REL-1017 in Major Depressive Disorder: Phase 2 Clinical Study Results

Marco Pappagallo, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Relmada Therapeutics, Inc.

Pharmaceutical Pipelines Presentation Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology

June 1, 2021

© Relmada Therapeutics v3

Disclosures

- Relmada Therapeutics, Inc.
- CerSci Therapeutics (Acadia Pharmaceuticals)

REL-1017 (esmethadone), the opioid-inactive isomer of methadone, is a novel NMDAR channel blocker



- A full opioid agonist with 20X higher affinity for the mu opioid receptor than esmethadone¹
- Responsible for the opioid effects associated with racemic methadone, such as euphoria, analgesia and respiratory depression^{2,3}
- Free from clinically relevant opioid activity at all tested doses: no euphoric, dissociative and respiratory depressant effects and no known addiction liability^{2,3,6}

NMDAR=N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor; CH₃=Methyl Group; O=Oxygen; N=Nitrogen

^{1.}Codd EE, et al. J Pharmacol Exp Ther. 1995;274:1263-1270; 2. DEA: Diversion Control Division. December 2019. Accessed April 2021. https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/methadone/methadone.pdf; 3. Bernstein, et al. J Clin Psychopharmacology. 2019 May/Jun;39(3):226-237. 4. Gorman et al. Neuroscience Letters. 1997;223:5-8; 5. Bettini et al. Biological Psychiatry. 2021;89(9), S294; 6. Fava, et al. 2021.

REL-1017: A Novel, NMDAR Channel Blocker

Preclinical and clinical studies have indicated a differentiated mechanism of action



- REL-1017 is a novel safe and welltolerated NMDAR channel blocker that preferentially targets hyperactive NMDAR channels associated with MDD^{1,2}
 - Specifically, REL-1017 has a preferential affinity for NMDARs containing the GluN2D subunit¹
- Blocking NMDAR channels with REL-1017 reduces Ca²⁺ influx¹
- REL-1017 significantly increased plasma levels of BDNF, a neurotrophin with effects on neural plasticity³
- REL-1017 was effective in all tested models of depressive-like behavior^{4,5}

MDD=major depressive disorder; NCE=new chemical entity; NMDAR=N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor; BDNF=brain-derived neurotrophic factor; Ca²⁺=calcium; Mg²⁺=magnesium; GluN2D=receptor channels potentially involved in the pathophysiology of MDD

1. Bettini et al. *Biological Psychiatry. 2021*;89(9), S294; 2. Bernstein, et al. *J Clin Psychopharmacology.* 2019 May/Jun;39(3):226-237; 3. De Martin, et al. 2021 *Front. Pharmacol.* 12:671859; 4. Hanania, et al. *Exp Clin Psychopharmacol* 2020; 28(2):196–201; 5. Fogaca, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 2019; 44(13):2230–8.

REL-1017 Phase 1 SAD & MAD Studies

Single Ascending Dose (SAD) Study Design Parallel group, double-blind, placebo-controlled

Objectives

Establish PK, PD and safety of single dose administration

Treatment Administration

• 6 Cohorts: 5, 20, 60, 100, 150, 200 mg

• N = 42

Study Conclusions

- Maximum Tolerated Dose (MTD) = 150 mg
- PK demonstrated linear proportionality of C_{max}, AUC_{0-inf} vs. dose
- No opioid or NMDA AESI signal observed

Multiple Ascending Dose (MAD) Study Design Parallel group, double-blind, placebo-controlled

Objectives

Establish PK, PD and safety of once daily, 10-day administration

Treatment Administration

• 3 Cohorts: 25, 50, 75 mg

• N = 24

Study Conclusions

- Doses up to max does studied 75 mg per day well tolerated
- No unexpected adverse effects
- No opioid or NMDA AESI signal observed

PK=pharmacokinetics; PD=pharmacodynamics; MTD=maximum tolerated dose; C_{max}=maximum plasma concentration; AUC_{0-inf}=area under the curve 0 to infinite time; AUC_t=area under the curve to the end of dosing period; N=number of patients; NMDA=N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist; AESI=adverse event of special interest Bernstein G, et al. *J Clin Psychopharmacology.* 2019 May/Jun;39(3):226-237.

REL-1017 Phase 2 Trial Design

Multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, 3-arm study to assess the safety, tolerability, PK profile, and symptom response of a 7-day dosing with REL-1017 25 mg daily and 50 mg daily as adjunctive therapy in the treatment of patients diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder



MDD=major depressive disorder; RDPC=randomized double-blind placebo controlled; MADRS=Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale; SDQ=Symptoms of Depression Questionnaire; CGIs=Clinical Global Impression scales; PK=pharmacokinetics; BSL=baseline; QD=Once a Day; MGH CTNI=MGH Clinical Trials Network and Institute *SAFER interview confirms that the illness is a specific state, and excludes patients with any symptoms that are nonspecific or not readily assessable

REL-1017 Phase 2 Study – Baseline Patient Characteristics

	Placebo	REL-1017 25 mg	REL-1017 50 mg	All Subjects
Randomized Subjects	22	19	21	62
Completed All Visits (Day 21)	20	18	19	57
Received All Doses	21	19	21	61
Age: Mean Years (SD)	49.7 (11.1)	49.4 (12.4)	48.6 (10.9)	49.2 (11.3)
Females	11 (50%)	8 (42.1%)	9 (42.9%)	28 (45.2%)
Subjects ITT	22	19	21	62
Subjects PPP	21	19	21	61
Screening HAMD – Mean (SD)	25.6 (3.5)	25.1 (3.5)	25.0 (3.8)	25.3 (3.6)
Baseline MADRS – Mean (SD)	33.8 (4.0)	32.9 (6.0)	35.2 (3.9)	34.0 (4.7)

Phase 2 Study REL-1017: Primary Efficacy Endpoint

REL-1017 showed rapid, robust, and sustained differences in MADRS change vs. placebo



5	Day 2	Day 4	Day 7	Day 14
∆MADRS	25 mg	7.9	8.7	9.4
vs Placebo	50 mg	7.6	7.2	10.4

REL-1017 Phase 2 Additional Efficacy Endpoint Results

Statistically significance vs. placebo achieved on all efficacy endpoints



REL-1017 Phase 2 Study Efficacy: Response & Remission

% of Subjects Achieving Response (≥ 50% MADRS Improvement from Baseline)



% of Subjects Achieving Remission (MADRS ≤10)



Day 14: last efficacy assessment, 7 days after last dose of study drug

Statistical analysis: p values for treatment groups tested vs. placebo, Fisher Exact Test p-value

MADRS=Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale

Source: Relmada Data on File

REL-1017 Phase 2 Safety Findings

Adverse event rates were comparable to placebo across both 25mg and 50mg doses

System Organ Class/Preferred Term	Placebo (N=22)	REL-1017 25 mg (N=19)	REL-1017 50 mg (N=21)
Subjects With Any Treatment-Emergent Adverse Event	12 (54.5%)	9 (47.4%)	15 (71.4%)
Gastrointestinal Disorders	8 (36.4%)	5 (26.3%)	5 (23.8%)
Constipation	3 (13.6%)	1 (5.3%)	3 (14.3%)
Nausea	2 (9.1%)	1 (5.3%)	2 (9.5%)
Diarrhea	3 (13.6%)	0	0
Abdominal Discomfort	2 (9.1%)	0	0
Dyspepsia	0	2 (10.5%)	0
Flatulence	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Vomiting	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Nervous System Disorders	6 (27.3%)	4 (21.1%)	6 (28.6%)
Headache	3 (13.6%)	2 (10.5%)	3 (14.3%)
Somnolence	2 (9.1%)	1 (5.3%)	1 (4.8%)
Dizziness	1 (4.5%)	1 (5.3%)	1 (4.8%)
Sedation	1 (4.5%)	1 (5.3%)	0
Infections and Infestations	2 (9.1%)	1 (5.3%)	1 (4.8%)
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	2 (9.1%)	0	0
Urinary Tract Infection	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders	0	1 (5.3%)	3 (14.3%)
Back Pain	0	1 (5.3%)	2 (9.5%)
General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions	0	1 (5.3%)	2 (9.5%)
Fatigue	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Investigations	0	0	3 (14.3%)
Weight Decreased	0	0	2 (9.5%)
Cardiac Disorders	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Palpitations	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Renal and Urinary Disorders	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Pollakiuria	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders	0	1 (5.3%)	0
Pruritus	0	1 (5.3%)	0

- Across all groups, there were no Serious Adverse Events (SAEs) or Adverse Events of Special Interest (AESIs)
- Also, no signs of euphoric, dissociative or opioid like effects

REL-1017 Clinical Program for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

Completed

- ✓ Preclinical Proof-of-Concept in MDD
- ✓ Phase 1: Single Ascending Dose & Multiple Ascending Dose
- ✓ Phase 2: Adjunctive Treatment

Ongoing

- Phase 3 for Adjunctive Treatment:
 - RELIANCE I
 - RELIANCE II
 - RELIANCE-OLS

Planned

RELIANCE-III Monotherapy Treatment

Conclusions

- REL-1017 is a novel NMDAR channel blocker that preferentially targets hyperactive channels associated with MDD
 - More specifically, REL-1017 appears to particularly target channels containing the GluN2D subunit
 - REL-1017 (esmethadone) is the opioid-inactive isomer of methadone
- The Phase 2 study evaluating REL-1017 as an adjunctive treatment for MDD demonstrated:
 - Robust, rapid and sustained statistically significant efficacy with large effect size
 - Remission (MADRS < =10) rates were 31% and 39% at day 14 for 25 and 50 mg REL-1017, respectively
- Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies showed consistent and favorable safety and tolerability results
 - No opioid or NMDA AESI at any dose

The Phase 3 **RELIANCE Clinical Research Program** for REL-1017 in MDD is actively enrolling

References

Bettini E, S DeMartin, CE Inturrisi et al., 2021. 'Esmethadone (REL-1017) compares with NMDA receptor antagonists in FLIPR-Ca2+ assay.' *Biological Psychiatry*, 89(9), S294. doi:10.1016/j.biopsych.2021.02.732

Bernstein, G., K. Davis, C. Mills, L. Wang, M. McDonnell, J. Oldenhof, C. Inturrisi, P. L. Manfredi, and O. V. Vitolo. 2019. 'Characterization of the safety and pharmacokinetic profile of d-methadone, a novel N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist in healthy, opioid-naive subjects: results of two phase 1 studies', *J Clin Psychopharmacol*, 39: 226-37.

Codd, EE, RP Shank, JJ Schupsky, and RB Raffa. 1995. 'Serotonin and norepinephrine uptake inhibiting activity of centrally acting analgesics: structural determinants and role in antinociception', *J Pharmacol Exp Ther*, 274: 1263-70.

DEA, Drug Enforcement Administration. Dec 2019. 'Methadone.' Edited by the *Diversion Control Division*. Accessed April 2021. https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/methadone/methadone.pdf.

DeMartin, S, D Gabbia, F Folli, F Bifari, P Fiorina, N Ferri, S Stahl, CE Inturrisi, M Pappagallo, S Traversa, and PL Manfredi. 2021. 'REL-1017 (Esmethadone) increases circulating BDNF levels in healthy subjects of a Phase 1 clinical study', *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, 12:671859. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2021.671859.

Fava, M., Stahl., S., Pappagallo, M., Inturrisi, C., Manfredi, P. (2021) Rapid and Sustained Antidepressant Effects of REL-1017 (dextromethadone) as an Adjunctive Treatment for Major Depressive Disorder: A Phase 2 Trial. Poster presented at: *American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting 2021*

Fogaça MV, Fukumoto K, Franklin T, et al: N-Methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist dextromethadone produces rapid, mTORC1- dependent antidepressant effects. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 2019; 44(13):2230–8.

Gorman, AL, KJ Elliott, and CE Inturrisi. 1997. 'The d- and I- isomers of methadone bind to the non-competitive site on the N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor in rat forebrain and spinal cord', *Neuroscience Letters*, 223:5-8.

Hanania T, Manfredi P, Inturrisi C, Vitolo OV: The N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor antagonist dextromethadone acutely improves depressive-like behavior in the forced swim test performance of rats. *Exp Clin Psychopharmacol* 2020; 28(2):196–201.

Thank you!



Questions?

CONTACTS:

Paolo Manfredi, MD, Chief Scientific Officer <u>PManfredi@Relmada.com</u>

Marco Pappagallo, MD, Chief Medical Officer

MPappagallo@Relmada.com

