New treatments for visceral leishmaniasis in Africa – The story so far

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LEAP0104 Study Group
The story begins...
LEAP 0104 clinical trial design

• A randomised, open-label, multicentre, comparative Phase III trial of efficacy and safety of:
  – sodium stibogluconate (SSG)
  – paromomycin (PM)
  – combination of SSG and PM
• Sample size 705, 90% power, between treatment difference of no more than 10%
• Countries:
  – recruiting: Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan
Treatment regimens

- SSG  20mg/kg/day for 30 days iv/im
- PM   15mg/kg/day for 21 days im
- Combination
  - SSG  20mg/kg/day for 17 days iv/im
  - PM   15mg/kg/day for 17 days im

PM dose was selected based on the dose used in the Indian trial
Primary endpoints

- Safety:
- Efficacy: Parasitological clearance at 6 months post-treatment by splenic, lymph node, or bone marrow smear
MSF – Um el Kher, Sudan

(Photo courtesy of Dr M Balasegaram)

(Photo courtesy of Dr C Royce)
Kassab Hospital, Sudan
Laboratory – Kassab Hospital

(Photo courtesy of Dr C Royce)
LEAP0104A Patient Disposition

Screened
N = 926

Excluded: 521
VL parasite negative n = 221
VL parasite positive n = 300
Patients with VL who did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded:
- abnormal safety biological parameters.
- concomitant infections.
- Age limits (4 ≤ age ≤ 60 years).
- Pregnancy and/or lactation.
- Refused to give consent.
- Others.

Enrolled and Randomised
n = 405

SSG
n = 135

PM
n = 135

Combination
n = 135
### Patient Demographics - Baseline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics, n (%)</th>
<th>SSG N = 135</th>
<th>PM N = 135</th>
<th>SSG + PM N = 135</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age (years)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mean (SD)</td>
<td>16.7 (10.4)</td>
<td>17.8 (11.1)</td>
<td>16.1 (9.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 – 14</td>
<td>69 (51.1)</td>
<td>67 (49.6)</td>
<td>68 (50.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 15</td>
<td>66 (48.9)</td>
<td>68 (50.4)</td>
<td>67 (49.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>34 (25.2)</td>
<td>31 (23.0)</td>
<td>34 (25.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>101 (74.8)</td>
<td>104 (77.0)</td>
<td>101 (74.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Randomised at Centre</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>15 (11.1)</td>
<td>15 (11.1)</td>
<td>15 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Um El Kher</td>
<td>30 (22.2)</td>
<td>30 (22.2)</td>
<td>30 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kassab</td>
<td>15 (11.1)</td>
<td>15 (11.1)</td>
<td>15 (11.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gondar</td>
<td>45 (33.3)</td>
<td>45 (33.3)</td>
<td>45 (33.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arba Minch</td>
<td>30 (22.2)</td>
<td>30 (22.2)</td>
<td>30 (22.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safety: SAEs and AEs

• Patients with SAEs: 16
  – 13 treatment-related (7 SSG, 3 PM, 3 Combo)

• Patients with AEs: 269
  – Spread among treatment arms
  – Total number of AEs: 566
    • SSG: 217 (38.3%)
    • PM: 168 (29.7%)
    • Combo: 181 (32.0%)
## Efficacy at 6 Months: Definite Cure Complete Case Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimation</th>
<th>SSG N = 115</th>
<th>PM N = 127</th>
<th>Comb N = 123</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Efficacy at 6 months, n (%)</td>
<td>107 (93.0)</td>
<td>81 (63.8)</td>
<td>110 (89.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between SSG &amp; PM (95% CI)</td>
<td>29.3% (19.7 to 38.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference between SSG &amp; Combination (95% CI)</td>
<td>3.6% (-3.5 to 10.8)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test of difference across arms: p-value*</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test of difference across centres, after adjustment for treatment: p-value*</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No patients failed on rescue medication – AmBisome®

*p-value from likelihood ratio test, comparing models with and without variable being tested.
### Efficacy at 6 Months: Definite Cure

#### Complete Case Analysis: By Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>SSG</th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>Comb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Um el Kher</td>
<td>14 / 16 (87.5%)</td>
<td>4 / 28 (14.3%)</td>
<td>18 / 20 (90.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kassab</td>
<td>14 / 15 (93.3%)</td>
<td>7 / 15 (46.7%)</td>
<td>14 / 15 (93.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>15 / 15 (100.0%)</td>
<td>12 / 15 (80.0%)</td>
<td>11 / 15 (73.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gondar</td>
<td>37 / 40 (92.5%)</td>
<td>30 / 40 (75.0%)</td>
<td>39 / 43 (90.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arba Minch</td>
<td>27 / 29 (93.1%)</td>
<td>28 / 29 (96.6%)</td>
<td>28 / 30 (93.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

• Trial feasible in a rural setting
• Comparatively few safety concerns
• Efficacy of PM (15 mg/kg/d at 21 d) inadequate in Eastern Sudan
Dose-ranging study

• Two-armed sub-study in Sudan
• Increased the PM dosage by 33%:
  - 15 mg/kg/d for 28 days (n=21).
  - 20 mg/kg/d for 21 days (n=21).
• Pharmacokinetics (PK) was performed on a subset of patients.
• Other LEAP sites continued recruitment.

Actions:
• 0104B: 20 mg/kg/d for 21 days into the original trial.
What’s Next?

• Paromomycin
  – Complete ongoing study in 2009
    • recruiting: Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda
  – What’s the proper use?

• Continue research for new treatment combinations across region
  – AmBisome® dose-finding
  – Phase II combo: AmBisome®, SSG, miltefosine
Acknowledgements

- Patients and communities
- Research teams
- LEAP members
- Ministries of Health, regulatory authorities, cooperating institutes
- Donors