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An Open-Label, Single-Arm, Phase 2 Trial of Valemetostat in Relapsed or Refractory Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma

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Abstract:

Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATL) is an aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma with poor prognosis and few treatment options for patients with relapsed, recurrent, or refractory disease. We evaluated the efficacy and safety of valemetostat, a potent EZH1 and EZH2 inhibitor, in treating relapsed/refractory (R/R) ATL. This multicenter phase 2 trial (NCT04102150; [https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04102150; DS3201-A-J201](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04102150;DS3201-A-J201)) enrolled patients with R/R aggressive ATL (acute, lymphoma, unfavorable chronic type). Patients received valemetostat 200 mg/day until progressive disease or unacceptable toxicity. The primary endpoint was overall response rate (ORR) centrally assessed by an independent efficacy assessment committee (IEAC). Secondary endpoints included best response in disease compartments, duration of response (DOR), pharmacokinetics, and safety. Twenty-five patients (median age, 69.0) with a median of 3 prior lines of therapy were enrolled; 24 had prior mogamulizumab treatment. The primary endpoint was met with a centrally reviewed ORR of 48.0% (90% CI, 30.5% to 65.9%), including 5 complete and 7 partial remissions. Patients pretreated with mogamulizumab had an ORR of 45.8% (4 complete and 7 partial remissions). IEAC-assessed median DOR was not reached (NR; 95% CI, 1.87 months to NR). Treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were manageable. TEAEs that occurred in $\geq 20\%$ of patients included thrombocytopenia, anemia, alopecia, dysgeusia, neutropenia, lymphopenia, leukopenia, decreased appetite, and pyrexia. Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs included thrombocytopenia, anemia, lymphopenia, leukopenia, and neutropenia. Valemetostat demonstrated promising efficacy and tolerability in heavily pretreated patients, warranting further investigation in treating R/R ATL.

Conflict of interest: COI declared - see note

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1 **Title:** An Open-Label, Single-Arm, Phase 2 Trial of Valemetostat in Relapsed or Refractory Adult
2 T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma

3 **Running head:** Efficacy and safety of valemetostat in R/R ATL

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23 Key Points

- 24 • This phase 2 study assessed the efficacy and safety of the dual EZH1 and EZH2 inhibitor
25 valemestostat in patients with R/R ATL.
- 26 • Valemestostat 200 mg orally once daily demonstrated promising efficacy and
27 manageable toxicity in heavily pretreated patients.

28

29 Abstract (230/250 words)

30 Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATL) is an aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma with poor
31 prognosis and few treatment options for patients with relapsed, recurrent, or refractory
32 disease. We evaluated the efficacy and safety of valemestostat, a potent EZH1 and EZH2
33 inhibitor, in treating relapsed/refractory (R/R) ATL. This multicenter phase 2 trial
34 (NCT04102150; <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04102150>; DS3201-A-J201) enrolled
35 patients with R/R aggressive ATL (acute, lymphoma, unfavorable chronic type). Patients
36 received valemestostat 200 mg/day until progressive disease or unacceptable toxicity. The
37 primary endpoint was overall response rate (ORR) centrally assessed by an independent
38 efficacy assessment committee (IEAC). Secondary endpoints included best response in disease
39 compartments, duration of response (DOR), pharmacokinetics, and safety. Twenty-five patients
40 (median age, 69.0) with a median of 3 prior lines of therapy were enrolled; 24 had prior
41 mogamulizumab treatment. The primary endpoint was met with a centrally reviewed ORR of
42 48.0% (90% CI, 30.5% to 65.9%), including 5 complete and 7 partial remissions. Patients
43 pretreated with mogamulizumab had an ORR of 45.8% (4 complete and 7 partial remissions).
44 IEAC-assessed median DOR was not reached (NR; 95% CI, 1.87 months to NR). Treatment-

45 emergent adverse events (TEAEs) were manageable. TEAEs that occurred in $\geq 20\%$ of patients
46 included thrombocytopenia, anemia, alopecia, dysgeusia, neutropenia, lymphopenia,
47 leukopenia, decreased appetite, and pyrexia. Grade ≥ 3 TEAEs included thrombocytopenia,
48 anemia, lymphopenia, leukopenia, and neutropenia. Valemetostat demonstrated promising
49 efficacy and tolerability in heavily pretreated patients, warranting further investigation in
50 treating R/R ATL.

51 Introduction

52 Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma (ATL) is an aggressive non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL)
53 subtype that arises from T cells infected with human T-lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1).¹⁻³
54 HTLV-1 is endemic to Japan, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, the Middle East,
55 and Australia. Recent reports indicate that ATL constitutes $\geq 30\%$ of all T-cell lymphoma cases in
56 Japan.⁴⁻⁶ ATL is classified into 4 clinical subtypes (acute, lymphoma, chronic, and smoldering),
57 with acute, lymphoma, and unfavorable chronic subtypes among the most aggressive.⁴ Current
58 standard first-line treatment for aggressive ATLs is multiagent chemotherapy including VCAP-
59 AMP-VECP (vincristine, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and prednisone; doxorubicin,
60 ranimustine, and prednisone; and vindesine, etoposide, carboplatin, and prednisone).^{1-3,7} Even
61 for those who respond to first-line chemotherapy, the response is usually not durable, and the
62 prognosis of patients with aggressive ATL remains poor (median survival is ≤ 1 year).^{8,9} Early up-
63 front allogenic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (allo-HSCT) is considered for aggressive
64 ATL.^{10,11} However, the median age at diagnosis (68 years), donor availability, patient
65 comorbidities, and infectious complications during induction treatment severely limit eligibility
66 for allo-HSCT.^{10,12-14} In addition, more than half of patients who receive allo-HSCT cannot
67 achieve long-term survival due to relapse and/or treatment-related toxicities, requiring further
68 treatment.⁹

69 Recently, new agents have been incorporated into the armamentarium for
70 relapsed/refractory (R/R) ATL.^{15,16} A phase 2 study of the defucosylated anti-CCR4 antibody,
71 mogamulizumab, resulted in an overall response rate (ORR) of 50%.¹⁶ A separate phase 2 study
72 of lenalidomide, an immunomodulator and inhibitor of E3 ubiquitin ligase, yielded an ORR of

73 42%.¹⁵ Another phase 2 study of tucidinostat (HBI-8000; chidamide), a histone deacetylase
74 inhibitor, in R/R ATL with mogamulizumab pretreatment resulted in an ORR of 30%.¹⁷ These
75 agents received regulatory approval in Japan. Despite these options, response rates in patients
76 with aggressive ATLs remain low, and patients continue to experience relapse. Development of
77 novel therapies is therefore critical for patients with R/R ATL.

78 Enhancer of zeste homolog 2 (EZH2) and EZH1 are the principal histone
79 methyltransferases of the polycomb repressive complex 2 (PRC2) and initiate chromatin folding
80 through trimethylation of histone H3 lysine 27, resulting in transcriptional repression.¹⁸⁻²²
81 Although EZH2-selective inhibitors have been developed, EZH1 compensation for EZH2 loss
82 necessitates the implementation of dual inhibitory agents.^{23,24} Valemetostat tosylate
83 (valemetostat) is a novel, potent, and selective dual inhibitor of EZH1 and EZH2 with strong
84 antitumor properties.²⁴ Interim analyses from a phase 1 study in the US and Japan of
85 valemetostat monotherapy showed that 200 mg daily (QD) valemetostat had an acceptable
86 safety profile with signs of preliminary efficacy in patients with R/R NHLs, including ATL
87 (NCT02732275; DS3201-A-J101).²⁵ Based on these encouraging results, we conducted a phase 2
88 trial to assess efficacy and safety of valemetostat 200 mg QD in patients with R/R ATL for
89 purposes of obtaining regulatory approval in Japan.

90

91 **Methods**

92 *Patient Eligibility*

93 Patients aged ≥ 20 years with cytologically or pathologically diagnosed R/R ATL (acute,
94 lymphoma, or unfavorable chronic type as assessed at the time of diagnosis) with antibody-

95 confirmed HTLV-1 infection were eligible. Unfavorable chronic ATL was defined as having ≥ 1 of
96 the following factors: low serum albumin, high lactate dehydrogenase, or high blood urea
97 nitrogen concentration.⁷ Patients needed to have relapsed, recurrent, or refractory disease
98 after prior mogamulizumab therapy or, if mogamulizumab was contraindicated or not
99 tolerated, ≥ 1 systemic therapy with cytotoxic chemotherapy. Patients with an Eastern
100 Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of 0-2 and ≥ 1 measurable lesion were eligible.
101 Eligibility criteria further included a neutrophil count $\geq 1000/\mu\text{L}$, platelet count $\geq 75,000/\mu\text{L}$,
102 hemoglobin ≥ 8.0 g/dL, serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase
103 (ALT) $\leq 3 \times$ upper limit of normal (ULN), bilirubin $\leq 1.5 \times$ ULN, and serum creatinine $\leq 1.5 \times$ ULN or
104 creatinine clearance ≥ 30 mL/min. Patients with central nervous system involvement of ATL at
105 screening, chemotherapy or molecularly targeted therapy within 21 days, history of allo-HSCT,
106 or recent autologous HSCT within 12 weeks before enrollment were excluded. Corticosteroids
107 over 10 mg/day were not permitted. Patients treated with investigational drugs within 28 days
108 or a history of EZH inhibitor treatment were excluded.

109 *Study Design*

110 DS3201-A-J201 (NCT04102150) was a multicenter, single-arm, open-label, phase 2
111 clinical trial for patients with R/R ATL. The objectives of this study were to evaluate the efficacy
112 and safety of valemestostat monotherapy in patients with R/R ATL. Relapsed disease was
113 defined as disease progression after achieving complete remission (CR) or unconfirmed
114 complete remission (CRu) following prior chemotherapy. Recurrent disease was defined as
115 disease progression after achieving partial remission (PR) with prior chemotherapy. Disease was
116 considered refractory if patients required a treatment switch after achieving stable disease (SD)

117 or had experienced disease progression after prior treatment. The primary endpoint was
118 centrally reviewed ORR, defined as the proportion of participants whose best response was CR,
119 CRu, or PR as assessed by an independent efficacy assessment committee (IEAC).²⁶ Secondary
120 endpoints included investigator-assessed ORR, best response in disease compartments, CR rate,
121 tumor control rate (TCR), time to response (TTR), duration of response (DOR), progression-free
122 survival (PFS), overall survival (OS), pharmacokinetics, and safety. Details of pharmacokinetic
123 methodology are described in the Supplemental Methods.

124 Patients were treated with valemestostat 200 mg QD orally under fasting conditions (≥ 2
125 hours before or ≥ 1 hour after a meal) on continuous 28-day cycles until progressive disease
126 (PD) or unacceptable toxicity. Patients receiving strong CYP3A inhibitors or P-glycoprotein (P-
127 gp) inhibitors had a valemestostat dose reduction to 100 mg QD. Those receiving drugs with a
128 strong inhibitory effect on both CYP3A and P-gp received a reduced dose of 50 mg QD.

129 *Efficacy and Safety Assessments*

130 All patients treated with ≥ 1 dose of valemestostat were included in the efficacy analysis.
131 Initial antitumor response was assessed 4 weeks after the first dose of valemestostat, and the
132 response was subsequently assessed every 8 weeks. After 48 weeks, assessments were
133 conducted every 12 weeks thereafter. Efficacy assessments were conducted by an IEAC.
134 Patient best responses and best change in tumor burden by disease compartment were
135 quantified across treatment. Nodal or measurable extranodal lesions were assessed with
136 computed tomography scans, and sums of the products of the greatest diameters were
137 quantified. Skin lesions were evaluated visually and through calculation using the modified
138 severity-weighted assessment tool.²⁷ Disease in peripheral blood was evaluated based on

139 white blood cell count, lymphocyte count, and abnormal lymphocyte count. Antitumor
140 response was assessed in accordance with the antitumor response assessment criteria, which
141 were slightly modified from the response assessment criteria for ATL.²⁶ The modification was
142 made such that there was no requirement for each criterion to be present for ≥ 4 weeks.

143 The safety analysis consisted of patients treated with ≥ 1 dose of valemetostat. The
144 Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities version 23.1 was used to code all adverse events
145 (AEs). Safety was assessed according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events
146 (CTCAE) version 5.0.

147 *Statistical Analyses*

148 All statistical analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC).
149 The 90% CI for ORR was calculated using the Clopper-Pearson method. The Kaplan-Meier
150 method was used to estimate the survival distribution function for time-to-event analyses. DOR
151 calculated for responders was defined as the time from first response to relapsed disease
152 (RD)/PD or death from any cause, whichever occurred first. PFS was measured from the start of
153 treatment until RD/PD based on overall response assessment or death. OS was defined from
154 the time of study treatment start to death regardless of cause. TTR was defined as time from
155 the start of study treatment to first assessed response (CR, CRu, or PR). TCR consisted of the
156 proportion of patients whose best response was CR, CRu, PR, or SD.

157 *Sample Size*

158 The threshold ORR was set to 5%, primarily because no established treatment exists for
159 target patients. The expected ORR was set to 30% based primarily on a prior study of

160 lenalidomide in R/R ATL.¹⁵ A binomial 1-sided exact test was performed to test the null
161 hypothesis at a 5% significance level (H_0 : ORR <0.05); 21 patients were needed for 90% power.

162 *Study Oversight*

163 This study was sponsored by Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. (Tokyo, Japan) and was conducted
164 in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice guidelines as outlined
165 by the International Conference on Harmonisation E6 requirements. All protocols were
166 approved by the institutional review board at each participating center. Academic investigators
167 and sponsors were responsible for the study design. All patients who participated in this trial
168 provided written informed consent before enrollment.

169

170 **Results**

171 *Patients*

172 Twenty-eight patients were screened, and 25 (12 male, 13 female) were enrolled
173 between November 2019 and October 2020 across 12 sites in Japan. Baseline patient and
174 disease characteristics are summarized in **Table 1**. The median age was 69.0 years (range, 59-
175 84). This study enrolled 16, 6, and 3 patients with acute, lymphoma, or unfavorable chronic
176 type R/R ATL, respectively. ATL status included 8 patients (32%) with relapsed, 6 patients (24%)
177 with recurrent, and 11 patients (44%) with refractory disease. The median time since last ATL
178 treatment was 60 days (range, 23-1400). All 25 patients had received treatment for ATL, with a
179 median of 3 prior lines of therapy (range, 1-8). Twenty-four patients had received
180 mogamulizumab treatment; 1 patient with CCR4-negative ATL had no prior mogamulizumab
181 therapy. Six patients (24%) were refractory to mogamulizumab-containing regimens. Eight

182 patients (32%) had received lenalidomide. Seventeen patients (68%) discontinued the study
183 drug; 14 patients (56%) discontinued because of disease progression. Two patients (8%)
184 discontinued study treatment due to AEs, and 1 patient (4%) discontinued study treatment per
185 physician decision.

186 *Efficacy*

187 At data cutoff (April 24, 2021), the median follow-up was 6.5 months. The IEAC-
188 assessed/median TTR was 1.4 months (range, 1.0-5.6). The study met its primary endpoint, with
189 a centrally reviewed IEAC-assessed ORR of 48.0% ($p < .0001$; 12/25; 90% CI, 30.5% to 65.9%),
190 including a CR rate of 20.0% (5/25) and a PR rate of 28.0% (7/25) (**Table 2**). The ORR by subtype
191 was 62.5% (10/16) for acute, 16.7% (1/6) for lymphoma, and 33.3% (1/3) for unfavorable
192 chronic. Notably, the ORR of patients pretreated with mogamulizumab was 45.8% (11/24) (90%
193 CI, 28.2% to 64.2%). The ORR of patients refractory to mogamulizumab-containing therapies
194 was 50.0% (3/6). An ORR of 50% (90% CI, 15.7% to 84.3%) was achieved in patients with prior
195 lenalidomide treatment (4/8). The ORR by disease status was 37.5% (3/8) for relapsed, 66.7%
196 (4/6) for recurrent, and 45.5% (5/11) for refractory disease (**Table 2**). The TCR was 88.0% (95%
197 CI, 68.8% to 97.5%).

198 Efficacy was further assessed by disease compartment. The IEAC-assessed best
199 percentage change in tumor burden by disease compartment is depicted in **Fig 1**. A $\geq 50\%$
200 reduction from baseline was observed in nodal or extranodal lesions in 9 of 20 patients (5 CRs,
201 2 CRus, 2 PRs) (**Fig 1A**), in the skin compartment in 3 of 6 patients (1 CR, 2 PRs) (**Fig 1B**), and in
202 peripheral blood in 8 of 9 patients (2 CRs, 6 PRs) (**Fig 1C**). One patient with skin lesions did not
203 undergo assessment after the initial baseline measurement and was not included in the

204 analysis. The treatment duration with clinical outcomes of the 25 patients is shown in **Fig 2A**. At
205 data cutoff, 8 patients were receiving ongoing study treatment. Notably, 4 of 10 patients who
206 achieved SD were able to receive valemestostat for ≥ 6 months following treatment initiation.
207 Furthermore, responses were converted from PR to CR in 2 patients. The median DOR was not
208 reached (NR) (95% CI, 1.87 months to NR) (**Fig 2B**), and 6 of 12 responders (50%) had an
209 ongoing response. Although immature, the median PFS and OS were 7.4 months (95% CI, 3.0 to
210 not estimable) and 16.4 months (95% CI, 6.5 to 16.4), respectively.

211 Efficacy outcomes per investigator assessment were consistent with IEAC-adjudicated
212 results. Investigator-assessed ORR was 56.0% (90% CI, 37.9% to 73.0%), including 24.0% CR
213 (6/25), 4.0% CRu (1/25) and 28.0% PR (7/25). The investigator-assessed CR rate was 28.0%
214 (7/25).

215 *Pharmacokinetics*

216 Serial and trough blood samples were collected for plasma valemestostat concentration
217 measurements (**Supplemental Fig 1**). The mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) of total
218 valemestostat (2230 ng/mL on cycle 1 day 1 and 2300 ng/mL on cycle 1 day 15) and unbound
219 valemestostat (81.7 ng/mL on cycle 1 day 1 and 84.9 ng/mL on cycle 1 day 15) was achieved in
220 median time to C_{max} (T_{max}) of 2 to 4 hours (**Supplemental Table 1**). At steady state (cycle 1 day
221 15), the mean area under the plasma concentration-time profile during dosing interval (AUC_{tau})
222 was 20,800 ng·h/mL for total valemestostat and 584 ng·h/mL for unbound valemestostat. The
223 mean accumulation ratios for AUC_{tau} of total and unbound valemestostat were 1.19 and 1.27,
224 respectively, indicating mild accumulation after continuous daily dosing at 200 mg.

225 *Safety*

226 **Table 3** summarizes treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and frequency of the
227 most common TEAEs. All patients treated with valemestostat experienced TEAEs. Common
228 hematologic TEAEs were thrombocytopenia (80%), anemia (52%), neutropenia (28%),
229 lymphopenia (24%), and leukopenia (20%). Grade ≥ 3 hematologic TEAEs reported in $\geq 10\%$ of
230 patients were thrombocytopenia (32%), anemia (32%), lymphopenia (16%), leukopenia (12%),
231 and neutropenia (12%). Common nonhematologic TEAEs included alopecia (40%), dysgeusia
232 (36%), decreased appetite (20%), and pyrexia (20%). Serious TEAEs occurred in 8 (32%) patients.
233 Cardiac failure led to discontinuation in 1 patient; other serious TEAEs resolved without
234 discontinuation of the study drug. This study prespecified 3 AEs of special interest (AESI), which
235 included combined elevations of aminotransferases and bilirubin (ALT and/or AST $\geq 3 \times$ ULN and
236 blood bilirubin $\geq 2 \times$ ULN), secondary malignancy, and thrombocytopenia. No patient met the
237 criteria for AESI, except for thrombocytopenia. Secondary malignancies, including hematologic
238 malignancy or myelodysplastic syndrome, were not observed.

239 Of 3 patients who experienced grade 4 thrombocytopenia (platelet count, $< 25 \times 10^9/L$),
240 the median time to onset of postbaseline platelet reduction occurred early during treatment at
241 21 days from the first dose, with a median time to recovery (platelet count, $\geq 25 \times 10^9/L$) of 3
242 days. Three of 20 patients who experienced thrombocytopenia required dose modification
243 (discontinuation, 1 patient; dose interruption, 2 patients). Thrombocytopenia in most of the
244 remaining 17 patients was transient and resolved without dose modification. Five patients
245 required platelet transfusions for thrombocytopenia, and 3 patients required a red blood cell
246 transfusion for anemia. TEAEs led to dose reduction in 2 patients (8%). Five patients (20%)
247 experienced TEAEs that required dose interruption. Two patients (8%) who had achieved SD

248 discontinued study treatment due to AEs such as cardiac failure and thrombocytopenia,
249 respectively. No treatment-related deaths occurred.

250 The median dose intensity of valemestostat was 199.33 mg/day. The median duration of
251 treatment was 4.3 months (range, 0.8-14.9).

252

253 **Discussion**

254 In this study, we observed clinically relevant efficacy and tolerable safety of
255 valemestostat in patients with R/R ATL after prior systemic therapy, including mogamulizumab
256 or ≥ 1 prior systemic therapy with cytotoxic chemotherapy in patients intolerant of, or ineligible
257 for, mogamulizumab. The primary endpoint was met, with an IEAC-assessed ORR of 48.0%,
258 including a CR rate of 20.0% and PR rate of 28.0%. Importantly, valemestostat was effective in
259 patients pretreated with mogamulizumab and those with disease refractory to
260 mogamulizumab—ORRs of 45.8% and 50.0%, respectively. We noted an ORR of 50.0% in
261 patients previously treated with lenalidomide.

262 ATL carries a very poor prognosis among various histologic subtypes of T-cell
263 lymphomas.^{3,4,8,9,28,29} Few treatment options are available for patients with R/R ATL,
264 highlighting the considerable need for novel therapies. In separate studies that included
265 subsets of patients pretreated with mogamulizumab, the ORRs with lenalidomide and
266 tucidinostat monotherapy were 18% (2/11) and 30% (7/23), respectively.^{15,17} Our findings
267 demonstrated clinically meaningful efficacy of valemestostat in heavily pretreated R/R ATL and
268 support valemestostat as a treatment option for patients experiencing PD after prior therapy,
269 including mogamulizumab.

270 In contrast to follicular lymphoma or diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, EZH2 gain-of-
271 function mutations are not observed in ATL; however, overexpression of EZH2 and PRC2
272 dysfunction are common in ATL.³⁰⁻³² Molecular therapeutics targeting EZH2 have been explored
273 in the treatment of NHLs, except for ATL.^{33,34} Compared with the EZH2-selective inhibitor
274 tazemetostat, valemestostat strongly reduced H3K27 trimethylation through inhibition of EZH1
275 and EZH2, driving re-expression of repressed genes.²⁴ Valemestostat demonstrated greater
276 attenuation of ATL cell growth *in vitro* at lower concentrations than tazemetostat and GSK126,
277 primarily because of dual inhibition of EZH1 and EZH2.²⁴ We continue to evaluate the biological
278 underpinnings of valemestostat's mechanism of action through assessments of key biomarkers
279 and comprehensive gene mutation and expression analyses of ATL cells.

280 Responses to valemestostat were observed across disease compartments, subtypes
281 (acute, lymphoma, or chronic), and statuses (relapsed, recurrent, or refractory). Notably,
282 valemestostat yielded an ORR of 50% in nodal or extranodal lesions, which is higher than that
283 seen in phase 2 studies of mogamulizumab (25%, 3/12) and lenalidomide (31%, 5/16).^{15,16} In
284 patients with aggressive acute type ATL, the ORR was 62.5% (10/16) in response to
285 valemestostat compared with 43% (6/14) and 33% (5/15) with mogamulizumab and
286 lenalidomide, respectively.^{15,16} This study included 11 patients with refractory disease (SD or
287 PD) to last prior therapy; the ORR in this population was 45.5%. However, in the phase 2 study
288 of mogamulizumab, only patients who had achieved response to the last previous therapy were
289 included.¹⁵ In the phase 2 study of lenalidomide, only 2 patients with SD to prior therapy were
290 included.¹⁴ The shorter time since last ATL treatment (median, 60 days) in the current study
291 compared with those in the phase 2 studies for other agents (234.5 days for lenalidomide and

292 89 days for tucidinostat) reflects the inclusion of patients with refractory disease and more
293 aggressive features. Furthermore, the higher median of 3 prior lines of therapy (range, 1-8) in
294 this study compared with 2 for lenalidomide (range, 1-4) and 2 for tucidinostat is similarly
295 reflective of aggressive ATL.

296 The safety profile was consistent with the phase 1 study of valemestostat.²⁵ Among the
297 most common TEAEs were cytopenias, which included thrombocytopenia, the most common
298 grade ≥ 3 severe TEAE. Many thrombocytopenia events resolved without dose reduction or
299 interruption. All other TEAEs were manageable with supportive care and/or dose modification,
300 indicating a manageable and acceptable safety profile for valemestostat in patients with R/R
301 ATL.

302 This study had several limitations. Patients who had received prior allo-HSCT were
303 excluded as part of the study design because of potential worsening of graft-vs-host disease
304 (GVHD). Future studies could assess the impact of valemestostat in patients with prior allo-HSCT.
305 Additionally, it is unknown how valemestostat therapy would affect outcomes of subsequent
306 allo-HSCT treatment because no patient underwent allo-HSCT after study drug discontinuation.
307 Prior treatment with mogamulizumab in patients undergoing allo-HSCT is associated with high
308 rates of severe GVHD and mortality, mainly because of long-term depletion of CCR4-expressing
309 regulatory T cells.³⁵ The effects of valemestostat on immune function in patients remains to be
310 elucidated. Furthermore, the follow-up period of the current study is limited. Long-term follow-
311 up is warranted to fully understand the efficacy and safety of valemestostat in patients with R/R
312 ATL. Lastly, the number of patients included in this study was limited, although sample size was
313 sufficient to evaluate our hypothesis and the number of patients enrolled in this study was

314 comparable with that in the phase 2 studies of other agents for ATL, a relatively rare disease,
315 even in Japan where HTLV-1 is endemic.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Because of this small number of patients, there are
316 limitations to examining the effect of this agent in each subgroup. Future follow-up studies will
317 be necessary to fully understand the efficacy of these agents in the treatment of ATL.

318 Collectively, valemestostat shows promise in treating relapsed, recurrent, or refractory
319 ATL in patients with an extensive treatment history, including mogamulizumab. The
320 combination of clinical efficacy, antitumor properties, and acceptable safety profile of
321 valemestostat in our phase 2 study provides rationale for further investigation of this agent in
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323

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335 Izutsu, H. Yamada, and N. Adachi, wrote the manuscript. K. Izutsu, S. Makita, K. Nosaka, M.

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337 Rai, H. Katsuya, J. Ishikawa, K. Yonekura, and K. Ishitsuka contributed to patient accrual. K.
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387

388 **Footnotes**

389 De-identified individual participant data (IPD) and applicable supporting clinical trial documents
390 may be available upon request at <https://vivli.org/>. In cases where clinical trial data and
391 supporting documents are provided pursuant to Daiichi Sankyo's company policies and
392 procedures, Daiichi Sankyo will continue to protect the privacy of our clinical trial participants.
393 Details on data sharing criteria and the procedure for requesting access can be found at this
394 web address: <https://vivli.org/ourmember/daiichi-sankyo/>

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- 495

496 **Figure Legends**

497 **Figure 1. Best percent change in tumor burden by disease compartment as assessed by IEAC.**

498 Best percent change in tumor burden for nodal or extranodal lesions (A), skin lesions (B), and
499 peripheral blood (C) in patients treated with valemestostat. Dashed line indicates a 50%
500 reduction in tumor burden from baseline.

501 **Figure 2. Treatment duration with clinical outcomes and duration of response.**

502 The swimmer plot (A) summarizes treatment duration of individual patients and best response.
503 Patients ongoing in the study are denoted by arrows. The Kaplan-Meier plot depicts the
504 duration of response (B). Tick marks denote censored patients.

505 **Table 1. Baseline patient and disease characteristics.**

Patient Characteristics	Patients (N=25)
Age, median (range), years	69.0 (59-84)
Female	13 (52.0)
ECOG performance status	
0	13 (52.0)
1	10 (40.0)
2*	2 (8.0)
Median time since last ATL treatment, days (range)	60.0 (23-1,400)
Median prior lines of therapy	3 (1-8)
Prior mogamulizumab therapy	
Yes	24 (96.0)
No	1 (4.0)
Refractory to mogamulizumab-containing therapy	6 (24.0)
Prior lenalidomide therapy	
Yes	8 (32.0)
No	17 (68.0)
Prior anthracycline-based therapy	
Yes	24 (96.0)
No	1 (4.0)
Prior HSCT	
No	25 (100.0)
ATL subtype	
Acute	16 (64.0)
Lymphoma	6 (24.0)
Unfavorable chronic	3 (12.0)

506
507 ATL, adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; HSCT,
508 hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.
509 *One patient had an ECOG performance status of 2 at initial screening but advanced to a status
510 of 3 on day 1 cycle 1.

511

512 **Table 2. Summary of patient best responses as assessed by an independent efficacy**
 513 **assessment committee.**

Population	N	ORR, n (%)	CR, n (%)	CRu, n (%)	PR, n (%)	SD, n (%)	RD/PD, n (%)
All patients	25	12 (48.0)	5 (20.0)	0	7 (28.0)	10 (40.0)	3 (12.0)
ATL subtype							
Acute	16	10 (62.5)	5 (31.3)	0	5 (31.3)	4 (25.0)	2 (12.5)
Lymphoma	6	1 (16.7)	0	0	1 (16.7)	5 (83.3)	0
Unfavorable chronic	3	1 (33.3)	0	0	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)	1 (33.3)
Disease site							
Nodal or extranodal lesions	20	10 (50.0)	6 (30.0)	2 (10.0)	2 (10.0)	7 (35.0)	3 (15.0)
Skin lesions	7	3 (42.9)	1 (14.3)	NE	2 (28.6)	3 (42.9)	12 (48.0)
Peripheral blood	9	8 (88.9)	2 (22.2)	NE	6 (66.7)	1 (11.1)	0
Disease status							
Relapsed	8	3 (37.5)	1 (12.5)	0	2 (25.0)	4 (50.0)	1 (12.5)
Recurrent	6	4 (66.7)	1 (16.7)	0	3 (50.0)	2 (33.3)	0
Refractory	11	5 (45.5)	3 (27.3)	0	2 (18.2)	4 (36.4)	2 (18.2)
Prior mogamulizumab treatment							
Yes	24	11 (45.8)	4 (16.7)	0	7 (29.2)	10 (41.7)	3 (12.5)
No	1	1 (100.0)	1 (100.0)	0	0	0	0
Prior lenalidomide treatment							
Yes	8	4 (50.0)	0	0	4 (50.0)	3 (37.5)	1 (12.5)
No	17	8 (47.1)	5 (29.4)	0	3 (17.6)	7 (41.2)	2 (11.8)

514
 515 Relapsed disease: received ≥ 1 prior chemotherapy, achieved CR or CRu, and subsequently
 516 experienced disease progression. Recurrent disease: received ≥ 1 prior chemotherapy, achieved
 517 PR, and subsequently experienced disease progression. Refractory: received ≥ 1 prior
 518 chemotherapy, achieved SD, required a treatment switch, or received ≥ 1 prior chemotherapy
 519 and subsequently experienced disease progression.
 520 ATL, adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma; CR, complete remission; CRu, unconfirmed complete
 521 remission; NE, not evaluable; ORR, overall response rate; PD, progressive disease; PR, partial
 522 remission; RD, relapsed disease; SD, stable disease.

523

524 **Table 3. Summary of treatment-emergent adverse events occurring in ≥20% of patients and**
 525 **grade ≥3 events regardless of relation to valemestostat treatment.**

All Adverse Events		
AE type, n (%)	(N=25)	
TEAEs	25 (100.0)	
TRAEs	24 (96.0)	
Serious TEAE*	8 (32.0)	
Serious TRAEs	7 (28.0)	
Grade ≥3 TEAEs	15 (60.0)	
Grade ≥3 TRAEs	14 (56.0)	
TEAEs leading to reduction	2 (8.0)	
TRAEs leading to reduction	2 (8.0)	
TEAEs leading to interruption	5 (20.0)	
TRAEs leading to interruption	4 (16.0)	
TEAEs leading to discontinuation	2 (8.0)	
TRAEs leading to discontinuation	2 (8.0)	
Most Common TEAEs		
Hematologic, n (%)	All Grades (≥20%)	Grade ≥3
Thrombocytopenia [†]	20 (80.0)	8 (32.0)
Anemia [‡]	13 (52.0)	8 (32.0)
Neutropenia [§]	7 (28.0)	3 (12.0)
Lymphopenia	6 (24.0)	4 (16.0)
Leukopenia [¶]	5 (20.0)	3 (12.0)
Nonhematologic, n (%)	All Grades (≥20%)	Grade ≥3
Alopecia	10 (40.0)	0 (0)
Dysgeusia	9 (36.0)	0 (0)
Decreased appetite	5 (20.0)	2 (8.0)
Pyrexia	5 (20.0)	0 (0)

526

527 AE, adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event; TRAE, treatment-related adverse
 528 event.

529 *Acute kidney injury, cardiac failure, cytomegalovirus chorioretinitis, cytomegalovirus infection
 530 reactivation, febrile neutropenia, hepatic function abnormal, hypercalcemia, lower
 531 gastrointestinal hemorrhage, overdose, thrombocytopenia, pneumonia, and venous thrombosis
 532 limb occurred in 1 patient each.

533 †Encompasses the preferred terms thrombocytopenia and platelet count decreased.

534 ‡Encompasses the preferred terms anemia, hemoglobin decreased, hematocrit decreased, and
 535 red blood cell count decreased.

536 §Encompasses the preferred terms neutropenia and neutrophil count decreased.

537 ||Encompasses the preferred terms lymphopenia and lymphocyte count decreased.

538 ¶Encompasses the preferred terms leukopenia and white blood cell count decreased.

Figure 1

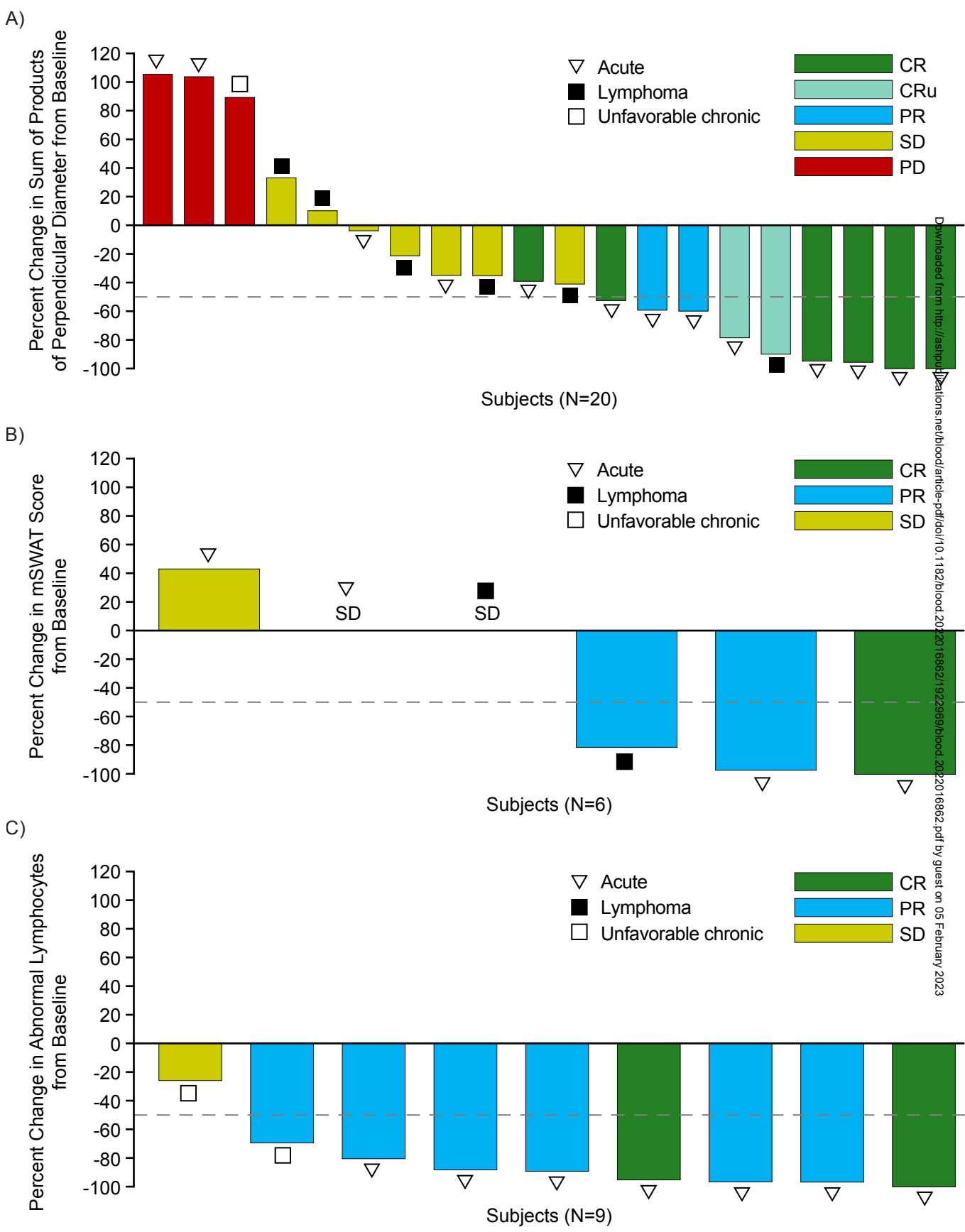


Figure 2

