A New Perspective On HCV Drug Resistance Multiple Paths To Sustained Virologic Response: Resistance Can Be Overcome



Slide set prepared by the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research and Hepatitis C Virus Drug Development Advisory Group





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Goals of the slide deck: Develop perspective on HCV viral resistance and what it means for future HCV therapy

The educational materials in this slide set:

- 1) Provide context for viral resistance in HCV
- 2) Address concerns around HCV resistance
- 3) Educate on prevention and how to overcome resistance to antiviral drugs

This educational material complements:
1) A primer of HCV viral lifecycle
2) A primer on how mutations are created and resistant variants are selected



Key points

- 1. HCV Is Curable
 - a) Wild-type and resistant virus can be eliminated
- 2. Resistant Variants Occur Naturally
 - a) Resistant variants to antiviral drugs exist before treatment
 - b) Resistant variants can be selected/enriched during treatment
 - c) Drug resistance may emerge during treatment with all (or any) antiviral drugs
 - d) Resistance is a consequence of treatment failure, but is not always the cause
- 3. Maximize Response, Minimize Resistance

Many factors contribute to treatment response: virus, drug and patient

- a) The **genetic barrier** is related to the number and type of mutations required to overcome the clinical activity of a regimen. Mutations that decrease viral fitness (defined in slide #30) increase the resistance barrier.
- b) The **pharmacologic barrier** is increased by higher potency and higher drug levels
- c) Tolerability of a regimen and patient adherence are critical for treatment success



HCV sequences are more genetically diverse than HBV or HIV





Unlike HIV and HBV, HCV is curable

Virus	HIV	HBV	HCV	
Genome	RNA	DNA	RNA	
Mutation Rates	Very High	High	Very High	
Virions Produced Daily	10 ¹⁰	10 ¹³	10 ¹²	
Viral Genetic Archiving	YES	YES	NO	
Drug Targets	Multiple	One	Multiple	
Cure With Current Therapy?	NO (Integrated viral DNA)	NO (cccDNA)	YES	
Current Therapeutic Goal	Lifelong suppression	Lifelong suppression	Cure: clearance from plasma and liver	



HBV, HIV and HCV have targeted drugs approved or in development







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Examples of HCV NS5B polymerase inhibitors and their

binding sites





Nucleotide analogs are chain-terminators

Nucleotide Chain-terminator (e.g.,PSI-7977)



Template strand

Mechanism of action, e.g., chain termination, does not rely on enzyme homology across HCV genotypes

Both pyrimidine and purine analogs can inhibit activity

Antiviral activity of nucleotides is conserved against PIresistant or non-nuc polymerase inhibitor resistant virus

> Carroll S.S. *J Biol C hem,* 2003; 278:11979-11984 Deval , J. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*, 2007; 51:2920-2928 Klumpp, K.G. *J Biol Chem,* 2006; 283: 3793-3799 Klumpp, K.G. *J Biol Chem,* 2008; 283: 2167-21675

Ma, H. *J Biol C hem*, 2007; 282: 29812-29820 Migliaccio, G. *J Biol Chem*, 2003; 278: 49164-49170 Murakami, E. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother*. 2007; 51:503-509 www.hivforum.org

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Mechanism of action and key attributes of cyclophilin inhibitor, alisporivir



Key attributes of host-targeting antiviral (HTA), alisporivir

Mechanism of action different from direct
 High barrier for HCV resistance
 Compelling efficacy with pan-genotypic coverage acting antivirals (DAA)



- Role of NS5A in HCV replication remains elusive
- Precise mechanism of action in HCV replication currently under investigation
- NS5A inhibitor, BMS-790052 and similar chemotypes:
 - Bind to HCV NS5A protein in cell culture¹
 - Interact with the NS5A N-terminus of Domain 1²
 - Block both cis- and trans-acting functions of NS5A³
 - Alter the subcellular localization of NS5A into functional replication complexes therefore suppressing HCV RNA replication⁴

1.Gao, M. *Nature*, 2010; **465**: 96-100 2. Lemm, J.A. *J Virol*, 20**1**0; 84 (**1**): 482-49**1** 3. Fridell, R.A. *J Virol* 2011; 85(14): 7312-20 4.Lee, C. *Virol* 2011; 414(1):10-8

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All antiviral drugs can select resistant variants





Amino acid changes conferring resistance to NS3 protease and NS5B polymerase inhibitors





Nucleotide changes result in codon changes that can confer resistance to a drug

Example: Codon 155 of the HCV Protease



Consensus "wild type" amino acid Resistant variant amino acid



Codon changes may result in amino acid changes, which can change the interaction with a drug



Wild type NS3

R155K variant NS3

- Decreased binding of a drug results in decreased inhibition of viral replication
- Decreased binding to the natural ligand results in decreased viral replication





Protease substrate

The A156T variant is less fit than WT



Resistant Variant (A156T)

Protease substrate

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Steric hindrance prevents the substrate from efficiently binding to the mutant protease active site

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Active site



Resistance mutations associated with NS5B polymerase nucleoside and non-nucleoside inhibitors



Nucleoside Inhibitors R1626: S96T (*in vitro*) R7128: S282T (*in vitro*)

Non-Nucleoside Inhibitors

- Filibuvir: M423T (in patients)
- VCH-759 and VCH-916: M423T/V/I, L419V/M, I482L/V/T, V494A/I) (in patients)
- HCV796: C316Y/N, S365T/A (in patients)
- ABT333: S556G (in patients); C316Y, Y448C (*in vitro*)
- Though *in vitro* studies with **nucleoside analogs** have demonstrated the selection of resistant variants, they have not been observed in patients with HCV infection.
- Wide range in frequency of resistance mutations associated with non-nucleoside analogs. While many are only observed *in vitro*, some are also associated with viral breakthrough in clinical trials.



- Sequence analysis and phenotype analysis are used in combination to identify/discover resistance pathways
- Sequence Analysis: Detects specific amino acid substitutions relative to a pre-treatment or standard reference sequence that are known to decrease susceptibility to antiviral agents.
 - Can identify substitutions known to impact drug susceptibility
 - Can identify novel drug resistance pathways associated with treatment failure
- Phenotypic Analysis: Determines drug concentrations needed to inhibit viral replication.
 - Effective concentration (EC): drug concentration required to inhibit viral replication by 50% or 90% (EC_{50} or EC_{90})
 - Less susceptible (resistant) viruses will require *more* drug to be inhibited, thus an *increase* in EC_{50} or EC_{90}



Resistant Variants Occur Naturally

Resistant variants are present before treatment

- HCV exists as a mixture of populations of genetically distinct, but closely related, virions in every patient¹
 - ~10¹² viruses produced per day
 - ~1 nucleotide mutation per virus produced
 - All possible single nucleotide-mutant viruses, and all combinations of double nucleotide-mutant viruses, are thought to preexist before treatment in most patients²
- Most resistant variants are relatively unfit and are undetectable prior to therapy with current technology^{3,4}



Potent antiviral therapy eliminates sensitive variants

Antiviral

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Sensitive virus

Resistant variants are uncovered

which can then expand

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Frequent monitoring of HCV RNA levels can detect treatment failure and resistance



Before treatment Time on treatment Patients have viral variants with different levels of resistance to a drug

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Resistant virus





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Say "NO" to CRAP therapy

Continued **R**eplication under <u>A</u>ntiviral **P**ressure

- Continued replication in the presence of drug will likely lead to further evolution of the viral population.
- In theory, further evolution can result in a more fit, drugresistant viral population that may remain enriched in the patient, even in the absence of drug pressure.
- This should be prevented by discontinuing the direct acting antiviral if a patient has a confirmed increase in HCV RNA levels while adhering to therapy.





HCV RNA

Potential fate of resistant variants after treatment



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 Population and clonal amino acid analyses of HCV from patients with protease inhibitor resistance indicate that drug-resistant patient viral populations *may* return to pre-treatment levels over time in many patients



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Kieffer T., et al . *AASLD*, 2010, Abstract # LB11



- For protease inhibitors (telaprevir or boceprevir), 59-89% of patients no longer had detectable resistant variants after a median follow-up time of 25-29 months
- Understanding the clinical significance of treatment-acquired resistance requires studies in which patients who experienced virologic failure while on a direct acting antiviral (DAA), are retreated with a DAA regimen



Many factors contribute to response

Patient

Virus

Regimen



Antiviral

Virologic barriers to resistance

Genetic barrier

 Number and type of nucleotide changes required for a virus to acquire clinical resistance to an antiviral regimen¹

Viral fitness

- Relative capacity of a viral variant to replicate in a given environment
- Resistance mutations frequently compromise viral function and thus reduce viral fitness compared to wild-type in a drug-free environment

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Multiple nucleotide changes maybe required to create a single amino acid change





Clinical implications of genetic barrier to resistance – acquisition of protease inhibitor resistant variant V36M+R155K



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Variant	% of sequenced patients					
Variani	Subtype 1a	Subtype1b				
WT	16%	46%				
V36M	10%	3%				
R155K	20%	0%				
V36M+R155K	46%	0%				
V36A	3%	16%				
T54A	<1%	22%				
A156S/T	3%	13%				

Note: : Information from a subset of patients in trials. Not a complete list of treatment-emergent substitutions observed in clinical trials. See drug Prescribing Information for a complete list.

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Sullivan, J. et al. EASL, Berlin – March 31, 2011 (oral presentation) www.hivforum.org



Antiviral

Combination drug regimens increase the genetic barrier to resistance

Eliminate variants with addition of Peg-IFNa/RBV or DAA (s) with non-overlapping resistance

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Peg-IFNa/RBV

&/or additional direct

acting antivirals DAA(s)



Resistant virus







Lack of cross-resistance between Peg-IFNa/RBV &/or a combination of antiviral agents may provide an opportunity for elimination of resistant variants

Target	Variant	NS3 Covalent: Slow Reversible	NS3 Non- covalent: Linear and Macrocyclic	NS5A inhibitor	NS5B nucleoside	NS5B Palm	NS5B Thumb 1	NS5B Thumb 2	Peg-IFN	RBV
	V36M	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
NS3 Protease	T54A	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	R155K	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	A156T	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	D168V	S	R	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
NS5A -	L31V	S		R	S	S	S	S	S	S
	Y93H	S		R	S	S	S	S	S	S
	S282T	S		S	R	S	S	S	S	S
	C316Y	S		S	S	R	S	S	S	S
	M414T	S		S	S	R	S	S	S	S
NS5B	R422K	S		S	S	S	S	R	S	S
	M423T	S		S	S	S	S	R	S	S
	P495S	S		S	S	S	R	S	S	S
Note this is	not a compr	ehensive list of know	n HCV direct acting	C Curre	a settle La					

Note this is not a comprehensive list of known HCV direct actir antivirals (DAA) resistance pathways. 4 fold shift represents arbitrary cutoffs for illustrative purposes only HCV DrAG ResisSS 2012 v.1 35

S = Susceptible (< 4 fold shift in HCV replicon EC50)

R = Resistant

(>4 fold increase in EC50)

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Terms used to guide treatment response in HCV infection

- **HCV RNA undetectable**: HCV RNA level below the limit of detection of a particular assay (not necessarily to be interpreted as HCV RNA "negative" or having cleared HCV for patients on treatment)
- RVR (Rapid virologic response): Undetectable HCV RNA at week 4 of therapy
- eRVR (Extended RVR): Undetectable HCV RNA at weeks 4 and 12 of therapy
- EVR (Early virologic response): >2log₁₀ decline in HCV RNA at week
 12 of therapy (also known as partial EVR, pEVR)
- **cEVR** (**Complete EVR**): Undetectable HCV RNA at week 12 of therapy
- **SVR (Sustained virologic response)**: Undetectable HCV RNA 24 weeks after treatment cessation
- Null responder: < 2log₁₀ IU/mL decline in HCV RNA at week 12 of therapy
- Failure of HCV therapy: Persistence of HCV RNA in serum after therapy

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Patients with protease inhibitor-resistant variants can respond to Peg-IFNa/RBV



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Patients with naturally occurring polymerase inhibitor-resistant variants can respond to protease inhibitor + Peg-IFNa/RBV

Target	Variant	NS3 Covalent: Slow Reversible		nt: ble	NS3 Non-covalent: Linear and Macrocyclic	NS5A inhibitor	NS5B nucleoside	NS5B Palm	NS5B Thumb 1	NS5B Thumb 2	Peg- IFN	RBV
NS5B	R422K		S		S	S	S	S	S	R	S	S
	M423T		S		S	S	S	S	S	R	S	S





Antiviral

Pharmacological barriers to resistance

Higher potency

- Create/use drugs with stronger binding affinity Higher drug levels
 - Create/use drugs with longer half-life
- Increase target organ exposure
- Take recommended dosage at recommended dosing intervals
- Follow recommended food intake requirements Improved tolerability and adherence
- Create/use drugs with minimal drug/drug interactions
- Create drugs with favorable safety profiles and convenient dosing schedules
- Develop better side effect management protocols Combination drug regimens
- Develop potent regimen of direct-acting antiviral drugs with or without Peg-IFNa/RBV



Resistance is not an all or none phenomenon

- Clinical resistance occurs if drug levels are not sufficient to inhibit viral replication
- Highly resistant viruses need very high drug levels (may not be achievable) to inhibit their replication





Importance of drug levels over time

Drug trough levels must be sufficient to suppress viral replication





Resistance emerges as a result of treatment failure



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McHutchison JG., et al. N Engl J Med, 2009; 360(18): 1827-183 Sarrazin, C. & Zeuzem, S. Gastro, 2010;138:447-62

Hezode C. , *et al. N Engl J Med*, 2009; 360(1<u>8): 183</u>9-1850 Kwo PY., et al Hepatology, 2008;48:1027A www.hivforum.org



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Peg-IFNa/RBV (PR) treatment experienced patients can be re-treated

	Prior PR response	Retrea (a	Retreatment SVR rate (approximate)		
		PR	PR + Protease Inhibitor		
	Relapse	22%	86%		
	Partial	15%	60%		
	Null	5%	32%		
Peg-IFNa/RBV treatment experier	New Inhibit	regimen: Pr tor + Peg-IF	rotease Na+RBV	SVR	

Definitions

Prior relapser: Achieved undetectable HCV RNA at end of treatment, but failed to achieve SVR **Prior partial responder**: Achieved $\geq 2 \log drop$ in HCV RNA at week 12 of prior therapy, but never became undetectable while on treatment **Prior null responder**: Achieved <2log drop in HCV RNA at week 12 of prior therapy

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- See prescribing information of approved therapies for treatment recommendations and available data supporting re-treatment of specific patient populations

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- Certain single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) upstream of *IL28B* gene are associated with the rate of SVR in patients treated with Peg-IFNa/RBV:
 - SNP rs12979860: favorable allele=C, unfavorable allele=T
 - SNP rs8099917: favorable allele=T, unfavorable allele=G
- IL28B genotype can have an impact on the efficacy of a Peg-IFNa/RBV/DAA regimen
- IL28B genotype has also recently been shown to affect the activity of an interferon-free IFN-free, combination DAA regimen, although its impact is likely dependent on the anti-HCV potency and durability of the regimen



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IL28B genotype effect on SVR in genotype-1 treatment-naïve patients

- Certain single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) upstream of *IL28B* gene are associated with SVR in patients treated with Peg-IFNa/RBV (PR)¹⁻³:
 - SNP rs12979860: favorable allele=C, unfavorable allele=T

IL28B SNP	PR (I	deal)	Telap (ADVA	revir⁵ ∖NCE)	Boceprevir ^₀ (SPRINT-2)		
rs1297 9860	ITT ⁴ Population	Adherent ³ Population	TVR/PR	PR control	BOC/PR*	PR control	
CC	69%	~79%	90%	64%	80-82%	78%	
СТ	33%	~38%	71%	25%	65-71%	28%	
TT	27%	~26%	73%	23%	55-59%	27%	

* Includes BOC/RGT and BOC/PR48 arms, mITT

- 1 Tanaka Y., et al. Nature Genetics , 2009; 41:1105-1109
- 2 Suppiah V., et al. Nature Genetics , 2009; 41: 1100-1104
- 3 Ge D., et al. Nature , 2009; 461:399-401
- 4 Thompson A.J., et al. Gastro , 2010; 139: 120-129
- 5 INCIVEK™ [package insert]. Cambridge, Mass: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc; 2011
- 6 VICTRELIS™ [package insert]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & Co, Inc; 2011
- Footnotes: 1) Data from ADVANCE and SPRINT-2 based only on subjects who consented to IL28B

47 genotype analysis; 2) Results are confounded by variable treatment durations in active and control arms

IL28B Genotype Can Influence Activity of an IFN-free Regimen: Proportion of GT1 patients with HCV RNA Not Detected at Treatment week 12 by IL28B Genotype and Subtype (per protocol analysis)



*IL28B SNP rs12979860

	GT-	-1a	GT-1	b
BI201335 + BI207127 _{TID} +RBV	22/25	39/61	24/26	79/92
BI201335 + BI207127 _{BID} + RBV	6/7	10/22	10/11	32/36
BI201335 + BI207127 _{TID} , no RBV	3/3	2/9	7/7	13/20

BI 201335: Protease Inhibitor BI 207127: Polymerase Inhibitor



Interferon-free, combination direct acting antiviral (DAA) regimens: Progress and challenges

- There is an urgent need for safe and effective treatment regimens that do not include Peg-IFNa and/or RBV.
- In a Peg-IFNa/RBV/DAA regimen, Peg-IFNa/RBV enhance DAA antiviral durability by suppressing DAA-resistant variants
- Numerous clinical trials investigating the efficacy of combination DAA regimens to replace Peg-IFNa and/or RBV have been conducted or are in progress.
- Challenge: <u>Anti-HCV potency without durability ≠ SVR</u>
- Lessons learned from trials conducted to date:
 - Two potent, low resistance barrier DAAs are most likely not adequate to achieve SVR for a majority of patients
 - Virologic breakthrough with a combination DAA regimen can occur early (few days) or late (2-3 months); only SVR proves efficacy
 - HCV genotype/subtype can have a major impact
 - Inclusion of RBV may have a role in combination DAA therapy



Maximize Response, Minimize Resistance



A balance of multiple factors contribute to SVR

Virus

- High genetic barrier
- Low viral fitness of resistant variants
- IFN-responsive

Treatment Regimen

- Good tolerability
- Small pill burden
- Short duration
- Better potency
- Better PK

Patient

- IL28B "C/C"
- Young age
- Low BMI
- Adherent

Virus

- Drug resistance
- High viral load
- Genotype 1

Treatment Regimen

- Poor tolerability
- Adverse events
- Drug interactions

Patient

- IL28B "T/T or C/T"
- HIV coinfection
- Substance abuse
- Insulin resistance
- Elderly
- High BMI
- Poor adherence

Regimen characteristics that increase likelihood of achieving

Shorter regimen Adherence-friendly regimen Minimal drug-drug interactions Good tolerability Potent viral suppression Overcome virologic resistance Combination regimens

SVR

SVR





Adherence shifts the balance for SVR

Doctors and patients can maximize response:

- Right dose of drug
- At the right time
- Follow dietary recommendations
- Actively manage side effects



Future drug regimens could improve SVR rates

Industry, academia, regulators and community can work together to improve the quality of drugs available for HCV infected patients

Improved Regimen

- Improved tolerability
- More convenient dosing
- Smaller pill burden
- Shorter duration

SVR



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Patients with protease inhibitor-resistant variants can respond to Peg-IFNa/RBV



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Unpublished data, example from telaprevir PROVE2 study

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Patients with naturally occurring polymerase inhibitor-resistant variants can respond to protease inhibitor + Peg-IFNa/RBV

Target	Variant	NS3 Covalent: Slow Reversible		nt: ble	NS3 Non-covalent: Linear and Macrocyclic	NS5A inhibitor	NS5B nucleoside	NS5B Palm	NS5B Thumb 1	NS5B Thumb 2	Peg- IFN	RBV
NS5B	R422K		S		S	S	S	S	S	R	S	S
	M423T		S		S	S	S	S	S	R	S	S

