ANG4043, a brain-penetrant anti-HER2 mAb, increases survival in mice bearing intracranial BT-474 breast tumor cells.

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INTRODUCTION

HER2+ Brain Metastases

- A critical unmet medical need
- In US and Europe, 465,000 new diagnoses of breast cancer per year
- Breast cancers overexpressing HER2+ represent ~116,000 patients
- About 50% of these will die from brain metastasis (55,000 pts)
- Herceptin does not cross the BBB and therefore can only address peripheral metastases

Angiopep Technology

Angiochem is a clinical-stage biotechnology company discovering and developing new breakthrough drugs that are uniquely capable of crossing the blood brain barrier (BBB) to treat brain diseases. These new drugs have the potential to address significant medical needs, many of which can be effectively addressed due to the fundamental physiological challenge the BBB presents.

Angiochem’s proprietary platform targets low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein-1 (LRP1). This endogenous transcytosis system has a number of inherent biochemical advantages for drug transport across the BBB, including high capacity, rapid turnover, recognition of numerous ligands, and limited down-regulation. We have created peptides (Angiopeps), including Angiopep-2 (An2) using a library based on LRP-1 binding sequences of known LRP-1 ligands. These peptides can be introduced, by chemical conjugation or recombinant fusion, to small molecules and biologics, thus forming NCEs that are brain-penetrant Peptide-Drug Conjugates.

ANG4043

- HER2 is the target of Herceptin (trastuzumab, Genentech)
- ANG4043 is a chemical conjugate of the anti-HER2 mAb with the peptide Angiopep-2 using a stable linker.
- ANG4043 is not a biosimilar, but a new chemical entity.
- ANG4043 has potential to be a First-in-Class agent for HER2+ breast cancer brain metastases.
- The affinity of ANG4043 for the HER2 receptor is similar to that of the native (unconjugated) mAb.
- The anti-proliferative potency of ANG4043 is similar to that of the native mAb

ANG4043 Enters Brain and Targets Tumors

Day 1: Intracranial implantation of BT-474 (Day 0)

- Anti-HER2 (cyto750) (Day 4)
- ANG4043 (5 mg/kg, IV)
- ANG4043 (5 mg/kg, IV)

Day 12: Treatment begins: twice weekly, i.v.

Dose Response Study

ANG4043 (15 mg/kg)
ANG4043 (5 mg/kg equivalent)
ANG4043 (5 mg/kg)
ANG4043 (15 mg/kg)

ANG4043 Increases Survival

- Day 1: Intracranial implantation of BT-474 tumor cells to mice
- Day 12: Treatment begins: twice weekly, i.v.
- Body weight and morbidity/mortality monitored
- Companion study (n=10), shown in figure below.
- Vehicle
- Anti-HER2 mAb (5 mg/kg)
- ANG4043 (5 mg/kg equivalent)
- Dose Response Study
- Vehicle
- ANG4043 (5 mg/kg)
- ANG4043 (15 mg/kg)

ANG4043 Reduces Tumor Mass

Day 12 Prior to first treatment

Day 27 Prior to fifth treatment

ANG4043 Increases Survival

Survival Study Summary

- The brain-penetrant peptide-mAb conjugate, ANG4043, targets intracranial tumors and shrinks tumor size in mice, indicating that therapeutic concentrations have been achieved in brain.
- This reduction in tumor size translates to a significant increase in survival in mice with intracranial HER2+ (BT-474 cell) tumors.
- Mice treated with ANG4043, while displaying improved survival, do eventually die, suggesting that a mechanism for resistance to anti-HER2 therapy emerges in the tumor cells.
- As current clinical guidelines for Herceptin treatment include co-administration with a cytotoxic drug for peripheral HER2+ primary and metastatic tumors, HER2+ brain metastases will likely require co-administration of a brain penetrant mAb (ANG4043) and a brain-penetrant cytotoxic drug, such as the An2-paclitaxel conjugate ANG1005.

Conclusions