Phase 1/2 Study of Weekly *nab*-Paclitaxel in Pediatric Patients With Recurrent/Refractory Solid Tumors: Dose Finding and Pharmacokinetics

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INTRODUCTION

- Although solvent-based paclitaxel has demonstrated activity in children with refractory solid tumors, hypersensitivity and neurological reactions have been dose limiting and thereby compromise efficacy^{1,2}
- nab®-Paclitaxel is an albumin-bound, solvent-free formulation of paclitaxel that has demonstrated efficacy and safety in adults with various solid tumors³⁻⁷
 - In preclinical pediatric solid tumor models, *nab*-paclitaxel has demonstrated cytotoxicity in vitro and antitumor activity in vivo
- *nab*-Paclitaxel monotherapy is approved at a dose of 260 mg/m² every 3 weeks for treatment of metastatic breast cancer, and has demonstrated efficacy in adults with early-stage breast cancer at a dose of 125 mg/m² weekly for the first 3 of 4 weeks^{3,8}
- This phase 1/2, multicenter, dose-finding study (in collaboration with Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer) is currently assessing the safety, tolerability, and preliminary efficacy of weekly *nab*-paclitaxel in pediatric patients with recurrent or refractory solid tumors

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OBJECTIVES

• Phase 1: to describe the *nab*-paclitaxel maximum tolerated dose/recommended phase 2 dose, safety, and pharmacokinetic profile as well as preliminary clinical activity in pediatric patients with recurrent/refractory solid tumors

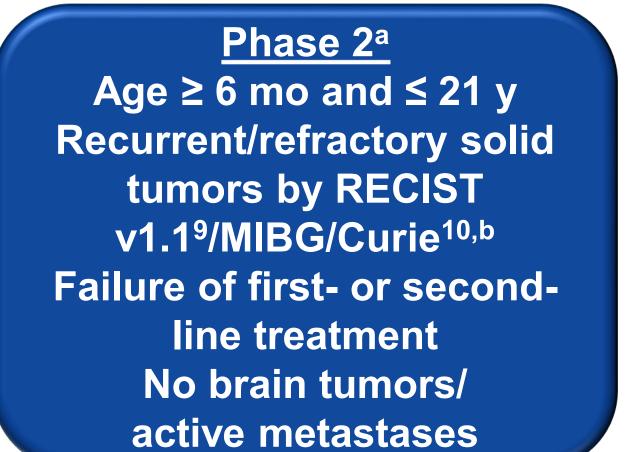
STUDY DESIGN

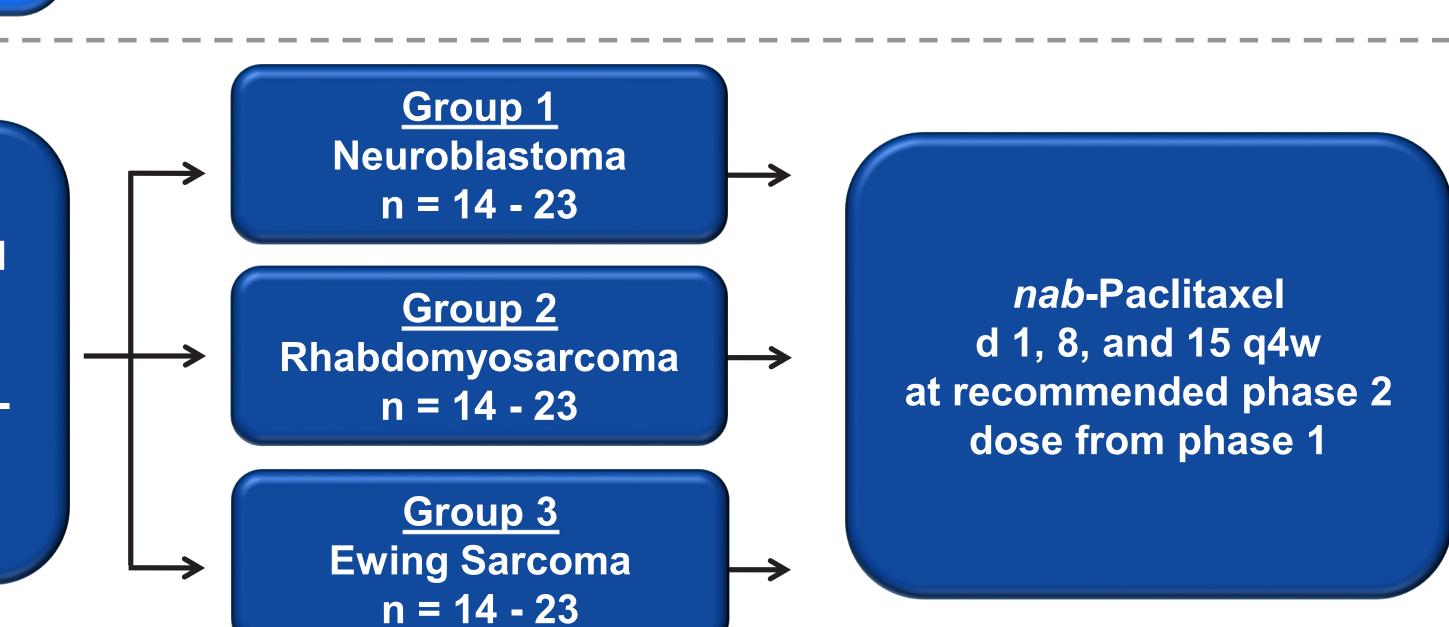
Figure 1. Study Design

Phase 1a
Age ≥ 6 mo and < 18 y
Recurrent/refractory
solid tumors
No brain tumors/
active metastases

Rolling-6 Design

rab-Paclitaxel
d 1, 8, and 15 q4w
starting with 120 mg/m²





^a Full Inclusion/Exclusion criteria described on clinicaltrials.gov (NCT01962103). ^b Acceptable for patient with neuroblastoma.

- Treatment until disease progression, death, withdrawal of consent, or unacceptable toxicity
- Phase 1 DLT assessment during cycle 1 (including cycle 2 d 1 predose evaluations)
- Safety population: all patients receiving ≥ 1 nab-paclitaxel dose
- Efficacy population: all eligible treated patients who completed ≥ 2 doses of *nab*-paclitaxel and had baseline and ≥ 1 postbaseline efficacy assessment

Phase 1 Endpoints

- Primary
 - Phase 1: incidence of DLTs and treatment-emergent adverse events
- Secondary
- Phase 1: pharmacokinetics, overall response rate
- Exploratory
 - Phase 1: MIBG response using Curie score and biomarker analysis

AE, adverse event; AUC, area under the curve; CL, clearance; C_{max} , peak plasma concentration; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; MIBG, ¹²³I-metaiodobenzylguanidine; PS, performance status; q4w, every 4 weeks; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors.

METHODS

Phase 1 Dose Escalation

- A rolling-6 dose-escalation design to establish the nab-paclitaxel maximum tolerated dose/recommended phase 2 dose¹¹
 - Dose-determining set: all patients who experienced a DLT or received 3 weekly *nab*-paclitaxel doses during cycle 1
 - DLT: treatment-related AE leading to treatment discontinuation or
 - Grade 3 or 4 nonhematologic toxicity (excluding transient transaminitis)
 - Grade 3 or 4 nausea or vomiting > 5d despite maximal anti-emetic treatment
 - Grade 4 thrombocytopenia or anemia persisting > 7d or requiring transfusion > 7d
 - Grade 3 thrombocytopenia with bleeding
 - Grade 4 uncomplicated neutropenia > 7d
 - Febrile neutropenia with confirmed bacterial infection
 - Hematologic toxicity delaying treatment > 21d
- If there is no availability for enrollment within the current dose level, patients could enroll at the last dose level evaluated as safe
- Dose-escalation or maximum tolerated dose/recommended phase 2 dose decisions were determined by the Safety Monitoring Committee, which included the principal investigator and all investigators who enrolled patients, the Celgene Clinical Research Physician and Research Scientist, and the product Safety Physician

RESULTS

Patients

Sixty-five patients were enrolled; 1 was ineligible for treatment and 64 were treated

Table 1. Selected Patient Characteristics

		nab-Paclitaxel dose							
Characteristic	120	150	180	210	240	270			
	mg/m ²	mg/m ²	mg/m ²	mg/m ²	mg/m ²	mg/m ²	Total		
	n = 16	n = 8	n = 14	n = 11	n = 8	n = 7	N = 64		
Dose determining set, n	6	6	6	6	6	7	37		
Age, median, years	12.5	14.0	11.0	9.0	12.0	13.0	12.0		
≥ 12 years, n (%)	10 (63)	6 (75)	7 (50)	5 (45)	5 (63)	4 (57)	37 (58)		
Male, n (%)	7 (44)	4 (50)	5 (36)	4 (36)	7 (88)	4 (57)	31 (48)		
Lansky/Karnofsky PS, n (%)									
90 - 100	12 (75)	5 (63)	9 (64)	9 (82)	5 (63)	4 (57)	44 (69)		
70 - 80	4 (25)	3 (38)	5 (36)	2 (18)	3 (38)	3 (43)	20 (31)		
Solid tumor type, n (%)									
Neuroblastoma	2 (13)	0	2 (14)	4 (36)	2 (25)	0	10 (16)		
Rhabdomyosarcoma	3 (19)	1 (13)	7 (50)	2 (18)	1 (13)	0	14 (22)		
Ewing Sarcoma	3 (19)	2 (25)	2 (14)	1 (9)	1 (13)	4 (57)	13 (20)		
Osteosarcoma	4 (25)	1 (13)	0	1 (9)	1 (13)	1 (14)	8 (13)		
Other	4 (25)	4 (50)	3 (21)	3 (27)	3 (38)	2 (29)	19 (30)		
Prior treatment lines, median	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		
(range), n	(1 - 8)	(1 - 7)	(1 - 7)	(1 - 10)	(1 - 5)	(2 - 4)	(1 - 10)		

Treatment Exposure and Safety

- The relative *nab*-paclitaxel dose intensity was > 90% in all cohorts (Table 2)
- DLTs were grade 3 dizziness (120 mg/m²) and grade 4 neutropenia > 7 days (270 mg/m²)
- At all dose levels, grade 3/4 AEs were mainly hematologic (Table 3)
- Grade 1/2 peripheral neuropathy and hand-foot-syndrome occurred in 16% and 6% of patients, respectively
 - Grade ≥ 2 peripheral neuropathy by Standardised MedDRA Queries in 9% of patients

Table 2. Treatment Exposure

	nab-Paclitaxel dose						
Parameter	120 mg/m ² n = 16	150 mg/m ² n = 8	180 mg/m ² n = 14	210 mg/m ² n = 11	240 mg/m ² n = 8	270 mg/m ² n = 7	
Relative dose intensity, median, %	100.0	99.1	99.5	99.9	95.8	94.8	
Cumulative dose, median, mg/kg	715.6	812.4	1074.5	1248.4	1806.0	1536.5	
Patients with ≥ 1 treatment-related AE leading to dose reduction, n (%)	0	1 (13)	2 (14)	1 (9)	3 (38)	3 (43)	
Patients with ≥ 1 treatment-related AE leading to discontinuation, n (%)	1 (6)	0	0	1 (9)	1 (13)	1 (14)	

Table 3. Selected Safety^a

	nab-Paclitaxel dose								
Grade 3/4 AEs, %	120 mg/m ² n = 16	150 mg/m ² n = 8	180 mg/m ² n = 14	210 mg/m ² n = 11	240 mg/m ² n = 8	270 mg/m ² n = 7			
Hematologic									
Neutropenia	31	38	36	73	88	86			
Leukopenia	31	0	14	27	50	43			
Anemia	25	50	21	18	25	29			
Lymphopenia	19	25	7	9	13	29			
Nonhematologic									
Hand-foot syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	29			
Hyponatraemia	6	38	0	0	0	0			
Hypotension	0	25	7	0	0	0			

^a AEs present in ≥ 20% of patients in ≥ 1 dosing cohort are reported

Selection of Recommended Phase 2 Dose

- At the 270 mg/m² dose, 3/5 patients continuing beyond cycle 1 had a dose reduction in cycle 2 due to toxicity
- DLT-based criteria to determine the nontolerable dose were not met; however, 270 mg/m² was declared the nontolerable dose based on totality of safety information, including grade ≥ 3 toxicities during the first 2 cycles (neutropenia: n = 5/7; skin toxicity: n = 2/7; peripheral neuropathy: n = 1/7)
- 5/7 patients at 270 mg/m² and 3/8 patients at 240 mg/m² had grade 4 neutropenia in cycle 1

Efficacy

- Of 44 efficacy-evaluable patients, 1 (2%) and 6 (14%) had complete and partial responses, respectively (Table 4)
 - RECIST responses in 5 pts (complete response in Ewing sarcoma; partial responses in Ewing sarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, sarcoma not otherwise specified, and renal tumor)
 Partial response per MIBG/Curie, an exploratory endpoint, in 2 pts with neuroblastoma
- Of the 7 responders, 3 received *nab*-paclitaxel at 240 mg/m²; 2 received 210 mg/m², and 1 each received 180 mg/m² and 270 mg/m²

Table 4. Best Response

Response, n (%)	N = 44 Efficacy evaluable (n = 41 RECIST and n = 3 MIBG/Curie)
Complete response	1 (2)
Partial response	6 (15)
Stable disease ≥ 16 weeks < 16 weeks	10 (24) 3 (7) 7 (17)

Preliminary nab-Paclitaxel Pharmacokinetic Profile

• nab-Paclitaxel concentration profiles are similar across age groups (Figure 2)

Figure 2. Individual Concentration Profiles by Age Group^a

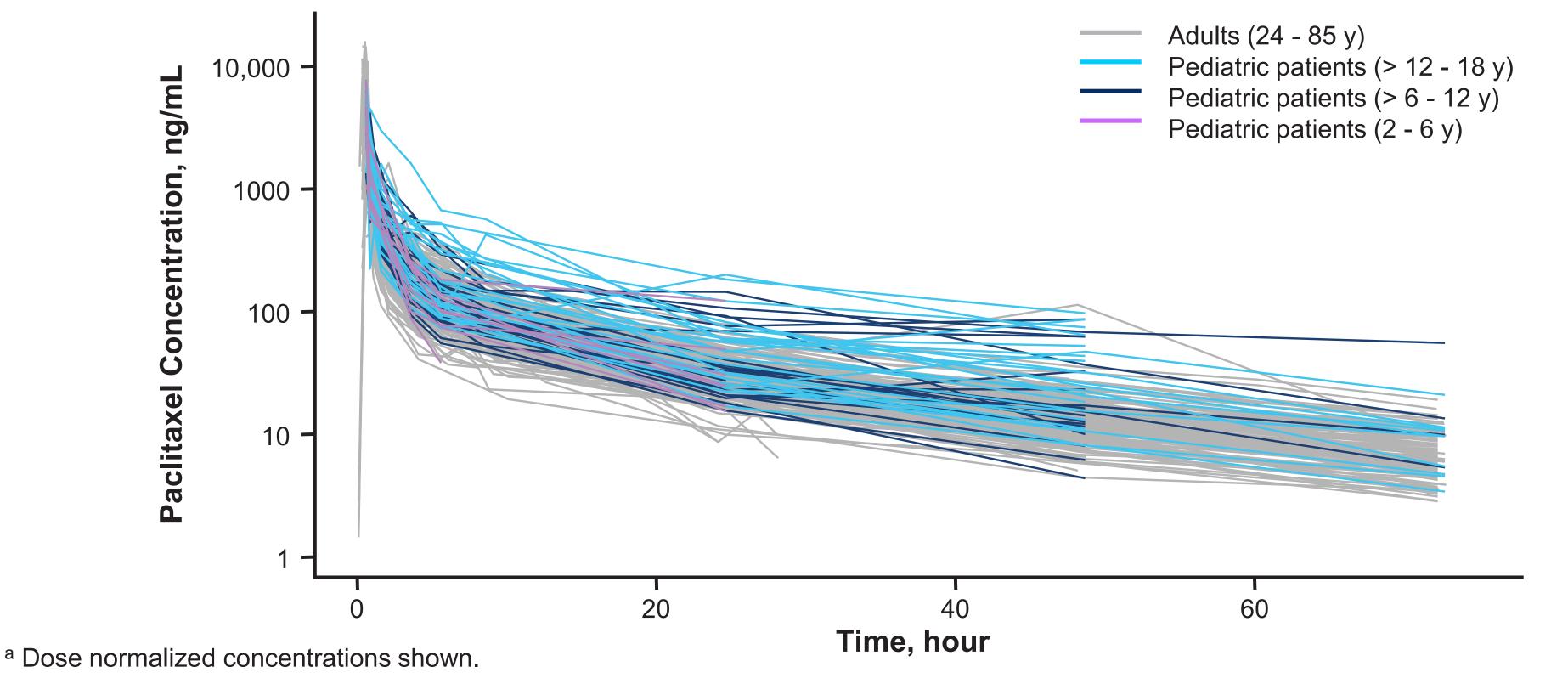


Table 5. Preliminary Phase 1 Pharmacokinetic Parameters^a

Doromotor	nab-Paclitaxel dose							
Parameter, geometric mean	120 mg/m ² n = 12	150 mg/m ² n = 6	180 mg/m ² n = 14	210 mg/m ² n = 11	240 mg/m ² n = 6	270 mg/m ² n = 6		
AUC ₂₄ , h•ng/mL	6575	7200	8141	9517	10,306	10,378		
C _{max} , ng/mL	4347	4988	5510	5350	8251	9201		
CL, L/h	17.4	23.0	21.0	18.8	18.7	26.1		

^a Fewer patients evaluable for pharmacokinetic evaluation.

CONCLUSION

- At doses ≤ 240 mg/m², nab-paclitaxel demonstrated a manageable safety profile
- The most common grade 3/4 toxicities were hematologic
- Grade 1/2 skin toxicity and neuropathy were also observed
- The recommended phase 2 *nab*-paclitaxel dose was 240 mg/m² d 1, 8, and 15 q4w
- This *nab*-paclitaxel dose is almost twice that used in a recent phase 3 trial in adults with early breast cancer (125 mg/m² qw 3/4) and almost equal to the approved dose (260 mg/m² q3w) in adults with metastatic breast cancer^{3,8}
- nab-Paclitaxel 240 mg/m² d 1, 8, and 15 q4w demonstrated promising preliminary clinical activity in pediatric patients with solid tumors
- Phase 2, assessing *nab*-paclitaxel at the recommended phase 2 dose in pediatric patients with neuroblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, or Ewing sarcoma, is accruing

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DISCLOSURES

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