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## **NUPLAZID® (pimavanserin): Hallucination Adverse Events in Parkinson's Disease Psychosis**

This letter is provided in response to your specific request for information regarding hallucination adverse events (AEs) during pimavanserin clinical trials in Parkinson's disease (PD) psychosis.

### **Summary**

- Hallucination was one of the documented adverse reactions observed in the [6-week, placebo-controlled studies](#) of pimavanserin for hallucinations and delusions associated with PD psychosis.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, hallucination AEs occurred in 10 participants receiving pimavanserin 34 mg (N=202) and 7 participants receiving placebo (N=231).<sup>2</sup>
- In the pimavanserin clinical trials, the [timing of the 17 hallucination AEs](#) showed that 12 of the events occurred within 10 days after Day 1 of the study and the last 5 after 27 days. Therefore, the majority of hallucination AEs (~71%) occurred in the first two weeks of the study.<sup>3</sup>

### **Background**

Atypical antipsychotics are typically active at multiple receptor types (including dopaminergic, serotonergic, histaminergic, adrenergic and/or muscarinic receptors). In addition, antipsychotics vary in their plasma level profiles through differences in half-life and time to peak concentration.<sup>4-7</sup> According to Correll et al., the potential for rebound and withdrawal phenomena when switching antipsychotics is greatest when the pre- and post-switch antipsychotics differ considerably regarding binding affinity (i.e., pharmacodynamic rebound) for specific receptors or regarding their respective half-lives (i.e., pharmacokinetic rebound).<sup>4</sup> Psychosis (i.e. hallucinations and/or delusions) is among the different potential rebound/withdrawal effects that can occur during switching.

### **Pooled Data from Placebo-Controlled Phase 2B/3 and Phase 3 Studies**

Safety data were pooled from three randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 2b/3 and Phase 3 studies in PD psychosis:<sup>2</sup>

- ACP-103-012: A Phase 2b/3 study that evaluated the safety and efficacy of pimavanserin 8.5 mg and 34 mg once daily (QD) compared to placebo in 298 participants for up to 6 weeks.
- ACP-103-014: A Phase 2b/3 study that evaluated the safety and efficacy of pimavanserin 8.5 mg and 17 mg QD compared to placebo in 123 participants (original planned sample size was 279) for up to 6 weeks.
- Pivotal Phase 3 trial, ACP-103-020: A Phase 3 study that evaluated the safety and efficacy of pimavanserin 34 mg QD compared to placebo in 199 participants for up to 6 weeks.

## Antipsychotic Use Prior to Study Entry

Antipsychotics other than pimavanserin were not permitted in any of the placebo-controlled clinical studies that evaluated the safety and efficacy of pimavanserin in patients with hallucinations and delusions associated with PD psychosis, and were discontinued at no less than 5 half-lives prior to baseline visit.<sup>8-11</sup> Among participants who received pimavanserin 34 mg or placebo in the 6-week, placebo controlled studies (012, 014 and 020; N=433), 65 (15%) had previously been prescribed antipsychotics. Quetiapine was the most common prior antipsychotic, prescribed in 58 (13.4%) participants, followed by clozapine, risperidone, ziprasidone, and haloperidol in less than 1% of participants (Table 1).<sup>12</sup>

**Table 1. Antipsychotic Use Prior to Study Entry in 6-week, Placebo-controlled Trials (Safety Analysis Set)<sup>12</sup>**

| Antipsychotic | Pimavanserin 34 mg<br>(N=202)<br>n (%) | Placebo<br>(N=231)<br>n (%) | Total<br>(N=433)<br>n (%) |
|---------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Quetiapine    | 30 (14.9)                              | 28 (12.1)                   | 58 (13.4)                 |
| Clozapine     | 3 (1.5)                                | 0 (0.0)                     | 3 (0.7)                   |
| Risperidone   | 1 (0.5)                                | 2 (0.9)                     | 3 (0.7)                   |
| Ziprasidone   | 0 (0.0)                                | 1 (0.4)                     | 1 (0.2)                   |
| Haloperidol   | 0 (0.0)                                | 1 (0.4)                     | 1 (0.2)                   |

## Hallucination Adverse Events

In the 6-week placebo-controlled studies, hallucination AEs were observed as described in a total of 10 (5%) participants treated with pimavanserin 34 mg and 7 (3%) participants who received placebo (Table 2).<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2. Hallucination AEs in 6-week, Placebo-controlled Trials<sup>2,3</sup>**

| Study        | Pimavanserin 34 mg<br>(N=202) | Placebo<br>(N=231) |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 012          | 3                             | 4                  |
| 014          | 0                             | 2                  |
| 020          | 7                             | 1                  |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>10</b>                     | <b>7</b>           |

Abbreviation: AE=adverse event.

The timing of the 17 hallucination AE reports shows that 12 of the events occurred within 10 days after Day 1 of the study, and the remaining 5 events occurred after 27 days (Table 3).<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the majority of hallucination AE reports (71%) occurred in the first two weeks of the study. This may be attributed to both pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic rebound,<sup>4</sup> since the atypical antipsychotics that patients were previously taking differ in receptor affinity<sup>5-7</sup> as compared to pimavanserin.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the half-life of pimavanserin (i.e. 57 hours<sup>1</sup>) is considerably longer than several other atypical antipsychotics,<sup>5-7</sup> and steady state is typically achieved in ~12 days of continuous once daily pimavanserin dosing.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 3. Timing of Hallucination AEs in 6-week, Placebo-controlled Trials<sup>3</sup>**

| AE study day | Pimavanserin 34 mg | Placebo |
|--------------|--------------------|---------|
| ≤5           | 3                  | 3       |
| >5 and ≤10   | 4                  | 2       |
| >10 and ≤25  | 0                  | 0       |
| >25 and ≤36  | 3                  | 2       |

Abbreviation: AE=adverse event.

## Exposure-Response Analysis for Hallucination Adverse Events

Exposure-response analyses were conducted for four AE categories which were identified in the 020 study as occurring at a higher incidence in the pimavanserin 34 mg arm compared to placebo: hallucination, confusion, edema, and gait disturbance.<sup>12,13</sup> However, in the subsequent integrated database that included all participants from the 6-week, placebo-controlled studies (012, 014 and 020), the incidence of hallucination did not show any increase in incidence for pimavanserin over placebo.<sup>12</sup> For each of the four categories of AEs, percentile ranks for mean plasma concentration (C<sub>p</sub>) values varied broadly. There was no evidence that any of the adverse events were associated with a cluster of high (or low) mean C<sub>p</sub> values.<sup>13</sup>

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