An open-label single-centre pilot study to evaluate the safety and tolerability of pentosan polysulfate sodium in subjects with mucopolysaccharidosis type I (MPS I)

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**Introduction**

- Patients with MPS I continue to experience pain and symptoms that affect function despite disease-modifying treatment with haemopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) and enzyme replacement therapy (ERT).  
- Pentosan polysulfate sodium (PPS), a semisynthetic polysaccharide that resembles glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), has been shown to improve pain and function in patients with MPS I, MPS II and MPS VI.²  

PPS is being evaluated as an adjunctive therapy to ERT and/or HSCT in the PARA_MPS1_001 open-label, single-centre, phase 2 pilot study.

**Methods**

**Inclusion Criteria:**
- Age ≥5 years, documented diagnosis of MPS I (genetic testing and/or enzyme activity), previously received HSCT and/or ERT.

**Study Design:**
- Patients are sequentially allocated to Cohort 1 or Cohort 2 and administered PPS subcutaneous (SC) injections once weekly to Week 12 then fortnightly to Week 48. Eligible patients may continue in the study for an additional 6 months.

**Assessments:**
- **Safety:** Incidence of treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs), serious adverse events (SAEs), and clinically significant changes from baseline in clinical laboratory data.  
- **Efficacy:** Informed by global clinicians and an MPS patient focus group:  
  - **Physical tests:** 2- and 6-minute walk test (2/6MWT); 9-hole peg test (9HPT); Gait, Stairs, Gower, Chair (GSGC); joint passive range of motion (ROM) and grip test.  
  - **PROs:** Paediatric, proxy, or adult Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) - pain intensity, pain interference, pain behavior, fatigue, upper extremity and mobility/physical function with mobility aid short forms; and patient global impression of change (PGIC). Patients under 18 years had parent ‘proxy’ questionnaires completed as well as self-assessment.  
- **PK:** PPS concentration in blood before and after repeat PPS administration (predose and 2, 4, and 6 hours post dose of dose 1, 2, 3).  
- **Biomarkers:** Urinary GAG (fragment and total GAG), and serum and urine biomarkers inflammation, cartilage degradation, and bone turnover.

**Para_MPSI_001 Study Design**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study Design</th>
<th>Cohort 1: 0.75 mg/kg PPS (N = up to 5)</th>
<th>Cohort 2: 1.50 mg/kg PPS (N = up to 5)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study day</td>
<td>PPS injections once weekly</td>
<td>PPS injections once weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>PPS injections every 2 weeks</td>
<td>PPS injections every 2 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 48</td>
<td>Last PPS injection</td>
<td>Last PPS injection</td>
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**EOS = end of study; PPS = pentosan polysulfate sodium**

**Results**

**Patient Population and Disease Characteristics:**
Three white, female, right-handed patients with MPS I-Hurler ages 14 (01-102), 15 (01-201) and 19 (01-101) years are enrolled into the study. All were diagnosed under 2 years of age and underwent HSCT within 6 months of diagnosis. Two patients (01-102, 01-201) received ERT for 6 months, commencing 4 and 2 months prior to HSCT respectively. Patients 01-101 and 01-102 received 0.75mg/kg, and patient 01-201 received 1.5mg/kg. All patients had musculoskeletal symptoms, pain, and reduced function at study entry. Analgesics were not permitted within 24 hours before assessments. Patient 01-101 had pre-planned bilateral knee surgery at week 15 and 1 finger surgery at week 20.

**Safety:**
Of the 11 TEAEs, 2 were considered related to study drug (mild to moderate and resolved, with no SAEs reported). The 11 TEAEs, 2 were considered related to study drug. Two patients (01-102, 01-201) had a decrease (improvement) in the MPS I signature oligosaccharide GAG fragments (sulfated disaccharide) (UA-HNAC) from baseline to week 25, with the greatest improvement seen in patient 01-102, who had a 40% drop from the highest baseline levels. There was a modest increase in total uGAGs (dimethylene blue (DMB)) for 2 patients, and a decrease in patient 01-102.

**Objectives**

- **Primary:** Safety and tolerability of PPS.  
- **Secondary:** exploratory: Patient reported outcomes (PROs) measuring pain, function, fatigue, quality of life (QOL); physical tests of mobility and dexterity; and pharmacokinetics (PK); changes in biomarkers signaling cartilage degeneration, bone turnover and inflammation.

**Biomarkers:** Urinary GAGs (fragment and total GAG), and serum and urine biomarkers inflammation, cartilage degradation, and bone turnover.

**PARA_MPSI_001 is ongoing; 3 of up to 10 planned patients are enrolled and receiving PPS. The 6-month data presented herein is for the 3 patients with a cut-off date of 6 August 2021.**
Overall, most of the biomarkers (inflammatory, cartilage degeneration and bone turnover) evaluated in all patients have indicated either no change or a reduction in levels at week 25 compared to baseline. This is an indication that PPS has the potential to modulate the inflammatory and joint degenerating biomarkers that are associated with arthralgia in MPS I patients.

The PK characteristics were reproducible, demonstrated consistent rapid rise and fall in plasma concentration that was proportionate to dose administered (mg/kg). Plasma concentration returned to baseline prior to the next dose/assessment and followed characteristics of repeated single dose exposure.

There was a trend toward improvement in 2/6MWT from baseline to week 25. Higher functioning patients at baseline demonstrated modest improvement.

Patient 01-102 was unable to complete the full 6MWT at baseline and week 6 due to back pain and fatigue (baseline), and fatigue (W6), however was able to complete the full 6 minutes at subsequent visits.

At week 25, patients exhibited either improvement or no significant change on most parameters. Exception was 01-101, who had greater shoulder abduction ROM at baseline than the other patients, and experienced decreased shoulder abduction movement at week 25. Knee extension remained unchanged in 2 of the 3 patients, and significantly improved in the third patient. Patient 01-201, receiving the high dose (1.5 mg/kg) had improved ROM on all joints assessed.

At baseline, all patients took longer to complete the test than the average for age/gender, with two patients taking greater than 2 standard deviations longer. At week 25, patients were generally stable or improved in the test (exception was patient 01-101 non-dominant hand, possibly influenced by Lj index finger surgery at week 20).

All patients demonstrated overall improvement in the GSGC qualitative global score with improvements ranging from 25%-39% over baseline at week 25.

Times to complete the tests were faster at week 25 than baseline, with the exception was 01-101 who had a faster time at study entry, and had bilateral knee surgery at week 15, and increased seconds in Gower and chair activities at week 25 (data not shown).

Grip strength: No significant changes in were observed from baseline to week 25.
Results (cont.)

- At week 25, all patients and proxies reported improvement, reporting ‘A definite improvement that has made a real and worthwhile difference’.

Conclusions

• Subcutaneous PPS was well tolerated at doses of 0.75 and 1.5 mg/kg out to 24 weeks of continuous dosing.

• There was an overall trend toward improvement in all domains assessed (with the exception of grip strength), providing for meaningful improvements in pain, function, and ADLs, and overall improvement in quality of life.

• PPS administration resulted in improvements in 2MWT and 6MWT, Range of Motion, and GSGC, which includes a range of activities important to daily function in this population.

• Clinically meaningful improvements in functional performance were supported by a range of PROs including pain intensity, interference and behaviour, and fatigue, as well as mobility and upper extremity function. This was supported by improvement in PGIC in all patients.

• PK assessments demonstrated consistency in serum concentrations that were dependent. Urinary GAGs showed overall improvement in MPS I specific fragment.

• Changes in the profile of biomarkers suggest that PPS has the potential to modulate the inflammatory and joint degrading biomarkers that are associated with arthralgia in MPS I patients.

MPS I patients continue to experience pain and arthropathy following HSCT and/or ERT. These often debilitating symptoms significantly impact physical function and quality of life. PPS may address this unmet medical need and provide improvement in pain and function. Further studies are warranted to continue investigation of PPS in MPS I.

References


Disclosures

PARA_MPS1_001 is funded by Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. Michael Imperiale and Sharon Charles are employees of Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. The study was approved by WCHN Human Research Ethics Committee, and all patients provided written informed consent to participate in the study.

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PARA_MPS1_001 is funded by Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals Ltd. Paradigm Biopharmaceuticals Ltd is developing PPS for the treatment of complications of mucopolysaccharidosis including pain and function. The author(s) confirm(s) independence from the Sponsor; the content of this presentation has not been influenced by the Sponsor.

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