CM-101, a CCL24 neutralizing antibody, showed improvements in inflammatory, fibrotic, and metabolic pathways in patients with NASH: Proteomics analysis of a Phase 2a study

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Introduction

CCL24 (etoxacin-2) is a chemokine that promotes cell trafficking and regulates inflammatory and fibrotic processes. CCL24 plays a central role in the development of hepatic fibrosis and liver injury. Patients with non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) were noted to have elevated levels of CCL24 and CCR3 in liver and blood samples (Segal-Saito M et al., 2020). Phase 2a study (NCT05824156) of CM-101 in NASH patients, met safety objectives and treatment with CM-101 showed improved liver fibrosis biomarkers and physiological assessments.

Aim

We further elucidate the effect of CM-101 on disease related pathways through an analysis of proteomic data from the serum of patients in the phase 2a NASH study.

Method

Twenty-three patients with NASH, diagnosed by liver biopsy, were randomized to receive 8 administrations of either CM-101 5mg/kg (n=14) or placebo (n=9) subcutaneously, every 2 weeks. End of study (EOS) visit occurred 6 weeks post last treatment, at week 20. Sera from patients were analyzed using the Olink® proximity extension assay (PEA) of 3072 proteins. Differentially expressed proteins between CM-101 and Placebo treated patients were identified using a mixed effect model fitted to the data. To identify pathways differentially modulated from baseline to EOS between CM-101 and placebo groups, Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA) and Ingenuity Pathway analysis (IPA®) were performed.

Results

Proteome profiling analysis differentiate between CM-101 and Placebo groups

(A) Principal component analysis summarizing the differences in the proteomic profile of each treatment group. (B) Heatmap of significant (p<0.05, by linear mixed model) proteins altered in the treatment group compared to placebo. Values are centered and scaled. (C) Ingenuity pathway analysis showing key pathways that are significantly upregulated in the treatment group compared to placebo. (D) Receiver Operator Characteristics (ROC) of selected proteins, showing sensitivity, specificity and area under the ROC curve for each protein.

Conclusion

• CM-101 5mg/kg administered SQ every 2 weeks for a relatively short duration of 14 weeks was safe and well tolerated.
• CM-101 attenuates fibrotic and inflammatory pathways while improving metabolic pathways – all essential in mitigating the sequelae associated with progressive NASH and other fibrotic liver diseases.
• Results from this study provided evidence supporting CCL24 as a potential therapeutic target for patients with liver disease driven by inflammation and fibrosis.

Disclosures

RS, JL, AM, IV and MF are employees of Chemomab

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Phase 2a Study Design

CM-101 Phase 2a Trial in NASH
Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled

Primary Endpoint:
• Safety and tolerability of CM-101 in subjects with NASH as assessed by adverse events and serious adverse events.

Selected Secondary Endpoints:
• CM-101 serum PK profile over 20 weeks of repeated SQ administrations
• Development of anti-drug antibodies (ADA)
• Change from baseline in serum biomarkers for NASH pathogenesis, inflammatory, fibrotic and pharmacodynamic parameters
• Change from baseline in liver stiffness using transient elastography