

Advancements in the Treatment of Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia

Archana Bajaj and Marina Cuchel

Division of Translational Medicine & Human Genetics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH) is a rare genetic disorder with extreme elevations of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) leading to premature atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) as early as in childhood. Management of HoFH centers around aggressive and adequate reduction of LDL-C levels to slow the trajectory of ASCVD development. Historically, lowering LDL-C levels in HoFH has been challenging because of both the markedly elevated LDL-C levels (often >400 mg/dL) and reduced response to treatment options, such as statins, for which the mechanism of action requires a functional LDL receptor. However, the treatment landscape for HoFH has rapidly progressed over the last decade. While statins and ezetimibe remain first-line treatment, patients often require addition of multiple therapies to achieve goal LDL-C levels. The PCSK9 inhibitors are an important recent addition to the available treatment options, along with lomitapide, bile acid sequestrants, and, possibly, bempedoic acid. Additionally, ANGPTL3 has emerged as an important therapeutic target, with evinacumab being the first available ANGPTL3 inhibitor on the market for the treatment of patients with HoFH. For patients who cannot achieve adequate LDL-C reduction, lipoprotein apheresis may be necessary, with the added benefit of reducing lipoprotein(a) levels that carries an added risk if also elevated in patients with HoFH. Finally, gene therapy and genome editing using CRISPR/Cas-9 are moving through clinical development and may dramatically alter the future landscape of treatment for HoFH.

Key words: Familial hypercholesterolemia, PCSK9, ANGPTL3, Apheresis, Gene therapy

Introduction

Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH) is a rare genetic disorder with extreme elevations in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) leading to premature atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD)^{1, 2)}. Based on the frequency of heterozygous FH (HeFH) found in two recent meta-analyses^{3, 4)}, HoFH is estimated to have a prevalence of 1:300, 000–1:360, 000^{1, 3-5)} but may be more common in isolated or founder populations¹⁾. The disorder is caused by mutations in genes regulating activity of the LDL receptor (LDLR). Most patients with HoFH have biallelic loss-of-function (LOF) mutations in the *LDLR* gene, which encodes for the LDLR itself. Biallelic mutations may be either two identical copies of the same allele (simple

homozygote) or two nonidentical alleles (compound heterozygote). Patients with genetically confirmed HoFH have also been found to have biallelic mutations in *APOB*, which encodes apolipoprotein B (apoB); *PCSK9*, which encodes the pro-protein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9) enzyme; or *LDLRAP1*, which encodes the LDLR adapter protein 1¹⁾. Rarely, genetically confirmed HoFH has been found to have one heterozygous mutation in *LDLR* together with a heterozygous mutation in either *APOB* or *PCSK9* (double heterozygote)¹⁾. By altering LDLR activity and reducing LDL-C uptake from circulation, these genetic changes result in a marked increase in circulating LDL-C level starting at birth. After ruling out secondary factors that may influence hypercholesterolemia, an LDL-C level >400 mg/dL (>10 mmol/L), together with a positive family history

Address for correspondence: Marina Cuchel, 9017 Maloney Building, 3600 Spruce Street, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA
E-mail: mcuchel@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Received: March 1, 2022 Accepted for publication: March 18, 2022

Copyright©2022 Japan Atherosclerosis Society

This article is distributed under the terms of the latest version of CC BY-NC-SA defined by the Creative Commons Attribution License.

of hypercholesterolemia and/or early presence of xanthomas, is suggestive of HoFH^{5,6}.

Patients with HoFH develop early and progressive ASCVD and may experience events such as myocardial infarctions as early as in childhood^{1,7}. The high mortality and morbidity result from the lifelong exposure to the high cholesterol burden associated with the disease^{8,9}. Thus, early diagnosis and initiation of lipid-lowering treatment are paramount to reduce the clinical severity associated with this disorder¹⁰. Management of HoFH centers around aggressive and adequate reduction of the circulating LDL-C level to slow the trajectory of atherosclerotic disease development^{11,12}. The importance of this approach is demonstrated by the results from the HoFH International Clinical Collaborators registry, which clearly show how greater use of multiple lipid-lowering treatment regimens is associated with lower LDL-C levels and better outcomes in patients worldwide⁷. Historically, lowering LDL-C levels in HoFH has been challenging, because of both the markedly elevated levels and reduced response to treatment options, such as statins, whose mechanism of action requires a functional LDLR. However, the treatment landscape has rapidly progressed in the last decade with the development of several novel therapeutics that have transformed HoFH into a manageable condition.

Current Treatment Approaches for HoFH

The treatment algorithm in HoFH is similar to what is used for other conditions in which LDL-C reduction is required for ASCVD risk reduction, and the treatment goals are the same. However, what differentiates the approach in HoFH is that treatment must start at the time of diagnosis, which could be in early childhood, and often necessitates an aggressive strategy requiring multiple therapeutics, pharmacological and not, given the difficulty in lowering LDL-C in this condition^{1,2}.

Pharmacological Interventions - LDLR-Dependent Mechanisms

Statins, Ezetimibe, and Bile Acid Sequestrants

High-intensity statins (HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors) and ezetimibe are available worldwide and are considered a first-line treatment that should be started at the time of diagnosis. The LDL-C-lowering effect of statins varies and depends on the residual LDLR activity present; however, some lipid-lowering effect is also seen in LDLR-negative patients, possibly because of an effect on cholesterol synthesis and/or apoB-containing lipoprotein production, which are both increased in these patients^{13,14}. Ezetimibe, an

inhibitor of the Niemann-Pick C1-Like 1 (NPC1L1) protein, inhibits cholesterol absorption and adds an additional 10%–15% reduction in LDL-C levels^{15,16} and should be added to statin therapy as a second LDL-C-lowering agent. Statins, alone and in combination with ezetimibe, have been shown to reduce CVD mortality in patients with HoFH¹⁷, including in the pediatric population¹⁰. Bile acid sequestrants also provide a modest reduction in LDL-C levels up to 15% when added to statin therapy in patients more broadly than HoFH¹⁸, and are another option for add-on LDL-C-lowering therapy for these patients. However, these treatments are rarely, if ever, sufficient to achieve adequate LDL-C reduction, and additional lipid-lowering treatments are necessary.

PCSK9 Inhibitors

PCSK9 is a key protein in the posttranslational regulation of the LDLR¹⁹. The discovery that carriers of LOF variants in the *PCSK9* gene have low LDL-C levels and a significant reduction in the risk of developing ASCVD^{20,21} brought to light the prospect of PCSK9 as a promising drug target. The PCSK9 inhibitor monoclonal antibodies, evolocumab and alirocumab, are relatively recent additions to the LDL-C-lowering category of therapies. In clinical trials, evolocumab was shown to reduce LDL-C by 31% at 12 weeks in 49 patients with HoFH on stable background lipid-lowering therapy that did not include apheresis²². In a long-term outcomes study published recently, open-label evolocumab at a dose of 420 mg administered once monthly or every 2 weeks if on lipoprotein apheresis resulted in an approximately 24% additional reduction in LDL-C levels in over 100 patients with HoFH, approximately 30% of whom were also receiving apheresis²³. More recently, in a placebo-controlled randomized trial of 69 patients with HoFH, alirocumab at a dose of 150 mg administered every 2 weeks was shown to reduce LDL-C levels by approximately 35% at 12 weeks²⁴.

PCSK9 inhibition has been also successfully achieved using a small interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA). Inclisiran is an siRNA for PCSK9 that has been approved in Europe and was recently approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The siRNA molecules bind to the mRNA of the *PCSK9* gene to limit translation and synthesis of the protein. In pooled analysis of multiple phase 3 clinical trials of inclisiran in patients with ASCVD or HeFH, inclisiran was associated with approximately 50% reduction in LDL-C levels at day 510²⁵. As compared with mAb preparations that require monthly or every 2-week dosing, inclisiran has the

advantage of requiring very infrequent dosing for the patient. After an initial 300-mg dose delivered as a subcutaneous injection, the next dose is at 3 months followed by dosing every 6 months thereafter, offering the convenience of administration at routine clinical visits in the physician's office. Similar to evolocumab and alirocumab, the response to inclisiran in patients with HoFH is lower than that in those with HeFH and is variable. In a pilot study of four patients with HoFH, inclisiran was associated with an LDL-C reduction ranging from 17.5% to 37.0% at day 180 in three out of the four patients and not responsive in the fourth patient²⁶. A long-term phase 3 trial of inclisiran in patients with HoFH (ORION-5; NCT03851705) is currently ongoing.

The safety and tolerability profile of the PCSK9 inhibitors are strong and favorable. The most common side effect is injection site reaction for both the siRNA and mAb drugs. However, given the costs that these medications carry, it is reasonable to consider stopping their use in unresponsive patients and starting another lipid-lowering approach.

In keeping with their mechanism of action, response to PCSK9 inhibitors depends in part on the residual LDLR activity²³ even among individuals with identical *LDLR* mutations²⁷. Consequently, in patients that have no or minimal LDLR activity, and in patients with untreated LDL-C levels that are exceedingly high, additional lipid-lowering treatment is needed, especially those that are able to reduce LDL-C in a receptor-independent manner, such as lomitapide, ANGPTL3 inhibitors, or lipoprotein apheresis.

Pharmacological Interventions – LDLR-Independent Mechanisms

Lomitapide

Lomitapide is a small molecule specifically approved for the treatment of HoFH²⁸. It offers substantial LDL-C reduction by inhibiting the microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTTP) to reduce production of very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) and LDL independently of LDLR residual activity²⁹. In a phase 3 clinical trial in 29 patients with HoFH, lomitapide at a median dose of 40 mg daily was shown to reduce LDL-C by 50% in the first 26 weeks and by 38% at week 56³⁰. A phase 3 extension study in a cohort of eight Japanese patients with HoFH confirmed LDL-C reductions of approximately 50% with lomitapide in this population at >60 weeks with no additional safety concerns³¹. Despite the impressive lipid-lowering effect, the use of lomitapide has been limited because of the expected adverse effects linked to its mechanism

of action. The commonly reported side effects and reasons for discontinuation include increases in liver fat, transaminase levels, patient tolerability, and gastrointestinal side effects, such as nausea and diarrhea²⁸. Despite an increase in hepatic fat, long-term follow-up assessing safety up to a median 5.1 years in patients that participated in the phase 3 study did not show any new safety concerns³². Further, recent real-world data suggests that a strategy of appropriate diet modification with dose titration personalized to the patient with dose reductions as needed to offset safety and tolerability issues, and likely improving compliance, allows for significant LDL-C reductions. In a study based out of Italy, 15 patients with HoFH experienced a mean 68.2% reduction in LDL-C levels with the addition of lomitapide to background lipid-lowering therapy at an average dose of only 19 mg/day³³. In a more recent study that is in line with these findings, 12 patients with HoFH on lipid-lowering therapy (with or without apheresis) showed that the addition of lomitapide was associated with a greater than 50% reduction in LDL-C levels at an average dose of about 20 mg/day³⁴. Lomitapide has also been shown to have good safety, tolerability, and effectiveness in the pediatric population, with a recent study describing its use in patients as young as 4 years old³⁵. A clinical trial of lomitapide in the pediatric HoFH population is currently recruiting (NCT04681170).

ANGPTL3 Inhibitors

The angiopoietin-like 3 (ANGPTL3) protein emerged to the forefront as an attractive target for LDL-C reduction only a few years ago, after subjects carrying LOF mutations in the gene encoding for ANGPTL3 were noted to have low levels of several lipid parameters, including LDL-C³⁶. Subsequent large-scale genetic studies have shown that LOF variants in the *ANGPTL3* gene are also associated with reduced risk of cardiovascular disease^{37, 38}. Since then, ANGPTL3 inhibitors have been developed for both hypertriglyceridemia and FH. Evinacumab, a monoclonal antibody that inhibits ANGPTL3, was recently approved in Europe and the United States for patients with HoFH. In a placebo-controlled phase 3 trial of 65 patients with HoFH, evinacumab, given as an infusion at a dose of 15 mg/kg of body weight once every 4 weeks, was associated with a 47% LDL-C reduction at week 24, and the reduction was similar in patients with and without *LDLR* null variants, supporting an LDLR-independent mechanism³⁹.

Although the mechanism by which inhibiting ANGPTL3 lowers LDL-C remains unclear, animal models^{40, 41} and a recent kinetics study in patients

with HoFH treated with evinacumab⁴²⁾ suggest that the effect of ANGPTL3 inhibitions in reducing LDL-C levels is primarily driven by an increase in clearance of remnant particles and LDL from the circulation.

With a favorable safety profile, reported good tolerability, and a remarkable LDL-C-lowering response, this new addition to the armamentarium of approved lipid-lowering treatments may have the potential to significantly alter the treatment approach for HoFH.

In addition to the use of mAB, RNA-targeted approaches to inhibit ANGPTL3 are being tested. Results using an antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) against ANGPTL3 in patients with hypertriglyceridemia and FH have been recently published⁴³⁾. Interesting preclinical data in a mice model of HoFH (*Ldlr* ^{-/-} mice) co-treated with ASOs against *Mttp* and *Angptl3* showed a mitigation of the hepatosteatosis caused by the inhibition of *Mttp*⁴³⁾, suggesting that co-administration of lomitapide with an RNA-targeted ANGPTL3 inhibitor may be able to reduce the hepatic lipid accumulation caused by lomitapide treatment. An siRNA, ARO-ANG3, targeting the *ANGPTL3* gene is currently being tested in a phase 1 clinical trial with 40 healthy volunteers and over 50 subjects with various dyslipidemic conditions (NCT03747224). Early results from healthy volunteers following dose-varying subcutaneous injections of ARO-ANG3 on days 1 and 29 showed a 45%–54% decrease in LDL-C at 4–6 weeks following the second dose⁴⁴⁾. If efficacy of this siRNA-based ANGPTL3 inhibitor is confirmed in HoFH, it is possible that dosing could be less frequent, similar to that of inclisiran.

Other Potential Additions in Drug Therapies for HoFH

Bempedoic acid, an oral medication that is an inhibitor of adenosine triphosphate citrate lyase, was recently approved in the United States and European Union⁴⁵⁾. It has been shown to offer an additional 15%–20% reduction in LDL-C levels in clinical trials of patients with ASCVD or heterozygous FH on maximally tolerated statins^{46, 47)}. The CLEAR Outcomes trial evaluating cardiovascular outcomes with bempedoic acid compared to placebo in patients with cardiovascular disease or risk factors is currently ongoing (NCT02993406)⁴⁸⁾. No data are yet available to see if bempedoic acid is effective in HoFH, but it is possible that patients with residual LDLR activity will respond to it.

Gemcabene, a peroxisome proliferation-activated receptor (PPAR alpha) agonist, is an oral therapy that

enhances VLDL clearance and inhibits hepatic production of cholesterol. In the COBALT-1 study, gemcabene was shown to reduce LDL-C by a mean of 26% in eight patients with HoFH⁴⁹⁾. However, development of gemcabene was placed on partial clinical hold by the US FDA in 2016 as the FDA requested additional animal carcinogenicity studies.

Nonpharmacological Treatments

Lipoprotein Apheresis

Despite several options in LDL-C-lowering drug therapies, most patients with HoFH remain far from achieving adequate LDL-levels, and studies have shown that the survival in patients with HoFH largely depends on the extent of LDL-C reduction¹¹⁾. For a long time, lipoprotein apheresis had been the only effective way to treat HoFH, and oftentimes, it is still a necessary component of the treatment strategy in patients with HoFH. Although no randomized trials have been conducted, several retrospective studies have shown the effectiveness of lipoprotein apheresis in reducing LDL-C levels and reducing rates of cardiovascular outcomes⁵⁰⁾. Lipoprotein apheresis is associated with a significant acute reduction in LDL-C, upward of 50%–60%⁵¹⁾, and a mean 21%–36% reduction over the long term⁵²⁾. In a systematic review assessing studies of apheresis in the pediatric populations, the authors found that across 76 studies of children with HoFH, apheresis resulted in mean LDL-C reductions of approximately 60%–70% following an apheresis session and that xanthomas resolved in 83% of cases⁵³⁾. Lipoprotein apheresis offers the additional benefit of lowering lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)]⁵⁴⁾, which is another driver of ASCVD risk in patients with both HoFH and elevated lipoprotein(a) levels.

Apheresis treatments at weekly or biweekly schedules can be burdensome and difficult to tolerate for some patients⁵⁵⁾, and proximity to apheresis centers limits availability to a fraction of the HoFH patient population⁵⁶⁾. Despite some limitations, lipoprotein apheresis is one of the few effective available resources in less affluent countries and where access to novel treatment may be more difficult, but ad hoc government programs are available.

Liver Transplant

Liver transplant is considered a definitive treatment for HoFH, with dramatic LDL-C reductions of up to 80% following transplant⁵⁷⁾. It has been done in relatively few cases of HoFH, sometimes in combination with heart transplantation. A recent review identified 44 cases of liver transplant for HoFH following the first reported case in 1984⁵⁷⁾. In a study

of eight pediatric patients with HoFH in the United States who underwent liver transplant, there were four who were followed up 4–6 years following surgery⁵⁸. During this follow-up period, coronary artery disease did not develop in any of the four patients, except in one minor artery in one patient, and actually regressed in two patients who originally had >50% stenosis. Contrary to this, aortic valve stenosis, another important clinical sequela of HoFH, continued to progress in two of the four patients. Despite the potential resolutive treatment, the risks and complications associated with the surgery, and the necessary long-term immunosuppressant therapy, greatly limit this approach as a treatment option to very rare instances^{1,57}.

Targeting Lipoprotein(a) to Reduce Residual Risk in HoFH

Through large-scale genetic studies, lipoprotein(a) has been shown to be causally associated with ASCVD and calcific aortic valve stenosis, independent of LDL-C levels^{59, 60}. Lp(a) levels are largely inherited, driven by the *LPA* gene locus, and elevated levels above what is considered normal (<30 mg/dL or 75 nmol/L) are associated with disease in a continuous and linear manner⁶¹. Lp(a) levels have been shown to be higher in patients with HoFH than in those with heterozygous FH and those without any FH-causing mutations^{62, 63}. In a study of 119 patients in the Netherlands with FH-causing mutations and unaffected family controls, median Lp(a) levels were 47.3 mg/dL in the 20 patients with HoFH compared to 24.4 mg/dL in the 50 patients with HeFH and 19.9 mg/dL in 22 unaffected family members⁶². There is currently no approved drug for Lp(a) lowering and the majority of LDL-C-lowering therapies used for patients with HoFH do not significantly affect Lp(a) levels. The PCSK9 inhibitor monoclonal antibodies offer a modest reduction in Lp(a) of about 20%–25% in patients with HoFH^{24, 64}. Lipoprotein apheresis has been shown to lower Lp(a) levels by 53%–73% across all patients, not just those with HoFH, with elevated Lp(a) levels⁶⁵.

There are several novel therapeutics in various stages of clinical development that target Lp(a): two siRNA products, olpasiran (NCT04270760) and SLN360 (NCT04606602), and an ASO, pelacarsen (NCT04023552). Pelacarsen is furthest along and being studied in an ongoing phase 3 clinical trial. In the phase 2 study with 286 participants with established cardiovascular disease and Lp(a) at least 60 mg/dL at baseline, pelacarsen at a dose of 20 mg injected subcutaneously every week was associated with an 80% mean reduction in Lp(a) levels⁶⁶. An

equivalent dose of 80 mg every 4 weeks is being tested against a placebo in the phase 3 trial (NCT04023552) to evaluate whether this reduction in Lp(a) levels will be associated with a reduction in cardiovascular outcomes. If shown effective, Lp(a)-lowering therapy may offer patients with HoFH and elevated Lp(a) levels another avenue for risk reduction orthogonal to that achieved with LDL-C reduction.

Future Directions in the Treatment of HoFH

Given the fast-paced advancement in biotechnologies, several therapies using mAb, RNA-based therapeutics, and gene silencing, editing, and transfer are currently being explored for the treatment of HoFH. As mentioned above, mAbs against PCSK9 and ANGPTL3 are already an invaluable tool available for its treatment. Mipomersen, an ASO against apoB⁶⁷, is no longer in clinical use, but it was one of the first RNA-based treatments to be approved, and other ASO and/or siRNA strategies targeting PCSK9 and ANGPTL3 have already been tested in clinical trials as mentioned above^{25, 26, 44}. Gene transfer and gene editing are the next frontier being explored for the treatment of HoFH.

Adeno-Associated Virus-Mediated Gene Transfer

Based on the correction of the metabolic defect and the normalization of LDL-C levels following liver transplant, liver-directed gene transfer is a therapeutic approach that has the potential to substantially improve the response to available treatment methods, if not to be completely curative. After an early attempt using an ex vivo approach⁶⁸, the discovery of the adeno-associated virus (AAV) as a vector for the delivery of the transgene has allowed great progress, as it is less immunogenic and at lower risk of integration into the host genome as compared with other viral vectors. AAV-mediated gene transfer has already proved to be a successful approach in the treatment of monogenic conditions^{69, 70}. Specifically, the AAV8 serotype has demonstrated a high tropism for the liver and has shown therapeutic response in early trials in patients with hemophilia^{71, 72}. Preclinical studies using AAV8-mediated gene transfer have been successful in expressing LDLR in the liver and reducing LDL-C levels and atherosclerosis in *Ldlr* KO mice, with no significant safety concerns^{73–75}. A phase 1/2 first-in-human clinical trial of an AAV-mediated *hLDLR* gene transfer in nine patients with HoFH was recently completed (NCT 02651675). Although no information on efficacy is yet available, early reports from the study showed a dose-dependent elevation in liver transaminases. Transaminase elevations have also been observed in other AAV-mediated gene transfer trials^{71, 76}

and have been attributed to a T-cell immune response to the vector capsid. As in previous studies, the transaminase elevation responded to steroid treatment and was effectively mitigated by the use of a prophylactic steroid regimen⁷⁷). Results of the LDL-C response to the AAV-vector therapy in the HoFH trial are pending.

CRISPR-Based Genome Editing

CRISPR-based gene editing has made a great leap of advancement in the last decade⁷⁸), reaching early phase clinical trials and recently showing remarkable success in treating sickle cell⁷⁹) and transthyretin amyloidosis⁸⁰). Relevant to HoFH treatment, correction of the *LDLR* genetic defect and recovering of its function have been demonstrated using iPS cells derived from a patient with HoFH⁸¹). Correction of the genetic defect and reduction in cholesterol levels and atherosclerotic plaques have been also demonstrated *in vivo* using a mouse model engineered to carry a known *LDLR* pathogenic variant⁸²). Alternatively, CRISPR-based genome editing has also been successfully used to lower LDL-C levels by targeting *ANGPTL3* in *Ldlr* KO mice using an adenoviral vector to deliver the CRISPR base editors⁸³). Interestingly, because viral vectors, such as AAVs, may have size limitation to deliver the base editor, non-viral alternatives, such as lipid nanoparticles, have also been used⁸⁴). Researchers have successfully used CRISPR base editors delivered using lipid nanoparticles to modify *PCSK9* in mice and primates, with an observed 90% reduction of *PCSK9* enzyme levels and 60% reduction in LDL-C levels in primates that remained stable at 8 months following treatment⁸⁵). The use of lipid nanoparticles is particularly interesting, as it may be less immunogenic than a viral vector. It remains unclear if this approach is effective also in animal models lacking the *LDLR*. Nevertheless, these results are very promising.

Conclusions

Effective treatment and management of patients with HoFH remain a challenge for today's healthcare community, but novel additions to the available therapeutic approaches give reason for optimism. Reducing the high morbidity and mortality in HoFH is strongly linked to the success of LDL-C lowering^{7, 11}). As per recommendations set forth by the European Atherosclerosis Society, target LDL-C levels are <100 mg/dL (<2.5 mmol/L) in adults with FH, <70 mg/dL (<1.8 mmol/L) in adults with FH with CVD, and <135 mg/dL (<3.5 mmol/L) in children with FH irrespective of the presence of CVD¹). To reach these

targets, patients with HoFH almost universally require multiple therapeutic approaches, often in conjunction with lipoprotein apheresis. Statins in combination with ezetimibe remain the first-line treatment in this population and need to be started at the time of diagnosis, including early childhood. As this combination alone is usually not sufficient in achieving adequate reduction in LDL-C, additional treatment options must be added to reach target LDL-C goals. As PCSK9 inhibitors have been shown to be effective in many patients with HoFH and have a good safety profile, it is reasonable to initiate this treatment next, if available. After assessing response to the addition of PCSK9 inhibitors, if LDL-C levels remain above goal, other options need to be explored. Among these are apheresis, lomitapide, and evinacumab, with the decision of which therapy to offer next depending on the availability of treatment and patient preference. Evinacumab, an ANGPTL3 inhibitor that was recently approved in Europe and the United States, has shown substantial LDL-C reduction that is independent of underlying *LDLR* function and comes with a favorable safety profile and good tolerability, all of which position this drug to become an integral part of the treatment regimen for patients with HoFH where available. Finally, early preclinical work in gene transfer and editing offers an exciting look toward the future landscape of treatment for patients with HoFH. As significant global disparities have been found in treatment and outcomes of HoFH⁷), it will be important to ensure that these new therapeutic approaches are accessible to all patients with HoFH.

Conflict of Interest (COI)

MC reports research funding from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and REGENXBIO; and honoraria from Amryt Pharma.

AB reports research funding from Amgen Inc., Ionis Pharmaceuticals, Novartis, Pfizer, and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

References

- 1) Cuchel M, Bruckert E, Ginsberg HN, Raal FJ, Santos RD, Hegele RA, Kuivenhoven JA, Nordestgaard BG, Descamps OS, Steinhagen-Thiessen E, Tybjaerg-Hansen A, Watts GF, Averna M, Boileau C, Borén J, Catapano AL, Defesche JC, Hovingh GK, Humphries SE, Kovanen PT, Masana L, Pajukanta P, Parhofer KG, Ray KK, Stalenhoef AFH, Stroes E, Taskinen M-R, Wiegman A, Wiklund O, Chapman MJ, European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel on Familial Hypercholesterolaemia. Homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia: new insights

- and guidance for clinicians to improve detection and clinical management. A position paper from the Consensus Panel on Familial Hypercholesterolaemia of the European Atherosclerosis Society, 2014: 2146-2157
- 2) Nohara A, Tada H, Ogura M, Okazaki S, Ono K, Shimano H, Daida H, Dobashi K, Hayashi T, Hori M, Matsuki K, Minamino T, Yokoyama S, Harada-Shiba M. Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *J Atheroscler Thromb*, 2021; 28: 665-678
 - 3) Hu P, Dharmayat KI, Stevens CAT, Sharabiani MTA, Jones RS, Watts GF, Genest J, Ray KK, Vallejo-Vaz AJ. Prevalence of Familial Hypercholesterolemia Among the General Population and Patients With Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Circulation*, 2020; 141: 1742-1759
 - 4) Beheshti SO, Madsen CM, Varbo A, Nordestgaard BG. Worldwide Prevalence of Familial Hypercholesterolemia: Meta-Analyses of 11 Million Subjects. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2020; 75: 2553-2566
 - 5) Sjouke B, Kusters DM, Kindt I, Besseling J, Defesche JC, Sijbrands EJG, Roeters van Lennep JE, Stalenhoef AFH, Wiegman A, de Graaf J, Fouchier SW, Kastelein JJP, Hovingh GK. Homozygous autosomal dominant hypercholesterolaemia in the Netherlands: prevalence, genotype-phenotype relationship, and clinical outcome. *Eur Heart J*, 2015; 36: 560-565
 - 6) Gidding SS, Champagne MA, de Ferranti SD, Defesche J, Ito MK, Knowles JW, McCrindle B, Raal F, Rader D, Santos RD, Lopes-Virella M, Watts GF, Wierzbicki AS, American Heart Association Atherosclerosis, Hypertension, and Obesity in Young Committee of Council on Cardiovascular Disease in Young, Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing, Council on Functional Genomics and Translational Biology, and Council on Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health. The Agenda for Familial Hypercholesterolemia: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association. *Circulation*, 2015; 132: 2167-2192
 - 7) Tromp TR, Hartgers ML, Hovingh GK, Vallejo-Vaz AJ, Ray KK, Soran H, Freiburger T, Bertolini S, Harada-Shiba M, Blom DJ, Raal FJ, Cuchel M, Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolaemia International Clinical Collaborators. Worldwide experience of homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia: retrospective cohort study. *Lancet*, 2022; 399: 719-728
 - 8) Schmidt HH, Hill S, Makariou EV, Feuerstein IM, Dugi KA, Hoeg JM. Relation of cholesterol-year score to severity of calcific atherosclerosis and tissue deposition in homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *Am J Cardiol*, 1996; 77: 575-580
 - 9) Ference BA, Ginsberg HN, Graham I, Ray KK, Packard CJ, Bruckert E, Hegele RA, Krauss RM, Raal FJ, Schunkert H, Watts GF, Borén J, Fazio S, Horton JD, Masana L, Nicholls SJ, Nordestgaard BG, van de Sluis B, Taskinen M-R, Tokgözoğlu L, Landmesser U, Laufs U, Wiklund O, Stock JK, Chapman MJ, Catapano AL. Low-density lipoproteins cause atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. 1. Evidence from genetic, epidemiologic, and clinical studies. A consensus statement from the European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. *Eur Heart J*, 2017; 38: 2459-2472
 - 10) Wiegman A, Gidding SS, Watts GF, Chapman MJ, Ginsberg HN, Cuchel M, Ose L, Averna M, Boileau C, Borén J, Bruckert E, Catapano AL, Defesche JC, Descamps OS, Hegele RA, Hovingh GK, Humphries SE, Kovanen PT, Kuivenhoven JA, Masana L, Nordestgaard BG, Pajukanta P, Parhofer KG, Raal FJ, Ray KK, Santos RD, Stalenhoef AFH, Steinhagen-Thiessen E, Stroes ES, Taskinen M-R, Tybjærg-Hansen A, Wiklund O, European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel. Familial hypercholesterolaemia in children and adolescents: gaining decades of life by optimizing detection and treatment. *Eur Heart J*, 2015; 36: 2425-2437
 - 11) Thompson GR, Blom DJ, Marais AD, Seed M, Pilcher GJ, Raal FJ. Survival in homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia is determined by the on-treatment level of serum cholesterol. *Eur Heart J*, 2018; 39: 1162-1168
 - 12) Bruckert E, Kalmykova O, Bittar R, Carreau V, Béliard S, Saheb S, Rosenbaum D, Bonnefont-Rousselot D, Thomas D, Emery C, Khoshnood B, Carrié A. Long-term outcome in 53 patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia in a single centre in France. *Atherosclerosis*, 2017; 257: 130-137
 - 13) Raal FJ, Pappu AS, Illingworth DR, Pilcher GJ, Marais AD, Firth JC, Kotze MJ, Heinonen TM, Black DM. Inhibition of cholesterol synthesis by atorvastatin in homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia. *Atherosclerosis*, 2000; 150: 421-428
 - 14) Millar JS, Maugeais C, Ikewaki K, Kolansky DM, Barrett PHR, Budreck EC, Boston RC, Tada N, Mochizuki S, Defesche JC, Wilson JM, Rader DJ. Complete deficiency of the low-density lipoprotein receptor is associated with increased apolipoprotein B-100 production. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*, 2005; 25: 560-565
 - 15) Gagné C, Gaudet D, Bruckert E, Ezetimibe Study Group. Efficacy and safety of ezetimibe coadministered with atorvastatin or simvastatin in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *Circulation*, 2002; 105: 2469-2475
 - 16) Cohen H, Stefanutti C, and The Mighty Medic Satellite Research Group for Pediatric Dyslipidemia. Current Approach to the Diagnosis and Treatment of Heterozygote and Homozygous FH Children and Adolescents. *Curr Atheroscler Rep*, 2021; 23: 30
 - 17) Raal FJ, Pilcher GJ, Panz VR, van Deventer HE, Brice BC, Blom DJ, Marais AD. Reduction in mortality in subjects with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia associated with advances in lipid-lowering therapy. *Circulation*, 2011; 124: 2202-2207
 - 18) Alder M, Bavishi A, Zumpf K, Peterson J, Stone NJ. A Meta-Analysis Assessing Additional LDL-C Reduction from Addition of a Bile Acid Sequestrant to Statin Therapy. *Am J Med*, 2020; 133: 1322-1327
 - 19) Lagace TA. PCSK9 and LDLR degradation: regulatory mechanisms in circulation and in cells. *Curr Opin Lipidol*, 2014; 25: 387-393
 - 20) Cohen J, Pertsemlidis A, Kotowski IK, Graham R, Garcia CK, Hobbs HH. Low LDL cholesterol in individuals of African descent resulting from frequent nonsense mutations in PCSK9. *Nat Genet*, 2005; 37: 161-165
 - 21) Cohen JC, Boerwinkle E, Mosley TH, Hobbs HH.

- Sequence variations in PCSK9, low LDL, and protection against coronary heart disease. *N Engl J Med*, 2006; 354: 1264-1272
- 22) Raal FJ, Honarpour N, Blom DJ, Hovingh GK, Xu F, Scott R, Wasserman SM, Stein EA, TESLA Investigators. Inhibition of PCSK9 with evolocumab in homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (TESLA Part B): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*, 2015; 385: 341-350
 - 23) Santos RD, Stein EA, Hovingh GK, Blom DJ, Soran H, Watts GF, López JAG, Bray S, Kurtz CE, Hamer AW, Raal FJ. Long-Term Evolocumab in Patients With Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2020; 75: 565-574
 - 24) Blom DJ, Harada-Shiba M, Rubba P, Gaudet D, Kastelein JJP, Charng M-J, Pordy R, Donahue S, Ali S, Dong Y, Khilla N, Banerjee P, Baccara-Dinet M, Rosenson RS. Efficacy and Safety of Alirocumab in Adults With Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia: The ODYSSEY HoFH Trial. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2020; 76: 131-142
 - 25) Wright RS, Ray KK, Raal FJ, Kallend DG, Jaros M, Koenig W, Leiter LA, Landmesser U, Schwartz GG, Friedman A, Wijngaard PLJ, Garcia Conde L, Kastelein JJP, ORION Phase III Investigators. Pooled Patient-Level Analysis of Inclisiran Trials in Patients With Familial Hypercholesterolemia or Atherosclerosis. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2021; 77: 1182-1193
 - 26) Hovingh GK, Lepor NE, Kallend D, Stoekenbroek RM, Wijngaard PLJ, Raal FJ. Inclisiran Durably Lowers Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol and Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9 Expression in Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia: The ORION-2 Pilot Study. *Circulation*, 2020; 141: 1829-1831
 - 27) Thedrez A, Blom DJ, Ramin-Mangata S, Blanchard V, Croyal M, Chemello K, Nativel B, Pichelin M, Cariou B, Bourane S, Tang L, Farnier M, Raal FJ, Lambert G. Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia Patients With Identical Mutations Variably Express the LDLR (Low-Density Lipoprotein Receptor): Implications for the Efficacy of Evolocumab. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*, 2018; 38: 592-598
 - 28) Berberich AJ, Hegele RA. Lomitapide for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia. *Expert Opin Pharmacother*, 2017; 18: 1261-1268
 - 29) Cuchel M, Bloedon LT, Szapary PO, Kolansky DM, Wolfe ML, Sarkis A, Millar JS, Ikewaki K, Siegelman ES, Gregg RE, Rader DJ. Inhibition of microsomal triglyceride transfer protein in familial hypercholesterolemia. *N Engl J Med*, 2007; 356: 148-156
 - 30) Cuchel M, Meagher EA, Toit Theron du H, Blom DJ, Marais AD, Hegele RA, Averna MR, Sirtori CR, Shah PK, Gaudet D, Stefanutti C, Vigna GB, Plessis Du AME, Propert KJ, Sasiela WJ, Bloedon LT, Rader DJ, Phase 3 HoFH Lomitapide Study investigators. Efficacy and safety of a microsomal triglyceride transfer protein inhibitor in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia: a single-arm, open-label, phase 3 study. *Lancet*, 2013; 381: 40-46
 - 31) Nohara A, Otsubo Y, Yanagi K, Yoshida M, Ikewaki K, Harada-Shiba M, Jurecka A. Safety and Efficacy of Lomitapide in Japanese Patients with Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia (HoFH): Results from the AEGR-733-301 Long-Term Extension Study. *J Atheroscler Thromb*, 2019; 26: 368-377
 - 32) Blom DJ, Averna MR, Meagher EA, Toit Theron du H, Sirtori CR, Hegele RA, Shah PK, Gaudet D, Stefanutti C, Vigna GB, Larrey D, Bloedon LT, Foulds P, Rader DJ, Cuchel M. Long-Term Efficacy and Safety of the Microsomal Triglyceride Transfer Protein Inhibitor Lomitapide in Patients With Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *Circulation*, 2017; 136: 332-335
 - 33) D'Erasmo L, Cefalù AB, Noto D, Giammanco A, Averna M, Pintus P, Medde P, Vigna GB, Sirtori C, Calabresi L, Pavanello C, Bucci M, Sabbà C, Suppressa P, Natale F, Calabrò P, Sampietro T, Bigazzi F, Sbrana F, Bonomo K, Sileo F, Arca M. Efficacy of Lomitapide in the Treatment of Familial Homozygous Hypercholesterolemia: Results of a Real-World Clinical Experience in Italy. *Adv Ther*, 2017; 34: 1200-1210
 - 34) Kolovou G, Diakoumakou O, Kolovou V, Fountas E, Stratakis S, Zacharis E, Liberopoulos EN, Matsouka F, Tsoutsinos A, Mastorakou I, Katsikas T, Mavrogeni S, Hatzigeorgiou G. Microsomal triglyceride transfer protein inhibitor (lomitapide) efficacy in the treatment of patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia. *Eur J Prev Cardiol*, 2020; 27: 157-165
 - 35) Ben-Omran T, Masana L, Kolovou G, Ariceta G, Nóvoa FJ, Lund AM, Bogsrud MP, Araujo M, Hussein O, Ibarretxe D, Sanchez-Hernández RM, Santos RD. Real-World Outcomes with Lomitapide Use in Paediatric Patients with Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolaemia. *Adv Ther*, 2019; 36: 1786-1811
 - 36) Musunuru K, Pirruccello JP, Do R, Peloso GM, Guiducci C, Sougnez C, Garimella KV, Fisher S, Abreu J, Barry AJ, Fennell T, Banks E, Ambrogio L, Cibulskis K, Kernysky A, Gonzalez E, Rudzicz N, Engert JC, DePristo MA, Daly MJ, Cohen JC, Hobbs HH, Altshuler D, Schonfeld G, Gabriel SB, Yue P, Kathiresan S. Exome sequencing, ANGPTL3 mutations, and familial combined hypolipidemia. *N Engl J Med*, 2010; 363: 2220-2227
 - 37) Dewey FE, Gusarova V, Dunbar RL, O'Dushlaine C, Schurmann C, Gottesman O, McCarthy S, Van Hout CV, Bruse S, Dansky HM, Leader JB, Murray MF, Ritchie MD, Kirchner HL, Habegger L, Lopez A, Penn J, Zhao A, Shao W, Stahl N, Murphy AJ, Hamon S, Bouzelmat A, Zhang R, Shumel B, Pordy R, Gipe D, Herman GA, Sheu WHH, Lee I-T, Liang K-W, Guo X, Rotter JI, Chen Y-DI, Kraus WE, Shah SH, Damrauer S, Small A, Rader DJ, Wulff AB, Nordestgaard BG, Tybjaerg-Hansen A, van den Hoek AM, Princen HMG, Ledbetter DH, Carey DJ, Overton JD, Reid JG, Sasiela WJ, Banerjee P, Shuldiner AR, Borecki IB, Teslovich TM, Yancopoulos GD, Mellis SJ, Gromada J, Baras A. Genetic and Pharmacologic Inactivation of ANGPTL3 and Cardiovascular Disease. *N Engl J Med*, 2017; 377: 211-221
 - 38) Stitzel NO, Khera AV, Wang X, Bierhals AJ, Vourakis AC, Sperry AE, Natarajan P, Klarin D, Emdin CA, Zekavat SM, Nomura A, Erdmann J, Schunkert H, Samani NJ, Kraus WE, Shah SH, Yu B, Boerwinkle E,

- Rader DJ, Gupta N, Frossard PM, Rasheed A, Danesh J, Lander ES, Gabriel S, Saleheen D, Musunuru K, Kathiresan S, PROMIS and Myocardial Infarction Genetics Consortium Investigators. ANGPTL3 Deficiency and Protection Against Coronary Artery Disease. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2017; 69: 2054-2063
- 39) Raal FJ, Rosenson RS, Reeskamp LF, Hovingh GK, Kastelein JJP, Rubba P, Ali S, Banerjee P, Chan K-C, Gipe DA, Khillan N, Pordy R, Weinreich DM, Yancopoulos GD, Zhang Y, Gaudet D, ELIPSE HoFH Investigators. Evinacumab for Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *N Engl J Med*, 2020; 383: 711-720
- 40) Wang Y, Gusarova V, Banfi S, Gromada J, Cohen JC, Hobbs HH. Inactivation of ANGPTL3 reduces hepatic VLDL-triglyceride secretion. *J Lipid Res*, 2015; 56: 1296-1307
- 41) Adam RC, Mintah IJ, Alexa-Braun CA, Shihanian LM, Lee JS, Banerjee P, Hamon SC, Kim HI, Cohen JC, Hobbs HH, Van Hout C, Gromada J, Murphy AJ, Yancopoulos GD, Sleeman MW, Gusarova V. Angiopoietin-like protein 3 governs LDL-cholesterol levels through endothelial lipase-dependent VLDL clearance. *J Lipid Res*, 2020; 61: 1271-1286
- 42) Reeskamp LF, Millar JS, Wu L, Jansen H, van Harskamp D, Schierbeek H, Gipe DA, Rader DJ, Dallinga-Thie GM, Hovingh GK, Cuchel M. ANGPTL3 Inhibition With Evinacumab Results in Faster Clearance of IDL and LDL apoB in Patients With Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia-Brief Report. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*, 2021; 41: 1753-1759
- 43) Graham MJ, Lee RG, Brandt TA, Tai L-J, Fu W, Peralta R, Yu R, Hurh E, Paz E, McEvoy BW, Baker BF, Pham NC, Digenio A, Hughes SG, Geary RS, Witztum JL, Crooke RM, Tsimikas S. Cardiovascular and Metabolic Effects of ANGPTL3 Antisense Oligonucleotides. *N Engl J Med*, 2017; 377: 222-232
- 44) Watts GF, Schwabe C, Scott R, Gladding P, Sullivan D, Baker J, Clifton P, Hamilton J, Given B, Martin JS, Melquist S, Knowles JW, Goldberg I, Hegele R, Ballantyne C. RNAi inhibition of angiopoietin-like protein 3 (ANGPTL3) with ARO-ANG3 mimics the lipid and lipoprotein profile of familial combined hypolipidemia. *Eur Heart J*, 2020; 41(Supplement 2)
- 45) Markham A. Bempedoic Acid: First Approval. *Drugs*, 2020; 80: 747-753
- 46) Goldberg AC, Leiter LA, Stroes ESG, et al. Effect of Bempedoic Acid vs Placebo Added to Maximally Tolerated Statins on Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol in Patients at High Risk for Cardiovascular Disease: The CLEAR Wisdom Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA*, 2019; 322: 1780-1788
- 47) Banach M, Duell PB, Gotto AM, et al. Association of Bempedoic Acid Administration With Atherogenic Lipid Levels in Phase 3 Randomized Clinical Trials of Patients With Hypercholesterolemia. *JAMA Cardiol*, 2020; 5: 1124-1135
- 48) Nicholls S, Lincoff AM, Bays HE, Cho L, Grobbee DE, Kastelein JJ, Libby P, Moriarty PM, Plutzky J, Ray KK, Thompson PD, Sasiela W, Mason D, McCluskey J, Davey D, Wolski K, Nissen SE. Rationale and design of the CLEAR-outcomes trial: Evaluating the effect of bempedoic acid on cardiovascular events in patients with statin intolerance. *Am Heart J*, 2021; 235: 104-112
- 49) Gaudet D, Durst R, Lepor N, Bakker-Arkema R, Bisgaier C, Masson L, Golden L, Kastelein JJ, Hegele RA, Stein E. Usefulness of Gemcabene in Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia (from COBALT-1). *Am J Cardiol*, 2019; 124: 1876-1880
- 50) Thompson GR. Use of apheresis in the age of new therapies for familial hypercholesterolaemia. *Curr Opin Lipidol*, 2021; 32: 363-369
- 51) Pottle A, Thompson G, Barbir M, Bayly G, Cegla J, Cramb R, Dawson T, Eatough R, Kale V, Neuwirth C, Nicholson K, Payne J, Scott J, Soran H, Walji S, Watkins S, Weedon H, Nath Datta DB. Lipoprotein apheresis efficacy, challenges and outcomes: A descriptive analysis from the UK Lipoprotein Apheresis Registry, 1989-2017. *Atherosclerosis*, 2019; 290: 44-51
- 52) Wang A, Richhariya A, Gandra SR, Calimlim B, Kim L, Quek RGW, Nordyke RJ, Toth PP. Systematic Review of Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Apheresis for the Treatment of Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *J Am Heart Assoc*, 2016; 5(7): e003294
- 53) Luirink IK, Determeijer J, Hutten BA, Wiegman A, Bruckert E, Schmitt CP, Groothoff JW. Efficacy and safety of lipoprotein apheresis in children with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia: A systematic review. *J Clin Lipidol*, 2019; 13(1): 31-39
- 54) Drouin-Chartier J-P, Tremblay AJ, Bergeron J, Pelletier M, Laflamme N, Lamarche B, Couture P. Comparison of two low-density lipoprotein apheresis systems in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *J Clin Apher*, 2016; 31: 359-367
- 55) Kayikcioglu M, Kuman-Tunçel O, Pirildar S, Yılmaz M, Kaynar L, Aktan M, Durmuş RB, Gökçe C, Temizhan A, Özcebe OI, Akyol TK, Okutan H, Sağ S, Oz Gul O, Salcioglu Z, Yenercag M, Altunkeser BB, Kuku I, Yasar HY, Kurtoglu E, Demir M, Demircioglu S, Pekkolay Z, İlhan O, Tokgözoğlu L. Clinical management, psychosocial characteristics, and quality of life in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia undergoing LDL-apheresis in Turkey: Results of a nationwide survey (A-HIT1 registry). *J Clin Lipidol*, 2019; 13: 455-467
- 56) De Gucht V, Cromm K, Vogt A, Julius U, Hohenstein B, Spithöver RM, Ramlow W, Schettler VJJ, Maes S. Treatment-related and health-related quality of life in lipoprotein apheresis patients. *J Clin Lipidol*, 2018; 12: 1225-1233
- 57) Ishigaki Y, Kawagishi N, Hasegawa Y, Sawada S, Katagiri H, Satomi S, Oikawa S. Liver Transplantation for Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *J Atheroscler Thromb*, 2019; 26: 121-127
- 58) Martinez M, Brodlie S, Griesemer A, Kato T, Harren P, Gordon B, Parker T, Levine D, Tyberg T, Starc T, Cho I, Min J, Elmore K, Lobritto S, Hudgins LC. Effects of Liver Transplantation on Lipids and Cardiovascular Disease in Children With Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *Am J Cardiol*, 2016; 118: 504-510
- 59) Clarke R, Peden JF, Hopewell JC, Kyriakou T, Goel A, Heath SC, Parish S, Barlera S, Franzosi MG, Rust S, Bennett D, Silveira A, Malarstig A, Green FR, Lathrop M,

- Gigante B, Leander K, de Faire U, Seedorf U, Hamsten A, Collins R, Watkins H, Farrall M, PROCARDIS Consortium. Genetic variants associated with Lp(a) lipoprotein level and coronary disease. *N Engl J Med*, 2009; 361: 2518-2528
- 60) Burgess S, Ference BA, Staley JR, Freitag DF, Mason AM, Nielsen SF, Willeit P, Young R, Surendran P, Karthikeyan S, Bolton TR, Peters JE, Kamstrup PR, Tybjaerg-Hansen A, Benn M, Langsted A, Schnohr P, Vedel-Krogh S, Kobylecki CJ, Ford I, Packard C, Trompet S, Jukema JW, Sattar N, Di Angelantonio E, Saleheen D, Howson JMM, Nordestgaard BG, Butterworth AS, Danesh J, European Prospective Investigation Into Cancer and Nutrition–Cardiovascular Disease (EPIC-CVD) Consortium. Association of LPA Variants With Risk of Coronary Disease and the Implications for Lipoprotein(a)-Lowering Therapies: A Mendelian Randomization Analysis. *JAMA Cardiol*, 2018; 3: 619-627
- 61) Tsimikas S. A Test in Context: Lipoprotein(a). *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2017; 69: 692-711
- 62) Sjouke B, Yahya R, Tanck MWT, Defesche JC, de Graaf J, Wiegman A, Kastelein JJP, Mulder MT, Hovingh GK, Roeters van Lennep JE. Plasma lipoprotein(a) levels in patients with homozygous autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia. *J Clin Lipidol*, 2017; 11: 507-514
- 63) Kraft HG, Lingenhel A, Raal FJ, Hohenegger M, Utermann G. Lipoprotein(a) in homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*, 2000; 20: 522-528
- 64) O'Donoghue ML, Fazio S, Giugliano RP, Stroes ESG, Kanevsky E, Gouni-Berthold I, Im K, Lira Pineda A, Wasserman SM, Češka R, Ezhov MV, Jukema JW, Jensen HK, Tokgözoğlu SL, Mach F, Huber K, Sever PS, Keech AC, Pedersen TR, Sabatine MS. Lipoprotein(a), PCSK9 Inhibition, and Cardiovascular Risk. *Circulation*, 2019; 139: 1483-1492
- 65) Franchini M, Capuzzo E, Liunbruno GM. Lipoprotein apheresis for the treatment of elevated circulating levels of lipoprotein(a): a critical literature review. *Blood Transfus*, 2016; 14: 413-418
- 66) Tsimikas S, Karwatowska-Prokopczuk E, Gouni-Berthold I, Tardif J-C, Baum SJ, Steinhagen-Thiessen E, Shapiro MD, Stroes ES, Moriarty PM, Nordestgaard BG, Xia S, Guerriero J, Viney NJ, O'Dea L, Witztum JL, AKCEA-APO(a)-LRx Study Investigators. Lipoprotein(a) Reduction in Persons with Cardiovascular Disease. *N Engl J Med*, 2020; 382: 244-255
- 67) Raal FJ, Santos RD, Blom DJ, Marais AD, Charng M-J, Cromwell WC, Lachmann RH, Gaudet D, Tan JL, Chasan-Taber S, Tribble DL, Flaim JD, Crooke ST. Mipomersen, an apolipoprotein B synthesis inhibitor, for lowering of LDL cholesterol concentrations in patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia: a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet*, 2010; 375: 998-1006
- 68) Grossman M, Rader DJ, Muller DW, Kolansky DM, Kozarsky K, Clark BJ, Stein EA, Lupien PJ, Brewer HB, Raper SE. A pilot study of ex vivo gene therapy for homozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia. *Nat Med*, 1995; 1: 1148-1154
- 69) Wang D, Tai PWL, Gao G. Adeno-associated virus vector as a platform for gene therapy delivery. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*, 2019; 18: 358-378
- 70) Kuzmin DA, Shutova MV, Johnston NR, Smith OP, Fedorin VV, Kukushkin YS, van der Loo JCM, Johnstone EC. The clinical landscape for AAV gene therapies. *Nat Rev Drug Discov*, 2021; 20: 173-174
- 71) George LA, Sullivan SK, Giermasz A, Rasko JEJ, Samelson-Jones BJ, Ducore J, Cuker A, Sullivan LM, Majumdar S, Teitel J, McGuinn CE, Ragni MV, Luk AY, Hui D, Wright JF, Chen Y, Liu Y, Wachtel K, Winters A, Tiefenbacher S, Arruda VR, van der Loo JCM, Zeleniaia O, Takefman D, Carr ME, Couto LB, Anguela XM, High KA. Hemophilia B Gene Therapy with a High-Specific-Activity Factor IX Variant. *N Engl J Med*, 2017; 377: 2215-2227
- 72) Rangarajan S, Walsh L, Lester W, Perry D, Madan B, Laffan M, Yu H, Vettermann C, Pierce GF, Wong WY, Pasi KJ. AAV5-Factor VIII Gene Transfer in Severe Hemophilia A. *N Engl J Med*, 2017; 377: 2519-2530
- 73) Greig JA, Limberis MP, Bell P, et al. Nonclinical Pharmacology/Toxicology Study of AAV8.TBG.mLDLR and AAV8.TBG.hLDLR in a Mouse Model of Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *Hum Gene Ther Clin Dev*, 2017; 28: 28-38
- 74) Greig JA, Limberis MP, Bell P, et al. Non-Clinical Study Examining AAV8.TBG.hLDLR Vector-Associated Toxicity in Chow-Fed Wild-Type and LDLR+/- Rhesus Macaques. *Hum Gene Ther Clin Dev*, 2017; 28: 39-50
- 75) Kassim SH, Li H, Vandenberghe LH, et al. Gene therapy in a humanized mouse model of familial hypercholesterolemia leads to marked regression of atherosclerosis. *PLoS One*, 2010; 5: e13424
- 76) Nathwani AC, Reiss UM, Tuddenham EGD, Rosales C, Chowdhury P, McIntosh J, Peruta Della M, Lheriteau E, Patel N, Raj D, Riddell A, Pie J, Rangarajan S, Bevan D, Recht M, Shen Y-M, Halka KG, Basner-Tschakarjan E, Mingozzi F, High KA, Allay J, Kay MA, Ng CYC, Zhou J, Cancio M, Morton CL, Gray JT, Srivastava D, Nienhuis AW, Davidoff AM. Long-term safety and efficacy of factor IX gene therapy in hemophilia B. *N Engl J Med*, 2014; 371: 1994-2004
- 77) Cuchel M, Bajaj A, carr R, Sikora T, Duell PB, Tardif J-C, Roeters van Lennep JE, Linton MF, Averna M, Cho Y, Rastogi S, Wilson JM, Meagher E, Rader DJ. Use of prophylactic steroids to mitigate potential T-cell response in AAV8-mediated hLDLR gene transfer in subjects with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia. Poster presented at: ASGCT 23rd Annual Meeting. May 2020. Virtual.
- 78) Adli M. The CRISPR tool kit for genome editing and beyond. *Nat Commun*, 2018; 9: 1911
- 79) Frangoul H, Altshuler D, Cappellini MD, Chen Y-S, Domm J, Eustace BK, Foell J, la Fuente de J, Grupp S, Handgretinger R, Ho TW, Kattamis A, Kernysky A, Lekstrom-Himes J, Li AM, Locatelli F, Mapara MY, de Montalembert M, Rondelli D, Sharma A, Sheth S, Soni S, Steinberg MH, Wall D, Yen A, Corbacioglu S. CRISPR-Cas9 Gene Editing for Sickle Cell Disease and β -Thalassemia. *N Engl J Med*, 2021; 384: 252-260
- 80) Gillmore JD, Gane E, Taubel J, Kao J, Fontana M, Maitland ML, Seitzer J, O'Connell D, Walsh KR, Wood

- K, Phillips J, Xu Y, Amaral A, Boyd AP, Cehelsky JE, McKee MD, Schiermeier A, Harari O, Murphy A, Kyratsous CA, Zambrowicz B, Soltys R, Gutstein DE, Leonard J, Sepp-Lorenzino L, Lebowitz D. CRISPR-Cas9 In Vivo Gene Editing for Transthyretin Amyloidosis. *N Engl J Med*, 2021; 385: 493-502
- 81) Okada H, Nakanishi C, Yoshida S, Shimojima M, Yokawa J, Mori M, Tada H, Yoshimuta T, Hayashi K, Yamano T, Hanayama R, Yamagishi M, Kawashiri M-A. Function and Immunogenicity of Gene-corrected iPSC-derived Hepatocyte-Like Cells in Restoring Low Density Lipoprotein Uptake in Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *Sci Rep*. 2019; 9: 4695
- 82) Zhao H, Li Y, He L, Pu W, Yu W, Li Y, Wu Y-T, Xu C, Wei Y, Ding Q, Song B-L, Huang H, Zhou B. In Vivo AAV-CRISPR/Cas9-Mediated Gene Editing Ameliorates Atherosclerosis in Familial Hypercholesterolemia. *Circulation*, 2020; 141: 67-79
- 83) Chadwick AC, Evitt NH, Lv W, Musunuru K. Reduced Blood Lipid Levels With In Vivo CRISPR-Cas9 Base Editing of ANGPTL3. *Circulation*, 2018; 137: 975-977
- 84) Qiu M, Glass Z, Chen J, Haas M, Jin X, Zhao X, Rui X, Ye Z, Li Y, Zhang F, Xu Q. Lipid nanoparticle-mediated codelivery of Cas9 mRNA and single-guide RNA achieves liver-specific in vivo genome editing of Angptl3. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 2021; 118
- 85) Musunuru K, Chadwick AC, Mizoguchi T, Garcia SP, DeNizio JE, Reiss CW, Wang K, Iyer S, Dutta C, Clendaniel V, Amaonye M, Beach A, Berth K, Biswas S, Braun MC, Chen H-M, Colace TV, Ganey JD, Gangopadhyay SA, Garrity R, Kasiewicz LN, Lavoie J, Madsen JA, Matsumoto Y, Mazzola AM, Nasrullah YS, Nneji J, Ren H, Sanjeev A, Shay M, Stahley MR, Fan SHY, Tam YK, Gaudelli NM, Ciaramella G, Stolz LE, Malyala P, Cheng CJ, Rajeev KG, Rohde E, Bellinger AM, Kathiresan S. In vivo CRISPR base editing of PCSK9 durably lowers cholesterol in primates. *Nature*, 2021; 593: 429-434