

Switzerland - A Phase I, double-blind, randomized, vehicle-controlled, dose-finding, safety study of a synthetic nanoparticle-based, T cell priming peptide vaccine against Dengue virus in healthy adults in Switzerland

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Overview

Identification

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Overview

ABSTRACT

Background

Vaccines that minimize the risk of vaccine-induced antibody-dependent enhancement and severe dengue are needed to address the global health threat posed by dengue. This study assessed the safety and immunogenicity of a gold nanoparticle (GNP)-based, multi-valent, synthetic peptide dengue vaccine candidate (PepGNP-Dengue), designed to provide protective CD8+ T cell immunity, without inducing antibodies.

Methods

In this randomized, double-blind, vehicle-controlled, phase 1 trial (NCT04935801), healthy naïve individuals aged 18-45 years recruited at the Centre for primary care and public health, Lausanne, Switzerland, were randomly assigned to receive PepGNP-Dengue or comparator (GNP without peptides [vehicle-GNP]). Randomization was stratified into four groups (low dose [LD] and high dose [HD]), allocation was double-blind from participants and investigators. Two doses were administered by intradermal microneedle injection 21 days apart. Primary outcome was safety, secondary outcome immunogenicity. Analysis was by intention-to-treat for safety, intention-to-treat and per protocol for immunogenicity.

Findings

26 participants were enrolled (Aug-Sep 2021) to receive PepGNP-Dengue (LD or HD, n=10 each) or vehicle-GNP (LD or HD, n=3 each). No vaccine-related serious adverse events occurred. Most (90%) related adverse events were mild; injection site pain and transient discoloration were most frequently reported. Injection site erythema occurred in 58% of participants. As expected, PepGNP-Dengue did not elicit anti-DENV antibodies of significance. Significant increases were observed in specific CD8+ T cells and dengue dextramer+ memory cell subsets in the LD PepGNP-Dengue but not in the HD PepGNP-Dengue or Vehicle-GNP groups, specifically PepGNP-activated CD137+CD69+CD8+ T cells (day 90, +0.0318%, 95% CI: 0.0088-0.1723, p= 0.046), differentiated effector memory (TemRA) and central memory (Tcm) CD8+ T cells (day 35, +0.8 /105 CD8+, 95% CI: 0.19-5.13, p= 0.014 and +1.34 /105 CD8+, 95% CI: 0.1-7.34, p= 0.024, respectively).

Interpretation

Results provide proof of concept that a synthetic nanoparticle-based peptide vaccine can successfully induce virus-specific CD8+ T cells. The favourable safety profile and cellular responses observed support further development of PepGNP-Dengue.

Funding

Emergex Vaccines Holding Limited.

KIND OF DATA

Clinical data and laboratory data (safety)

UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Individuals. 26 participants were enrolled.

KEYWORDS

Dengue vaccine, Dengue virus, T cell immunity, Nanoparticle-based vaccine

Coverage

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Switzerland

Producers and Sponsors

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FUNDING

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Data Appraisal

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