Roflumilast Cut Exacerbation Rate in COPD

BY BRUCE JANCIN

SAN DIEGO — Roflumilast improved lung function and prevented exacerbations in patients with COPD with chronic bronchitis and severe airflow obstruction in a large 12-month randomized trial.

Results of the 1,568-patient, doubleblind, placebo-controlled study known as the M2-125 trial indicate that roflumilast is an important potential advance in the

treatment of a subset of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Dr. Andrew McIvor said at the annual meeting of the American College of Chest Physicians.

Roflumilast (Daxas) is an investigational selective phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitor, a drug class that represents a novel approach to the treatment of COPD. Taken orally once daily, roflumilast targets the inflammation that's a hallmark of the disease, explained Dr. McIvor of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (Ont.).

Participants in the eight-nation M2-125 trial had to have at least one documented moderate or severe COPD exacerbation during the year prior to enrollment. They were randomized to roflumilast 500 mcg once daily or placebo for 1 year, on top of background long-acting beta2agonist or short-acting anticholinergic therapy at stable doses, along with shortacting beta2-agonists as needed. Longacting anticholinergics and inhaled corticosteroids were not permitted.

The rate of moderate to severe COPD exacerbations requiring systemic steroids and/or treatment in a hospital-one of two co-primary study end points—was 1.21 cases per patient per year in the roflumilast group and 1.49 in controls, for a highly significant 18.5% relative risk reduction.

CADUET® (amlodipine besylate/atorvastatin calcium) Tablets
Brief Summary of Prescribing Information
INDICATIONS AND USAGE: CADUET (amlodipine and atorvastatin) is indicated in patients for whom treatment with both amlodipine and atorvastatin is appropriate. Amlodipine: 1. Hypertension: Amlodipine is indicated for the treatment of hypertension: It may be used alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents; 2. Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): Chronic Stable Angina: Amlodipine is indicated for the treatment of chronic stable angina. Amlodipine may be used alone or in combination with other antianginal or antihypertensive agents; 12. Coronary Artery Disease (CAD): In Amlodipine is indicated for the treatment of confirmed or suspensation agina. Amlodipine may be used as monotherapy or in combination with other antianginal drugs. Angiographically Documented CAD: In patients with recently documented CAD by angiography and without heart failure or an ejection fraction <40%, amlodipine is indicated to reduce the risk of hospitalization due to angina and to reduce the risk of a coronary revascularization procedure. AND Atorvastatin: 1. Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: In adult patients without clinically evident coronary heart disease such with multiple risk factors for coronary heart diseases used as sensibling, hypertension, low HDL-C, or a family history of early coronary heart diseases, atorvastatin is indicated to:

-Reduce the risk of stroke

smoking, hypertension, low HDL-C, or a family history of early coronary heart disease, atorvastatin is indicated to:

-Reduce the risk of stroke
-Reduce the risk for revascularization procedures and angina
In patients with type 2 diabetes, and without clinically evident coronary heart disease, but with multiple risk factors for coronary heart disease such as retinopathy, albuminuria, smoking, or hypertension, LIPITOR is indicated to:
-Reduce the risk of stroke;
In patients with clinically evident coronary heart disease, LIPITOR is indicated to:
-Reduce the risk of stroke;
In patients with clinically evident coronary heart disease, LIPITOR is indicated to:
-Reduce the risk of non-fatal myocardial infarction
-Reduce the risk of fon-fatal myocardial infarction
-Reduce the risk of fatal and non-fatal stroke
-Reduce the risk of hospitalization for CHF
-Reduce the risk of angina

2. Heterozygous Familial and Nonfamilial Hypercholesterolemia: Atorvastatin is indicated as an adjunct to diet for educe elevated total-C, LDL-C, apo B, and TG levels and to increase HDL-C in patients with primary hypercholesterolemia (heterozygous familial and nonfamilial) and mixed dyslipidemia (Fredrickson Types II) and IIIb): 3. Elevated Serum TG Levels: Atorvastatin is indicated as an adjunct to diet for the treatment of patients with elevated serum TG levels (Fredrickson Type III): 4. Primary Dysbetalipoproteinemia: Atorvastatin is indicated for the treatment of patients with homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia: Atorvastatin is indicated as an adjunct to diet for educe total-C, LDL-C, and apo B levels in boys and postmenarchal girls, 10 to 17 years of age, with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia: Atorvastatin is indicated as an adjunct to diet for educe total-C, LDL-C, and apo B levels in boys and postmenarchal girls, 10 to 17 years of age, with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia is an adequate to the diet is 4. Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia is an adequate to the diet is 4. Homozygous familial hyperchole

Table 1. NCEP Treatment Guidelines: LDL-C Goals and Cutpoints for Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes and Drug

Risk Category	LDL-C Goal (mg/dL)	LDL-C Level at Which to Initiate Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes (mg/dL)	LDL-C Level at Which to Consider Drug Therapy (mg/dL)
CHD ^a or CHD risk equivalents (10-year risk >20%)	<100	≥100	≥130 (100-129: drug optional) ^b
2+ Risk Factors (10-year risk ≤20%)	<130	≥130	10-year risk 10%-20%: ≥130 10-year risk <10%: ≥160
0-1 Risk Factor ^c	<160	≥160	≥190 (160-189: LDL-lowering drug optional)

° CHD, coronary heart disease. ° Some authorities recommend use of LDL-lowering drugs in this category if an DL-C level of < 100 mg/dL cannot be achieved by therapeutic lifestyle changes. Others prefer use of drugs that primarily modify triglycerides and HDL-C, e.g., nicotinic acid or fibrate. Clinical judgment also may call for deferring drug therapy in this subcategory. ° Almost all people with 0-1 risk factor have 10-year risk <10%; thus, 10-year risk sassessment in people with 0-1 risk factor is not necessary. After the LDL-C goal has been achieved, if the TG is still > 200 mg/dL, non-HDL-C (total-C minus HDL-C) becomes a secondary target of therapy. Non-HDL-C goals are set 30 mg/d L nigher than LDL-C goals for each risk category. Prior to initiating therapy with atorvastatin, secondary causes for hypercholesterolemia (e.g., poorly controlled diabetor benefitus, hypothyrodism, nephrotic syndrome, dysproteinemias, obstructute liver disease, other drug therapy, and alcoholism) should be excluded, and a lipid profile performed to measure total-C, LDL-C, HDL-C, and TG. For patients with TG <400 mg/dL (<4.5 mmol/L), LDL-C can be estimated using the following equation: LDL-C = to Can C (≥ 0.20 x (TG) + HDL-C). For TG levels >400 mg/dL (<4.5 mmol/L), this equation is less accurate and LDL-C concentrations should be determined by ultracentrifugation. The antidyslipidemic component of CADUET has not been studied monditions where the major lipoprotein abnormality is elevation of chloricons (*Fedrickson Types I and V). The NCEP classification of cholesterol levels in pediatric patients with a familial history of hypercholesterolemia or premature cardiovascular disease is summarized below:

cardiovascular disease is summarized below:
Table 2. NCEP Classification of Cholesterol Levels in Pediatric Patients

Table at the at the attended of the control of the			
Category	Total-C (mg/dL)	LDL-C (mg/dL)	
Acceptable Borderline	<170 170-199	<110 110-129	
High	>200	<u>~130</u>	

Borderline | 170-199 | 200 | ≥130 |

CONTRAINDICATIONS: CADUET contains atorvastatin and is therefore contraindicated in patients with active liver disease or unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases. CADUET is contraindicated in patients with active liver disease or unexplained persistent elevations of serum transaminases. CADUET is contraindicated in patients with known hyperessnistivity to any component of this medication. Pregnancy and Lactation: Atherosclerosis is a chronic process and discontinuation of lipid-lowering drugs during pregnancy should have little impact on the outcome of long-term therapy of primary hypercholesterolemia. Cholesterol and other products of cholesterol biosynthesis are essential components for fetal development (including synthesis of steroids and cell membranes). Since HM6-CoA reductase inhibitors decrease cholesterol synthesis and possibly the synthesis of other biologically active substances derived from cholesterol, they may cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant women. Therefore, HM6-CoA reductase inhibitors are contraindicated during pregnancy and in nursing mothers. CADUET, WHICH INCLUDES ATORVASTAIN, SHOULD BE ADMINISTREFO TO WOMEN OF CHILIDBEARING AGE ONLY WHEN SUCH PATIENTS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO CONCEIVE AND HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS. If the patient becomes pregnant while taking this drug, therapy should be discontinued and the patient apprised of the potential hazard to the fetus.

WARNINGS: Increased Angina and/or Myocardial Infarction: Rarely, patients, particularly those with severe obstructive cononary artery disease, have developed documented increased frequency, duration and/or severity or angina or acute myocardial infarction on starting calcium channel blocker therapy or at the time of dosage increase. The mechanism of this effect has not been elucidated. Liver Dysfunction: HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, like some other inpid-lowering therapies, have been associated with biochemical abnormalities of liver function. Pe drug interruption, or discontinuation, designation and the properties of the propert

s, along with short- relative risk reduction.

2-10 times UIN, should be considered in any patient with diffuse mysigis, muscle tendences or restrictions, and or maked elements of CPC intellence along the stricted of moorn prompts, users along the process of th and erythromycin, a known inhibitor of cytochrome P450 3A4 (see WARNINGS, Skeletal Muscle). Combination of Protease Inhibitors: Concomitant administration of atorvastatin 40 mg with thorawir plus saquinavir (400 mg twice daily) resulted in a 3-fold increase in atorvastatin AUC. Concomitant administration of atorvastatin AUC (see WARNINGS, Skeletal Muscle, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). Itraconazole: Concomitant administration Of atorvastatin (20 to 40 mg) and itraconazole (200 mg) was associated with a 2.5-3.3-fold increase in atorvastatin AUC. Ditlazem hydrochloride: Co-administration of atorvastatin (40 mg) with ditlazem (240 mg) was associated with a 10-3-3.3-fold increase in atorvastatin AUC. Ditlazem hydrochloride: Co-administration of atorvastatin (40 mg) with ditlazem (240 mg) was associated with higher plasma concentrations of atorvastatin. Cimetidine: Atorvastatin plasma concentrations and IDL-C reduction were not altered by co-administration of circuits site. Autorvastatin plasma concentrations and IDL-C reduction were not altered by co-administration of circuits site. Autorvastatin plasma concentrations and IDL-C reduction were not altered by co-administration of atorvastatin and atorvastatin-metabolites are substrates of the OATP1B1 transporter. P34 and can increase plasma concentrations of atorvastatin increase the bioavailability of atorvastatin. Concomitant administration of atorvastatin 10 mg and cyclosporine 5.2 mg/kg/day resulted in an 8.7-fold increase in atorvastatin AUC. In cases where co-administration of atorvastatin the vicyclosporine is necessary, the dose of atorvastatin AUC. In case where co-administration of the cyclosporine is necessary the dose of atorvastatin and increase in atorvastatin and atorvastatin with inducers of cytochrome P450 3A4 (ge feavirent, rifampin) can lead to variable reductions in plasma concentrations of atorvastatin and constantin administration of atorvastatin with inducers of cytochrome P450 3A4 (ge feavirent, rifampin) can lead to variable reductions in pl

The other primary end point was improvement in lung function as reflected in mean change from baseline in forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁) prior to administration of a bronchodilator.

Again, roflumilast showed a highly significant advantage, with a 33-mL increase in FEV₁ as compared to a 25-mL decrease with placebo over the course of 12 months.

The change over time in postbronchodilator FEV₁—a secondary end point—consisted of a 44-mL increase with roflumilast as compared to a 17 mL decrease with placebo, also a significant difference.

The other prespecified secondary end point was time to death from any cause, which was similar in the two study arms at 201 days for roflumilast and 215 days for placebo. All-cause mortality was 3% per year in each group.

Adverse events were mostly mild in nature. The two that were more frequent in the roflumilast arm were diarrhea and weight loss, affecting 9% and 8% of patients, respectively.

Nearly one-third of the subjects in each treatment group withdrew from the study during the course of the year.

COPD is a highly prevalent disease with a broad spectrum of manifestations. In addition to the sort of patients who were enrolled in M2-125, the other subset of COPD patients in which roflumilast has shown compelling efficacy in large clinical trials is those with moderate to severe COPD who are on long-acting bronchodilators, according to Dr. McIvor.

The M2-125 study was sponsored by Nycomed, formerly Altana Pharma. Dr. McIvor is a consultant to the com-

several adverse experiences that appear to be drug and dose related, there was a greater incidence in women than n associated with amlodipine treatment as shown in the following table:

Adverse Event	amiodipine		Placebo	
	M=%	F=%	M=%	F=%
	(N=1218)	(N=512)	(N=914)	(N=336)
Edema	5.6	14.6	1.4	5.1
Flushing	1.5	4.5	0.3	0.9
Palpitations	1.4	3.3	0.9	0.9
Somnolence	1.3	1.6	0.8	0.3

Flushing 1.5 4.5 0.3 0.9 0.9 Apalpitations 1.4 3.3 0.9 0.9 0.9 Somnolence 1.3 1.6 0.8 0.3 0.9 0.9 0.9 Somnolence 1.3 1.6 0.8 0.3 0.8 0.3 The following events occurred in <1% but >0.1% of patients treated with amlodipine in controlled clinical trials or under conditions of open trials or marketing experience where a causal relationship is uncertain; they are listed to alert the physicial to a possible relationship: Cardiovascular arrhythmia (including ventricular tachycardia and trial fibrillation), bradycardia, chest pain, hypotension, peripheral ischemia, syncope, tachycardia, postural dizziness, postural hypotension, vasculitis. Central and Peripheral Nervous System: hypoesthesia, neuropathy peripheral, paresthesia, tremor, vertigo. Gastrointestinal: anorexia, constipation, dysspepsia,** dysphagia, diarrhea, flatulence, pancreatitis, vomiting, gingiyal hyperplasia. General: allergic reaction, asthenia,** back pain, hot flushes, malaisen, pain, rigors, weight gain, weight decrease. Musculoskeletal System: athralgia, arthrosis, muscle cramps,** myalgia. Psychiatric: sexual dysfunction (male** and female), insomnia, nervousness, depression, abnormal dreams, anxiety, depersonalization. Respiratory System: dyspemal.** "ribese events occurred in less than 1% in placebo-controlled trials, but the incidence of these side effects was between 1% and 2% in all multiple does studies. Special Senses: abnormal vision, conjunctivitis, diplopia, eye pain, tinnitus. Urinary System: micrutifon frequency, micrutifon disorder, nocturia. Autonomic Nervous System: dry mouth, sweating increased. Metabolic and Nutritional: hyperglycemia, thist. Hemopoletti: leukopenia, purpura, thrombocytopenia. The following events occurred in <0.1% of patients treated with amlodipine in controlled clinical trials or under conditions of open trials or marketing experience: cardiac failure, pulse irregularity, extrasystoles, skin discoloration, urticaria, skin dryness, algentia, dermatitis, increased appetite, loose stools, coughing, rhinitis, dysur

	atorvastatin				
Body System/ Adverse Event	Placebo N=270	10 mg N=863	20 mg N=36	40 mg N=79	80 mg N=94
BODY AS A WHOLE	10.0	10.2	2.8	10.1	7.4
Infection		10.3			
Headache	7.0	5.4	16.7	2.5	6.4
Accidental Injury	3.7	4.2	0.0	1.3	3.2
Flu Syndrome	1.9	2.2	0.0	2.5	3.2
Abdominal Pain	0.7	2.8	0.0	3.8	2.1
Back Pain	3.0	2.8	0.0	3.8	1.1
Allergic Reaction	2.6	0.9	2.8	1.3	0.0
Asthenia	1.9	2.2	0.0	3.8	0.0
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM					
Constipation	1.8	2.1	0.0	2.5	1.1
Diarrhea	1.5	2.7	0.0	3.8	5.3
Dyspepsia	4.1	2.3	2.8	1.3	2.1
Flatulence	3.3	2.1	2.8	1.3	1.1
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM					
Sinusitis	2.6	2.8	0.0	2.5	6.4
Pharyngitis	1.5	2.5	0.0	1.3	2.1
SKIN AND APPENDAGES					
Rash	0.7	3.9	2.8	3.8	1.1
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTE					
Arthralgia	1.5	2.0	0.0	5.1	0.0
Myalgia	1.1	3.2	5.6	1.3	0.0
Anglo-Scandinavian Cardia	 Outcomes Trial I 	ASCOT): In ASCOT	(SEE CLINICAL PH	ARMACOLOGY CI	inical Studies

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM

Arthraigia

1.5

2.0

0.0

5.1

0.0

Mylagia

1.5

2.0

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Mylagia

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5.1

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Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (ASCOT): In ASCOT (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies, With Atorvastatin) involving 10,305 participants treated with atorvastatin 10 mg daily (n-5,168) or placebo (n-5,137), the safety and tolerability profile of the group treated with atorvastatin was comparable to that or the group treated with placebo during a median of 3.3 years of follow-up. Collaborative Atorvastatin inabetes Study (CARDS): In CARDS (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies, Clinical Studies with Atorvastatin) involving 10,305 participants treated with atorvastatin was comparable to that or difference in the overall frequency of adverse events or serious adverse events with the 10 participant of the serious and verse events between the treatment groups during a median follow-up of 3.9 years. No cases of rhabdomyolysis were reported. Treating to New Targets Study (TMT): In TIM (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Clinical Studies) involving 10,001 subjects with clinically evident CHD treated with LIPITOR 10 mg daily (n-5006) or LIPITOR 80 mg daily (n-4995), there were more serious adverse events and discontinuations due to adverse events in the high-dose atorvastatin group (92, 1.8%, 497, 9.9%, respectively) as compared to the low-dose group (69, 1.4%, 404, 8.1%, respectively) during a median follow-up of 4.9 years. Persistent transaminase elevations (23 x ULN twice within 4-10 days) occurred in 52 (1.3%) individuals with atorvastatin 10 mg. Elevations of CK (= 10 x ULN) were low overall, but were higher in the high-dose atorvastatin treatment group (13, 0.3%) compared to the low-dose atorvastatin 80 mg and in nine (0.2%) individuals with atorvastatin 10 mg. Elevations of CK (= 10 x ULN) were low overall, but were therefore the high-dose atorvastatin group (6, 0.1%). Incremental Decrease in Endpoints Through Aggressive Lipid Lowering Study (IDEAL). In IDEAL (see CLINIC

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with aniodigine makers in the sliet for up to two pears, at concentrations adultated to provide daily dragsglines in a contraction of the state of the state of the makes the highest done was on a might basis, similar to the maximum recommended human dose of 10 mg amidopline/(slyr, 8) showed in water developed and account of the state of the state of the makes the highest done level was no an anym basis, somilar to the maximum recommended human dose of 10 mg amidopline/(slyr, 9). The risk of the highest done level was not the tentity of an attent of maximum recommended human dose of 10 mg amidopline/(slyr, 9) and state of the state of

group compared to piaceoo. Subjects with hemorrhagic stroke on study entry appeared to be at increased risk for hemorrhagic stroke.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: CADUET: CADUET (amlodipine besylate/atorvastatin calcium) has been evaluated for safety in 1092 patients in double-blind placebo controlled studies treated for co-morbid hypertension and dyslipidemia. In general, treatment with CADUET was well tolerated. For the most part, adverse experiences have been mild or moderate in seventy. In clinical trials with CADUET, no adverse experiences peculiar to this combination have been observed adverse experiences are similar in terms of nature, seventy, and frequency to those reported previously with amlodipine and atorvastatin. The following information is based on the clinical experience with amlodipine and atorvastatin and the CADUET. Amlodipine has been evaluated for safety in more than 11,000 patients in U.S. and foreign clinical trials. In general, treatment with amlodipine was well tolerated at doses up to 10 mg daily. Most adverse reactions reported during therapy with amlodipine were of mild or moderate severity. In controlled inical trials directly comparing amlodipine (N=1730) in doses up to 10 mg to placebo (N=1250), discontinuation of amlodipine due to adverse reactions was required in only about 1.5% of patients and was not significantly different from placebo (about 1%). The most common side effects are headache and edema. The incidence (%) of side effects which occurred in a dose related manner are as follows:

Ambediane

Adverse Event	Adverse Event amlodipine			
	2.5 mg	5.0 mg	10.0 mg	Placebo
	N=275	N=296	N=268	N=520
Edema	1.8	3.0	10.8	0.6
Dizziness	1.1	3.4	3.4	1.5
Flushing	0.7	1.4	2.6	0.0
Palpitations	0.7	1.4	4.5	0.6
Other adverse exp	eriences which were r	ot clearly dose related but	which were reported with an in	ncidence greater than
1 OV in placebo c	ontrolled clinical trial	a include the following:		-

Placebo-Controlled Stud	lies	
Adverse Event	amlodipine (%) (N=1730)	Placebo (%) (N=1250)
Headache	7.3	7.8
Fatigue	4.5	2.8
Nausea	2.9	1.9
Abdominal Pain	1.6	0.3
Somnolence	1.4	0.6

Pizer U.S. Pharmaceuticals

Vocal Cord Dysfunction Apes Asthma

BY DOUG BRUNK

SAN DIEGO — About one-third of patients referred to an asthma specialty clinic who were believed to have difficult to control asthma actually had vocal cord dysfunction, results from a singlecenter study showed.

"If patients have been on many different medicines—they've been on oral or inhaled steroids and they're not responding-it's worth checking to see if they actually have asthma or not," study coauthor Catherine Vitari, R.N., said in an interview during a poster session at an international conference of the American Thoracic Society.

In a study led by her associate, Dr. Sally E. Wenzel, a pulmonologist and the director of the Asthma Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center,

Of 119 patients, 33% didn't have asthma. 'We didn't expect to see this. That's a pretty high percentage of people referred for asthma who didn't actually have asthma.'

the researchers reviewed the charts of 152 new patients evaluated at the institute between December 2006 and September 2008 in an effort to verify the diagnosis of severe asthma.

Of the 152 patients, 119 (78%) had a presenting diagnosis of asthma while 33 had another diagnosis such as dyspnea, cough, and emphysema.

Ms. Vitari, a clinical research nurse at the Asthma Institute, reported that 40 of the 119 patients who presented with an asthma diagnosis underwent methacholine challenges with laryngoscopy because their history and physical suggested asthma may not be the primary diagnosis. Of these 40 patients, 39 had a negative test, which precluded the diagnosis of asthma in 33% of the 119 patients. "We didn't expect to see this," she commented. "That's a pretty high percentage of people referred for asthma who didn't actually have asthma."

Dr. Wenzel performs a laryngoscopy at the time of the methacholine challenge "to see if the vocal cords are closing or spasming, indicating vocal cord dysfunction, or if it's truly asthma," Ms. Vitari explained. "If you send the patient to ENT instead to do a laryngoscopy and they don't see anything, it could be that the vocal cord dysfunction isn't acting up at that time since the spasms can be episodic and/or related to triggering events or stimuli."

She acknowledged certain limitations of the study, including its single-center design and the fact that only one physician did the assessments. The researchers had no conflicts to disclose.