

Discovery of a PD-1 Checkpoint Agonist Antibody for Autoimmune/Inflammatory Disease



PD-1 is an Inhibitory Checkpoint Molecule that Down-modulates T Cell Responses



- Immune checkpoint receptor-ligand interactions are essential for down-regulating immune responses and maintaining self-tolerance
- Functional antagonist antibodies to PD-1 and CTLA-4, major checkpoints on activated T cells, enhance existing immune responses and are approved therapeutics for immuno-oncology
- Genetic mutations in the PD-1 pathway have been shown to increase susceptibility to various autoimmune and inflammatory diseases*
- We hypothesize that many human autoimmune diseases occur due to dysregulated PD-1 signaling, leading to uncontrolled T cell responses
- Agonist antibodies to PD-1 that mimic the function of natural ligands and augment PD-1 signaling have the potential to suppress human autoimmune/inflammatory diseases and reinstate tolerance

Agonist antibodies that negatively signal are expected to restore natural immune modulation

PD-1 Agonist Antibody Discovery ANB030 is a Humanized IgG1,κ Hybridoma-derived PD-1 Agonist Antibody



ANB030 is PD-L1 non-blocking, optimized for affinity and functional activity

3

Optimization of ANB030 V_H Sequence for Stability and Affinity





Optimized for thermal stability and affinity with 2 V_H substitutions Additionally de-risked in 28-day accelerated stability and pre-formulation studies at 100 mg/ml

ANB030 Binding to PD-1 Does Not Compete with PD-L1 Binding



PD-1 agonist discovery for autoimmune/inflammatory disease

Model of the Epitope Bound by PD-1 Agonist Antibody ANB030



- Regions on PD-1 bound by ANB030 were identified by hydrogen-deuterium exchange (pink, blue) and PD-1 surface point mutations (red)
- Both datasets generated a consistent model of the ANB030 epitope

ANB030 binds PD-1 on a more membrane-proximal region opposite the PD-L1 binding site

ANB030 in Solution Potently Inhibits Whole Blood Tetanus Toxoid Recall Response



7



PD-1 agonist antibody inhibits tetanus toxoid IFNγ recall response in whole blood PD-1 antagonist antibody nivolumab shows no inhibition

ANB030 Functional Agonist Activity in Whole Blood is Dependent on FcyR Engagement



ANB030 human IgG2, IgG4, or IgG1(L234A,L235A) isotypes lack agonist activity in solution

8

Alopecia Areata Is An Immune-Mediated Disease



Alopecia areata is an immune-mediated form of hair loss resulting from breakdown of immune privilege that is driven by keratinocyte and melanocyte antigen-specific T cells producing IFNγ

Healthy Hair Follicle *

- Low MHC class I
- Locally immune
 suppressed



Alopecia areata Hair Follicle

- NKG2D+CD8+ infiltrate into hair follicle root sheaths
- Excessive IFNy production by activated T cells leads to loss of hair follicle immune privilege
- Abnormal expression of MHC class I and II
 molecules
- Subsequent destruction of hair follicle cells & hair loss

Inhibition of IFNγ Production by ANB030 in Human Alopecia Areata PBMCs Stimulated with Keratinocyte Peptide Antigens



Alopecia areata is an immune-mediated form of hair loss resulting from breakdown of immune privilege that is driven by keratinocyte and melanocyte antigen-specific T cells producing IFNγ



PD-1 Signaling in T Cells





Bardhan K, Anagnostou T and Boussiotis VA (2016) Front. Immunol. 7:550.

ANB030 Induces SHP2 but not SHP1 Recruitment to PD-1 after Activation of Jurkat PD-1 Cells



ANB030 had no effect on signaling pathways in the absence of T cell activation

NSG/Hu-PBMC Graft vs. Host Disease Model





Dosing days

PD-1 Agonist Antibody ANB030 is Efficacious in an Acute Xenogeneic Graft vs. Host Disease Model





Treatment	Median Survival
Isotype	20 days
ANB030	39.5 days

Efficacy of ANB030 in the model is dependent on its IgG1 isotype

Summary: PD-1 Agonist Discovery for Autoimmune/Inflammatory Disease



- A functional agonist anti-PD-1 antibody that down-regulates antigen-specific immune responses and lacks antagonist activity has been discovered and optimized
- ANB030 is a humanized IgG1/ κ anti-PD-1 agonist antibody that is non-blocking for PD-L1 binding and requires Fc γ receptor engagement for its functional activity in solution
- Signaling mechanism studies show similar PD-1-dependent effects for ANB030 and PD-L1-Fc
- ANB030 demonstrated efficacy in a xenogeneic NSG-Human-PBMC graft vs. host disease model
- An IND for ANB030 has been filed and Phase 1 clinical trial initiation is anticipated in H1 2020
- Anti-PD-1 antibodies that mimic activity of natural ligands and down-modulate T cell responses have the potential to restore and maintain immune balance in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases

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