Oncologist[®]

A First-in-Human Phase I Study of OPB-111077, a Small-Molecule STAT3 and Oxidative Phosphorylation Inhibitor, in Patients with Advanced Cancers

Anthony Tolcher,^a Keith Flaherty,^b Geoffrey I. Shapiro,^c Jordan Berlin,^d Thomas Witzig,^e Thomas Habermann,^e Andrea Bullock,^f Edwin Rock,^g Agnes Elekes,^g Chester Lin,^g Dusan Kostic,^g Naoto Ohi,^b Drew Rasco,^a Kyriakos P. Papadopoulos,^a Amita Patnaik,^a Lon Smith,^a Gregory M. Cote^b

^aSouth Texas Accelerated Research Therapeutics, San Antonio, Texas, USA; ^bMassachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; ^cDana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; ^dVanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville, Tennessee, USA; ^eMayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA; ^fBeth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts, USA; ^gOtsuka Pharmaceutical Development and Commercialization, Princeton, New Jersey, USA; ^hFujii Memorial Research Institute, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Otsu, Japan

TRIAL INFORMATION .

- ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01711034
- **Sponsor(s)**: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development and Commercialization, Princeton, New Jersey
- Principal Investigator: Anthony Tolcher
- IRB Approved: Yes

LESSONS LEARNED ____

- OPB-111077 is a novel inhibitor of STAT3 and mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation that exhibited promising anticancer activity in preclinical models.
- In this first-in-human phase I study of OPB-111077 in unselected advanced cancers, treatment-emergent adverse events, most frequently nausea, fatigue, and vomiting, were generally mild to moderate in intensity and could be medically managed.
- Overall, only modest clinical activity was observed after OPB-111077 given as monotherapy. Notable antitumor activity was seen in a subject with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

ABSTRACT .

Background. OPB-111077 is a novel inhibitor of STAT3 and mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation with promising anticancer activity in preclinical models.

Methods. Open-label, phase I trial of OPB-111077 in advanced cancers with no available therapy of documented benefit. Initial dose escalation in unselected subjects was followed by dose expansion. Patients received oral OPB-111077 daily in 28-day cycles until loss of clinical benefit.

Results. Eighteen subjects enrolled in dose escalation, and 127 in dose expansion. Dose-limiting toxicities were observed at 300 mg and 400 mg QD; maximum tolerated dose was defined as 250 mg QD. Frequently reported treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) included nausea, fatigue, and vomiting. TEAEs were generally mild to moderate and could be medically managed. OPB-111077 reached micromolar drug concentrations, had an elimination half-life of approximately 1 day, and reached steady-state by day 8. A durable partial response was observed in one subject with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Seven subjects with diverse tumor types had stable

disease or minor responses for at least eight treatment cycles (224 days).

Conclusion. OPB-111077 is generally well tolerated, and its pharmacokinetic profile is sufficient for further clinical development. Notable clinical activity was observed in a subject with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. Overall, modest efficacy was observed against unselected tumors. **The Oncologist** 2018;23:658–e72

DISCUSSION

Previous studies showed that STAT3 can promote tumorigenesis by at least two mechanisms: first, by acting as a nuclear transcription factor that alters expression of pro-tumorigenic generegulatory networks [1–8]; and second, by acting as a regulator of oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) via interaction with complexes I and II of the mitochondrial electron transport chain [9–13]. OPB-111077 is an oral, small-molecule, new chemical agent that has been shown to be a potent, high-specificity inhibitor of STAT3 in preclinical models (Otsuka Pharmaceuticals,

Correspondence: Edwin Rock, M.D., Ph.D., Macrogenics, Inc., 9704 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, Maryland, USA. Telephone: 609-356-9459; e-mail: rocke@ macrogenics.com Received December 3, 2017; accepted for publication January 2, 2018; published Online First on March 6, 2018. ©AlphaMed Press; the data published online to support this summary is the property of the authors. http://dx.doi.org/10.1634/theoncologist.2017-0325

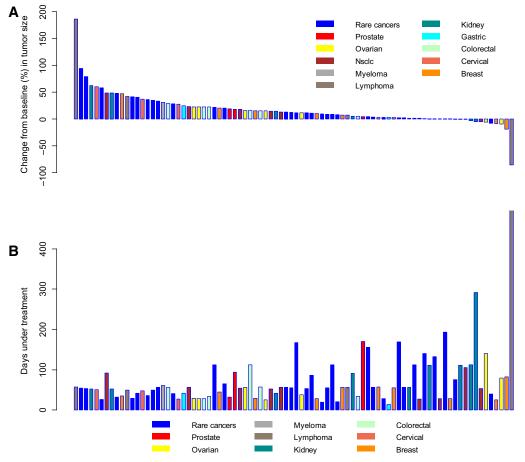


Figure 1. Maximum change in measured tumor size versus duration of OPB-111077 therapy per patient. (A): Maximum percent change in tumor size in 101 subjects who completed postbaseline tumor measurements in stage 2. (B): Days of OPB-1110777 treatment in the same patients. Note that the bars in the top graph and the bars in the bottom graph represent the subjects in the same order. Abbreviation: NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer.

unpublished). The current study assessed the safety, pharmacokinetics, and preliminary antitumor activity of OPB-111077 in patients with unselected advanced cancers that, based on prior genetic and molecular studies, were thought to have potential for a therapeutic response to an anti-STAT3 agent.

Results demonstrated that OPB-111077 was generally well tolerated in human subjects with advanced cancers. During dose escalation, none of 10 subjects receiving OPB-111077 at or below the 250-mg maximum tolerated dose developed a dose-limiting toxicity or other serious TEAE. Most reported TEAEs were reversible and could be medically managed. Common TEAEs included nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. Following single- and multiple-dose daily oral OPB-111077 in the range of 100–400 mg, OPB-111077 reached micromolar levels, which was in the range that correlated with antitumor activity in preclinical models.

In the study's efficacy evaluations, one ongoing subject with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma achieved a partial response per RECIST, Version 1.1. Seven subjects maintained stable disease for at least eight treatment cycles (gastric cancer, cholangiocarcinoma, prostate cancer, renal cell carcinoma, *KRAS*-mutant colon cancer, esthesioneuroblastoma, and B-cell lymphoma; Fig. 1). Nine (60%) and thirty (32.3%) subjects

had best overall responses of stable disease during the dose escalation and expansion stages, respectively.

Anticancer activity of OPB-111077 was therefore, in general, modest in this study, and further development of the drug will require identification of specific sensitive cancer subtypes. Given that OPB-111077 blocks OXPHOS, it seems feasible, for instance, that cancer cells sensitive to metabolic inhibition might be sensitive to OPB-111077 therapy. Notably, chemotherapyresistant and cancer stem cells have been reported to be dependent on OXPHOS [14, 15], and drug combinations with OPB-111077 can be envisioned to exploit this observation [16, 17]. It is important to note, however, that it remains unclear whether effects other than those on OXPHOS were required for the observed anticancer effect of OPB-111077 in the current study population of advanced cancer patients.

In conclusion, OPB-111077 can be administered safely. Its pharmacokinetic profile is acceptable for further clinical development. Although notable clinical activity was observed in a subject with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, monotherapy demonstrated minimal clinical activity against unselected tumors overall. Research continues to identify drivers of OPB-111077 clinical activity and synergistic combinations.

Oncologist*

TRIAL INFORMATION	
Disease	Advanced cancer
Stage of Disease/Treatment	Metastatic/advanced
Prior Therapy	No designated number of regimens
Stage 1	Phase I - Dose escalation
Stage 2	Phase I - Dose expansion
Primary Endpoint	Safety
Primary Endpoint	Tolerability
Secondary Endpoint	Pharmacokinetics
Secondary Endpoint	Pharmacodynamic
Secondary Endpoint	Efficacy
Secondary Endpoint	Maximum tolerated dose
Secondary Endpoint	Recommended phase II dose
Secondary Endpoint	Food-effect substudy
Investigator's Analysis	Drug tolerable, hints of efficacy

Drug Information for Phase I Dose Escalation (Stage 1)				
Generic/Working Name	OPB-111077			
Trade Name	NA			
Company Name	Otsuka Pharmaceutical			
Drug Type	Small molecule			
Drug Class	STAT3 and OXPHOS inhibitor			
Dose	100–400 mg per flat dose			
Route	р.о.			
Schedule of Administration	Every morning under fasting conditions in 28-day cycles.			

Drug Information for Phase I Expansion (Stage 2)				
Generic/Working Name	OPB-111077			
Trade Name	NA			
Company Name	Otsuka Pharmaceuticals			
Drug Type	Small molecule			
Drug Class	STAT3 and OXPHOS inhibitor			
Dose	250 mg per flat dose			
Route	p.o.			

PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS FOR PHASE I DOSE ESCALATION (STAGE 1)				
Number of Patients, Male	12			
Number of Patients, Female	6			
Stage	All advanced			
Age	Mean years (standard deviation [SD]) = 64.4 (11.4)			
Performance Status: ECOG	0 — 7			
	1 - 11			
	2 — 0			
	3 — 0			
	Unknown — 0			
Other				
Prior surgery, n (%)	15 (83.3)			
Prior radiotherapy, n (%)	9 (50.0)			
Prior chemotherapy/hormone, n (%)	16 (88.9)			

PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS FOR PHASE I EXPANSION (STAGE 2)				
Number of Patients, Male	59			
Number of Patients, Female	68			
Age	Mean age (SD) = 60.9 (11.6)			
Performance Status: ECOG	0 — 35			
	1 — 86			
	2 — 6			
	3 — 0			
	Unknown — 0			
Other				
Prior surgery, n (%)	107 (84.3)			
Prior radiotherapy, n (%)	69 (54.3)			
Prior chemotherapy/hormone, n (%)	127 (100)			

PRIMARY ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR PHASE I DOSE ESCALATION (STAGE 1)				
Title	Dose escalation (stage 1)			
Number of Patients Screened	19			
Number of Patients Enrolled	18			
Number of Patients Evaluable for Toxicity	18			
Number of Patients Evaluated for Efficacy	15			
Evaluation Method	RECIST 1.1			
Response Assessment CR	n = 0 (0%)			
Response Assessment PR	n = 0 (0%)			
Response Assessment SD	n = 10 (67%)			
Response Assessment PD	n = 5 (33%)			
Response Assessment OTHER	n = 0 (0%)			

PRIMARY ASSESSMENT METHOD FOR PHASE I EXPANSION (STAGE 2)				
Title	Expansion (stage 2)			
Number of Patients Screened	145			
Number of Patients Enrolled	127			
Number of Patients Evaluable for Toxicity	127			
Number of Patients Evaluated for Efficacy	93			
Evaluation Method	RECIST 1.1			
Response Assessment CR	n = 0 (0%)			
Response Assessment PR	n = 0 (0%)			
Response Assessment SD	n = 30 (32%)			
Response Assessment PD	n = 54 (58%)			
Response Assessment OTHER	n = 9 (10%)			

Oncologist*

Adverse Events								
Name	NC/NA	1	2	3	4	5	All Grades	n
Nausea	40	50	32	5	0	0	87	127
Fatigue	51	30	42	4	0	0	76	127
Vomiting	66	44	13	4	0	0	61	127
Constipation	80	27	17	3	0	0	47	127
Dizziness	87	31	8	1	0	0	40	127
Anorexia	97	16	14	0	0	0	30	127
Diarrhea	102	17	7	1	0	0	25	127
Hypothyroidism	103	11	13	0	0	0	24	127
Dehydration	104	4	19	0	0	0	23	127
Aspartate aminotransferase increased	109	8	2	8	0	0	18	127
Anemia	111	2	8	6	0	0	16	127
GGT increased	111	2	7	6	1	0	16	127
Dyspnea	112	8	5	2	0	0	15	127
Hyponatremia	113	5	0	8	1	0	14	127
Cough	113	9	5	0	0	0	14	127
Abdominal pain	114	5	7	1	0	0	13	127

Treatment-emergent adverse events reported in \geq 10% of subjects in stage 2 (expansion); n = 127. Abbreviations: GGT, gamma-glutamyltransferase; NC/NA, no change from baseline/no adverse event.

Serious Adverse Events		
Event	Number of subjects (%)	Number of events reported
Cardiac disorder ^a	8 (6)	8
Gastrointestinal	12 (8)	19
Nausea	3 (2)	4
Infections and infestations	6 (4)	7
Respiratory	12 (8)	16
Pulmonary embolism	3 (2)	3

^aOne cardiac event (grade 3 right ventricular dysfunction) was judged possibly related. The rest were unrelated to study medication.

Pharmacokinetics/Pharmacodynamics						
Dose level	Dose of drug: OPB-111077	Number enrolled	C _{max} (μg/L) mean ± SD	T _{max} (h) (min–max)	AUC∞ (hr∙µg/mL) mean ± SD	$T_{1/2}$ (h) mean ± SD
	Cycle 1, day 1					
1	100 mg	1	1.10	0.50	26.6	32.3
2	200 mg	3	1.90 (0.427)	4.08 (4.08–4.08)	58.4 (8.13)	22.2 (5.7)
3	250 mg	6	3.17 (2.02)	4.08 (1.25–8.07)	81.2 (26.9)	25.0 (8.0)
4	300 mg	6	3.48 (1.09)	4.08 (2.08–4.18)	112 (30.9)	32.8 (16.8)
5	400 mg	2	2.67 (NA)	5.57 (1.08–10.05)	63.2 (NA)	24.7 (NA)
	Cycle 2, day 1					
1	100 mg	1	2.33	10.00	102	25.8
2	200 mg	3	4.85 (0.804)	5.02 (1.00-8.10)	157 (70.5)	23.0 (8.7)
3	250 mg	5	6.36 (0.846)	0.53 (0.50–2.00)	223 (112)	28.7 (10.3)
4	400 mg	2	7.24 (NA)	2.26 (0.50-4.02)	226 (NA)	24.3 (NA)

Abbreviations: AUC_{∞} , area under the concentration-time curve from time 0 to infinity; C_{max} , peak (maximal) concentration of drug in plasma; hr, hours; NA, nonapplicable; SD, standard deviation; t_{max} , time to maximum (peak) plasma concentration; $T_{1/2}$ terminal phase elimination half-life.

ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION

Completion Investigator's Assessment

Previous studies have shown that STAT3 promotes tumorigenesis by at least two mechanisms: first, by acting as a nuclear transcription factor that alters expression of pro-tumorigenic gene-regulatory networks [1-8]; and second, by acting as a regulator of oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) via interaction with complexes I and II of the mitochondrial electron transport chain [9-13]. Given this broad involvement in tumorigenesis, significant effort has been devoted to the discovery of smallmolecule STAT3 inhibitors [18-20]. One agent that showed early promise was OPB-31121, which binds with high affinity to STAT3 ($K_d = 10$ nM), blocks STAT3 activity without upstream kinase inhibition, and inhibits growth of diverse malignant cells at nanomolar concentrations in various preclinical models [21, 22]. A phase 1 study, however, found that the bioavailability of OPB-31121 was low, and further development of the agent was discontinued [23].

The same phase I study found that the primary metabolite of OPB-31121, designated OPB-111077, accumulated at higher tissue levels [23]. Subsequent in vitro studies found that OPB-111077 had significant growth inhibitory effect in a variety of cancer models (Otsuka Pharmaceuticals, unpublished). Following up on these observations, the current study was designed to assess safety, pharmacokinetics, and preliminary antitumor activity of OPB-111077 in patients with advanced cancers that, based on prior genetic and molecular studies, were thought to have potential for a therapeutic response to an anti-STAT3 agent. The study consisted of a dose escalation phase (n = 18), followed by a dose expansion phase at the maximum tolerated dose (MTD; n = 127; Tables 1–3). All patients received oral OPB-111077 once daily until loss of clinical benefit.

During dose escalation, no dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs) were observed in the 100-mg, 200-mg, and 250-mg dose cohorts (Table 4). Two DLTs were observed in the 300-mg dose cohort (grade 3 dizziness and grade 3 nausea/vomiting) and in the 400-mg dose cohort (two cases of grade 3 vomiting). The MTD and recommended phase II dose were thus determined to be 250 mg QD. All 18 subjects reported at least one treatmentemergent adverse event (TEAE) during dose escalation, and 125 of 127 subjects (98.4%) reported at least one such event during dose expansion. Frequently reported TEAEs included nausea, vomiting, and fatigue (Table 5). At doses \geq 300 mg, vomiting was dose limiting despite optimal antiemetic therapy, whereas nausea and vomiting at the MTD could be controlled by antiemetics. Grade 1 or 2 hypothyroidism was reported in 20% of study participants, nearly all of which (27 of 29 [93.1%] cases) were thought to be drug-related. Four subjects (22%) in dose escalation and 45 (35.4%) in dose expansion had serious TEAEs. Frequently reported serious adverse events (SAEs) were cardiac, gastrointestinal, and respiratory disorders (Table 6). With the exception of a grade 3 cardiac event, none of these SAEs were considered related to study medication.

OPB-111077 exposure increased linearly after single and multiple ascending daily doses (Table 7). $T_{\rm max}$ at the MTD was

Study completed Drug tolerable, hints of efficacy

about 4 hours. Steady-state concentrations were observed by day 8, consistent with the observed elimination half-life of about 1 day. AUC_{0-24h} and C_{max} accumulation ratios were about 2–3.

Among 15 subjects in dose escalation evaluated for best overall response, 9 (60%) had stable disease, and 5 (33.3%) had progressive disease (at least eight cycles on study therapy) [24]. An additional subject continued treatment in the dose escalation stage as of the database cutoff date (May 27, 2015) and had stable disease on initiating his 26th cycle at 300 mg. In dose expansion, 93 subjects were assessed for efficacy and 89 were evaluated for best overall response. In best overall response analysis, 30 subjects (32.3%) had stable disease, 54 (58.1%) had progressive disease, 3 (3.2%) were not evaluable, and 2 (2.2%) were missing an assessment.

Maximum change in tumor size versus duration of OPB-111077 therapy is shown in Figure 1. Eight subjects met protocol-defined antitumor activity thresholds. These responses included an individual with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (with BCL2 amplification only on fluorescence in situ hybridization studies and no amplification of BCL6 or MYC) on OPB-111077 for 17 months who achieved a partial response (Fig. 2). In addition, a renal cell carcinoma patient had 35% shrinkage in lung metastases but progressed with brain metastasis. Another seven subjects met stable disease criteria for at least eight treatment cycles. Tumor types and stable disease durations were as follows: gastric cancer (two subjects for 8 months), cholangiocarcinoma (8 months), prostate cancer (10 months), renal cell carcinoma (10 months; subject had 35% shrinkage of lung metastasis, but developed brain metastases), KRAS-mutant colon cancer (14 months), and esthesioneuroblastoma (48 months).

Given its modest efficacy in this trial, further development of OPB-111077 will require identification of specific cancer subtypes sensitive to STAT3 inhibition. Because OPB-111077 blocks OXPHOS, it seems feasible that cancer cells sensitive to metabolic inhibition might be particularly sensitive to the drug. Chemotherapy-resistant and cancer stem cells have both been reported to be dependent on OXPHOS [14, 15], and drug combinations with OPB-111077 might build on this observation [16, 17]. Conversely, it remains unconfirmed what effects led to the observed anticancer effect of OPB-111077 in the current trial.

This study was limited by the absence of pharmacodynamic confirmation of OPB-111077 effect. An assay to assess inhibition of IL6-stimulated Y705 phosphorylation of STAT3 in peripheral blood mononuclear cells has been developed using a phospho-specific monoclonal antibody, but it was not used here due to the difficulty of maintaining analytic validity when the IL6-stimulation protocol was deployed at trial sites. Bearing in mind this caveat, this first in-human study of OPB-111077 has shown that this new anti-STAT3 agent can be administered safely and its pharmacokinetic profile is acceptable for further clinical development. Notable clinical activity was observed in a subject with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, although monotherapy had minimal clinical activity against unselected tumors overall. Research continues to identify drivers of OPB-111077 clinical activity and synergistic combinations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

David Norris, Ph.D. (Ecosse Medical Communications, Falmouth, Massachusetts, USA), assisted in the medical writing of this manuscript.

DISCLOSURES

Anthony Tolcher: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. (RF); Geoffrey I. Shapiro: Eli Lilly & Co., Pfizer,

REFERENCES _

1. Sehgal PB. Paradigm shifts in the cell biology of STAT signaling. Semin Cell Dev Biol 2008;19:329–340.

2. Xu F, Mukhopadhyay S, Sehgal PB. Live cell imaging of interleukin-6-induced targeting of "transcription factor" STAT3 to sequestering endosomes in the cytoplasm. Am J Physiol Cell Physiol 2007;293:C1374– C1382.

3. Schroeder A, Herrmann A, Cherryholmes G et al. Loss of androgen receptor expression promotes a stem-like cell phenotype in prostate cancer through STAT3 signaling. Cancer Res 2014;74:1227–1237.

4. Buettner R, Mora LB, Jove R. Activated STAT signaling in human tumors provides novel molecular targets for therapeutic intervention. Clin Cancer Res 2002;8:945–954.

5. Weaver AM, Silva CM. Signal transducer and activator of transcription 5b: A new target of breast tumor kinase/protein tyrosine kinase 6. Breast Cancer Res 2007;9:R79.

6. Furqan M, Akinleye A, Mukhi N et al. STAT inhibitors for cancer therapy. J Hematol Oncol 2013;6:90.

7. Frank DA. STAT3 as a central mediator of neoplastic cellular transformation. Cancer Lett 2007; 251:199–210.

8. Bar-Natan M, Nelson EA, Xiang M et al. STAT signaling in the pathogenesis and treatment of myeloid malignancies. JAKSTAT 2012;1:55–64.

9. Meier JA, Larner AC. Toward a new STATE: The role of stats in mitochondrial function. Semin Immunol 2014;26:20–28.

10. Wegrzyn J, Potla R, Chwae YJ et al. Function of mitochondrial STAT3 in cellular respiration. Science 2009;323:793–797.

11. Gough DJ, Corlett A, Schlessinger K et al. Mitochondrial STAT3 supports Ras-dependent oncogenic transformation. Science 2009;324: 1713–1716.

12. Mackenzie GG, Huang L, Alston N et al. Targeting mitochondrial STAT3 with the novel phosphovalproic acid (MDC-1112) inhibits pancreatic cancer growth in mice. PLoS One 2013;8:e61532.

13. Genini D, Brambilla L, Laurini E et al. Mitochondrial dysfunction induced by a SH2 domain-targeting STAT3 inhibitor leads to metabolic synthetic lethality in cancer cells. Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 2017;114: E4924–E4933.

14. Dando I, Dalla Pozza E, Biondani G et al. The metabolic landscape of cancer stem cells. IUBMB Life 2015;67:687–693.

15. Zhang X, de Milito A, Olofsson MH et al. Targeting mitochondrial function to treat quiescent tumor cells in solid tumors. Int J Mol Sci 2015;16:27313– 27326.

16. Denise C, Paoli P, Calvani M et al. 5-fluorouracil resistant colon cancer cells are addicted to OXPHOS to survive and enhance stem-like traits. Oncotarget 2015;6:41706–41721.

17. Vellinga TT, Borovski T, de Boer VC et al. SIRT1/PGC1alpha-dependent increase in oxidative phosphorylation supports chemotherapy

G1 Therapeutics, Merck/EMD Serono, Otsuka, Roche (C/A), Eli Lilly & Co., Pfizer, Merck/EMD Serono (RF); Jordan Berlin: Otsuka (RF); Thomas Witzig: Otsuka (RF); Andrea Bullock: Taiho, Halozyme, Bayer (C/A); Edwin Rock: Otsuka (E); Agnes Elekes: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. (E); Chester Lin: Otsuka (E); Dusan Kostic: Otsuka (E); Naoto Ohi: Fujii Memorial Research Institute, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., (E); Drew Rasco: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. (RF); Kyriakos P. Papadopoulos: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. (RF); Amita Patnaik: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. (RF); Lon Smith: Otsuka Pharmaceutical Development & Commercialization, Inc. (RF). The other authors indicated no financial relationships. (C/A) Consulting/advisory relationship; (RF) Research funding; (E) Employment; (ET) Expert testimony; (H) Honoraria received; (OI) Ownership interests; (IP) Intellectual property rights/ inventor/patent holder; (SAB) Scientific advisory board

resistance of colon cancer. Clin Cancer Res 2015; 21:2870–2879.

18. Yu H, Pardoll D, Jove R. STATs in cancer inflammation and immunity: A leading role for STAT3. Nat Rev Cancer 2009;9:798–809.

19. Debnath B, Xu S, Neamati N. Small molecule inhibitors of signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) protein. J Med Chem 2012;55: 6645–6668.

20. Miklossy G, Hilliard TS, Turkson J. Therapeutic modulators of STAT signalling for human diseases. Nat Rev Drug Discov 2013;12:611–629.

21. Brambilla L, Genini D, Laurini E et al. Hitting the right spot: Mechanism of action of OPB-31121, a novel and potent inhibitor of the signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3). Mol Oncol 2015;9:1194–1206.

22. Hayakawa F, Sugimoto K, Harada Y et al. A novel STAT inhibitor, OPB-31121, has a significant antitumor effect on leukemia with STAT-addictive oncokinases. Blood Cancer J 2013;3: e166.

23. Oh DY, Lee SH, Han SW et al. Phase I study of OPB-31121, an oral STAT3 inhibitor, in patients with advanced solid tumors. Cancer Res Treat 2015;47: 607–615.

24. Eisenhauer EA, Therasse P, Bogaerts J et al. New response evaluation criteria in solid tumours: Revised RECIST guideline (version 1.1). Eur J Cancer 2009;45:228–247.

FIGURES AND TABLES

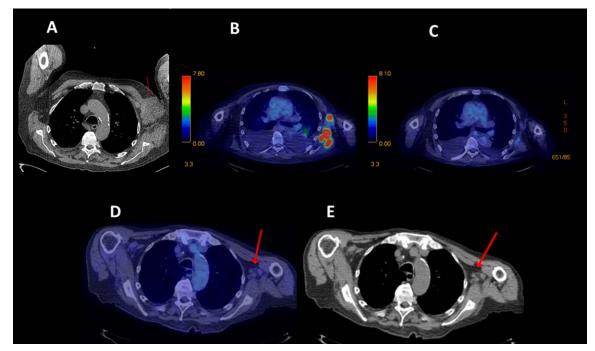


Figure 2. Partial response in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. A 78-year-old man with diffuse large B-cell lymphoma diagnosed 3 years and six chemotherapy regimens before study entry. **(A)**: Baseline computed tomography (CT) scan showing red arrow pointing to bulky left axillary mass. **(B)**: End of cycle 2 positron emission tomography (PET) scan showing persistent left axillary glucose uptake in areas of lymphoma. **(C)**: End of cycle 4 PET scan showing complete metabolic response. **(D, E)**: End of cycle 14 PET and CT scans with red arrows pointing to ongoing complete metabolic response and nonpathologic residual nodes, respectively. After a gradual 90% decline in measured disease, at month 17 the subject's disease progressed distantly in the thigh, and study therapy was stopped.

Table 1. Patient demographics and baseline characteristic	S
---	---

Characteristics	Dose escalation (stage 1), $(n = 18)$	Expansion (stage 2), (n = 127)
Age, years, mean (SD)	64.4 (11.4)	60.9 (11.6)
Male, n (%)	12 (66.7)	59 (46.5)
Diagnosis, n (%)		
Rare cancers	8 (44.4)	42 (33.1)
NSCLC	1 (5.6)	13 (10.2)
Breast	0 (0.0)	13 (10.2)
Kidney	2 (11.1)	11 (8.7)
Ovarian	0 (0.0)	11 (8.7)
Colorectal	2 (11.1)	10 (7.9)
Prostate	3 (16.7)	8 (6.3)
Gastric	0 (0.0)	7 (5.5)
Lymphoma	1 (5.6)	8 (6.3)
Cervical	1 (5.6)	3 (2.4)
Myeloma	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)
ECOG performance status, n (%)		
0	7 (38.9)	35 (27.6)
1	11 (61.1)	86 (67.7)
2	0 (0.0)	6 (4.7)
Prior surgery, n (%)	15 (83.3)	107 (84.3)
Prior radiotherapy, n (%)	9 (50.0)	69 (54.3)
Prior chemotherapy/ hormone, <i>n</i> (%)	16 (88.9)	127 (100)

Abbreviations: ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; SD, standard deviation.

	OPB-11107 Dose cohort							
Subjects	100 mg, n (%)	200 mg, <i>n</i> (%)	400 mg, n (%)	250 mg, n (%)	300 mg, n (%)	Total ^a , <i>n</i> (%)		
Screened						19		
Enrolled	1 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	2 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	18 (100.0)		
Treated	1 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	2 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	18 (100.0)		
Completed per protocol ^b	1 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	1 (50.0)	5 (83.3)	5 (83.3)	15 (83.3)		
Discontinued prior to C2 D1	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (50.0)	1 (16.7)	1 (16.7)	3 (16.7)		
Discontinued after C2 D1	1 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	1 (50.0)	5 (83.3)	4 (66.7)	14 (77.8)		
Analyzed for safety ^c	1 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	2 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	6 (100.0)	18 (100.0)		
Analyzed for efficacy ^d	1 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	1 (50.0)	5 (83.3)	5 (83.3)	15 (83.3)		

Table 2. Subject disposition during dose escalation (stage 1)

^aAs of the report cutoff date (May 27, 2015), one subject (subject 0010110) in the 300-mg group was ongoing on treatment in the dose escalation stage. $^{\mathrm{b}}$ Subjects who completed cycle 2 day 1 assessments were defined as completers.

^cSubjects who received any OPB-111077 were included in safety analysis.

^dSubjects who received at least one cycle of OPB-111077 were analyzed for efficacy.

Abbreviation: C2 D1, cycle 2 day 1.

Table 3	Suh	iert r	lisnosition	during	doce	expansion	(stage 2)	1
Table .	J. JUD	<u>ject</u> τ	isposition	uuring	uuse	expansion	(Stage Z)	

Subjects	NSCLC, n (%)	Kidney, n (%)	Rare cancers, n (%)	Gastric, n (%)	Prostate, n (%)	Colorectal, n (%)	Lymphoma, n (%)	Breast, n (%)	Cervical, n (%)	Ovarian, n (%)	Myeloma, n (%)	Total, n (%)
Screened												145
Enrolled	13 (100.0)	11 (100.0)	42 (100.0)	7 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	10 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	13 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	11 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	127 (100.0)
Food-effect substudy	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (7.1)	1 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	7 (5.5)
Treated	13 (100.0)	11 (100.0)	42 (100.0)	7 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	10 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	13 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	11 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	127 (100.0)
Food-effect substudy	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (7.1)	1 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	1 (10.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (7.7)	0 (0.0)	1 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	7 (5.5)
Completed per protocol ^a	8 (61.5)	10 (90.9)	32 (76.2)	6 (85.7)	7 (87.5)	8 (80.0)	5 (62.5)	7 (53.8)	2 (66.7)	7 (63.6)	1 (100.0)	93 (73.2)
Discontinued prior to C2 D1	5 (38.5)	1 (9.1)	10 (23.8)	1 (14.3)	1 (12.5)	2 (20.0)	3 (37.5)	6 (46.2)	1 (33.3)	4 (36.4)	0 (0.0)	34 (26.8)
Discontinued after C2 D1	8 (61.5)	10 (90.9)	31 (73.8)	6 (85.7)	7 (87.5)	8 (80.0)	4 (50.0)	7 (53.8)	2 (66.7)	7 (63.6)	1 (100.0)	91 (71.7)
Analyzed for safety ^b	13 (100.0)	11 (100.0)	42 (100.0)	7 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	10 (100.0)	8 (100.0)	13 (100.0)	3 (100.0)	11 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	127 (100.0)
Analyzed for efficacy ^c	8 (61.5)	10 (90.9)	32 (76.2)	6 (85.7)	7 (87.5)	8 (80.0)	5 (62.5)	7 (53.8)	2 (66.7)	7 (63.6)	1 (100.0)	93 (73.2)

^aSubjects who completed cycle 2 day 1 assessments were defined as completers.

^bSubjects who received any IMP were included in safety analysis.

^cSubjects who received at least one cycle of IMP were analyzed for efficacy.

Abbreviations: C2 D1, cycle 2 day 1; IMP, investigational medicinal product; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer.

Table 4. Dose-limiting toxicitie	s as a function	of OPB-111077 dose
----------------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

		OPB-11107 dose cohort						
	100 mg	200 mg	250 mg	300 mg	400 mg			
n	1	3	6	6	2			
DLTs	_	_	_	Dizziness (grade 3) Nausea/vomiting (grade 3)	Vomiting (grade 3) (two cases)			

Abbreviations: -, no data; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity.

Table 5. Treatment-emergent adverse events reported in \geq 10% of subjects in stage 2 (expansion)

Table 6. Most frequently reported serious adverse events

Adverse event	Number of subjects (%)
Nausea	87 (68.5)
Fatigue	76 (59.8)
Vomiting	61 (48.0)
Constipation	47 (37.0)
Dizziness	40 (31.5)
Decreased appetite	29 (22.8)
Diarrhea	25 (19.7)
Hypothyroidism	24 (18.9)
Dehydration	23 (18.1)
Aspartate aminotransferase increased	18 (14.2)
Anemia	16 (12.6)
Gamma glutamyl-transferase increased	15 (11.8)
Dyspnea	15 (11.8)
Hyponatremia	14 (11.0)
Abdominal pain	13 (10.2)
Cough	13 (10.2)

Event	Number of subjects (%)	Number of events reported
Cardiac disorder ^a	8 (6)	8
Gastrointestinal	12 (8)	19
Nausea	3 (2)	4
Infections and infestations	6 (4)	7
Respiratory	12 (8)	16
Pulmonary embolism	3 (2)	3

^aOne cardiac event (grade 3 right ventricular dysfunction) was judged possibly related. The rest were unrelated to study medication.

Total number of subjects = 127.

Table 7. OPB-111077 pharmacokinetics

	OPB-11107 dose cohort							
Parameter	100 mg	200 mg	250 mg	300 mg	400 mg			
Cycle 1 day 1								
n	1	3	6	6	2			
C _{max} (µg/mL)	1.10	1.90 (0.427)	3.17 (2.02)	3.48 (1.09)	2.67 (NA)			
t _{max} (hr) ^a	0.50	4.08 (4.08–4.08)	4.08 (1.25–8.07)	4.08 (2.08–4.18)	5.57 (1.08–10.05			
t _{1/2,z} (hr)	32.3	22.2 (5.7)	25.0 (8.0)	32.8 (16.8)	24.7 (NA)			
AUC $_\infty$ (hr·µg/mL)	26.6	58.4 (8.13)	81.2 (26.9)	112 (30.9)	63.2 (NA)			
Cycle 2 day 1								
Ν	1	3	5	2	—			
C _{max} (µg/mL)	2.33	4.85 (0.804)	6.36 (0.846)	7.24 (NA)	_			
t _{max} (hr) ^a	10.00	5.02 (1.00–8.10)	0.53 (0.50–2.00)	2.26 (0.50–4.02)	_			
t _{1/2,z} (hr)	25.8	23.0 (8.7)	28.7 (10.3)	24.3 (NA)	_			
AUC $_\infty$ (hr·µg/mL)	102	157 (70.5)	223 (112)	226 (NA)	_			

Shown are mean (SD) values, unless otherwise designated. Subjects received single doses of OPB-111077 on cycle 1 day 1 and cycle 2 day 1; blood samples were collected over subsequent treatment-free intervals until day 4 in each cycle.

^aValues are median (minimum-maximum).

Abbreviations: —, no data; AUC_{∞} , area under the concentration-time curve from time 0 to infinity; C_{max} , peak (maximal) concentration of drug in plasma; hr, hours; NA, nonapplicable; SD, standard deviation; t_{max} , time to maximum (peak) plasma concentration; $t_{1/2,z}$, terminal phase elimination half-life.

Click here to access other published clinical trials.