

KARDIA-3: A RANDOMIZED TRIAL OF ZILEBESIRAN VERSUS PLACEBO ON TOP OF STANDARD CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH HYPERTENSION AND ESTABLISHED CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE OR HIGH CARDIOVASCULAR RISK WITH OR WITHOUT CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

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#### **NEHA PAGIDIPATI**

#### **Duke Clinical Research Institute, Durham, NC, USA**

Research support from Alnylam, Amgen, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Merck

Consultation/Advisory Panels for Alnylam, Amgen, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Corcept, Corsera, Eli Lilly, Esperion, AstraZeneca, Merck, Metsera, New Amsterdam, Novartis, and Novo Nordisk.

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#### UNLABELED/UNAPPROVED USES DISCLOSURE:

Zilebesiran is an investigational product in development for treatment of patients with hypertension.

### THE PROBLEM: UNCONTROLLED HYPERTENSION



Uncontrolled hypertension (HTN) is the greatest modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular (CV) morbidity and mortality worldwide



The risks of CV events and end organ damage are further elevated for those with chronic kidney disease (CKD)



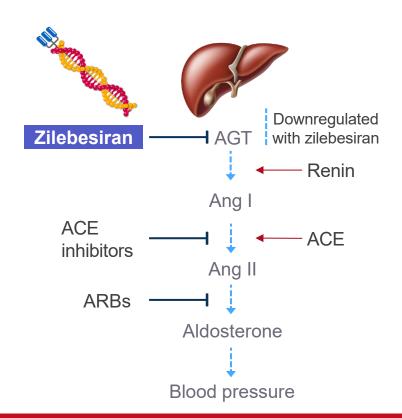
Patients with CKD are also at a high risk of adverse events (AEs) from treatment, including hyperkalemia

An effective therapy with an acceptable safety profile that provides continuous control of BP may help to reduce the burden of uncontrolled HTN and CV disease, including for patients with CKD

### **ZILEBESIRAN**

### **Zilebesiran Suppresses the RAAS Pathway**

- An investigational RNA (RNAi) interference therapeutic
- Specifically designed to reduce hepatic production of angiotensinogen (AGT), the most upstream precursor in the RAAS pathway
- Has the potential to provide continuous control of BP with subcutaneous (SC) dosing every 6 months





### **KARDIA-3 STUDY OBJECTIVE**



To determine the efficacy, safety, and optimal dosing of zilebesiran among individuals with uncontrolled HTN and high CV risk, with or without CKD, in order to inform the design of a CV outcomes study in this population

#### **Cohort A: Presented at ESC 2025**

To assess efficacy and safety in patients with eGFR ≥45 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

#### **Cohort B:**

To assess safety in patients with eGFR 30-44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>



### **KEY DETAILS**

### Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial



#### **Across 5 countries:**

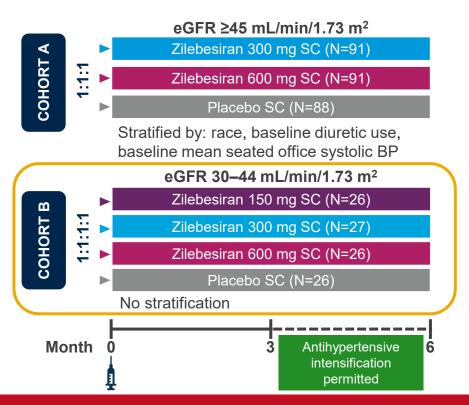
US, Australia, Canada, UK, Switzerland

### Key inclusion criteria

- Established CV disease or high risk for CV disease (>15% 10-year ASCVD)
- Uncontrolled HTN (mean office systolic BP 140–170 mmHg at screening and 24-hour mean ambulatory systolic BP 130–170 mmHg in the 7 days before randomization)
- Already prescribed 2–4 antihypertensive drugs (including a diuretic or calcium channel blocker)
- Serum potassium ≤4.8 mEq/L
- Cohort B: eGFR 30–44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>



### **STUDY DESIGN**



### **Cohort B Key Outcomes**

- Frequency of AEs through Month 6
- Change from baseline to Month 3 in mean office systolic BP

Change from baseline estimated by least-squares mean (95% CI).
Cohorts A and B were analyzed separately;
Cohort B was not powered to evaluate efficacy; results are descriptive only.



# SUMMARY OF EFFICACY AND SAFETY COHORT A (eGFR ≥45 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

#### Month 3 Office Systolic BP Diuretic and Baseline **Full Population** Systolic BP ≥140 mmHg (Post Hoc) 37 n = 8690 87 38 33 Change From Baseline (95% CI), mmHg -12.3-10.6 -21.3 -19.0 -12.0 -7.3 -5 (-8.2, 1.6)(-9.9, -0.2)P = 0.18-9.2

Primary results were not statistically significant after accounting for multiplicity (if both doses did not have P<0.05, then any single dose must have had P<0.025 to be considered statistically significant).

Zilebesiran 300 mg

Placebo

### Safety to Month 6

- Acceptable safety, with most AEs mild or moderate
- Low rates of hyperkalemia, kidney dysfunction, and hypotension
- Most instances of hyperkalemia or kidney dysfunction were not confirmed by subsequent measurement

(-17.3, -1.2) (-15.3, 1.3)

Zilebesiran 600 mg

## KARDIA-3 COHORT B RESULTS



# DEMOGRAPHICS AND DISEASE CHARACTERISTICS COHORT B (eGFR 30-44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

	Placebo		Zilebesiran		
	(N=26)	150 mg (N=25)	300 mg (N=26)	600 mg (N=26)	
Mean age, years (SD)	70.7 (7.9)	71.6 (10.7)	71.3 (8.0)	67.8 (9.1)	
Female sex, n (%)	9 (34.6)	16 (64.0)	11 (42.3)	9 (34.6)	
Black, n (%)	4 (15.4)	7 (28.0)	6 (23.1)	8 (30.8)	
Hispanic or Latino, n (%)	14 (53.8)	9 (36.0)	9 (34.6)	10 (38.5)	
Previous CV event or CV disease history, n (%)	4 (15.4)	5 (20.0)	3 (11.5)	4 (15.4)	
Median eGFR, mL/min/1.73 m² (IQR)	39.7 (32.9–43.9)	41.4 (36.2–43.1)	36.9 (31.8–44.5)	38.9 (33.2–44.1)	
Median urine albumin to creatinine ratio, mg/g (IQR)	68.0 (27.0–332.0)	87.0 (31.0–485.0)	39.0 (8.0–178.0)	162.5 (34.0–445.0)	
Mean office systolic BP, mmHg (SD)	146.2 (12.5)	150.3 (12.5)	143.3 (13.8)	147.5 (17.6)	
Receiving ACEi or ARB, n (%)	23 (85.2)	23 (95.8)	19 (73.1)	22 (84.6)	
Receiving diuretic (thiazide, thiazide-like, or loop diuretic), n (%)	16 (59.3)	18 (75.0)	16 (61.5)	17 (65.4)	
Receiving ≥3 antihypertensives, n (%)	17 (63.0)	19 (79.2)	15 (57.7)	22 (84.6)	



# SAFETY PROFILE THROUGH MONTH 6 COHORT B (eGFR 30-44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

n (%)	Placebo	Zilebesiran				
	(N=27)	150 mg (N=24)	300 mg (N=26)	600 mg (N=26)	Pooled (N=76)	
At least 1 AE	15 (55.6)	16 (66.7)	13 (50.0)	13 (50.0)	42 (55.3)	
At least 1 serious AE	1 (3.7)	3 (12.5)	1 (3.8)	1 (3.8)	5 (6.6)	
At least 1 serious related AE	0	1 (4.2)	0	0	1 (1.3)	
Death	0	1 (4.2)	0	0	1 (1.3)	

- Zilebesiran had an acceptable safety profile, with most AEs being mild to moderate and transient
- One serious AE (hospitalization for cholecystitis and laparoscopic cholecystectomy) reported in a
  patient who received zilebesiran 150 mg was considered related by the investigator; this resolved and
  the patient fully recovered
- One death by cardiac arrest on Day 85 reported in a patient who received zilebesiran 150 mg was not considered treatment-related by the investigator



# HYPERKALEMIA COHORT B (eGFR 30–44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

n (%)	Placebo	Zilebesiran				
	(N=27)	150 mg (N=24)	300 mg (N=26)	600 mg (N=26)	Pooled (N=76)	
Potassium >5.5 mmol/L, n (%)	3 (11.1)	3 (12.5)	3 (11.5)	4 (15.4)	10 (13.2)	
Confirmed by subsequent measurement	0	2 (8.3)	0	1 (3.8)	3 (3.9)	
Potassium >6 mmol/L, n (%)	1 (3.7)	1 (4.2)	0	1 (3.8)	2 (2.6)	
Confirmed by subsequent measurement	0	0	0	0	0	

- Most elevations were transient and occurred by Month 2
- None required hospitalization or dialysis
- One patient (zilebesiran 150 mg) had one background antihypertensive discontinued, one patient (zilebesiran 600 mg) had one background antihypertensive downtitrated and three patients (n=1 placebo, n=2 zilebesiran 600 mg) required treatment with potassium binders



# eGFR DECLINE COHORT B (eGFR 30-44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

n (%)	Placebo	Zilebesiran				
	(N=27)	150 mg (N=24)	300 mg (N=26)	600 mg (N=26)	Pooled (N=76)	
eGFR ≥30% decrease from baseline	3 (11.1)	3 (12.5)	1 (3.8)	3 (11.5)	7 (9.2)	
Confirmed by subsequent measurement	0	0	1 (3.8)	1 (3.8)	2 (2.6)	

- Most reductions were transient
- None required hospitalization or dialysis
- Kidney dysfunction was managed by discontinuation of one background medication for two patients receiving zilebesiran 150 mg and one patient receiving zilebesiran 300 mg



# HYPOTENSION AND ASSOCIATED EVENTS COHORT B (eGFR 30-44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

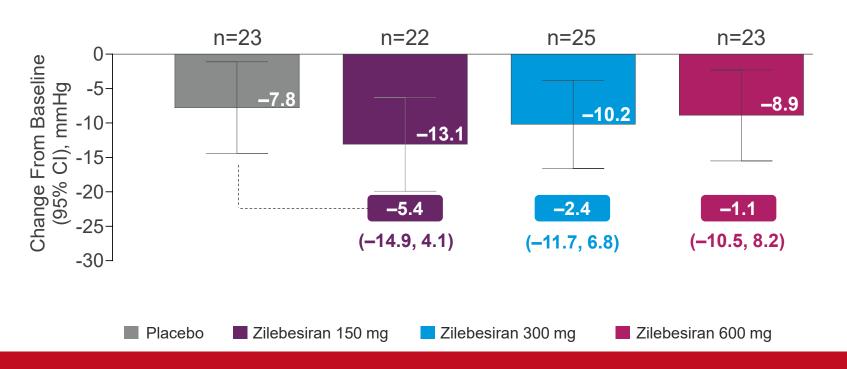
n (%)	Placebo	Zilebesiran				
	(N=27)	150 mg (N=24)	300 mg (N=26)	600 mg (N=26)	Pooled (N=76)	
At least 1 hypotension AE	0	0	0	0	0	
At least 1 AE potentially related to hypotension	1 (3.7)	0	1 (3.8)	0	1 (1.3)	
Dizziness	1 (3.7)	0	0	0	0	
Syncope	0	0	1 (3.8)	0	1 (1.3)	

Both events were transient and not serious.



# OFFICE SYSTOLIC BP AT MONTH 3 COHORT B (eGFR 30-44 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)

Placebo-Adjusted Change From Baseline

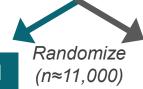




### **ZENITH CV Outcomes Trial Design**

### **Study Population**

- Adult patients with uncontrolled HTN and established CV disease or at high risk
- Office systolic BP ≥140 mmHg on stable treatment (≥2 antihypertensive medications, one of which is a diuretic)
- eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m², potassium ≤4.8 mEq/L



Zilebesiran SC 300 mg Q6M + standard of care

Placebo SC Q6M + standard of care

Minimum follow-up: 2 years



**Primary Outcome:** CV death, nonfatal MI, nonfatal stroke, or HF event

ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT07181109.



### KARDIA® CONCLUSIONS

- Among individuals with CV disease or at high CV risk who have uncontrolled HTN on multiple antihypertensives and CKD (eGFR 30–44 mL/min/1.73 m²), single doses of zilebesiran 150, 300, and 600 mg had an acceptable safety profile
  - Most AEs were mild to moderate and transient
  - Low rates of kidney dysfunction, hyperkalemia, and hypotension
- There was no evidence of dose-dependent adverse effects, and the totality of Phase 2 data supports using the 300 mg zilebesiran dose, irrespective of kidney function
- The ZENITH trial is now enrolling and will evaluate the impact of this novel, long-acting RNAi therapy on CV outcomes in patients with HTN and established CV disease or high CV risk, with eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

Thank you to the investigators and especially the participants who made the KARDIA-3 trial possible