



25 September 2023

Bulevirtide for patients with CHD

Post EASL 2023 update

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Disclosures

Advisory Board/Speaker Bureau for:

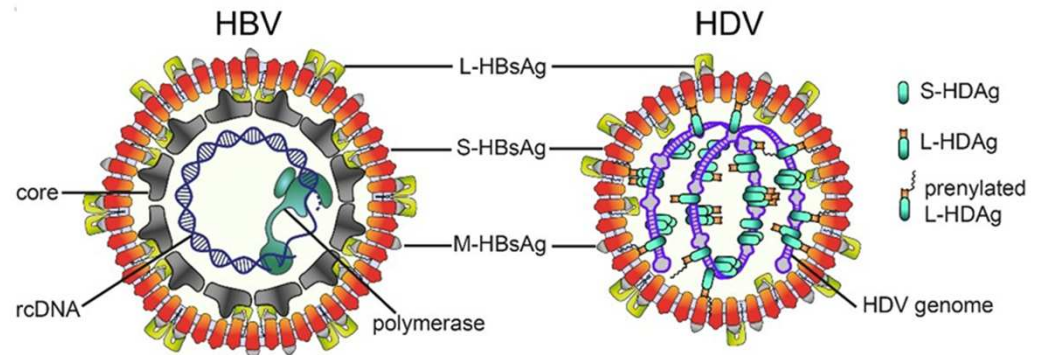
- ROCHE PHARMA/DIAGNOSTICS, GILEAD SCIENCES, GSK, ABBVIE, JANSSEN, MYR, EIGER, ANTIOS, ALIGOS, VIR, GRIFOLS, ALTONA, ROBOSCREEN
-

Hepatitis D (delta) Virus infection

- The «Delta agent» was discovered in 1977 by Mario Rizzetto
- Small RNA defective virus that needs HBsAg for its propagation (HBV/HDV coinfection)
- Of the ~250 million HBsAg carriers, 10-20 million are also anti-HDV positive (rare disease)
- Causes the most severe form of chronic viral hepatitis

More rapid progression to liver cirrhosis and liver cancer; 5-7x more likely to develop cirrhosis and HCC vs HBV

- Anti-HDV therapies: NUC not effective, PegIFN α effective in only 15-20% of the patients (not EMA or FDA approved)
- New therapies are needed



Goals/Endpoints of anti-HDV treatment

- Improve survival
- Reduce liver related complications (ESLD, HCC...)
- HDV RNA undetectable $\pm$ HBsAg loss/seroconversion
- Virological response (> 2 log IU/ml decline HDV RNA)
- Combined response (HDV RNA decline >2 log + ALT normalization)
- Biochemical response
- Histological response

At different time points: during therapy, EOT, EOF (≥ 24 weeks off therapy)

modified from Yurdaydin C et al J Hepatol 2019;70:1008-15; Cornberg M et al, J Hepatol 2020;72:539-57, Urban et al, Gut 2021

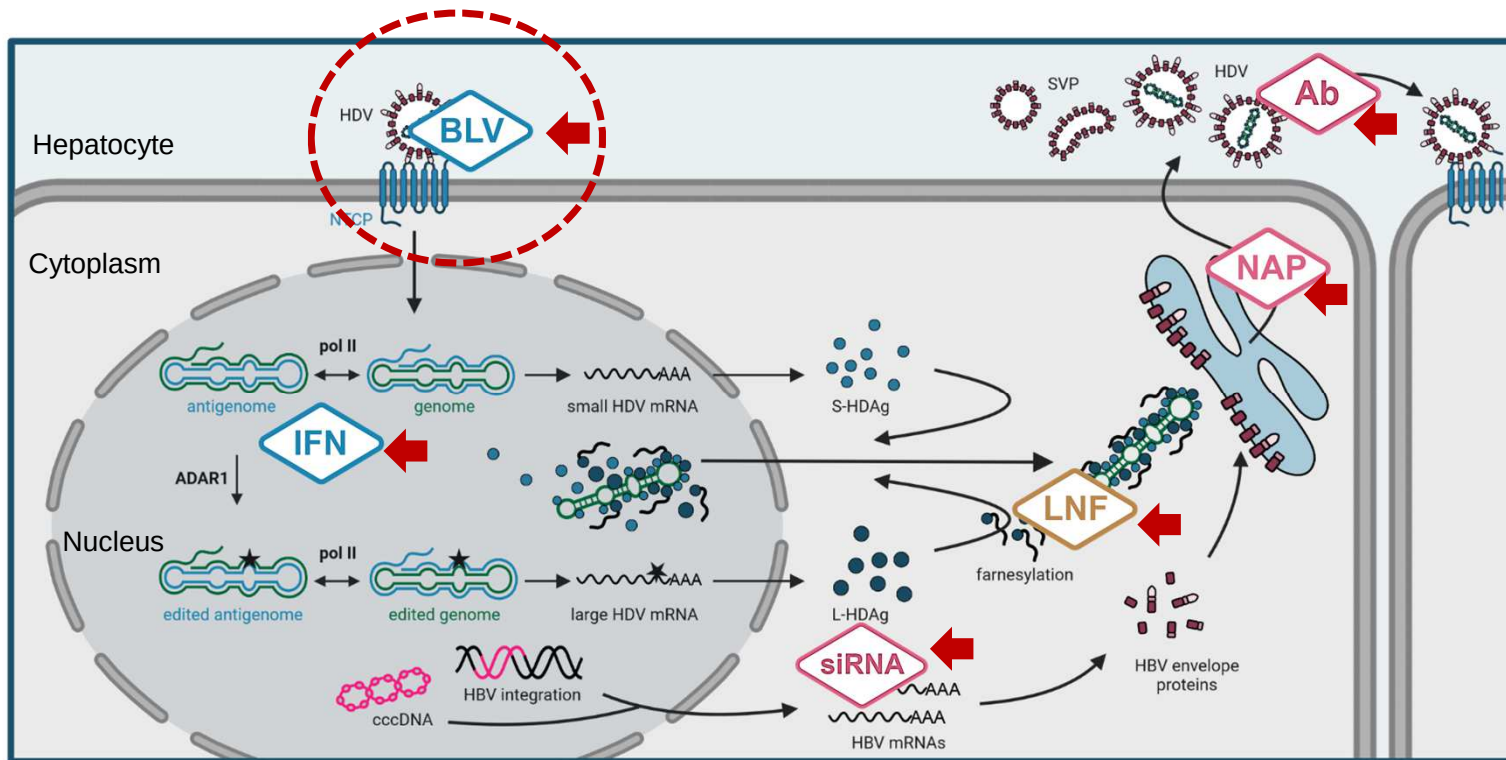
Antiviral treatment in HDV patients: possible strategies

STRATEGIES	DURATION OF THERAPY	ENDPOINT	TIMING OF ENDPOINT
Short-term (finite) therapy	≤48 weeks	Preferred: HBsAg loss + HDV RNA <LLOQ Alternate: HDV RNA <LLOQ	Off-therapy (24 weeks)
Long-term therapy	>48 weeks	Preferred: HDV RNA <LLOQ Alternate: HDV RNA >2 log decline + ALT normalization	On-therapy (48 weeks)

***FDA Chronic Hepatitis D Virus Infection: Developing Drugs for Treatment Guidance for Industry (Oct 2019)**

“.....in certain situations, such as for drugs that are intended to be used as chronic suppressive therapy, a greater than or equal to 2 log₁₀ decline in HDV RNA and ALT normalization on-treatment could be considered an acceptable surrogate endpoint reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit”

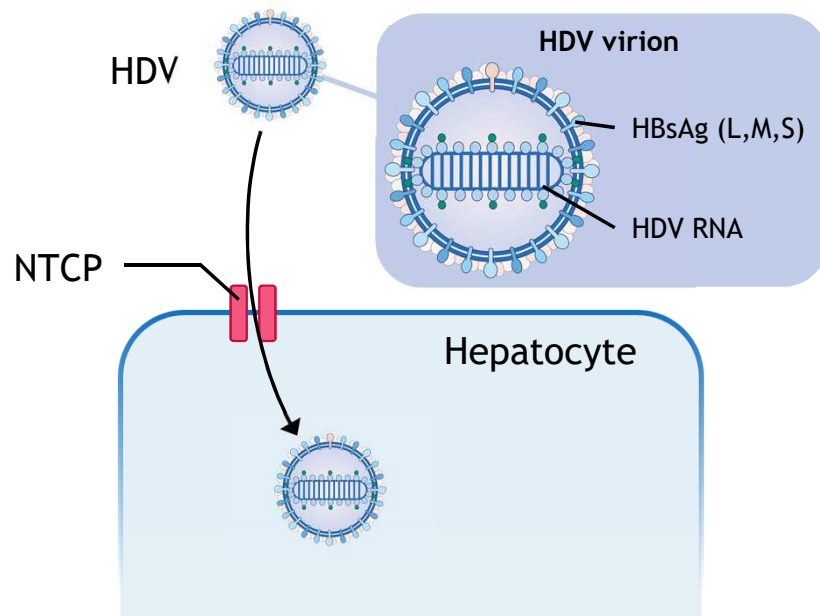
Therapeutic targets for HDV infection



NUC therapy for HBV does not directly interfere with HDV replication

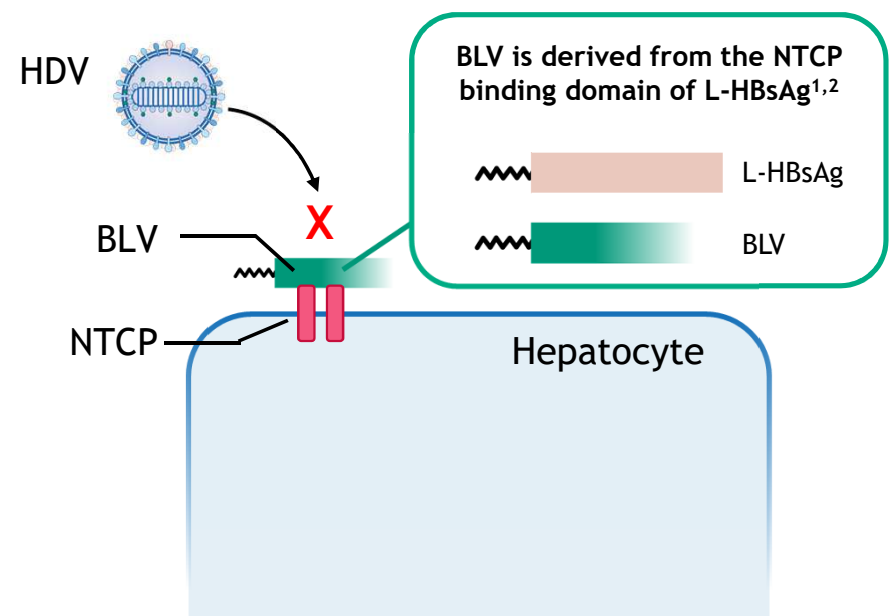
Bulevirtide (BLV) is an HDV entry inhibitor

HDV infects hepatocytes via the NTCP bile acid transporter¹



Adapted from Zhang Z, Urban S. J Hepatol 2021;74:686-99

BLV binds to NTCP preventing entry of HDV into hepatocytes^{2,3}



Adapted from Zhang Z, Urban S. J Hepatol 2021;74:686-99

BLV is a specific inhibitor of the NTCP bile acid transporter, the entry receptor for HDV²

1. Zhang Z, Urban S. J Hepatol 2021;74:686-99; 2. Kang C, Syed YY. Drugs 2020;80:1-10.
3. EMC. HEPCLUDEX ▼ (bulevirtide) Additional monitoring SmPC. Available at: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13482> (accessed July 2023).

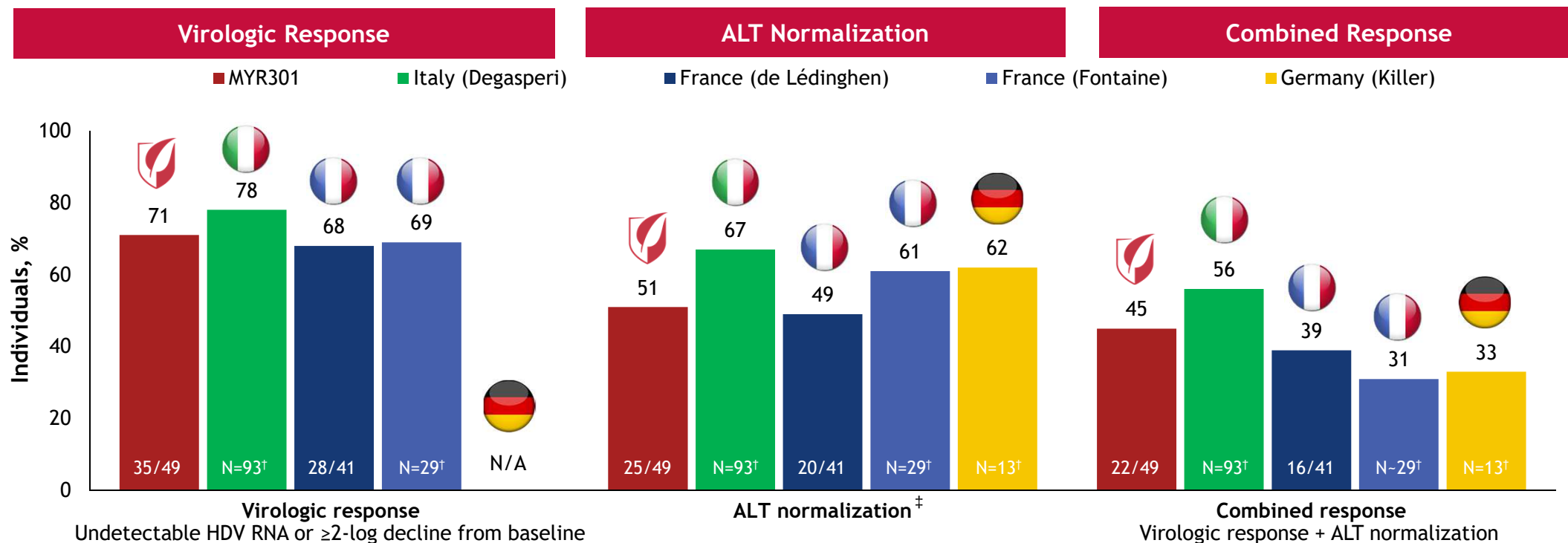
BLV does not directly inhibit HDV replication in infected cells!

BLV 2 mg monotherapy in CHD: efficacy at week 48

MYR301 and RWD Sets



*NOT HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPARISONS

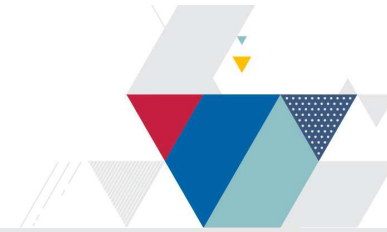


Week 48 RWD support the efficacy of BLV 2 mg observed in MYR301

*NOT HEAD-TO-HEAD COMPARISONS. This graphic serves to illustrate outcomes obtained from different studies, which are therefore not directly comparable as study populations are NOT matched

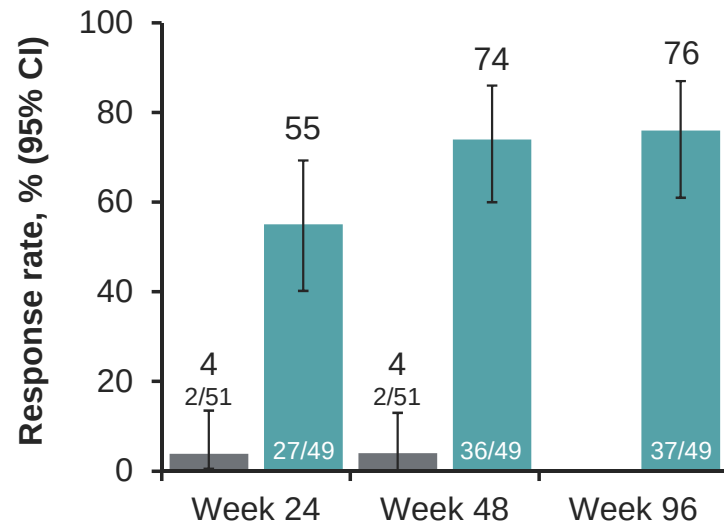
1. Wedemeyer H, et al. NEJM 2023; 2. Degasperi A, et al. AASLD 2022. Oral #5013; 3. de Lédighen V, et al. AASLD 2021. Oral #21; 4. Fontaine H, et al. EASL 2022. Oral #OS093; 5. Killer A, et al. EASL 2022. Poster #SAT345

MYR301: efficacy at Week 96

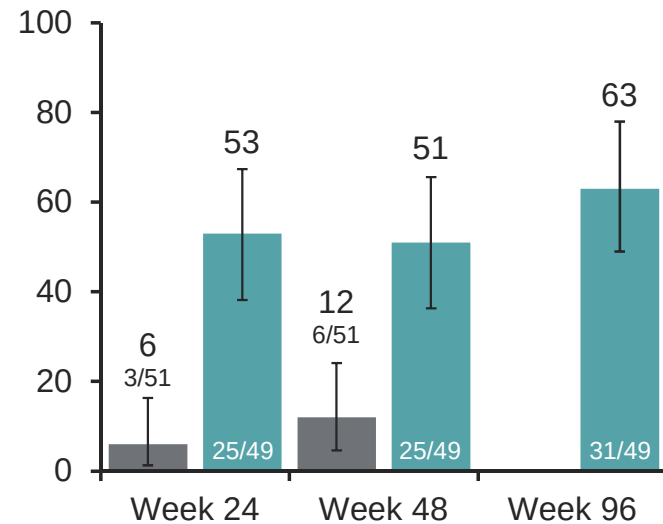


Virological response

Undetectable HDV RNA or $\geq 2 \log_{10}$ IU/mL decline from BL

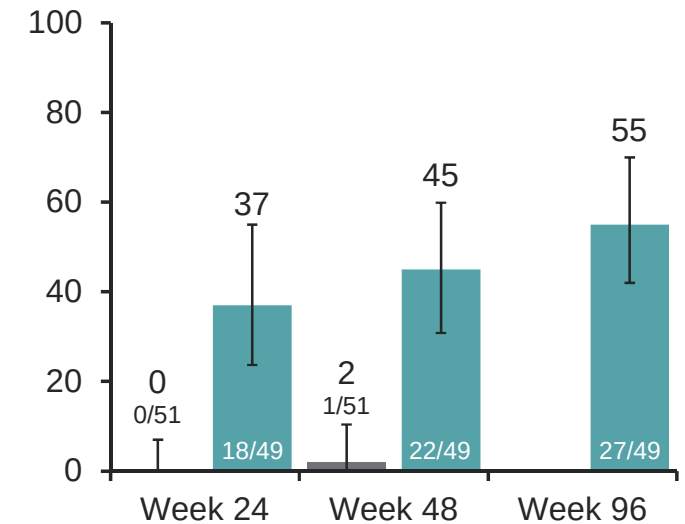


ALT normalisation



Combined response

Undetectable HDV RNA or $\geq 2 \log_{10}$ IU/mL decline from baseline and ALT normalisation



Undetectable, % 6 12 20

No treatment BLV 2 mg

BLV 2 mg led to continued virological and biochemical responses over 96 weeks

Wedemeyer H, et al. EASL ILC 2021. Oral #LBP-2730
 Wedemeyer H, et al. EASL ILC 2022. Oral #GS005;
 Wedemeyer H, et al. N Engl J Med 2023;389:22–32;
 Wedemeyer H, et al. EASL 2023. Oral #OS-068.

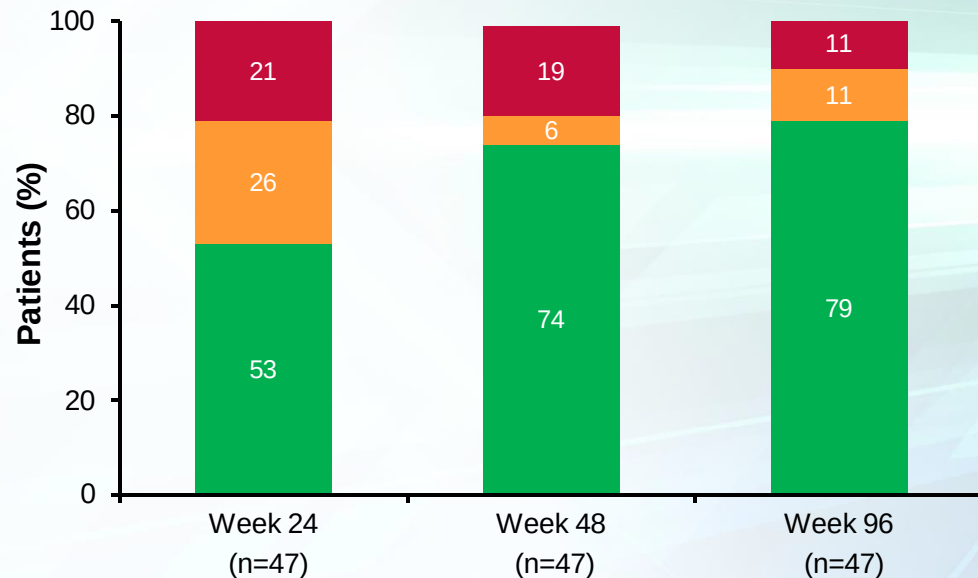
Not all study arms shown. Undetectable HDV RNA defined as below lower limit of quantification (LLOQ; 50 IU/mL) (target not detected).
 ALT ULN: ≤ 31 U/L for females and ≤ 41 U/L for males (Russia sites); ≤ 34 U/L for females and ≤ 49 U/L for males (all other sites). ALT
 normalisation defined as: ≤ 31 U/L for females and ≤ 41 U/L for males (Russia sites), ≤ 34 U/L for females and ≤ 49 U/L for males (all
 other sites). ALT: alanine aminotransferase; BL: baseline BLV: bulevirtide; CI: confidence interval.



MYR301: efficacy improvements with BLV monotherapy through Week 96 in early suboptimal responders

Change in virological response category from Week 24 to Week 96 with BLV 2 mg

■ Virological responders ■ Virological partial responders* ■ Virological non-responders†



Efficacy responses

92%

11/12 virological partial responders at Week 24 became virological responders at Week 96

30%

3/10 virological non-responders at Week 24 became virological responders at Week 96

83%‡

5/6 patients who remained virological non-responders achieved ALT declines of >50% from BL at Week 96



See poster #SAT-156

Suboptimal early virological response was defined as nonresponse or partial response at Week 24.

*Virological partial responders had an HDV RNA decline of ≥ 1 but $< 2 \log_{10}$ IU/mL from baseline.

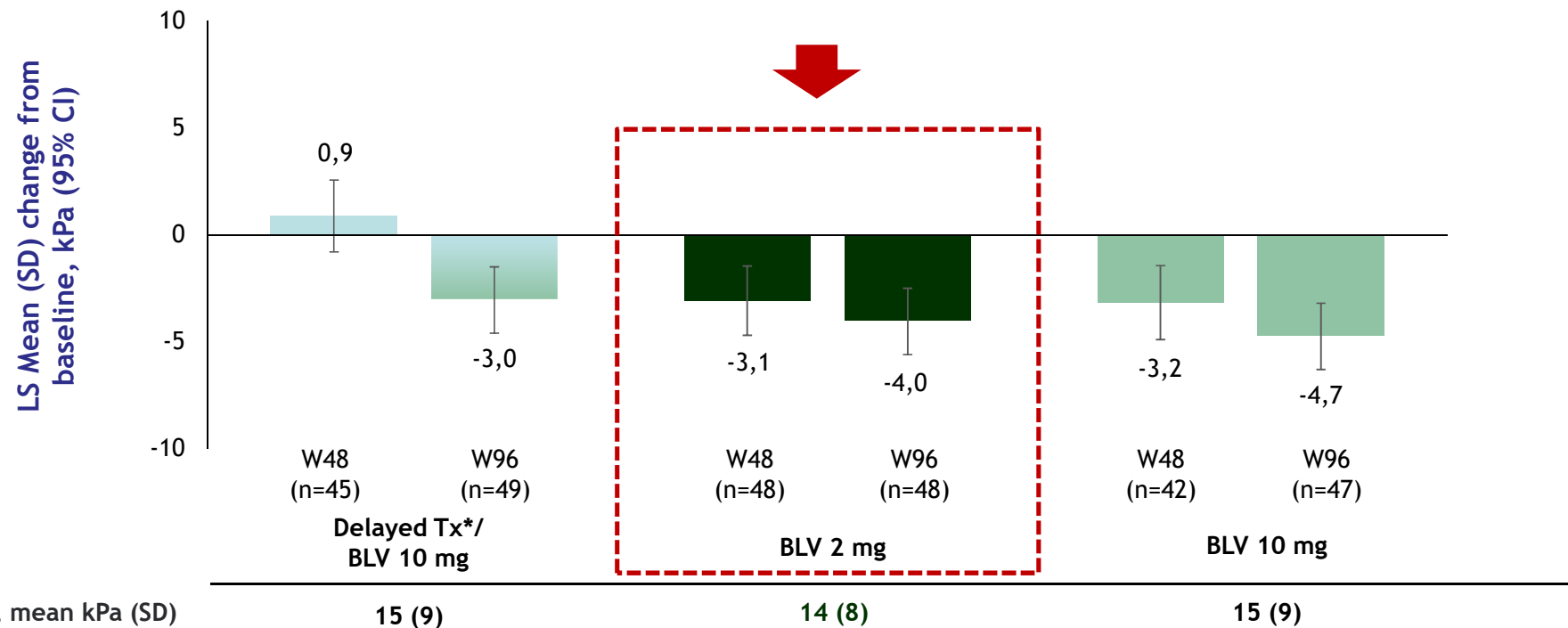
†Virological non-responders were defined as having an HDV RNA decline of $< 1 \log_{10}$ IU/mL from baseline;

‡Patients received BLV 2 mg or 10 mg. BLV 2 mg is the only approved dose.

ALT: alanine aminotransferase; BL: baseline; BLV: bulevirtide.

Interim Efficacy Analysis at Week 96

Change in Liver Stiffness Measurement by Transient Elastography



BLV 2 mg and 10 mg were associated with continued reduction in liver stiffness through Week 96

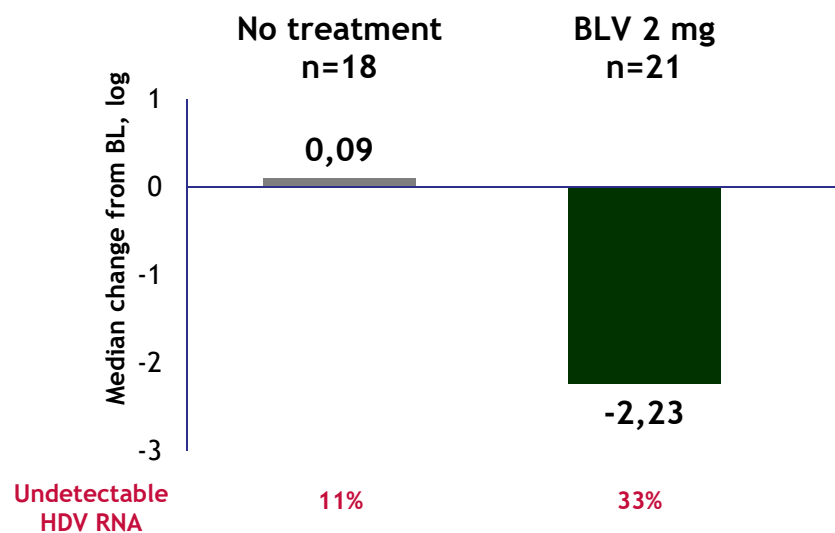
48 weeks of BLV 2 mg monotherapy for CHD (MYR301)

Intrahepatic virological responses

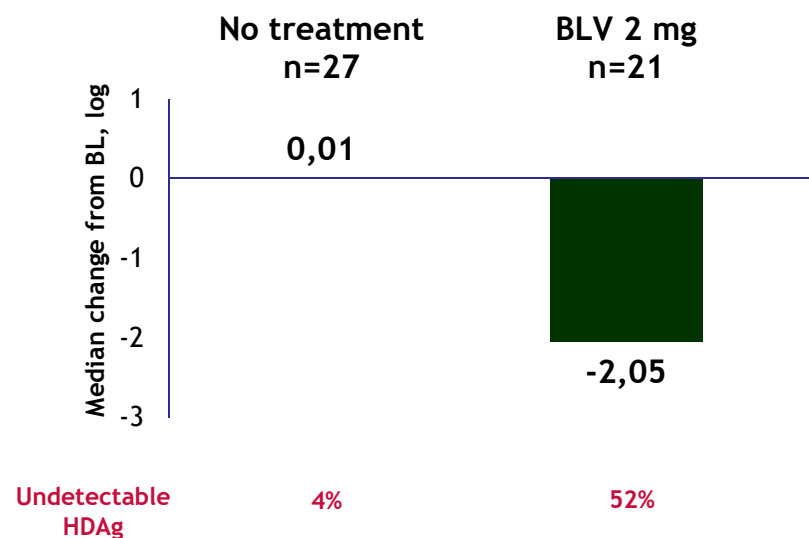


Interim results of paired core liver biopsies from a multicenter, open-label, randomized Phase 3 study

Change in Intrahepatic HDV RNA



Change in HDAg+ Cells



Strong intrahepatic declines in HDV RNA and HDAg+ cells and were observed



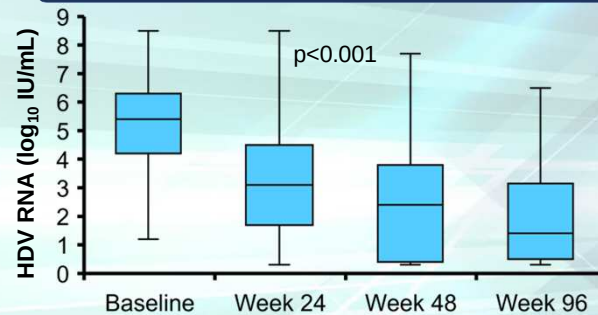
Effectiveness and safety of BLV 2 mg monotherapy up to 96 weeks in a real-world compensated cirrhotic cohort (SAVE-D study)

SAVE-D: Retrospective, multicentre, pan-EU cohort of 176 patients from 37 centres*

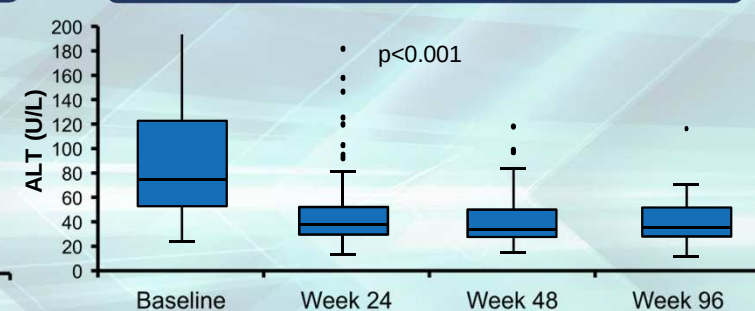
Baseline characteristics

Baseline characteristics	BLV 2 mg n=176
Median age, years (range)	50 (19–82)
Male, n (%)	104 (59)
HIV coinfection, [†] n (%)	15 (9)
CPT score A, [‡] n (%)	176 (100)
Esophageal varices, [§] n (%)	65 (54)
Previous ascites, n (%)	21 (12)
History of HCC, n (%)	15 (9)
Median liver stiffness, kPa (range)	18.3 (6.4–75.0)
Median ALT, U/L, (range)	77 (23–1074)
Median platelets, median 10 ³ /mm ³ (range)	89 (17–330)
Median HDV RNA, log ₁₀ IU/mL (range)	5.4 (1.2–8.5)
NA treatment, n (%)	160 (91)
Previous IFN treatment, n (%)	103 (59)

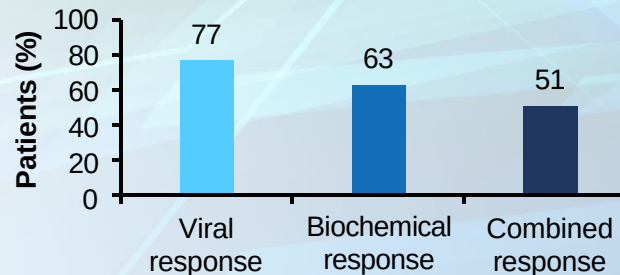
HDV RNA levels



ALT levels



Efficacy at Week 96



Safety profile:

BLV 2 mg led to elevations in bile acids. Mild pruritus was reported in 18 (10%) patients

Improved albumin levels and low rates of decompensating events (but not of HCC).....

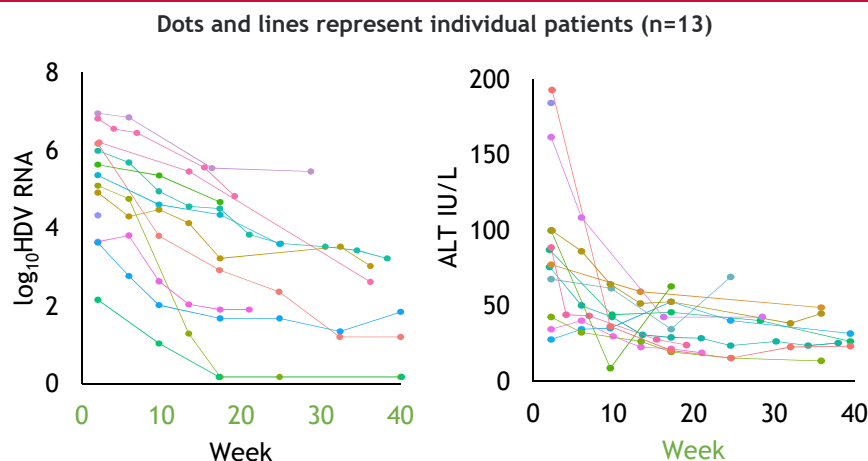
BLV monotherapy in patients with HDV-related decompensated cirrhosis (Child-B)



Retrospective, multicenter,* real-world analysis of BLV in 15 patients with an average follow up of 23 weeks

Baseline Characteristic	Cohort (n=15)
Child-Pugh Stage, n	
A	1†
B	14
Ascites, n	10
Variceal bleeding history, n	2
Esophageal varices present, n	13
Bilirubin, $\mu\text{mol/L}$ (mean $\pm$ SD)	36.1 $\pm$ 24.6
Hyperbilirubinemia (>34.2 $\mu\text{mol/L}$), n	6
Albumin, g/dL (mean $\pm$ SD)	33.0 $\pm$ 4.6
Hypoalbuminemia (<35 g/dL), n	9

Efficacy Responses



67%

10 of 15 patients had virologic response**

47%

7 of 15 patients had ALT normalization

27%

4 of 15 patients improved from Child-Pugh B to A

27%

4 of 15 patients had improvement of ascites

Safety profile:

- 1 patient experienced worsening of liver function after add-on pegylated IFN (not related to BLV)
- 1 patient experienced further decomposition after TIPS insertion and incarceration of hernia (not related to BLV)
- 3 patients terminated BLV therapy at liver transplantation

BLV therapy in decompensated patients led to robust virologic response, ALT normalization, and improvements in liver function

¹⁴ *Centers in Austria, Italy, and Germany; **HDV RNA decline of ≥ 2 log; †Had a history of large volume paracentesis due to ascites but resolution of ascites under ongoing diuretics at treatment initiation. Given the uncontrolled CHD, the patient was considered as decompensated following the Baveno VII recommendations. ALT, alanine aminotransferase; BLV, bulevirtide; IFN, interferon; TIPS, transjugular intrahepatic Deterding K, et al. EASL 2023. Poster #LBP-12



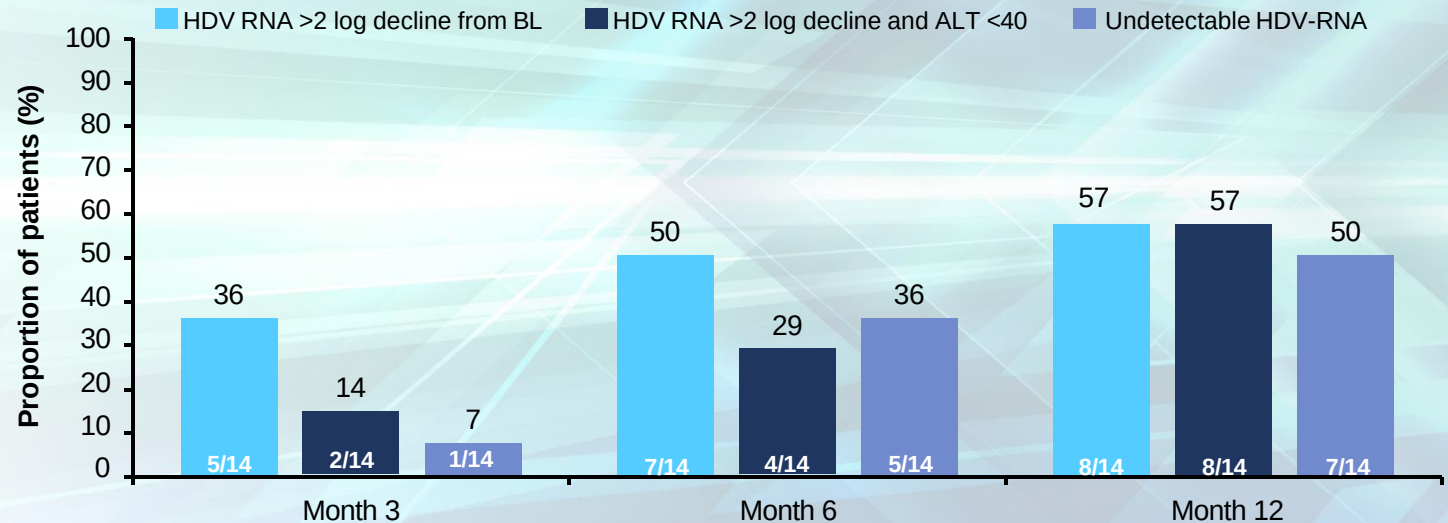
BLV 2 mg monotherapy is effective and well tolerated in people with HIV/HBV/HDV coinfection

cATU: First real-world cohort of HIV/HBV/HDV-coinfected patients treated with BLV 2 mg $\pm$ PEG-IFN

Baseline characteristics	Total n=21
Age, mean years	48
Male, %	71
HIV, %	100
Cirrhosis, %	52
HDV RNA, median log ₁₀ IU/mL	6.09
HIV RNA, median cp/mL*	0
CD4, median /mm3	558

Safety profile	Total n=21
AE related to BLV, n	0
HIV drug modifications, n	0
CD4, median / mm3 @ M12	540
Stopped treatment by M12, n (%)†	8 (38)

Virological and biochemical response: BLV 2 mg monotherapy (n=14, ITT analysis)



BLV 2 mg for up to 12 months was effective and well tolerated with no impact on CD4, HIV viral suppression or HIV treatment regimen

Visco Comandini U et al, HIV Med 2023: 14 HIV/HDV patients with comp cirrhosis and CSPH treated with BLV monotherapy.....progressive increase of CD4/CD8 cells...no safety signals...

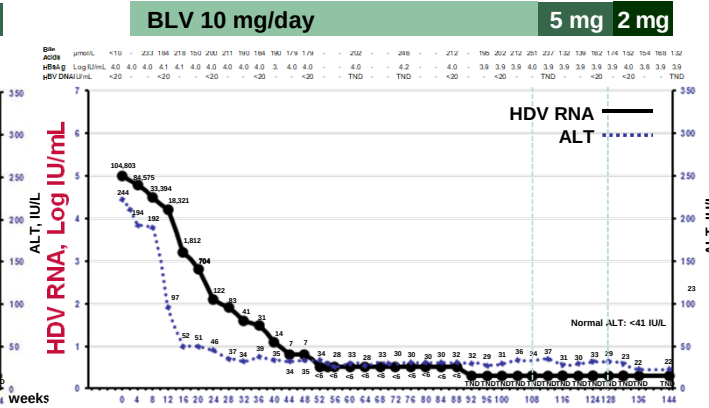
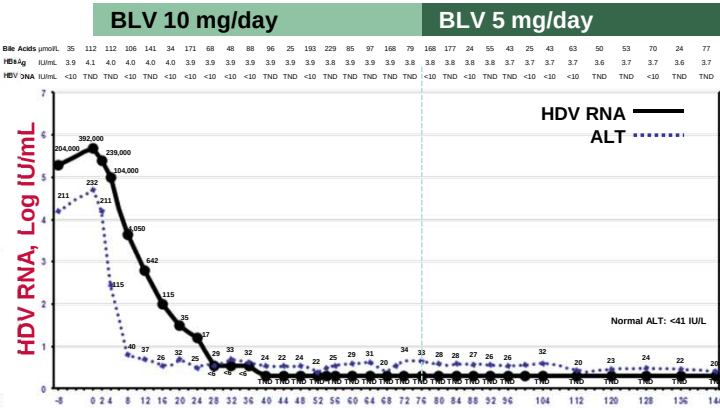
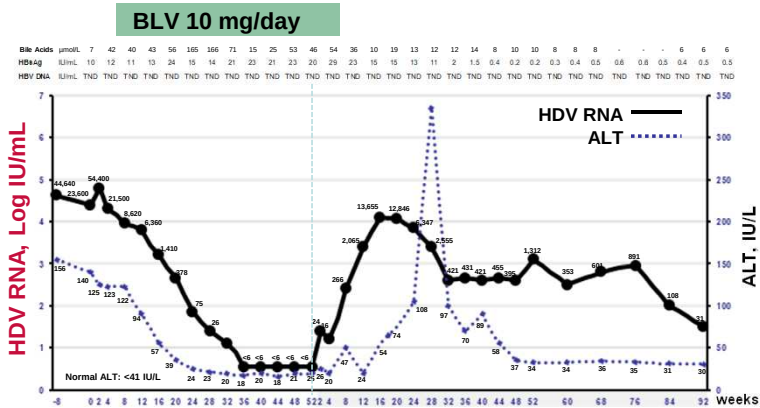


3 Year Bulevirtide Treatment in Patients with HDV*



Case series of 3 difficult-to-treat compensated HDV cirrhotic patients with portal hypertension

Patient 1-69 y.o. female	Patient 2-51 y.o. male	Patient 3-58 y.o. female**
CPT A5 NR to PegIFN, CI to new IFN attempt	CPT A5, small varices, CI to PegIFN	CPT A5 with CI to PegIFN



Variables	BLV 10 mg/day + TDF			TDF				
	Baseline	Week 24	Week 48	Week 24	Week 48	Week 76	Week 84	Week 96
AST (U/L) /ALT (U/L)	83 / 140	31 / 24	22 / 21	74 / 108	31 / 37	31 / 35	38 / 31	29 / 26
Platelet count (x10 ⁹ /L)	95	109	115	37	80	69	66	61
Liver Stiffness, kPa	17.3	17.3	21.3		18.0	17.6	13.5	15.7
Esophageal varices	No	—	—	—	No	—	—	—
Creatinine (mg/dL)	1.06	0.89	0.94	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.91	0.89

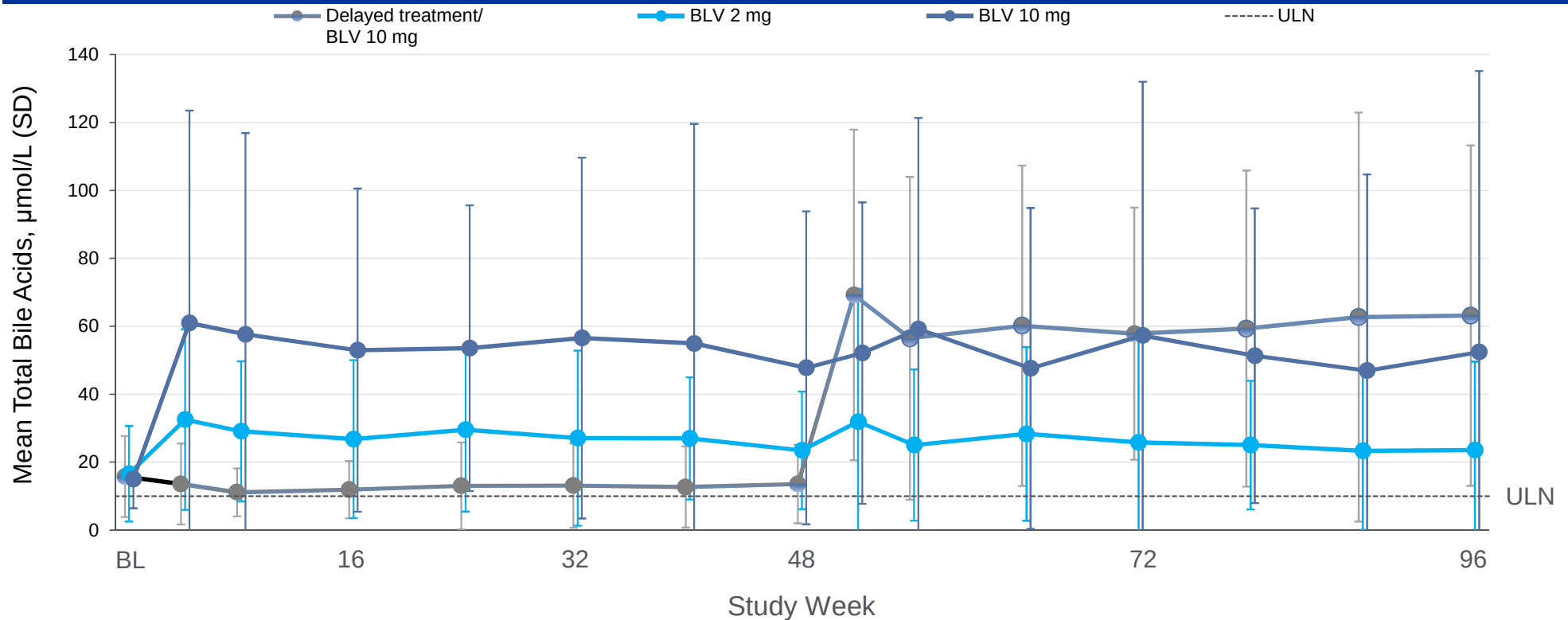
Variables	BLV + TDF						
	Baseline	Week 24	Week 48	Week 72	Week 96	Week 120	Week 144
AST (U/L) /ALT (U/L)	179 / 232	38 / 25	38 / 24	34 / 23	37 / 26	35 / 23	32 / 20
Platelet count (x10 ⁹ /L)	74	100	111	110	105	124	133
Liver Stiffness, kPa	17.6	14.5	10.1	11.9	16.5	7.7	10.9
Esophageal varices	Small	—	Small	—	No	—	No
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.82	0.83	0.88	0.85	1.00	0.90	0.86

Variables	BLV + TDF						
	Baseline	Week 24	Week 48	Week 72	Week 96	Week 120	Week 144
AST (U/L) /ALT (U/L)	111 / 244	42 / 46	33 / 35	37 / 35	37 / 29	25 / 30	29 / 22
Platelet count (x10 ⁹ /L)	210	226	217	212	206	208	220
Liver Stiffness, kPa	—	—	—	10.1	—	—	—
Esophageal varices	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.80	0.74	0.73	0.72	0.74	0.76	0.74

* All three patients were on concomitant TDF at various dosing throughout the entire data period **BLV dose was reduced from 10 to 5 mg/day at week 108 and to 2 mg/day at week 128

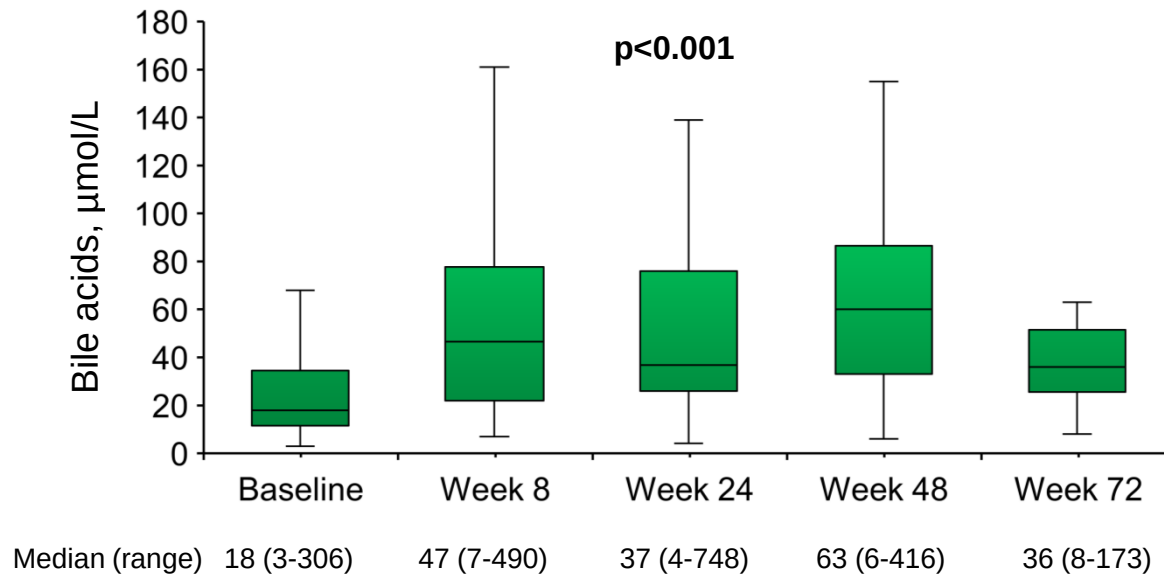
MYR301 study

Safety profile of 96 weeks BLV monotherapy for CHD



Dose-dependent asymptomatic elevations in total bile acids were observed with BLV treatment which were less pronounced in the 2 mg dose group

Extension of BLV 2 mg monotherapy up to 72 weeks in patients with compensated CHD-related cirrhosis (HEP4Di)



BLV-related AEs

- Significant bile acids elevation
- Mild, transient pruritus in n=12 (13%)
- Injection site reactions in n=6 (6%)
- No discontinuations due to BLV-related AEs

Liver-related events and death/OLT

- N=2 decompensating events (n=1 ascites with portal vein thrombosis; n=1 variceal bleeding)
- N=5 with de-novo HCC
- N=5 undergoing liver transplantation (n=3 for HCC, n=2 for ESLD)
- N=1 death due to pneumonia (BLV-unrelated)

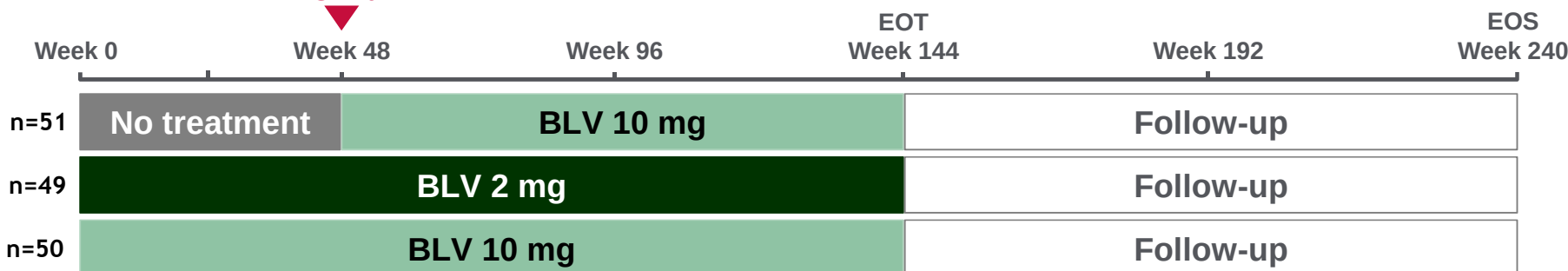
Can we stop BLV treatment?

BLV Monotherapy at Low and High Dose in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis Delta



EASL 2022

- Key Inclusion Criteria**
- Child-Pugh-Turcotte (CPT) ≤ 7
 - With or without cirrhosis
 - ALT ≥ 1 ULN and $< 10 \times$ ULN



Primary endpoint:

- Combined response: HDV RNA undetectable or decrease by ≥ 2 log IU/mL from baseline and ALT normalization (week 48)

Secondary endpoints:

- Undetectable HDV RNA
- ALT normalization
- HDV RNA undetectable 24 weeks after EOT
- HDV RNA undetectable 48 weeks after EOT
- Change in liver stiffness by elastography

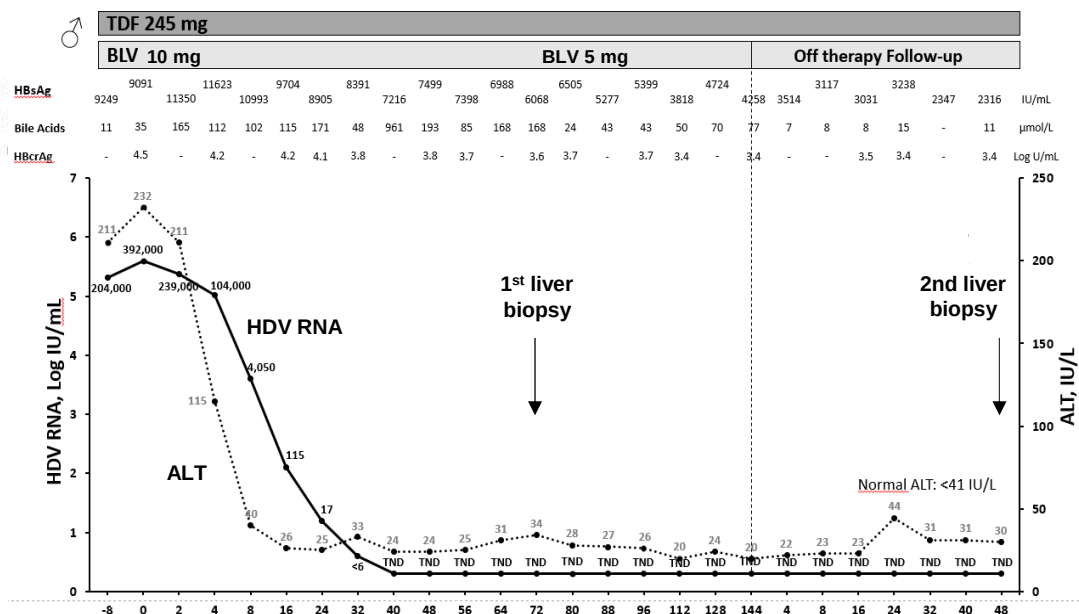


A 3-year course of BLV monotherapy may cure HDV - The “Milan patient”



A 55 year-old patient with HDV-related compensated cirrhosis with F1 esophageal varices and contraindications to pegIFNα

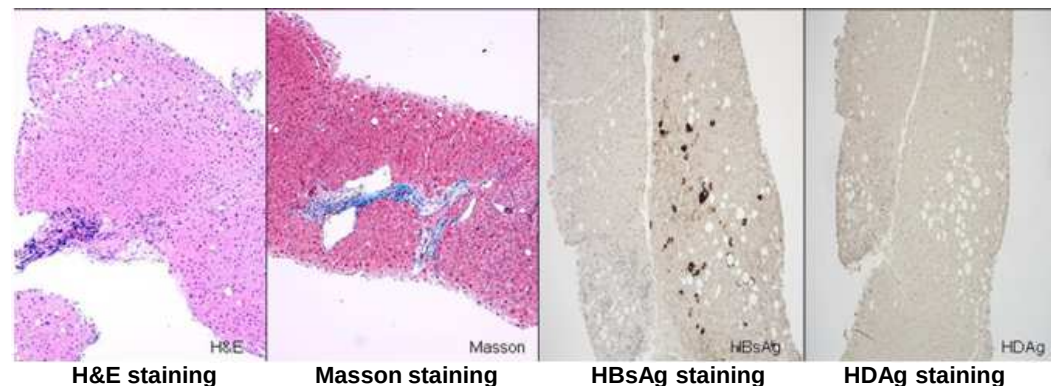
Virological and biochemical response during and off BLV therapy



Clinical outcomes

- HDV suppression/cure resulted in a significant improvement in biochemistry, liver function parameters, AFP, LSM, and in regression of esophageal varices.
- No specific safety issues, BA normalized after BLV discontinuation

2nd liver biopsy performed at week 48 off-therapy



- Minimal features of inflammation, improvement of fibrosis (Ishak G1 S4) and resolution of autoimmunity features compared to baseline biopsy (Ishak G9 S6)
- HBsAg staining positive (<1%), HBcAg negative.
- **HDAg, HDV RNA and cccDNA undetectable (Dandri's lab)**
- **HDAg and intrahepatic HDV RNA were already undetectable** in the liver biopsy performed on-therapy at week 72 (Dandri's lab)

Conclusions

- **A 3-year course of BLV monotherapy may cure HDV infection even in difficult-to-treat patients with advanced compensated cirrhosis**
- **HDV eradication occurred without HBsAg loss**

Bulevirtide added to recommendations in 2022–2023



**EACS 2022
ICONA 2023**



Bulevirtide use in patients with HIV/HBV/HDV co-infection^{1,2}



DGVS 2023

Guidance on bulevirtide for hepatitis delta³

- **All patients** with chronic HDV infection and detectable HDV RNA **should be evaluated** for therapy
- Patients with high inflammatory activity, **advanced fibrosis and/or compensated liver cirrhosis** **should be treated as a priority**



EASL 2023

First international guidelines for hepatitis delta

EASL CPG presentation: HDV | Saturday 10.45 CEST, Room Lehar 3



CHMP 2023

Bulevirtide recommended for full marketing authorisation⁴

1. EACS Guidelines 2022 v11.1. Available at: https://www.eacsociety.org/media/guidelines-11.1_final_09-10.pdf; 2. ICONA Foundation. Available at: www.fondazioneicona.org/new2/download/ICONA_DocumentoDiIndirizzo2023.pdf; 3. Sandmann L, et al. Antiviral therapy of chronic hepatitis D virus 2023. Available at: <https://www.dgvs.de/wissen/leitlinien/leitlinien-dgvs/hepatitis-b> (All accessed June 2023); 4. Gilead Sciences. Press Releases. Available at: <https://www.gilead.com/news-and-press/press-room/press-releases/2023/5/chmp-adopts-positive-opinion-recommending-hepcludex-bulevirtide-for-full-marketing-authorization-for-the-treatment-of-hepatitis-delta-virus-hdv>.

CHMP: Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use;

CPG: Clinical Practice Guidelines;

DGVS: German Society for Gastroenterology, Digestive and Metabolic Diseases;

EACS: European AIDS Clinical Society;

EASL: European Association for the Study of the Liver.

Bulevirtide in Italy in 2023

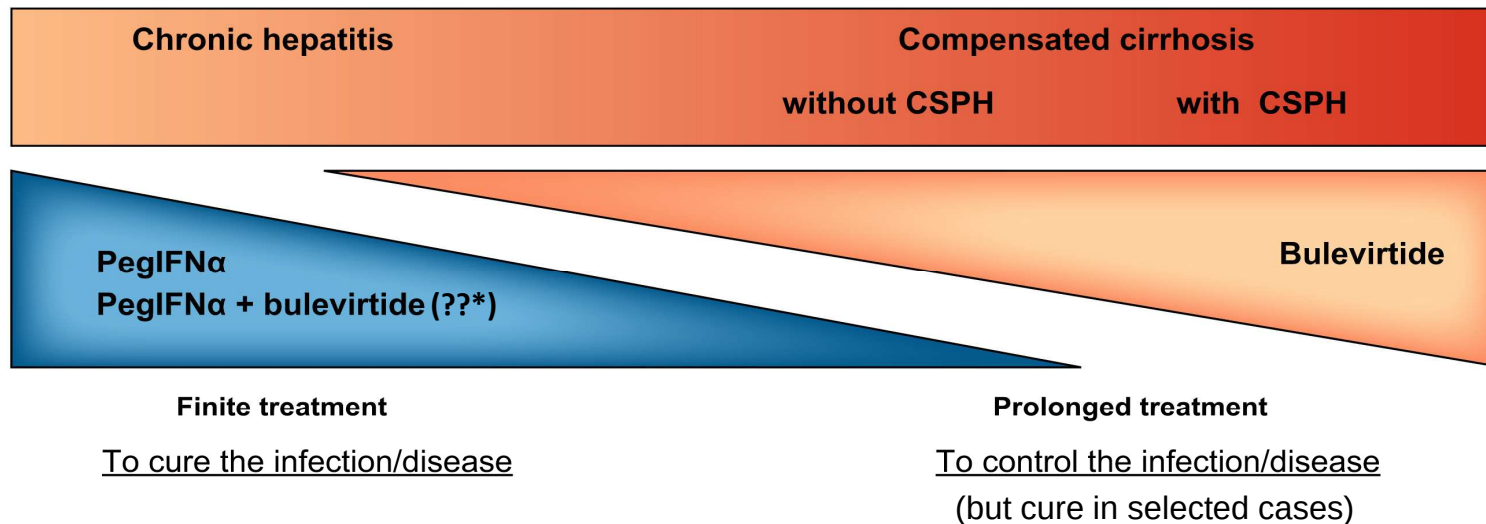


- Art. 1. *Classificazione ai fini della rimborsabilità* è indicato per il trattamento dell'infezione cronica da virus dell'epatite delta (HDV) in **pazienti adulti positivi a HDV-RNA plasmatico (o sierico) con malattia epatica compensata.**
-
- Art. 3. *Classificazione ai fini della fornitura*
La classificazione ai fini della fornitura del medicinale «.....» (bulevirtide) è la seguente: medicinale soggetto a prescrizione medica limitativa, da rinnovare volta per volta, vendibile al pubblico su prescrizione di **centri ospedalieri o di specialisti - internista, infettivologo, gastroenterologo (RNRL).**

Hepcludex 2 mg/day sc ordinabile/disponibile dal 1 Maggio 2023

Determina del 13 Gennaio 2023, pubblicata il 25 Gennaio 2023

Management of antiviral treatment in patients with CHD



Additional factors influencing the treatment schedule

- Phase of HBV infection (HBeAg/anti-HBe status; HBV DNA and HBsAg levels)
- IFN α contraindication, tolerability
- Patient's will and compliance to treatment

No anti-HDV therapy approved for decompensated cirrhosis (liver transplantation)

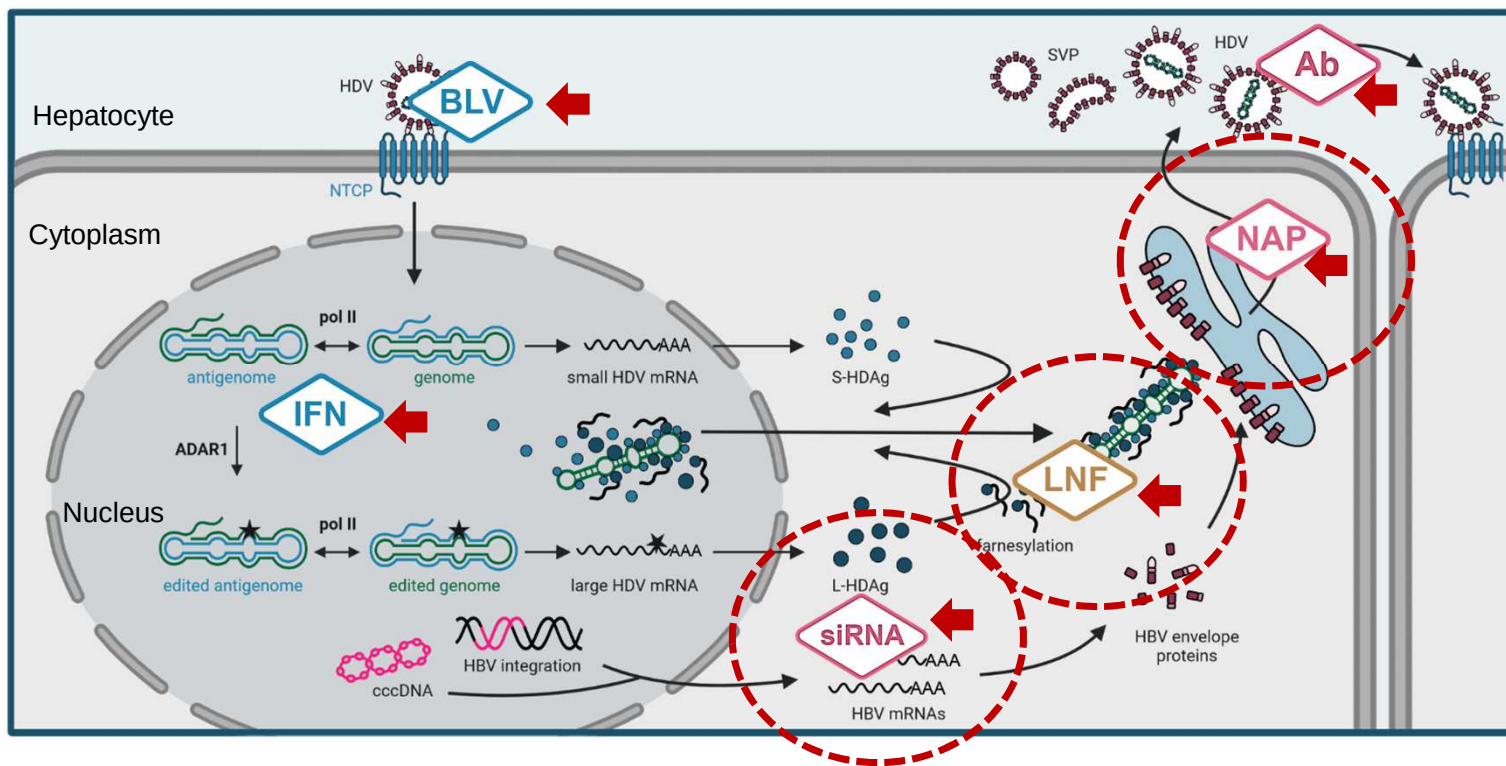
*De-novo combination pegIFN α + BLV: no studies published so far

modified from EASL 2023 HDV guidelines, J Hepatol 2023

Bulevirtide (BLV) for CHD: current challenges

- Patient adherence is relevant (daily sc injections)
- Long-term suppressive therapy (optimal duration currently unknown)
- Monotherapy vs combination with pegIFN ? (combo for few patients ?)
- No HBsAg decline/loss, no HDV cure
- 10-20% primary virological non response (but normal ALT levels ?)
- 20% undetectable HDV RNA at year 1 (but increasing over time ?)
- Safety data beyond week 48-96 very limited (and increase of BA)
- Clinical efficacy: no data on hard clinical endpoints (but albumin levels increase)
-

Therapeutic targets for HDV infection



NUC therapy for HBV does not directly interfere with HDV replication

New anti-HDV therapeutics - Summary

- From 1977 to 2020, no EMA or FDA approved therapy for HDV has been available
- In 2020, EMA approved BLV 2 mg for compensated CHD (available in EU)
- BLV monotherapy is safe and effective up to 96 weeks even in compensated cirrhotics with CSPH and in Child-B patients (few data).
- BLV as long-term BLV monotherapy for most patients.
- Stopping rules for BLV: long-term HDVRNA undetectability (>1-2 years)?
- Other therapeutic approaches under development.....

Overall, many new encouraging data but an easy to use, short-term, curative oral therapy to cure HDV patients is not yet available

SAVE THE DATE

Delta *cure*

October 5 – 6, 2023
Hannover, Germany

2nd international meeting



Chairs: Heiner Wedemeyer and Pietro Lampertico

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

after an extraordinarily successful 1st Delta Cure meeting in 2022 in Milan, we are pleased to announce the 2nd Delta Cure meeting which will be hosted in **Hannover, Germany from 5 to 6 October, 2023**.

We would like to discuss the many extremely exciting developments in the "Delta Field". What are the mechanisms that contribute to advanced liver disease in HDV infection? What is the natural history of the infection? Which patients should be treated with what kind of therapy and for how long? The conference will take place at the Maschsee in a green oasis in the centre of Hannover. A special highlight will be the Working Dinner in the historic city hall in the old town.

We are looking forward to an exciting and interactive meeting in the golden month of October in the capital of Lower Saxony!

The Chairs

Heiner Wedemeyer and Pietro Lampertico

Thank You for Your Attention!



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