saved4200 - 63003500 - 5300

Based on macular RPE density¹ range of 5082 cells/mm² to 7728 cells/mm²

1 mm x 1 mm



PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly; RPE=retinal pigment epithelium. 1. Ach T et al. *IOVS* 2014;55:4832–4841.

Retina tissue and RPE preservation with pegcetacoplan every other month (estimated)



OAKS and DERBY combinedPM
(n=403)PEOM
(n=406)Tissue saved0.82 mm²0.69 mm²RPE cells saved4200 – 63003500 – 5300

Based on macular RPE density¹ range of 5082 cells/mm² to 7728 cells/mm²

1 mm x 1 mm





OAKS and DERBY combined Nonsubfoveal subgroup: Reductions in GA lesion growth



24 MONTHS

Nonsubfoveal synonymous with extrafoveal. LS means estimated from MMRM analysis. The mITT population was used for the analysis, defined as all randomized patients who received at least 1 injection of pegcetacoplan or sham and have baseline and at least one post-baseline value of GA lesion area in the study eye. GA=geographic atrophy; LS=least square; M=month; mITT=modified intent-to-treat; MMRM=mixed-effects model for repeated measures; PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other 14 month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly; SE=standard error.





Absolute cumulative difference in lesion size vs pooled sham at Month 6, Month 12, Month 18, and Month 24 ('preserved area') from main MMRM analysis of mITT population. Fovea size calculated from average diameter of 1.5 mm per Kolb et al., *The Architecture of the Human Fovea.* GA=geographic atrophy; PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly. mITT=modified intent-to-treat; MMRM=mixed-effects model for repeated measures.

Retina tissue and RPE preservation in NSF lesions with pegcetacoplan monthly (estimated)



Subgroup analysis: Nonsubfoveal lesions

	PM (n=158)	PEOM (n=155)
Tissue saved	1.30 mm ²	1.11 mm ²
RPE cells saved	6600 – 10,000	5600 – 8600

Based on macular RPE density¹ range of 5082 cells/mm² to 7728 cells/mm²



Retina tissue and RPE preservation in NSF lesions with pegcetacoplan every other month (estimated)



Subgroup analysis: Nonsubfoveal lesions

	PM (n=158)	PEOM (n=155)
Tissue saved	1.30 mm²	1.11 mm ²
RPE cells saved	6600 – 10,000	5600 – 8600

Based on macular RPE density¹ range of 5082 cells/mm² to 7728 cells/mm²

1 mm x 1 mm



Pegcetacoplan effect on preserving retinal cells supported by signal of functional benefit on microperimetry



MP in the junctional zone (post-hoc)

Mean threshold sensitivity (dB)

Number of scotomatous points



LS means estimated from an MMRM. Subjects in the mITT population who had a baseline and at least one post-baseline value for junctional zone mean threshold sensitivity or junctional zone number of scotomatous points were included in the analysis. Junctional zone defined as -250 µm inside baseline atrophy border to +250 µm outside atrophy border. All p-values are nominal. dB=decibel; LS=least square; M=month; mITT=modified intent-to-treat; MP=microperimetry; MMRM=mixed-effects model for repeated measures; PEOM=pegcetacoplan every other month; PM=pegcetacoplan monthly; SE=standard error.

Conclusions

- If approved, pegcetacoplan will be the first and only treatment for patients with GA
- Pegcetacoplan slows GA progression
 - with both monthly and every other month dosing
 - in both nonsubfoveal and subfoveal lesions
 - with increasing effects over time
- Based on the area of retinal tissue preserved, between 3500–10,000 RPE are saved with 2 years of treatment, which corresponds with a much larger number of PR cells saved.
- Microperimetry findings in the junctional zone suggest functional benefit in the retinal tissue preserved with pegcetacoplan