EDITION ■ HIV PERSISTENCE DURING THERAPY<sup>™</sup> Reservoirs & Eradication Strategies Workshop



DECEMBER 13-16, 2022 www.hiv-persistence.com



# Targeting the SIV Reservoir with Alemtuzumab (anti-CD52)

Ben Varco-Merth, PhD Research Program Manager, Picker Lab Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute Oregon Health & Science University

www.hiv-persistence.com





DECEMBER 13-16, 2022 www.hiv-persistence.com

## MIAMIUSA

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

# No conflicts of interest to declare.

www.hiv-persistence.com

# HIV PERSISTENCE DURING THERAPY Reservoirs & Eradication Strategies Workshop



## MIAMIUSA

#### COMMUNITY SUMMARY

- Key questions
  - Can lymphocyte depletion reduce or eliminate the viral reservoir in SIV-infected ARTtreated monkeys?
- Key findings
  - Alemtuzumab, a pan-lymphocyte depleting-antibody, induced massive depletion of CD4 T cells in the blood and tissues
  - However, this treatment did not delay time to viral rebound after ART interruption
- Next steps
  - Lymphocyte depletion, on it's own, is not sufficient to deplete the reservoir
  - Reservoir depletion strategies may need to account for the ability of the reservoir to reconstitute

# Alemtuzumab is a licensed, humanized monoclonal antibody

- Developed as a lymphocyte-targeting antibody
  - <u>Cam</u>bridge Univ Dept of <u>Path</u>ology (CAMPATH-1H)
- Used to treat chronic lymphocytic leukemia and multiple sclerosis
  - Currently marketed as Lemtrada
- Recognizes CD52, a 12aa GPI-anchored glycoprotein
  - Also known as "CAMPATH-1 antigen"
  - Expressed on lymphocytes, monocytes and spermatocytes. In monkeys it is sometimes expressed on erythrocytes
- Depletes CD52+ cells mainly via ADCC and CDC.





# Alemtuzumab can deplete HIV-infected cells



In vivo

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Journal of Virus Eradication 2016; 2: 12-18

#### Alemtuzumab-induced elimination of HIV-1-infected immune cells

Kiat Ruxrungtham<sup>1,2</sup>, Sunee Sirivichayakul<sup>1</sup><sup>4,2</sup>, Supranee Buranapraditkun<sup>1,2</sup> and Werner Krause<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vaccine and Cellular Immunology (VCI) Laboratory, Chulalongkorn Vaccine Research Center (Chula VRC), Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bandkok, Thailand

<sup>2</sup> Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand <sup>3</sup> VivoTecc. GmbH, Berlin, Germany <sup>4</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work

CLINICAL SCIENCE: CONCISE COMMUNICATIONS

# Impact of alemtuzumab on HIV persistence in an HIV-infected individual on antiretroviral therapy with Sezary syndrome

Rasmussen, Thomas A.<sup>a,b</sup>; McMahon, James<sup>c</sup>; Chang, J. Judy<sup>a</sup>; Symons, Jori<sup>a</sup>; Roche, Michael<sup>a</sup>; Dantanarayana, Ashanti<sup>a</sup>; Okoye, Afam<sup>d,e</sup>; Hiener, Bonnie<sup>f</sup>; Palmer, Sarah<sup>f</sup>; Lee, Wen Shi<sup>a</sup>; Kent, Stephen J.<sup>a</sup>; Van Der Weyden, Carrie<sup>g</sup>; Prince, H. Miles<sup>h</sup>; Cameron, Paul U.<sup>a,c</sup>; Lewin, Sharon R.<sup>a,c</sup>

#### Author Information⊗

AIDS: August 24, 2017 - Volume 31 - Issue 13 - p 1839-1845 doi: 10.1097/QAD.000000000001540

As part of a HIV cure regimen

#### Evidence for HIV-1 cure after $CCR5\Delta32/\Delta32$ allogeneic haemopoietic stem-cell transplantation 30 months post analytical treatment interruption: a case report

Ravindra Kumar Gupta, Dimitra Peppa, Alison L Hill, Cristina Gálvez, Maria Salgado, Matthew Pace, Laura E McCoy, Sarah A Griffith, John Thornhill, Aljawharah Alrubayyi, Laura E P Huyveneers, Eleni Nastouli, Paul Grant, Simon G Edwards, Andrew J Innes, John Frater, Monique Nijhuis, Anne Marie J Wensing, Javier Martinez-Picado, Eduardo Olavarria

Gupta et al The Lancet HIV, Volume 7, Issue 5, 2020, Pages e340-e347,\



Adam Castillejo, the London Patient

# PILOT STUDY: Alemtuzumab effectively depleted CD4 T cells in blood and lymphoid tissues in SIV-infected ART-treated RM



## After ART interruption, most animals rebounded but one animal did not



This monkey remains aviremic ~1900 days later and we consider this a functional cure. We have nicknamed him the "Beaverton Monkey"

- Can alemtuzumab reduce or eliminate rebound-competent SIV reservoirs in ART-suppressed RM?
- When are SIV reservoirs most susceptible to depletion?

"Early": At time of ART initiation (when the reservoir is more active)

"<u>Late</u>": Following full ART suppression (when the reservoir is more quiescent)

# **Experimental Overview**



- Prior to infection, RM were grouped based on screening for CD52 expression on RBCs.
- All RM inoculated with SIVmac239M (500 IU IV) and were treated with ART from 7 dpi through 533 dpi
- All RM received 4 doses of antibody @ 5mg/kg (either alemtuzumab or humanized control IgG)

## Alemtuzumab depletes CD4+ T cells in peripheral blood

- Alemtuzumab depleted >95% of circulating CD4 T cells
- Following depletion, CD4 T cells reconstituted



Following depletion, there was a significant increase in CD4 memory T cells proliferation



## Alemtuzumab also depletes CD4 T cells in the lymph node



## Alemtuzumab also depleted other lymphocyte subsets



BITCH HIV PERSISTENCE DURING THERAPY Reservoirs & Eradication 🛞 DECEMBER 13-16, 2022 Miami USA Plasma viremia was equivalent between groups and all RM were virologically suppressed from Week 12 through ATI at Week 76



There was no difference in pre-treatment viremia but some Early Alemtuzumab animals had delayed viral suppression

After ART interruption, Alemtuzumab did not delay average time to rebound



...however 2 Alemtuzumab-treated RM have not rebounded >500 days post-ATI

After 200 days post-ART interruption, 3 RM (2 early alemtuzumab, 1 early control) remained aviremic and underwent CD8a depletion (3 biweekly doses @ 50mg/kg)

## Smaller viral reservoirs may be more susceptible to Alemtuzumab-mediated disruption



# Summary

- Alemtuzumab depleted >95% of circulating CD4 T cells, and also depleted CD4 T cells in lymph nodes, before reconstitution
- Alemtuzumab treatment did not delay or prevent average time to post-ATI viral rebound
- However, 3 RM with smaller viral reservoirs did not rebound after ART release or subsequent CD8α depletion, suggesting smaller reservoirs may be more susceptible to disruption
- Broad depletion of CD4+ T cells may be inadequate to clear viral reservoirs as these reservoirs appear to rebound with CD4 T cell reconstitution (*consistent w/ Benner et al JCI Insight 2022*)



# Acknowledgments





VACCINE

Institute

& GENE THERAPY

Louis Picker Afam Okoye Morgan Chaunzwa Derick Duell Alejandra Marenco Were Omange Ian Bravo Manny Medina Candice Nkoy Zach Ettaki **Riley Butler** Matt Lidell Hannah Behrens

A SANOFI COMPANY



Scott Hansen Andrea Selseth Andy Sylwester Shoko Hagen

**ONPRC** Jeremy Smedley **Michael Axthelm Bree Fischer** Cassandra Moats **Rachele Bochart** Caralyn Labriola Rhonda MacAllister

**NCI**atFrederick



Estes Lab (Histology) Jacob Estes Kathleen Busman-Sahay Michael Nekorchuk **Rachel Dannay** Carly Starke

**Doherty Institute** Sharon Lewin USCF Steven Deeks

🚺 GILEAD



to find a cure

Kelli Oswald Rebecca Shoemaker Randy Fast **BJ** Bosche

**NCI Frederick** Jeff Lifson

**Brandon Keele Christine Fennessey** alaney AIDS Research



National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

DECEMBER 13-16, 2022 ED VDV.