

A Phase 3, Randomized Double-Blind Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Low-Dose SHP465 Mixed Amphetamine Salts Extended-Release in Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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Abstract

Objectives: In a previous pivotal study of children and adolescents (aged 6–17 years) with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dose-optimized SHP465 mixed amphetamine salts (MAS) extended-release (12.5–25 mg once daily) was superior to placebo in reducing ADHD symptoms. This study evaluated the efficacy, tolerability, and safety of 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily (one-half the lowest approved dose for adolescents and adults) versus placebo in children aged 6–12 years with ADHD.

Methods: Children (aged 6–12 years) with Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth edition—defined ADHD; baseline ADHD-Rating Scale, Fifth Edition, Child, Home Version total scores (ADHD-RS-5-HV-TS) ≥ 28 ; and baseline Clinical Global Impressions-Severity scores ≥ 4 were eligible. Participants received 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily or placebo for 4 weeks. The primary (ADHD-RS-5-HV-TS change from baseline at week 4) and key secondary (Clinical Global Impressions-Improvement [CGI-I] score at week 4) efficacy end points were assessed using linear mixed-effects models for repeated measures. Safety and tolerability assessments included treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and vital sign changes.

Results: Of 89 randomized participants, 83 completed the study (placebo, $n = 41$; SHP465 MAS, $n = 42$). At week 4, the least squares mean (95% confidence interval) treatment differences (SHP465 MAS-placebo) were not statistically significant for ADHD-RS-5-HV-TS change ($-1.9 [-6.8 \text{ to } 3.1]$, $p = 0.451$; effect size [ES] = 0.17) or CGI-I score ($-0.1 [-0.5 \text{ to } 0.3]$, nominal $p = 0.597$; ES = 0.12). The percentage of participants reporting TEAEs was 16.3% with placebo and 24.4% with SHP465 MAS. The most frequently reported TEAEs (placebo; SHP465 MAS) were headache (7.0%; 4.4%) and decreased appetite (4.7%; 2.2%). Minimal increases in blood pressure were observed with SHP465 MAS at the final on-treatment assessment.

Conclusions: SHP465 MAS 6.25 mg once daily (one-half the lowest dose approved for adolescents and adults) was well tolerated in children aged 6–12 years but was not superior to placebo in reducing ADHD symptoms, suggesting that this dose of SHP465 MAS was subtherapeutic in this age group. The Clinical Trial Registration number: NCT03325881.

Keywords: attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), children, SHP465 (Mydayis) mixed amphetamine salts, efficacy, safety and tolerability

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Introduction

SHP465 MIXED AMPHETAMINE salts (MAS) extended-release is a once-daily, single-entity MAS product approved in the United States for the treatment of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in patients aged ≥ 13 years (Mydayis[®] 2019). SHP465 MAS capsules contain three types of drug-releasing beads: an immediate-release bead and two different types of delayed-release beads. Each SHP465 MAS capsule contains equal amounts (by weight) of dextroamphetamine sulfate, amphetamine sulfate, dextroamphetamine saccharate, and amphetamine aspartate monohydrate. This results in a 3:1 ratio of dextroamphetamine to levoamphetamine (D- to L-amphetamine) base equivalent (Mydayis[®] 2019). In simulated workplace studies in adults and an analog laboratory classroom study in children and adolescents (Wigal et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2019), SHP465 MAS exhibited an onset of efficacy of 2 hours postdose or 4 hours postdose (the first or second postdose assessments) and a duration of efficacy of up to 16 hours postdose (the final postdose assessment) compared with placebo.

Based on phase 3 studies in adults (Spencer et al. 2008; Weisler et al. 2017; Frick et al. 2020) and in children and adolescents (Brams et al. 2018), the recommended starting dose of SHP465 MAS is 12.5 mg once daily, and the maximum doses approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are 25 mg once daily in adolescents aged 13–17 years and 50 mg once daily in adults (Mydayis[®] 2019). In a pivotal study in children and adolescents diagnosed with ADHD referred to above (Brams et al. 2018), dose-optimized SHP465 MAS (12.5–25 mg once daily) were statistically superior to placebo in reducing ADHD-Rating Scale, Fourth Edition (ADHD-RS-IV) total score (effect size [ES], 0.80) and Clinical Global Impressions-Improvement (CGI-I) scale score (ES, 0.65) after 4 weeks of treatment, with 24.2% of participants having an optimal dose of 12.5 mg SHP465 MAS.

In the same study, the frequency of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) was greater with SHP465 MAS than placebo, and mean increases in pulse and blood pressure at the final on-treatment assessment (FoTA) were greater with SHP465 MAS than placebo (Brams et al. 2018). These findings are generally consistent with studies of SHP465 MAS in adults (Spencer et al. 2008; Weisler et al. 2017; Frick et al. 2020) and with studies of other amphetamine-based stimulants in children and adolescents with ADHD (Biederman et al. 2002, 2007; Spencer et al. 2006; Findling et al. 2011; Stein et al. 2011).

To assess the efficacy and risk benefit of SHP465 MAS in 6- to 12-year-old children at a lower dose than is currently approved by the U.S. FDA for the treatment of ADHD and to explore the pharmacokinetics, safety, and tolerability of SHP465 MAS in 4- to 5-year-old children, three supporting studies for SHP465 MAS (NCT03327402, NCT03325894, NCT03325881) were conducted. These studies fulfilled both the U.S. FDA Pediatric Research Equity Act (United States Food and Drug Administration 2005) and a pediatric written request from the U.S. FDA.

Study NCT03327402 was a phase 1, safety, tolerability, and pharmacokinetic study of 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS in children aged 4–5 years diagnosed with ADHD. Unpublished data from this study demonstrated that 28 days of 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily resulted in steady-state plasma amphetamine concentration-time profiles after 8 days of exposure, with peak exposure observed at 7.92 hours postdose and concentrations declining mono-exponentially thereafter. Once-daily SHP465 MAS were well tolerated in this study, with no serious or severe TEAEs reported (McNamara N and Ilic K; unpublished data).

Study NCT03325894 was a phase 3, open-label, 12-month safety and tolerability extension study of SHP465 in children aged 4–12 years diagnosed with ADHD. This study, which included participants from the aforementioned pharmacokinetic study, was terminated when results of the pivotal efficacy trial in children and adolescents were not supportive of its continuation.

Study NCT03325881, which is described in this report, was a phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled 4-week study that evaluated the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily (a dose that is one-half of the lowest dose currently approved for use in patients ≥ 13 years of age) in children aged 6–12 years diagnosed with ADHD. The data from this study provide important information to clinicians about the efficacy and safety of SHP465 MAS in 6- to 12-year-old children at a dose that is one-half of the lowest dose currently approved for use in adolescents and adults.

Methods

Study design and treatment

This phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled fixed-dose study in children aged 6–12 years with ADHD was conducted at 27 sites in the United States between December 9, 2017, and June 7, 2018. It was conducted in compliance with regulations of the FDA Institutional Review Board (IRB) and the International Council for Harmonization Good Clinical Practice guidelines. The protocol, protocol amendments, and informed consent forms were reviewed and approved by the IRB at each institution. Before initiating study-related procedures, written informed consent was obtained from the participant's parent or legally authorized representative (LAR). Documentation of assent was obtained from the participant.

The study consisted of three periods: a 1- to 4-week screening and washout period, a 4-week double-blind treatment period, and a 1-week safety follow-up period. At the start of the double-blind treatment period, participants were randomized 1:1 to 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily or placebo. Study medication was taken orally at the same time each day if possible (~ 7 a.m. ± 2 hours). The placebo capsules were identical in appearance to the SHP465 MAS capsule to maintain blinding. Randomization to treatment was stratified by age (6–8 and 9–12 years). Interactive web response technology automatically assigned a treatment to each individual.

Participants

Eligible participants were boys or nonpregnant girls aged 6–12 years meeting primary Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5; American Psychiatric Association 2013) criteria for ADHD based on a detailed psychiatric evaluation using the Mini International Neuropsychiatric Interview version for Children and Adolescents. Participants were also required to have a baseline ADHD-Rating Scale, Fifth Edition, Child, Home Version (ADHD-RS-5-HV) total score ≥ 28 and baseline Clinical Global Impressions-Severity (CGI-S) of Illness score ≥ 4 . Eligible participants either were not receiving ADHD pharmacotherapy or were not completely satisfied with their current ADHD pharmacotherapy and had been living with the same parent/LAR for ≥ 6 months.

Key exclusion criteria included having a concurrent chronic or acute illness, disability, or condition that might confound safety assessments, increase participant risk, or prohibit the participant from completing the study; having a controlled or uncontrolled comorbid Axis I or Axis II psychiatric disorder; initiating behavioral therapy within 1 month of baseline; being considered a suicide

risk, having made a suicide attempt, or having a history of or currently demonstrating suicidal ideation; having a family history of sudden cardiac death or ventricular arrhythmia; having high blood pressure (≥ 95 th percentile for age, sex, and height) at screening and/or baseline; having a history of symptomatic cardiovascular disease or other serious cardiac conditions; having a clinically significant electrocardiogram (ECG) or clinical laboratory abnormalities at screening or baseline; having a height or weight ≤ 5 th percentile for age and sex at screening or baseline; having an allergy, hypersensitivity, or intolerance to amphetamine; failure to fully respond to an adequate course of amphetamine therapy; and being unable to swallow a pill or administer the contents of a pill in applesauce due to an allergy to applesauce.

Efficacy end points

The primary efficacy end point was ADHD-RS-5-HV total score change from baseline to week 4. The ADHD-RS-5-HV, which consists of 18 items and includes two 9-item subscales (hyperactivity/impulsivity and inattention), assesses ADHD symptoms in children and adolescents based on home behavior over a 6-month period using DSM-5 diagnostic criteria (DuPaul et al. 2016). Each item is scored on a 4-point scale (0 [no problem] to 4 [severe problem]). Total score ranges from 0 to 54, with higher scores indicating more severe symptoms. The ADHD-RS-5-HV was assessed at baseline and all postbaseline visits through week 4 by the same individual.

The ADHD-RS-5-HV was rated and scored by clinicians based on clinical interviews and responses from parents/LARs. Clinicians were trained, tested, and certified for reliability and consistency by MedAvante-ProPhase (Atlanta, GA). Training included initial qualification of raters, scale-specific didactic and applied learning delivered live at an investigator meeting or online for all raters unable to attend the investigator meeting, and rater certification based on demonstrated scoring and/or administration proficiency.

The key secondary efficacy end point was CGI-I scale score at week 4. The CGI-I (Guy 1976) measures global improvement over time relative to CGI-S score at baseline on a 7-point scale (1 [very much improved] to 7 [very much worse]). The CGI-I was assessed by the same clinician at all postbaseline visits through week 4.

Safety and tolerability end points

Safety and tolerability end points included TEAEs, weight and body mass index (BMI), vital signs, ECGs, sleep, and suicidality. TEAEs were defined as adverse events with start dates on or after the first dose of double-blind treatment or start dates before the date of the first dose of double-blind treatment that increased in severity on or after the date of the first dose of double-blind treatment. TEAEs were collected at all study visits from the time of informed consent and were categorized by seriousness, severity, and relatedness to study withdrawal.

Height, weight, and vital sign measurements (systolic blood pressure [SBP], diastolic blood pressure [DBP], and pulse) were assessed at each study visit. Vital sign measurements were taken thrice at 2-minute intervals after a participant had been seated for ≥ 3 minutes. ECG assessments were conducted at screening, baseline, week 2, and week 4/early termination after 3 minutes of rest; triplicate assessments were conducted at 3-minute intervals at screening and at baseline if >32 days had elapsed since screening.

A parent or LAR used modified versions of the Post Sleep Questionnaire (PSQ) and Children's Sleep Habits Questionnaire (CSHQ) to assess sleep at baseline and all on-treatment visits. The

PSQ (Canafax et al. 2011) assesses sleep quality over the last week by examining time to sleep, sleep latency, the frequency and duration of interrupted sleep, and total sleep time and quality. The CSHQ (Owens et al. 2000) assesses the most common sleep problems in children. Items are rated on a three-point scale ("usually" [5–7 times/week], "sometimes" [2–4 times/week], and "rarely" [0–1 time/week]; some items are scored in reverse) and grouped into eight subscales: bedtime resistance, sleep onset delay, sleep duration, sleep anxiety, night wakings, parasomnias, sleep disordered breathing, and daytime sleepiness. Total sleep disturbance is the sum of all subscale scores minus the scores for the items "needs parent in room to sleep" and "afraid of sleeping alone." Higher scores indicate sleep that is more disturbed.

The Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) was used to assess suicide-related thoughts and behaviors (Posner et al. 2011). At screening, the baseline version of the C-SSRS was used. At subsequent on-treatment visits, the "since last visit" version was used.

Data presentation and statistical analyses

Sample size was determined using nQuery Advisor 7.0 (Statistical Solutions, Ltd., Cork, Ireland). To detect an assumed treatment difference of 11.9 points for ADHD-RS-5-HV total score change from baseline at week 4 (assumed common standard deviation [SD], 14), 26 participants in each treatment arm (52 total participants) needed to complete the study to provide 85% power for a two-sided *t* test ($\alpha=0.05$). Taking into account an expected 15% dropout rate, 60 participants were targeted for randomization. The statistical assumptions for this sample size calculation correspond to an ES of 0.85, which is based on a previously published study of children and adolescents treated with 12.5 and 25 mg SHP465 MAS (Brams et al. 2018).

The primary efficacy analysis of ADHD-RS-5-HV total score change from baseline to week 4 was conducted on the full analysis set (all randomized participants receiving ≥ 1 SHP465 MAS dose and having a baseline and ≥ 1 postdose ADHD-RS-5-HV total score assessment). The primary analysis used a linear mixed-effects model for repeated measures (MMRM) with treatment, visit, age (6–8 vs. 9–12 years), and the interaction of treatment group with visit as factors. Baseline ADHD-RS-5-HV total score was included as a covariate, and the interaction of baseline ADHD-RS-5-HV total score with visit was adjusted in the model.

The same MMRM analysis used for the primary efficacy analysis was used to assess CGI-I score at week 4 (using CGI-S score as a covariate) and change from baseline at week 4 on the ADHD-RS-5-HV hyperactivity/impulsivity and inattention subscales (using the respective subscale scores at baseline as covariates). A separate analysis of the dichotomized CGI-I compared the percentage of participants categorized as improved on the CGI-I (scores of 1 [very much improved] or 2 [much improved]) at week 4 in the full analysis set using a Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel test stratified by age and CGI-S baseline score. Exploratory analyses evaluated changes from baseline to week 4 in ADHD-RS-5-HV total score for each treatment group in participants aged 6–8 years and participants aged 9–12 years.

A fixed-sequence test procedure was applied across the primary and key secondary efficacy end point analyses. For this procedure, the primary end point was tested first. Secondary efficacy end points were only considered statistically significant if the primary efficacy end point was found to be statistically significant. Statistical significance for both tests was set at a two-sided $p < 0.05$.

Safety and tolerability assessments were conducted in the safety set (randomized participants taking ≥ 1 dose of study drug). For safety and tolerability end points, the last assessment before the first study drug dose was used as the baseline value. With the exception of adverse events, assessments collected on or 2 days before the last study drug dose were used as postbaseline values. All safety and tolerability data are reported using descriptive statistics.

Results

Disposition and demographics

Of 124 screened participants, 89 were randomized (placebo, $n=44$; SHP465 MAS, $n=45$; Fig. 1). One participant randomized to placebo was lost to follow-up and did not receive a dose of study drug. Of the 88 participants in the safety set (placebo, $n=43$; SHP465 MAS, $n=45$), 87 were included in the full analysis set (placebo, $n=42$; SHP465 MAS, $n=45$) and 83 completed the study (placebo, $n=41$; SHP465 MAS, $n=42$). Five randomized participants discontinued (placebo, $n=2$ for lack of efficacy; SHP465 MAS, $n=1$ for protocol violation and $n=2$ for withdrawal by participant or parent/LAR).

In the overall safety set, most participants were boys (56/88 [63.6%]) and were white (58/88 [65.9%]) (Table 1). The mean \pm SD age was 8.8 ± 2.11 years, with equal percentages of participants being 6–8 years and 9–12 years of age. The mean \pm SD time since ADHD diagnosis was 1.8 ± 2.07 years. The mean \pm SD ADHD-RS-5-HV total score in the overall population was 40.9 ± 8.40 ; most participants were diagnosed as having the combined ADHD subtype (64/88 [72.7%]).

Prior and concomitant medication

Prior use of any medication was reported by 58.1% (25/43) of the placebo group and 33.3% (15/45) of the SHP465 MAS group. The ADHD medications used before the study were MAS (placebo, 14.0% [6/43]; SHP465 MAS, 4.4% [2/45]), methylphenidate (placebo, 9.3% [4/43]; SHP465 MAS, 8.9% [4/45]), amphetamine (placebo, 9.3% [4/43]; SHP465 MAS, 2.2% [1/45]), dexamphetamine (placebo, 7.0% [3/43]; SHP465 MAS, 2.2% [1/45]), dexamethylphenidate (placebo, 4.7% [2/43]; SHP465 MAS, 4.4% [2/45]), lisdexamfetamine dimesylate (placebo, 4.7% [2/43]; SHP465 MAS, 0), and guanfacine (placebo, 2.3% [1/43]; SHP465 MAS, 2.2% [1/45]). Non-ADHD medications used by $>5\%$ of participants in either treatment group before the study were melatonin (placebo, 7.0% [3/43]; SHP465 MAS, 4.4% [2/45]) and ibuprofen (placebo, 7.0% [3/43]; SHP465 MAS, 2.2% [1/45]).

The use of concomitant medications during the study was reported by 25.6% (11/43) of participants in the placebo group and 17.8% (8/45) of participants in the SHP465 MAS group. No single medication was used by >2 participants in either treatment group.

Drug exposure and adherence

The mean \pm SD duration of exposure was 3.9 ± 0.60 and 3.9 ± 0.52 weeks in the placebo and SHP465 MAS groups, respectively. In the SHP465 MAS group, the mean \pm SD average daily dose was 6.169 ± 0.2646 mg/day. The mean \pm SD adherence rate ([capsules taken/capsules expected to be taken based on pill counts] $\times 100$) during the treatment period was $97.9\% \pm 5.09\%$ in the placebo group and $98.2\% \pm 3.96\%$ in the SHP465 MAS group.

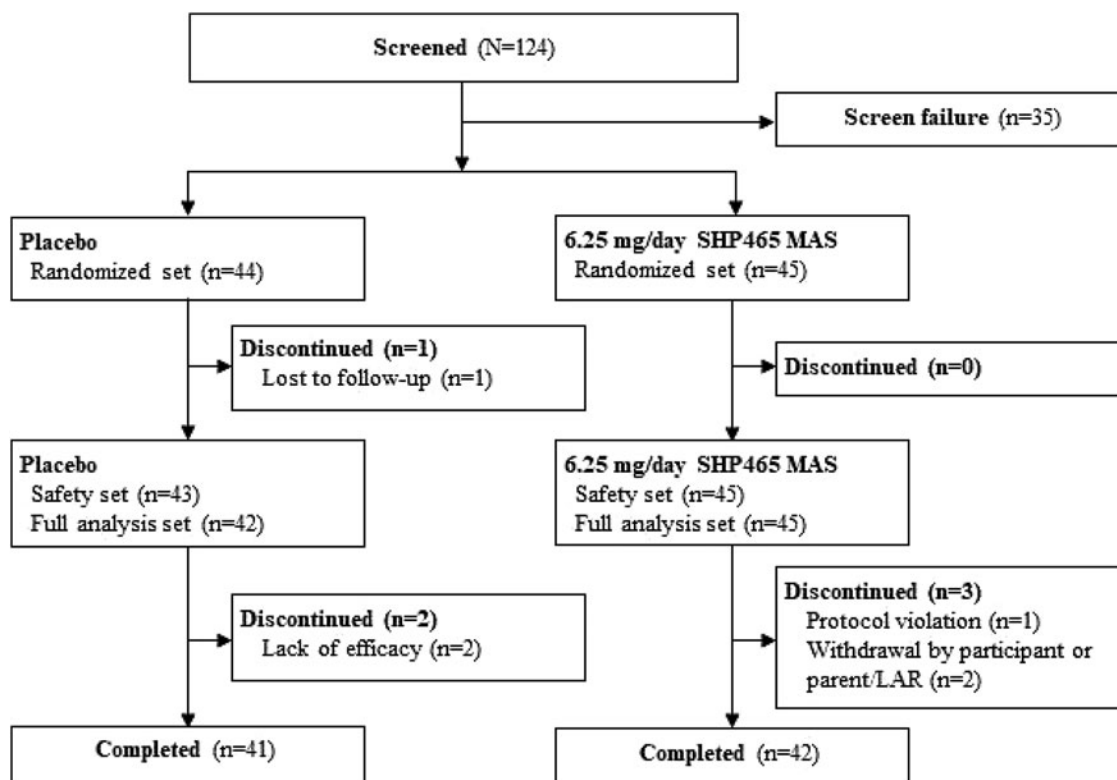


FIG. 1. Participant disposition. LAR, legally authorized representative; MAS, mixed amphetamine salts.

TABLE 1. BASELINE DEMOGRAPHICS AND CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS, SAFETY SET

	Placebo (n=43)	SHP465 MAS (n=45)
Mean ± SD age, years	8.8 ± 2.03	8.8 ± 2.20
Age category, n (%)		
6–12 years	22 (51.2)	22 (48.9)
13–17 years	21 (48.8)	23 (51.1)
Sex, n (%)		
Male	29 (67.4)	27 (60.0)
Race, n (%)		
White	28 (65.1)	30 (66.7)
Black/African American	10 (23.3)	11 (24.4)
American Indian/Alaska Native	1 (2.3)	0
Other	4 (9.3)	4 (8.9)
Mean ± SD weight, kg	36.1 ± 17.26	39.3 ± 17.97
Mean ± SD BMI, kg/m ²	19.30 ± 5.575	20.17 ± 5.007
Mean ± SD ADHD-RS-5-HV score ^a		
Total	42.0 ± 7.44	39.9 ± 9.17
Hyperactivity/impulsivity	20.6 ± 4.41	18.8 ± 6.08
Inattention	21.3 ± 4.31	21.2 ± 4.77
Mean ± SD time since ADHD diagnosis, years	1.8 ± 1.86	1.8 ± 2.27
ADHD subtype, n (%)		
Inattentive	2 (4.7)	10 (22.2)
Hyperactive/impulsive	5 (11.6)	7 (15.6)
Combined	36 (83.7)	28 (62.2)
CGI-S, n (%) ^b		
Moderately ill	16 (37.2)	16 (35.6)
Markedly ill	23 (53.5)	23 (51.1)
Severely ill	2 (4.7)	6 (13.3)
Among the most extremely ill	1 (2.3)	0
Missing	1 (2.3)	0

^aBased on full analysis set (placebo, n=42; SHP465 MAS, n=45).

^bNo participants were categorized as not assessed, normal (not at all ill), borderline mentally ill, or mildly ill.

ADHD, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; ADHD-RS-5-HV, ADHD-Rating Scale, Fifth Edition, Child, Home Version; BMI, body mass index; CGI-S, Clinical Global Impressions-Severity; MAS, mixed amphetamine salts; SD, standard deviation.

Efficacy

Mean ± SD ADHD-RS-5-HV total scores decreased from baseline to week 4 in both treatment groups (Fig. 2A). The least squares (LS) mean (95% confidence interval [CI]) changes from baseline at week 4 were −9.7 (−13.2 to −6.2) and −11.6 (−15.0 to −8.2) with placebo and SHP465 MAS, respectively. The LS mean (95% CI) treatment difference between the SHP465 MAS and placebo groups (SHP465 MAS−placebo) for the change from baseline at week 4 was not statistically significant (−1.9 [−6.8 to 3.1]; test value=−0.76; degrees of freedom=80.4; p=0.451; ES, 0.17).

Mean ± SD CGI-I scores by treatment week are presented in Figure 2B. LS mean (95% CI) CGI-I scores at week 4 were 3.3 (3.0–3.6) and 3.2 (2.9–3.5) with placebo and SHP465 MAS, respectively. The LS mean (95% CI) treatment difference between the SHP465 MAS and placebo groups for CGI-I score at week 4 was −0.1 (−0.5 to 0.3) (test value=−0.53; degrees of freedom=75.5; nominal p=0.597; ES, 0.12).

Consistent with findings for ADHD-RS-5-HV total scores, the LS mean (95% CI) treatment difference between the SHP465 MAS

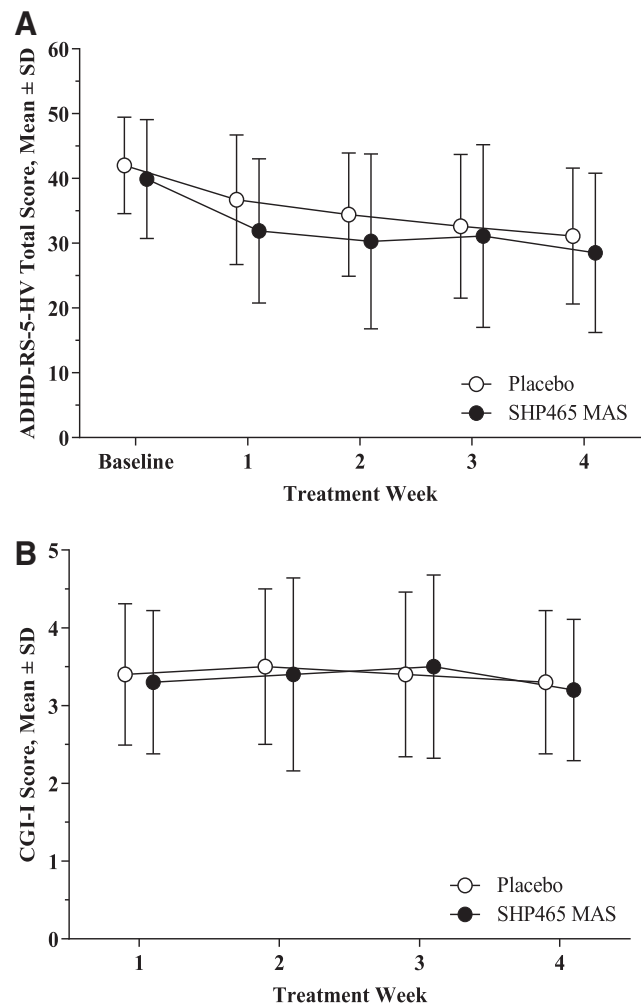


FIG. 2. Mean ± SD ADHD-RS-5-HV total score (A) and CGI-I score (B) by visit and treatment group, full analysis set. ADHD, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder; ADHD-RS-5-HV, ADHD-Rating Scale, Fifth Edition, Child, Home Version; CGI-I, Clinical Global Impressions-Improvement; MAS, mixed amphetamine salts; SD, standard deviation.

and placebo groups for the change from baseline to week 4 was not statistically significant for the ADHD-RS-5-HV hyperactivity/impulsivity subscale (−0.9 [−3.5 to 1.8]; test value=−0.65; degrees of freedom=80.5; nominal p=0.516; ES, 0.14) or the inattention subscale (−0.8 [−3.4 to 1.8]; test value=−0.64; degrees of freedom=81.5; nominal p=0.526; ES, 0.14). At the FoTA, 14.3% (6/42) of placebo participants and 17.8% (8/45) of SHP465 MAS participants were categorized as improved on the CGI-I. The LS mean (95% CI) difference between the SHP465 MAS and placebo groups in the improved proportion of participants was not statistically significant (3.5 [−17.8 to 24.6]; test value=0.0245; degrees of freedom=1; nominal p=0.876).

Exploratory analyses of changes in ADHD-RS-5-HV total score by participant age indicated that LS mean (95% CI) changes from baseline at week 4 with placebo and SHP465 MAS, respectively, were −11.0 (−16.8 to −5.3) and −12.2 (−18.0 to −6.4) in participants aged 6–8 years and −8.0 (−12.3 to −3.7) and −11.0 (−15.0 to −7.1) in participants aged 9–12 years. The LS mean (95% CI) treatment differences between SHP465 MAS and placebo were −1.1 (−9.4 to 7.1) in participants aged 6–8 years and −3.0 (−8.9 to 2.8) in participants aged 9–12 years.

Safety and tolerability

The overall percentage of participants reporting any TEAE was 16.3% (7/43) in the placebo group and 24.4% (11/45) in the SHP465 MAS group (Table 2). There were no serious TEAEs, severe TEAEs, or TEAEs leading to discontinuation or death reported. The most frequently reported TEAEs in both groups—

TABLE 2. SUMMARY OF SAFETY AND TOLERABILITY END POINTS, SAFETY SET

	Placebo (n=43)	SHP465 MAS (n=45)
Any TEAE, n (%)	7 (16.3)	11 (24.4)
Serious TEAE	0	0
TEAEs leading to dose discontinuation	0	0
Severe TEAEs	0	0
Serious TEAEs leading to death	0	0
Any TEAEs reported by ≥2 participants, n (%)		
Headache	3 (7.0)	2 (4.4)
Decreased appetite	2 (4.7)	1 (2.2)
Diarrhea	1 (2.3)	1 (2.2)
Medication error	1 (2.3)	1 (2.2)
Vital signs, mean ±SD change from baseline at FoTA		
SBP, mmHg	−0.8 ± 6.23	1.8 ± 6.52
DBP, mmHg	0.3 ± 6.61	3.1 ± 7.24
Pulse, bpm	−1.8 ± 10.02	−0.5 ± 9.87
Vital sign outliers, n (%)		
SBP >120 mmHg and increase >10 mmHg from baseline on ≥2 consecutive visits over entire study	0	0
SBP >120 mmHg and increase >10 mmHg from baseline at FoTA	0	1 (2.2)
DBP >80 mmHg and increase >10 mmHg from baseline on ≥2 consecutive visits over entire study	0	0
DBP >80 mmHg and increase >10 mmHg from baseline at FoTA	0	2 (4.4)
Pulse ≥100 bpm and increase >15 bpm from baseline on ≥2 consecutive visits over entire study	0	0
Pulse ≥100 bpm and increase >15 bpm from baseline at FoTA	1 (2.3)	0
Weight at FoTA		
Mean ±SD change at FoTA, kg	0.5 ± 0.77	0.1 ± 0.90
Mean ±SD z score	0.38 ± 1.251	0.70 ± 1.420
Median z score	−0.04	0.55
Weight decrease ≥7% from baseline, n (%)	0	0
BMI at FoTA		
Mean ±SD change at FoTA, kg/m ²	0.12 ± 0.428	−0.09 ± 0.561
Mean ±SD z score	0.52 ± 1.274	0.85 ± 1.080
Median z score	0.31	0.76

BMI, body mass index; bpm, beats per minute; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; FoTA, final on-treatment assessment; MAS, mixed amphetamine salts; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

headache and decreased appetite—occurred more frequently with placebo than with SHP465 MAS (Table 2).

Mean reductions from baseline to FoTA in pulse were observed in the placebo and SHP465 MAS groups (Table 2). Mean decreases in SBP and increases in DBP from baseline to FoTA were observed in the placebo group, whereas increases in both SBP and DBP were observed in the SHP465 MAS group. Small percentages of participants in each treatment group met vital sign outlier criteria (Table 2). Mean increases from baseline to FoTA in weight were observed in both treatment groups (Table 2). For BMI, a mean increase from baseline to FoTA was observed in the placebo group, and a mean decrease was observed in the SHP465 MAS group (Table 2).

Mean ±SD changes from baseline to FoTA in heart rate based on the ECG were −0.61 ± 9.433 beats per minute (bpm) with placebo and −1.12 ± 11.711 bpm with SHP465 MAS. Mean ±SD changes from baseline at FoTA for the Frederica corrected QT interval (QTcF) were −0.37 ± 14.855 msec with placebo and −2.62 ± 15.225 msec with SHP465 MAS. No participants in either treatment group had QTcF intervals ≥500 msec.

On the PSQ and CSHQ, there were no apparent group differences at baseline or week 4 (Table 3).

On the C-SSRS, two participants in the SHP465 MAS group reported positive responses on the “wish to be dead” item. One participant responded positively at baseline before taking the first dose of SHP465 MAS. Another participant responded positively at week 1; this response was considered a nonserious psychiatric TEAE and was deemed by the investigator to not be related to SHP465 MAS. No positive responses for a lifetime history of suicide were reported; no suicide attempts were reported at baseline or during this study.

Discussion

The results of this double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study in children aged 6–12 years demonstrated that 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily (a dose that is one-half of the lowest approved dose of 12.5 mg for adolescents and adults) were not superior to placebo in improving ADHD symptoms, as measured by ADHD-RS-5-HV total score reductions or more broadly by clinician ratings on the CGI. In addition, exploratory analyses based on participant age indicated that 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS were not superior to placebo in participants aged 6–8 years or participants aged 9–12 years. The overall safety and tolerability profile of 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS was similar to placebo in this study, with the TEAE types reported being consistent with the phase 3 study of 12.5 mg and 25 mg SHP465 MAS conducted in children and adolescents aged 6–17 years (Brams et al. 2018) and with other studies of amphetamine-based stimulants in pediatric populations (Biederman et al. 2002, 2007; Spencer et al. 2006; Findling et al. 2011; Stein et al. 2011). Taken together, these findings indicate that the 6.25-mg dose of SHP465 MAS used in this study was generally well tolerated, but was subtherapeutic in this population of children aged 6–12 years.

In the previously published pivotal study of dose-optimized SHP465 MAS (12.5–25 mg) in children and adolescents aged 6–12 years, SHP465 MAS were statistically superior to placebo in reducing ADHD-RS-IV total score (ES, 0.80) and CGI-I scale score (ES, 0.65) after 4 weeks of treatment (Brams et al. 2018). However, in that study, only 24.2% (32/132) of all study participants (Brams et al. 2018)—and only 24.1% (13/54) of participants aged 6–12 years (Brams M and Yu M; unpublished data)—were optimized to

TABLE 3. SUMMARY OF POST SLEEP QUESTIONNAIRE AND CHILDREN'S SLEEP HABITS QUESTIONNAIRE SCORES AT BASELINE AND WEEK 4, SAFETY SET

	Placebo		SHP465 MAS	
	Baseline	Week 4	Baseline	Week 4
PSQ^a				
Mean ± SD minutes to fall asleep per night	27.0 ± 20.25	19.3 ± 16.13	27.2 ± 21.51	21.0 ± 14.35
Woke up during the night				
<i>n</i> (%)	20 (46.5)	13 (30.2)	14 (31.1)	11 (24.4)
Mean ± SD number of times ^b	1.4 ± 0.50	1.4 ± 0.51	1.5 ± 0.76	1.3 ± 1.01
Distribution of number of times, <i>n</i> (%)				
0	0	0	1 (2.2)	1 (2.2)
1	12 (27.9)	8 (18.6)	6 (13.3)	8 (17.8)
2	8 (18.6)	5 (11.6)	6 (13.3)	1 (2.2)
3	0	0	1 (2.2)	0
4	0	0	0	1 (2.2)
Mean ± SD minutes awake per night ^{b,c}	12.4 ± 8.41	8.9 ± 5.18	8.0 ± 7.63	15.1 ± 17.01
Overall sleep quality during the past week, <i>n</i> (%)				
Very poor	1 (2.3)	0	0	0
Poor	4 (9.3)	3 (7.0)	6 (13.3)	6 (13.3)
Average	15 (34.9)	12 (27.9)	16 (35.6)	12 (26.7)
Good	15 (34.9)	14 (32.6)	16 (35.6)	17 (37.8)
Very good	8 (18.6)	11 (25.6)	4 (8.9)	7 (15.6)
Past week was a typical week				
No, <i>n</i> (%)	4 (9.3)	4 (9.3)	6 (13.3)	6 (13.3)
Reason the past week was not typical, <i>n</i> (%)				
Vacation	2 (4.7)	0	2 (4.4)	0
School break	1 (2.3)	3 (7.0)	2 (4.4)	3 (6.7)
Was ill	0	0	0	1 (2.2)
Other	1 (2.3)	1 (2.3)	2 (4.4)	2 (4.4)
Mean ± SD hours sleeping per night	8.9 ± 1.20	9.1 ± 1.34	8.8 ± 1.22	8.9 ± 1.16
Overall sleep quality, ^d <i>n</i> (%)				
Better than usual	0	1 (2.3)	1 (2.2)	2 (4.4)
Same as usual	6 (14.0)	4 (9.3)	7 (15.6)	7 (15.6)
Worse than usual	2 (4.7)	0	1 (2.2)	2 (4.4)
CSHQ,^e mean ± SD				
Total sleep disturbance score	45.3 ± 10.08	42.7 ± 9.36	45.4 ± 8.65	42.8 ± 9.17
Bedtime resistance	8.3 ± 2.76	7.3 ± 1.84	8.8 ± 2.94	8.3 ± 2.49
Sleep onset delay	1.8 ± 0.79	1.5 ± 0.75	1.8 ± 0.83	1.5 ± 0.78
Sleep duration	4.5 ± 1.67	4.2 ± 1.51	4.4 ± 1.95	4.0 ± 1.72
Sleep anxiety	5.3 ± 1.58	5.0 ± 1.65	5.5 ± 1.79	5.2 ± 1.70
Night waking	4.2 ± 1.47	4.1 ± 1.49	3.7 ± 1.14	3.7 ± 1.25
Parasomnias	9.0 ± 2.35	8.7 ± 2.73	8.6 ± 1.77	8.2 ± 1.88
Disordered breathing	3.5 ± 0.86	3.5 ± 1.07	3.4 ± 0.71	3.3 ± 0.85
Sleepiness	11.5 ± 3.19	10.9 ± 3.09	12.0 ± 3.39	11.2 ± 3.02

^a*n* = 43 for placebo and *n* = 42 for SHP465 MAS at baseline; *n* = 40 for placebo and *n* = 42 for SHP465 MAS at week 4 (based on average school/week nights).

^bBased on the total number of participants who woke during the night.

^c*n* = 12 for placebo at week 4.

^dBased on past week.

^e*n* = 42 for placebo and *n* = 45 for SHP465 MAS at baseline; *n* = 41 for placebo and *n* = 41 for SHP465 MAS at week 4.

CSHQ, Children's Sleep Habits Questionnaire; MAS, mixed amphetamine salts; PSQ, Post Sleep Questionnaire; SD, standard deviation.

12.5 mg SHP465 MAS. When considered in light of previous findings, it is not surprising that 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily were found to be subtherapeutic in this study.

The treatment difference in the overall TEAE frequency (SHP465 MAS–placebo) in the current study was 8.1% compared with 20.8% in children and adolescents treated with 12.5–25 mg SHP465 MAS (Brams et al. 2018) and 15.7%–31.9% in adults treated with 12.5–75 mg SHP465 MAS (Spencer et al. 2008; Weisler et al. 2017; Frick et al. 2020). In addition, the two most frequently reported TEAEs (headache and decreased appetite) were reported more frequently with placebo than with SHP465 MAS.

This reinforces the value of controlled trials and emphasizes the effect that expectation bias may have on the frequency and type of adverse event reporting.

In the same way, the effects of SHP465 MAS on vital sign changes and weight were less pronounced in this study compared with the previous study in children and adolescents (Brams et al. 2018). In the current study, mean increases with SHP465 MAS in SBP (1.8 vs. –0.8 with placebo) and DBP (3.1 vs. 0.3 mmHg with placebo) were observed at FoTA, and a mean decrease in pulse (–0.5 vs. –1.8 bpm with placebo) was observed. In contrast, children and adolescents treated with 12.5–25 mg SHP465 MAS tended

to exhibit larger magnitude mean increases in SBP (3.8 vs. 2.1 mmHg with placebo), DBP (4.0 vs. 0.5 mmHg with placebo), and pulse (5.7 vs. 0.7 bpm with placebo) (Brams et al. 2018).

As measured by modified versions of the PSQ and CSHQ, there were no apparent differences in sleep-related parameters at baseline and no consistent worsening of sleep associated with SHP465 treatment. These findings are consistent with those of previously published studies of SHP465 MAS in adults (Spencer et al. 2008; Frick et al. 2020), which reported no notable differences in sleep quality between SHP465 MAS and placebo based on Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index total score. Although there were no reports of insomnia-related TEAEs in the current study, it should be noted that insomnia has been reported to be among the most frequently reported TEAEs in previously published studies of SHP465 MAS in adults (Spencer et al. 2008; Weisler et al. 2017; Frick et al. 2020) and in children and adolescents (Brams et al. 2018).

These data should be considered in light of certain limitations. First, clinical trial study designs can have limited generalizability based on age and sex distributions of the study population. However, the current study enrolled a more homogenous study population, with a relatively narrow age range and a greater percentage of girls than is typical of clinical studies of pediatric ADHD. Second, the efficacy data are based on the population mean. Therefore, individual participants may have benefitted from the low dose of SHP465 MAS used in this study. Third, SHP465 MAS delivers amphetamine over time using three beads with three distinct release profiles (Ermer et al. 2007). As such, it is possible that efficacy versus placebo was not observed with 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS because a critical plasma amphetamine level was not attained. Fourth, the participants included in this study had different histories of stimulant exposure, with many reporting no prior stimulant use.

At this time, *post hoc* analyses of SHP465 MAS treatment responses based on stimulant treatment history for participants in this study are not available. Therefore, it is not known if prior exposure to a stimulant influenced responses to this low dose of SHP465 MAS. It is also not known whether participant weight or BMI influenced SHP465 MAS treatment responses. Fifth, measures of inter-rater reliability and consistency for the primary outcome measure are not available, so it is not known if variability in ADHD symptom ratings could have contributed to the lack of statistical differences between SHP465 MAS and placebo. However, the lack of efficacy in this study is thought to be primarily due to the low SHP465 MAS dose administered rather than rater qualifications. It should also be noted that although the double-blind design of this study did not reduce the variation among raters, it did minimize subjective bias. Finally, it is unknown if an intermediate dose between 6.25 and 12.5 mg would have demonstrated efficacy versus placebo. Given the known efficacy of MAS formulations in the treatment of children and adolescents with ADHD (Swanson et al. 1998; Pliszka et al. 2000; Biederman et al. 2002; McCracken et al. 2003; Spencer et al. 2006), additional studies that examine broader dose ranges should be considered.

Conclusions

In children aged 6–12 years diagnosed with ADHD, 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS once daily (one-half of the lowest FDA-approved dose of SHP465 MAS in adolescents and adults) were not statistically superior to placebo in reducing ADHD symptoms, as measured by ADHD-RS-5-HV total score change, or in producing global disease improvement, as measured by CGI-I score. Taken

together, these findings indicate that 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS were subtherapeutic in this study population. The overall tolerability profile of 6.25 mg of SHP465 MAS was similar to placebo in this study, with the same types of TEAEs being reported that have been reported after treatment with 12.5 and 25 mg SHP465 MAS in children and adolescents aged 6–17 years (Brams et al. 2018).

Clinical Significance

SHP465 MAS (SHP465 MAS) extended-release is a once-daily psychostimulant approved by the U.S. FDA for the treatment of ADHD in individuals aged ≥ 13 years. In a previous report, the efficacy of dose-optimized SHP465 MAS (12.5–25 mg once daily) versus placebo was demonstrated in children and adolescents aged 6–17 years. The current study was conducted to examine the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS—a dose that is one-half of the lowest approved dose in adolescents and adults—in children aged 6–12 years. The data demonstrate that 6.25 mg SHP465 MAS were generally well tolerated, but were not efficacious versus placebo in reducing ADHD symptoms. The data from this study provide important information to clinicians about the efficacy and safety of SHP465 MAS in 6- to 12-year-old children at a dose that is one-half of the lowest dose currently approved for use in adolescents and adults.

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Disclosures

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