

# Abuse potential of mirogabalin in recreational polydrug users

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**Abstract:** Mirogabalin is a selective calcium channel  $\alpha_2\delta$  subunit ligand being developed to treat neuropathic pain. In accordance with US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance, the human abuse potential of mirogabalin (15–105 mg) was examined, relative to placebo, diazepam (15 or 30 mg), and pregabalin (200 or 450 mg), in two single-dose, randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active-controlled crossover studies in recreational polydrug users who could discern between positive comparator and placebo. The primary endpoint was maximum observed effect ( $E_{max}$ ) for Drug Liking Visual Analog Scale. At therapeutic doses, mirogabalin Drug Liking  $E_{max}$  did not differ significantly from placebo and was significantly lower than diazepam and pregabalin. This indicates therapeutic doses mirogabalin may have less abuse potential *versus* diazepam or pregabalin. At supratherapeutic doses ( $\geq 4\times$  therapeutic dose), mirogabalin had significantly higher Drug Liking  $E_{max}$  than placebo, but lower  $E_{max}$  than pregabalin. In both studies, therapeutic doses of mirogabalin demonstrated limited evidence of abuse potential.

**Keywords:** abuse potential, diazepam, mirogabalin, pharmacokinetics, pregabalin, recreational drug users

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## Introduction

Current guidelines for the management of neuropathic pain from the International Association for the Study of Pain include a range of options for first-line pharmacological therapy, including calcium channel  $\alpha_2\delta$  subunit ligands, such as gabapentin and pregabalin.<sup>1</sup> High-quality evidence supports the use of these agents;<sup>2–4</sup> however, both gabapentin and pregabalin are associated with a high incidence of adverse events, particularly dizziness and somnolence.<sup>5</sup> In addition, concerns have been expressed about the potential for misuse, abuse, or diversion of gabapentin and pregabalin, especially among individuals with a history of opioid or benzodiazepine use.<sup>6</sup> There is, therefore, an unmet need for a well-tolerated calcium channel  $\alpha_2\delta$  ligand with a low potential for abuse.

Mirogabalin monobenzenesulfonate (mirogabalin; Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) is a preferentially selective ligand of  $\alpha_2\delta$  calcium channels.<sup>7</sup> A phase II proof-of-concept trial demonstrated

analgesic efficacy in patients with diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain (DPNP).<sup>8,9</sup> Results will soon be available from phase 3 studies in patients with DPNP (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT02318706) and postherpetic neuralgia (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT02318719).

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that all agents with central nervous system (CNS) activity be assessed for their abuse potential, so that this information can be included in the regulatory assessment.<sup>10</sup> Based on preclinical data and the similarity to gabapentin and pregabalin, which are both controlled substances, a human abuse potential study was required for mirogabalin. In accordance with FDA guidance, two independent studies were conducted to examine the human abuse potential of mirogabalin in adults with a history of recreational drug use. One study compared mirogabalin with placebo and diazepam (the diazepam study) and one study compared mirogabalin with placebo and pregabalin (the pregabalin study).

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## Methods

### Study design

The diazepam and pregabalin studies both were approved by the Institutional Review Boards and were performed in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and International Conference on Harmonisation guidelines.<sup>11</sup> All participants provided written informed consent prior to study entry. In both studies, the primary objective was to compare the abuse potential of mirogabalin relative to placebo, diazepam, and pregabalin in recreational polydrug users. The primary endpoint was the maximal effect ( $E_{\max}$ ) on the bipolar Drug Liking visual analog scale (VAS). High, good drug effects, and bad drug effects (unipolar) were also assessed using a VAS.

Secondary objectives were to evaluate the safety and tolerability and the pharmacokinetics (PK) of mirogabalin, diazepam, and pregabalin. The PK parameters were calculated from plasma concentrations using a noncompartmental approach and included maximum serum concentration ( $C_{\max}$ ), time to  $C_{\max}$  ( $T_{\max}$ ), area under the concentration-time curve (AUC), and elimination half-life ( $t_{1/2}$ ). Safety and tolerability were evaluated by assessing treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs), physical examination findings, vital signs, 12-lead electrocardiograms (ECGs), and standard laboratory tests.

**Diazepam study.** This was a single-center, randomized, balanced, placebo- and active-controlled, crossover study with two phases (Figure 1A); a double-blind qualification phase to ensure that eligible participants could discriminate the effects of the active control (diazepam) compared with placebo and an assessment phase (see Supplemental Materials). Participants reported to the clinic in the afternoon before period 1 dosing and remained in the clinic until checkout (day 3 of period 5). Qualifying participants were randomly assigned to a predetermined treatment sequence according to a two  $5 \times 5$  Williams square design (10 sequences in total) and received a single dose of each of the following in a double-blind, double-dummy, crossover manner: mirogabalin 15 mg, mirogabalin 45 mg, diazepam 15 mg, diazepam 30 mg, and placebo (Figure 1A). Each participant was followed by serial assessments for 48 hours postdose. Treatment periods were separated by  $\geq 5$  days between dose administrations to eliminate carryover effects.

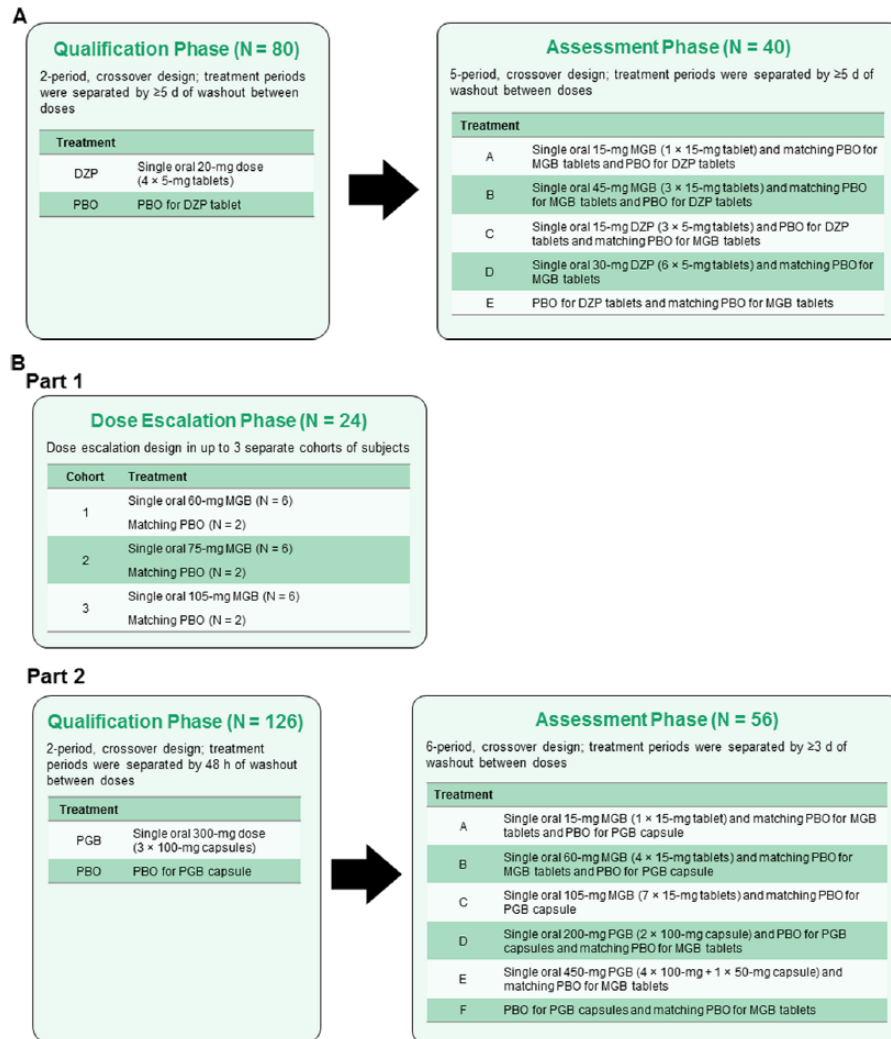
Participants were healthy male and female recreational polydrug users aged between 18 and 55 years. They were required to have used CNS depressants for nontherapeutic reasons on  $\geq 10$  occasions in the past 5 years, including use of  $\geq 1$  CNS depressant in the past 3 months (details in Supplemental Materials). Participants with a substance abuse disorder or those seeking treatment for addiction-related disorders were excluded. All participants were required to have a negative drug screen at baseline and to abstain from recreational drug use for the duration of the study.

**Pregabalin study.** The pregabalin study consisted of a dose escalation phase, followed by a qualification phase, and then an assessment phase (Figure 1B, Supplemental Materials). The dose escalation phase was included to evaluate the safety and tolerability of ascending doses of mirogabalin (60–105 mg) for use in the assessment phase. Based on data from the dose escalation phase, three doses were chosen for the assessment phase: the proposed therapeutic dose (15 mg), a low supratherapeutic dose (60 mg), and a high supratherapeutic dose (105 mg).

The assessment phase had a six-period, randomized, placebo- and active-controlled, balanced crossover design (Figure 1B, Part 2). Participants reported to the clinic on the day before period 1 dosing and remained in the clinic until check-out (day 3 of period 6). Qualifying participants were randomly assigned to a predetermined treatment sequence according to a  $6 \times 6$  Williams square design, and received a single dose of each of the following: mirogabalin 15 mg, mirogabalin 60 mg, mirogabalin 105 mg, pregabalin 200 mg, pregabalin 450 mg, and placebo. Treatment periods were separated by  $\geq 3$  days between dose administrations to eliminate carryover effects.

The pregabalin study included healthy men and women aged 18 to 55 years who were recreational polydrug users, using the same exclusion criteria as in the diazepam study (see Supplemental Materials for a detailed definition).

Patients were assessed for 48 h after each administration and completed 6 VAS at baseline and at predefined intervals up to 48 h postdose; these were the 4 abuse-potential VAS (Drug Liking, High, Good Drug, Bad Drug), Any Effect VAS, and Alertness/Drowsiness VAS. Participants also



**Figure 1.** Study design: (A) diazepam study; (B) pregabalin study.

completed three additional VASs: one asking about similarity to other drugs (at 12 h postdose), one asking about their overall liking for the drug (at 12, 24, and 48 h postdose), and another asking about whether they would take the drug again (at 12, 24, and 48 h postdose) (see the Supplemental Materials for more details).

Blood samples were collected at baseline, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 24, 36, and 48 h for PK assessment. Each participant was scheduled to repeat the process, receiving each possible treatment in a randomized order, with  $\geq 3$  days of washout between each assessment. Participants remained at the research facility throughout the study, checking out on day 3 of period 6. Plasma concentrations of mirogabalin were measured using validated liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry

method. Detailed bioanalytic methods can be found in the Supplemental Materials.

### Statistical analysis

In both studies, safety analysis was undertaken in all participants who received at least one dose of randomized medication or placebo, and had at least one relevant postdose assessment. The pharmacodynamic (PD) analysis was undertaken in all participants who were randomized into the assessment phase, received at least one dose of study drug, and had at least one postbaseline PD measurement (completer analysis set). Baseline demographic characteristics were summarized using arithmetic mean, median, range, and standard deviation (SD) for continuous variables, and frequency and percentage for categorical variables.

PD values at each time point were summarized by treatment using descriptive statistics. For each VAS, the  $E_{\max}$  or  $E_{\min}$  and time-averaged area under the effect curve (TA-AUE; for placebo and pregabalin only) were calculated.

A mixed-effects model was used to compare the primary PD endpoint (Drug Liking VAS  $E_{\max}$ ), as well as secondary PD endpoints (e.g.,  $E_{\max}$ ,  $E_{\min}$ , TA-AUE), where applicable, between treatments. The model included treatment, period, and sequence effect as fixed effects, and participant nested within treatment sequence as random effect. Baseline (predose) measurements were included as a covariate, where applicable. In the pregabalin study, mirogabalin was assumed to have no more abuse potential than placebo if the upper limits obtained from the 95% confidence intervals (CIs) of the estimated differences in the PD parameters were <11 points.

PK values were summarized by study using arithmetic mean, SD, and coefficient of variation percent (CV%). AUC and  $C_{\max}$  were also calculated using geometric mean and CV for geometric mean. Differences in PK parameters between treatments were calculated by ratios of geometric least squares mean and 95% CIs.

## Results

### *Participant disposition, demographics, and baseline characteristics*

For the diazepam study, 79 patients entered the qualification phase, 38 patients entered the assessment phase, and 32 completed all assessments (Supplemental Figure 1). For the pregabalin study, 126 participants entered the qualification phase, 56 participated in the assessment phase, 44 received all 6 treatments, and 41 completed the study (Supplemental Figure 1).

Most participants were male (84.2% in the diazepam study and 80.4% in the pregabalin study [assessment phase]) and Black or African American (68.4% [diazepam] and 71.4% [pregabalin]). The mean (SD) age of participants was 31.1 (6.99) years in the diazepam study and 30.4 (8.65) years in the pregabalin study. Baseline demographic characteristics for the assessment phase populations are listed in Table 1. All participants in both studies reported prior drug use (Table 1).

### *Pharmacodynamic results*

*Pharmacodynamic balance of effects measures: Drug Liking VAS.* Mean Drug Liking VAS scores over 24 h postdose are presented in Figure 2.

The therapeutic dose of mirogabalin 15 mg was not significantly different from placebo on the primary endpoint of  $E_{\max}$  for Drug Liking VAS assessment (Figure 3 and Table 2). In contrast, the positive controls (diazepam and pregabalin) showed significantly greater Drug Liking effects than placebo and mirogabalin 15 mg. The low and high suprathreshold doses of mirogabalin (60 and 105 mg) demonstrated significantly greater mean  $E_{\max}$  effects compared with placebo on the primary endpoint. In the diazepam study, the time to  $E_{\max}$  occurred at approximately 0.5 h for mirogabalin 15 mg, and at 1.5 h postdose for both doses of diazepam and mirogabalin 45 mg. In the pregabalin study, median time to  $E_{\max}$  occurred later for the two suprathreshold doses of mirogabalin compared with pregabalin (8 and 7 h postdose for mirogabalin 60 and 105 mg, respectively, compared with 4 h postdose for both doses of pregabalin).

### *Pharmacodynamic secondary measures*

The therapeutic dose of mirogabalin 15 mg was not significantly different from placebo on any of the secondary endpoints (Table 3). In contrast, the low and high suprathreshold doses of mirogabalin (60 and 105 mg) demonstrated significantly greater mean  $E_{\max}$  effects compared with placebo on most secondary endpoints, including measures of balance of effects and positive and sedative effects. The therapeutic dose of mirogabalin 15 mg was associated with fewer positive effects relative to the positive controls of diazepam and pregabalin, respectively, in each study. In the pregabalin study, mirogabalin 15 mg was also associated with significantly less sedation relative to pregabalin 200 mg. Comparisons between pregabalin 450 mg and mirogabalin 105 mg revealed significantly greater effects of mirogabalin 105 mg only on some of the secondary endpoints (e.g., positive effects, sedative effects, and any effects). Like pregabalin, mirogabalin showed a positive dose–effect relationship, with the 60 mg dose numerically higher than that of the 15 mg dose, and the 105 mg dose numerically higher than that of the 60 mg dose on most measures.

**Table 1.** Summary of demographics (assessment phase).

	<b>Diazepam study N = 38</b>	<b>Pregabalin study N = 56</b>
Age, years		
Mean ± SD	31.1 ± 6.99	30.4 ± 8.65
Range	20–49	18–55
Sex		
Male	32 (84.2)	45 (80.4)
Female	6 (15.8)	11 (19.6)
Race		
White	10 (26.3)	13 (23.2)
Black or African American	26 (68.4)	40 (71.4)
Other	2 (5.26)	3 (5.36)
Prior recreational drug usage		
Marijuana/THC	37 (97.4)	56 (100.0)
Marijuana/THC only	5 (13.2)	0
Marijuana/THC and opiates	27 (71.1)	49 (87.5)
Marijuana/THC and opiates only	8 (21.1)	0
Marijuana/THC and benzodiazepines	24 (63.2)	56 (100.0)
Marijuana/THC and benzodiazepines only	5 (13.2)	7 (12.5)
Participants randomized to Assessment Phase	38 (48.1)	56 (44.4)
Participants who completed the study	32 (84.2)	41 (73.2)
Shown as <i>n</i> (%) unless otherwise noted. SD, standard deviation; THC, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol.		

In the pregabalin study, pregabalin (particularly at the 450 mg dose) was rated as being similar to benzodiazepines, and less so to opioids, on the Drug Similarity VAS. Mirogabalin 15 mg was not rated as being similar to any drugs of abuse; however, the two suprathreshold doses were rated as being similar to benzodiazepines.

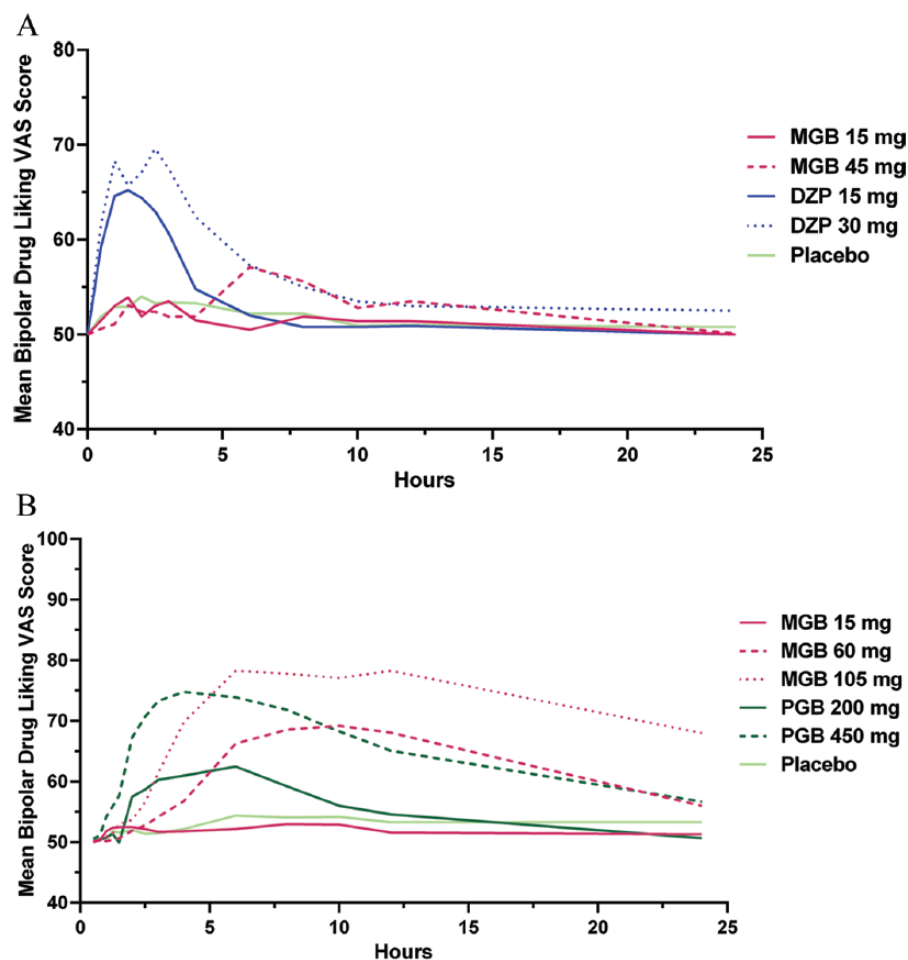
#### Pharmacokinetic results

The concentration-time profile of mirogabalin in the two studies is shown in Figure 4. Plasma concentrations and exposure parameters ( $C_{\max}$  and AUC) for mirogabalin increased proportionally with higher doses. The median  $T_{\max}$  was

approximately 1 hour at all tested doses in both studies, and the mean  $t_{1/2}$  was approximately 3.5 hours (Supplemental Table 1).

#### Safety results

No deaths or serious adverse events occurred in either study. With the exception of one severe adverse event that occurred with diazepam 30 mg, all adverse events were either mild or moderate in intensity. One participant withdrew from the assessment phase of the diazepam study because of cellulitis after receiving diazepam 30 mg, and one withdrew from the assessment phase of the pregabalin study due to mild postural



**Figure 2.** Mean profile of Drug Liking visual analog scale scores by treatment: (A) diazepam study; (B) pregabalin study.

orthostatic tachycardia that was considered to be unrelated to study drug (pregabalin 450 mg).

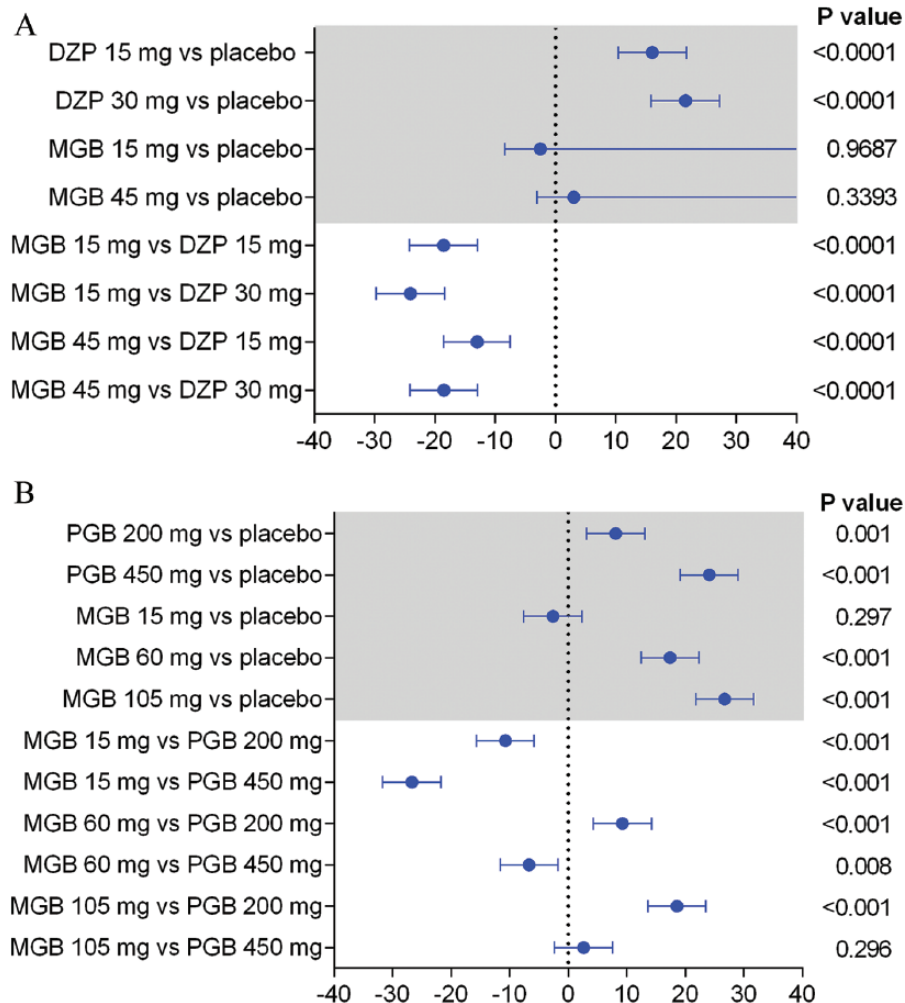
The most common TEAE reported in the diazepam study was sedation, which occurred in 25 participants overall (65.8%), but none in the mirogabalin 15-mg group (Supplemental Table 2). Other events commonly reported in this study were postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (23.7% overall) and a feeling of relaxation (26.3% overall). TEAEs (reported by  $\geq 5\%$  of participants in any single treatment group) in the pregabalin study included euphoric mood, somnolence, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, dry mouth, upper respiratory tract infection, muscle spasms, headache, and dizziness (Supplemental Table 2). A dose-dependent trend was observed in the incidence of the most common TEAEs following administration of mirogabalin and pregabalin, with

the exception of dizziness, which did not occur in a dose-dependent manner following administration of pregabalin. The incidence of the most common TEAEs was generally comparable between mirogabalin 15 mg and placebo, and between mirogabalin 60 mg and pregabalin 450 mg, and higher for mirogabalin 105 mg than all of the other treatments, including pregabalin 450 mg.

No clinically relevant laboratory or ECG abnormalities were noted by the investigator in either study, and no participant experienced hepatic transaminase elevations  $>3\times$  upper limit of normal.

### Discussion

These two studies demonstrate that the planned therapeutic dose of mirogabalin (15 mg) shows



**Figure 3.** Statistical analysis of maximum observed effect for Drug Liking: (A) diazepam study; (B) pregabalin study.

limited potential for abuse, based on maximal Drug Liking scores that were not significantly different from placebo in recreational polydrug users. In addition, based on the primary endpoint of Drug Liking  $E_{max}$ , mirogabalin 15 mg is less likely to have abuse potential compared with therapeutic doses of diazepam or pregabalin.

The effects of mirogabalin on most of the tested PD parameters appeared dose-related. However, even at a supratherapeutic dose of 45 mg, the maximal effects of mirogabalin on Drug Liking, Positive Effects High, and Good Drug Effects were not significantly different from those of placebo and were less marked than those of diazepam 15 or 30 mg. Only in the pregabalin study, when mirogabalin was administered at doses four or seven times higher than the planned

therapeutic dose, did the  $E_{max}$  for the primary and secondary PD parameters show a significant difference relative to placebo. The effects of mirogabalin 15 mg on Drug Liking, Positive Effects High, Good Drug Effects, and Any Effects were significantly less marked than the effects of pregabalin 200 mg on these parameters, whereas the effects of mirogabalin 60 mg or 105 mg were significantly more marked than those of pregabalin 200 mg. Thus, mirogabalin must be administered at doses at least four times higher than the therapeutic dose to show a more marked effect on parameters of abuse potential than pregabalin 200 mg. In addition, as onset of effect and time to peak effect of mirogabalin were delayed with increasing doses, abuse potential of mirogabalin would not likely result in greater abuse potential because drug users may

**Table 2.** Pharmacodynamic parameters for Drug Liking VAS assessment during the assessment phase in patients who received study drug in all treatment periods<sup>a</sup>.

	Diazepam study				Pregabalin study						
	Placebo N = 35	MGB 15 mg N = 35	MGB 45 mg N = 37	DZP 15 mg N = 36	DZP 30 mg N = 35	Placebo N = 43	MGB 15 mg N = 43	MGB 60 mg N = 43	MGB 105 mg N = 43	PGB 200 mg N = 43	PGB 450 mg N = 44
$E_{\max}$	57.5 (14.18)	55.5 (12.03)	60.3 (13.90)	73.6 (16.47)	79.5 (14.75)	58.2 (13.65)	55.4 (10.94)	74.9 (16.56)	84.5 (13.10)	66.7 (16.07)	81.9 (12.87)
$E_{\min}$	49.7 (0.89)	47.0 (11.42)	47.6 (7.62)	48.4 (8.15)	45.7 (17.20)	49.5 (1.96)	49.0 (6.41)	47.8 (7.29)	47.3 (9.62)	47.4 (9.97)	49.2 (6.06)
TA-AUE						52.8 (8.16)	51.7 (7.72)	58.0 (10.28)	66.8 (11.92)	53.0 (4.27)	60.4 (11.31)
Time-weighted mean	50.94 (3.36)	50.61 (3.05)	51.34 (3.58)	51.49 (2.25)	54.15 (9.56)						

Shown as arithmetic mean (standard deviation), unless otherwise noted.

<sup>a</sup>The visual analog scale used was a 100-point bipolar scale where 50 was neutral.

DZP, diazepam;  $E_{\max}$ , maximum observed effect;  $E_{\min}$ , minimum observed effect; MGB, mirogabalin; PGB, pregabalin; TA-AUE, time-averaged area under the effect curve.

not be willing to wait 8 h to experience the positive effects of the drug.

These findings demonstrate that single doses of mirogabalin are well tolerated. In the diazepam study, the incidence of adverse events with mirogabalin 15 mg (8.6%) or 45 mg (27.0%) was similar or lower than the incidence with placebo (28.6%), and lower than after single doses of diazepam 15 (69.4%) or 30 mg (80.0%). The planned therapeutic dose of mirogabalin was similarly well tolerated in the pregabalin study. The incidence of adverse events with mirogabalin 15 mg was comparable with the incidence in the placebo group (36.0% versus 36.5%, respectively). The incidence of adverse events was higher after the low and high suprathreshold doses of mirogabalin (67.3% with 60 mg and 90.0% with 105 mg), and comparable to the incidence with pregabalin 200 mg (47.1%) or 450 mg (82.4%). The type of adverse events reported by participants receiving mirogabalin in these studies were similar to those reported in a phase II clinical trial with mirogabalin in patients with neuropathic pain secondary to diabetic neuropathy and were mostly mild or moderate in severity.<sup>9</sup>

The PK profile of mirogabalin was consistent with previous reports in patients receiving single doses of mirogabalin.<sup>12</sup> The  $T_{\max}$  of a single dose of mirogabalin 5 mg is 1.3 h with a  $t_{1/2}$  of 2.8 h in individuals with normal renal function,<sup>12</sup> which is similar to the  $T_{\max}$  of approximately 1 h and  $t_{1/2}$  of approximately 3 h across all doses of mirogabalin reported here for recreational drug users.

Although these studies examined only a single dose of mirogabalin, both were carefully designed to identify abuse potential based on FDA guidelines.<sup>10</sup> Key strengths include the use of a qualification phase to identify appropriate participants; use of both placebo and active comparators; randomized, double-blind, double-dummy, crossover designs; examination of a range of doses, including suprathreshold doses; use of specific VAS assessing potential drug effects; and conduct of the study in a controlled laboratory setting to prevent other drug use.<sup>10,13</sup> The significant effects of the two positive controls (diazepam and pregabalin) compared with placebo on the primary endpoint and most of the secondary endpoints demonstrate the validity of the study and sensitivity of the measures for detecting abuse-related effects.



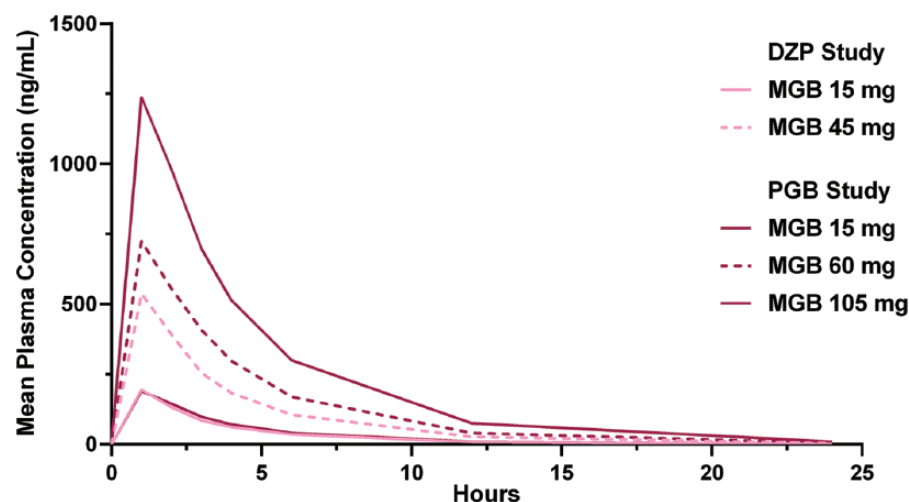
**Table 3.** Secondary PD outcome measures (assessment phase)<sup>a</sup>.

	Diazepam study (PD analysis set)				Pregabalin study						
	Placebo N = 35	MGB 15 mg N = 35	MGB 45 mg N = 37	DZP 15 mg N = 36	DZP 30 mg N = 35	Placebo N = 43	MGB 15 mg N = 43	MGB 60 mg N = 43	MGB 105 mg N = 43	PGB 200 mg N = 43	PGB 450 mg N = 43
$E_{max}$ Positive Effects High	9.7 (20.98)	8.3 (16.31)	20.7 (28.75)	48.5 <sup>b,c,d</sup> (34.67)	60.6 <sup>b,c,d</sup> (29.08)	12.6 (19.43)	9.4 (19.05)	46.2 <sup>b</sup> (30.95)	73.3 <sup>b</sup> (24.22)	28.1 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (26.29)	57.2 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (24.80)
$E_{max}$ Good Drug Effects	10.3 (21.91)	9.7 (17.58)	22.2 (29.94)	51.4 <sup>b,c,d</sup> (34.86)	62.5 <sup>b,c,d</sup> (30.28)	12.4 (20.33)	12.3 (22.30)	46.6 <sup>b</sup> (33.07)	70.2 <sup>b</sup> (24.55)	30.2 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (28.86)	57.3 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (25.54)
$E_{max}$ Bad Drug Effects	0.3 (1.23)	1.2 (3.47)	7.0 <sup>a</sup> (18.94)	5.7 (15.23)	8.2 <sup>b,c</sup> (20.50)	0.8 (4.01)	2.7 (11.08)	6.2 <sup>b</sup> (14.25)	10.0 <sup>b</sup> (21.41)	2.3 (9.42)	4.8 <sup>b</sup> (12.89)
$E_{max}$ Overall Drug Liking	-	-	-	-	-	63.6 (17.80)	60.0 (14.96)	77.1 <sup>b</sup> (16.92)	84.9 <sup>b</sup> (13.45)	66.4 (16.14)	83.2 <sup>b,c,e</sup> (13.61)
$E_{max}$ Take Drug Again	-	-	-	-	-	39.9 (39.78)	30.8 (37.84)	70.3 <sup>b</sup> (31.02)	81.1 <sup>b</sup> (22.74)	52.2 (37.96)	79.8 <sup>b</sup> (24.48)
$E_{min}$ Alertness/ Drowsiness	-	-	-	-	-	43.8 (17.28)	45.1 (16.03)	29.4 <sup>b</sup> (22.13)	19.7 <sup>b</sup> (15.25)	36.3 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (18.39)	30.6 <sup>b,c,f</sup> (20.69)
$E_{max}$ Any Effects	-	-	-	-	-	10.9 (17.80)	8.5 (15.39)	46.7 <sup>b</sup> (30.67)	71.7 <sup>a</sup> (24.59)	30.6 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (27.90)	58.4 <sup>b,c,e,f</sup> (25.78)

Shown as arithmetic mean (standard deviation), unless otherwise noted.

<sup>a</sup>The visual analog scale used was a 100-point bipolar scale where 50 was neutral.

<sup>b</sup> $p < 0.05$  versus placebo; <sup>c</sup> $p < 0.05$  versus MGB 15 mg; <sup>d</sup> $p < 0.05$  versus MGB 45 mg; <sup>e</sup> $p < 0.05$  versus MGB 60 mg; <sup>f</sup> $p < 0.05$  versus MGB 105 mg.  
DZP, diazepam;  $E_{max}$ , maximum observed effect;  $E_{min}$ , minimum observed effect; MGB, mirogabalin; PD, pharmacodynamic; PGB, pregabalin.



**Figure 4.** Pharmacokinetic profile of mirogabalin after a single dose in the diazepam and the pregabalin studies.

### Conclusions

Overall, the results of these studies demonstrate that mirogabalin had limited abuse potential at the therapeutic dose of 15 mg and is well tolerated in participants with a history of recreational polydrug use. At supratherapeutic doses (e.g. 60 and 105 mg), mirogabalin has abuse potential greater than placebo, but similar to that of pregabalin in a highly sensitive population of recreational polydrug users.

### Author contributions

Hamim Zahir and Jeanne Mendell were the clinical study leaders, designed the studies, interpreted the data, and wrote the manuscript. Naama Levy-Cooperman designed the research, interpreted the data, and wrote the manuscript. Bradley Vince and Debra Kelsh performed the research. All authors provided critical feedback and approved the final version.

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### Conflict of interest statement


The author(s) declared following potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship,

and/or publication of this article: JM and HZ are employees of Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. JL and VW were employees of Daiichi Sankyo, Inc. at the time the study was conducted. NLC, ES, DK, and BV received funding to conduct the study.

### Supplemental material

Supplemental material for this article is available online.

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