Sustained Blood Pressure Reduction with the RNA Interference Therapeutic, Zilebesiran: Primary Results from KARDIA 1, a Phase 2 Study in Patients with Hypertension

George Bakris[1], Manish Saxena[2,3], Anil Gupta[4], Fadi Chalhoub[5], Maxwell Lasko[6], Nune Makarova[6], Nitender Goyal[6], Weinong Guo[6], Dion Zappe[6], Akshay S Desai[7]

[1]University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA; [2]Barts Health NHS Trust, London, UK; [3]Queen Mary University of London, UK; [4]Albion Finch Medical Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada; [5]Clinical Neuroscience Solutions, Jacksonville, FL, USA; [6]Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Cambridge, MA, USA; [7]Cardiovascular Division, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

Presented at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions, November 11–13, 2023, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Presenter Disclosures

GEORGE BAKRIS, MD

SUSTAINED BLOOD PRESSURE REDUCTION WITH THE RNA INTERFERENCE THERAPEUTIC, ZILEBESIRAN: PRIMARY RESULTS FROM KARDIA 1, A PHASE 2 STUDY IN PATIENTS WITH HYPERTENSION

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:

George Bakris has received consulting fees from Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, AstraZeneca, Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, InREGEN, Ionis, Janssen, KBP Biosciences, and Novo Nordisk.

UNLABELED/UNAPPROVED USES DISCLOSURE:

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

An Unmet Need for Novel Antihypertensive Therapeutics

Hypertension

- Uncontrolled hypertension is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality[1,2]
- Despite availability of effective antihypertensives, many adults with hypertension are untreated and at least 75% have uncontrolled disease, both globally and in the USA[3,4]

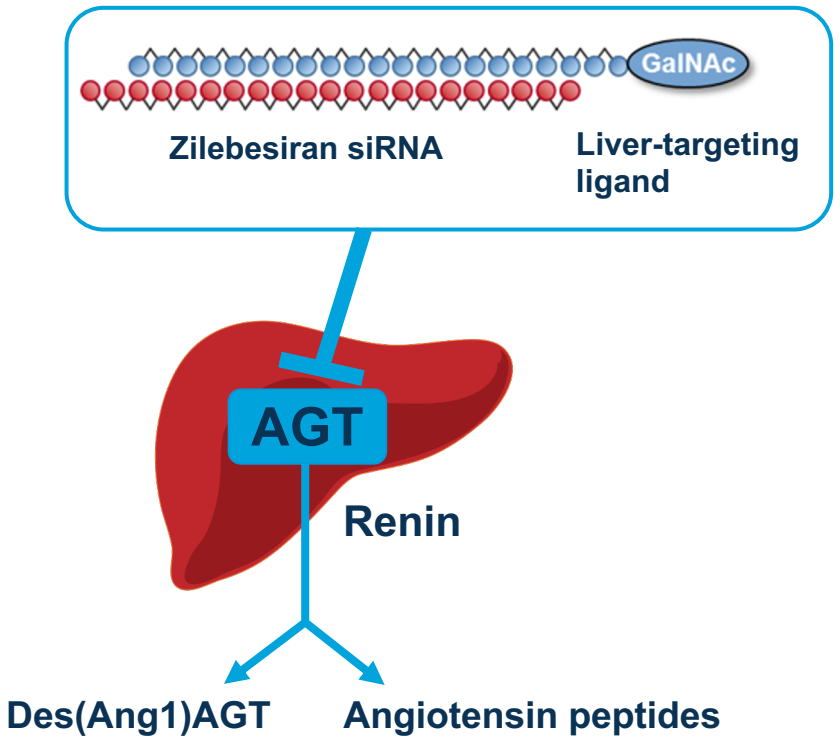
Zilebesiran

- Zilebesiran is an investigational subcutaneous RNA interference therapeutic that targets hepatic AGT synthesis
- Phase 1 study data have demonstrated sustained, dose-dependent reductions in serum AGT levels and blood pressure through 24 weeks after a single dose of zilebesiran in patients with mild-to-moderate hypertension[5]

Objective

- KARDIA-1 was a Phase 2 study investigating the efficacy and safety of different doses of zilebesiran monotherapy in patients with mild-to-moderate hypertension

Zilebesiran Mediates Hepatic AGT Reduction



AGT, angiotensinogen; des(Ang1)AGT, des(Ang1)angiotensinogen; GalNAc, *N*-acetylgalactosamine; RNA, ribonucleic acid; siRNA, small interfering ribonucleic acid. 1. Zhou B *et al*. *Nat Rev Cardiol* 2021;18:785–802; 2. Danaei G *et al. PLoS Med* 2009;6:e1000058; 3. World Health Organization. Hypertension. 2021. Available from: www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/hypertension (Accessed September 14, 2023); 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Estimated hypertension prevalence, treatment, and control among U.S. adults. 2022. Available from: https://millionhearts.hhs.gov/data-reports/hypertension-prevalence.html (Accessed September 14, 2023); 5. Desai AS *et al. N Engl J Med* 2023;389:228–38.

KARDIA-1: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Dose-Ranging Study of Zilebesiran in Patients with Mild-to-Moderate Hypertension

Patient Population (N=394)

Adults 18–75 years of age with daytime mean SBP ≥135 mmHg and ≤160 mmHg by ambulatory BPM, after washout of previous antihypertensive medication for 2–4 weeks[a]

1:1:1:1:1 RANDOMIZATION

- Placebo Q3M SC
- OR
- Zilebesiran 150 mg Q6M SC
- OR
- Zilebesiran 300 mg Q6M SC
- OR
- Zilebesiran 300 mg Q3M SC
- OR
- Zilebesiran 600 mg Q6M SC

Primary Endpoint

- Change from baseline at Month 3 in 24-hour mean ambulatory SBP[b]

Key Secondary Endpoints

- Change from baseline at Month 3 in office SBP[b]
- Change from baseline at Month 6 in 24-hour mean ambulatory SBP
- Change from baseline at Month 6 in office SBP
- Proportion of patients with 24-hour mean ambulatory SBP <130 mmHg and/or reduction ≥20 mmHg without additional antihypertensive medications at Month 6

Safety Endpoint

- Frequency of AEs

- Rescue antihypertensive medication was permitted after Month 3 assessments and was discontinued by Month 5 for Month 6 assessments
- Assessments of patients receiving or within 2 weeks of stopping rescue antihypertensive medication were excluded from analysis to investigate effects of zilebesiran monotherapy

ClinicalTrials.gov registration number: NCT04936035. [a]Patients previously taking medication for hypertension must have been without antihypertensives for ≥2 weeks before randomization. Four weeks of washout was required for long-acting antihypertensive medications, such as long-acting diuretics (e.g., chlorthalidone) or CCBs (e.g., amlodipine). [b]For analyses of Month 3 endpoints, zilebesiran 300 mg Q3M and Q6M data were pooled together. AE, adverse event; BP, blood pressure; BPM, blood pressure monitoring; CCB, calcium channel blocker; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SC, subcutaneous.

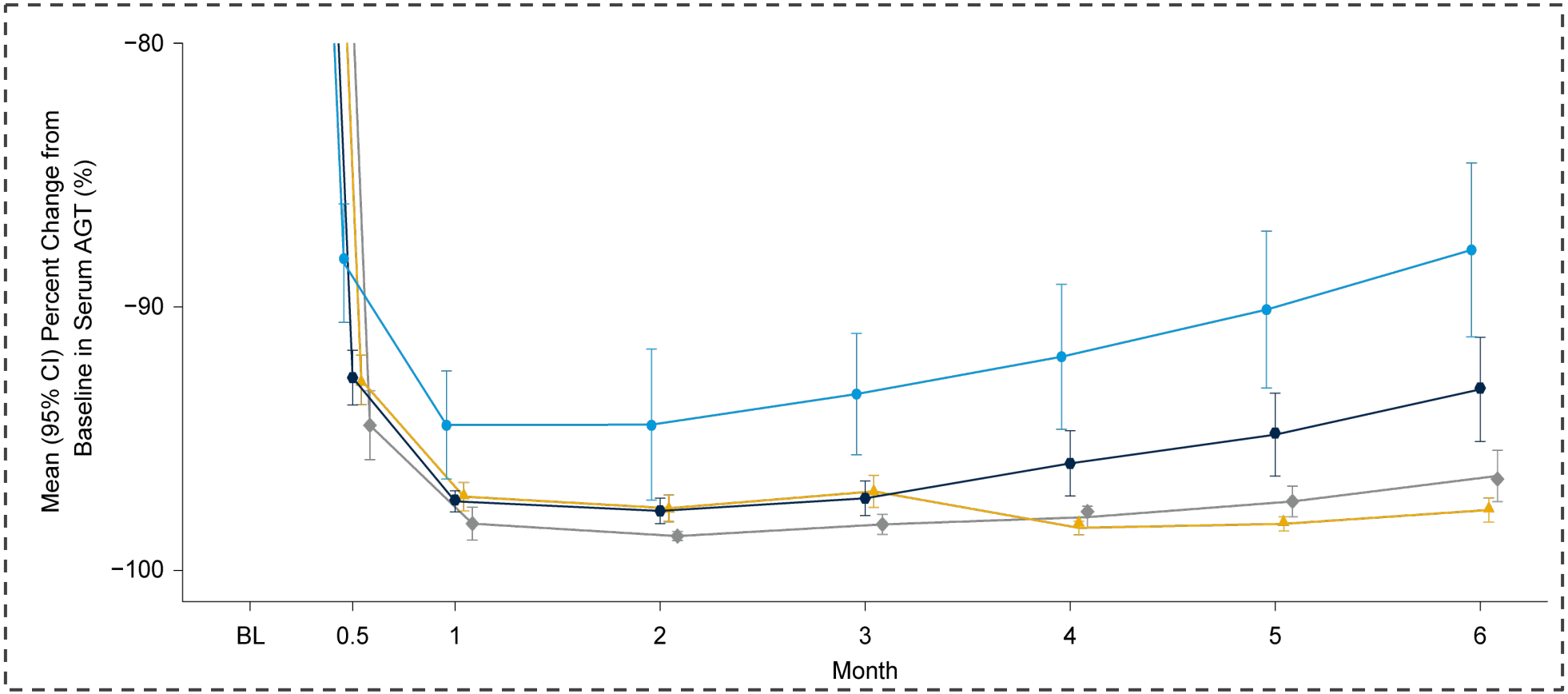
Baseline Demographics Were Balanced Across Groups

		Placebo	Zilebesiran				Total
			150 mg Q6M	300 mg Q6M	300 mg Q3M	600 mg Q6M	
Disposition	Randomized, n[a]	76	78	73	75	76	378
	Dosed, n	75	78	73	75	76	377
	Completed DB period, n (%)	70 (92)	70 (90)	70 (96)	68 (91)	69 (91)	347 (92)
	Discontinued study during DB period, n (%)	5 (7)	8 (10)	3 (4)	5 (7)[b]	5 (7)[b]	26 (7)
	Discontinued study owing to AE, n	0	1	0	0	0	1
Demographics and clinical characteristics	Analysis set, n[c]	75	78	73	75	76	377
	Mean age, years	57	56	56	58	57	57
	Male sex, n (%)	37 (49)	39 (50)	44 (60)	45 (60)	45 (59)	210 (56)
	BMI, ≥30 kg/m^2, n (%)	37 (49)	46 (59)	46 (63)	40 (53)	45 (59)	214 (57)
	Race, n (%)[d]						
	Asian	5 (7)	4 (5)	2 (3)	7 (9)	5 (7)	23 (6)
	Black or African American	18 (24)	20 (26)	17 (23)	19 (25)	19 (25)	93 (25)
	White	52 (69)	53 (68)	54 (74)	48 (64)	52 (68)	259 (69)
	24-hour mean ambulatory SBP/DBP, mmHg (SD)	141.1 (8)/ 81.7 (8)	140.6 (9)/ 81.7 (8)	142.5 (9)/ 82.3 (9)	141.6 (8)/ 82.0 (9)	143.1 (9)/ 81.4 (8)	141.8 (8)/ 81.8 (8)
	Office SBP/DBP, mmHg (SD)	143.1 (13)/ 87.9 (11)	142.0 (11)/ 87.4 (10)	143.0 (11)/ 88.8 (9)	140.0 (11)/ 85.3 (9)	140.8 (11)/ 85.6 (9)	141.8 (12)/ 87.0 (9)
	eGFR ≥60 mL/min/1.73 m^2, n (%)	64 (85)	68 (87)	70 (96)	69 (92)	68 (90)	339 (90)

[a]During the study, 16 patients were randomized from Ukraine in January–February 2022 before geographic conflict started. Owing to the challenge of data collection and cleaning, these patients were excluded from the analyses. [b]Two patients in the 300 mg Q3M group and two patients in the 600 mg Q6M group who were discontinued from study treatment during the 6-month DB period are in the safety follow-up period at the time of data cut. These four patients do not have a Month 6 visit and are not considered to have completed the 6-month DB period. [c]Analysis set comprised all patients who received study drug except those who were from Ukraine. [d]One patient in the zilebesiran 150 mg Q6M group was American Indian or Alaska Native; one patient in the zilebesiran 300 mg Q3M group was Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. AE, adverse event; BMI, body mass index; DB, double blind; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure; SD, standard deviation.

Note: The slide is animated to show the zoomed-in version of the graph upon click - please view in presenter mode to see the animation

Dose-Dependent Reductions in AGT Observed Through 6 Months



150 mg Q6M	n=	78	78	77	74	74	71	70	70
300 mg Q6M	n=	73	72	73	72	72	71	70	70
300 mg Q3M	n=	75	73	72	72	72	70	70	68
600 mg Q6M	n=	76	71	73	73	71	69	69	69

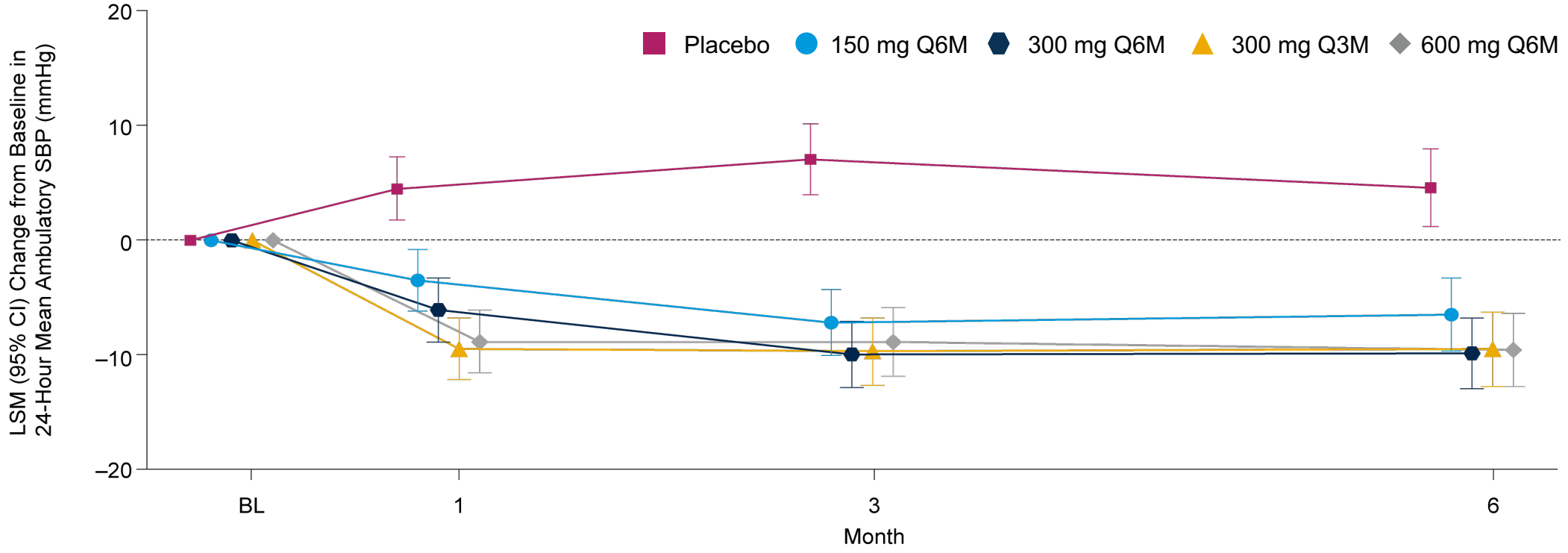
- Mean reductions in serum AGT were sustained to 6 months, with reductions of 88% for 150 mg Q6M, 93% for 300 mg Q6M, 98% for 300 mg Q3M, and 96% for 600 mg doses of zilebesiran
- Through Month 6, AGT reduction correlated with SBP change (*r* [95% CI]: 0.354 [0.298, 0.408]); data on file

AGT, angiotensinogen; BL, baseline; CI, confidence interval; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

Note: The slide is animated to show Month 6 data upon click - please view in presenter mode to see the animation

Significant Decreases in ABPM SBP with All Zilebesiran Regimens

Change from Baseline to Month 6 in 24-Hour Mean Ambulatory SBP



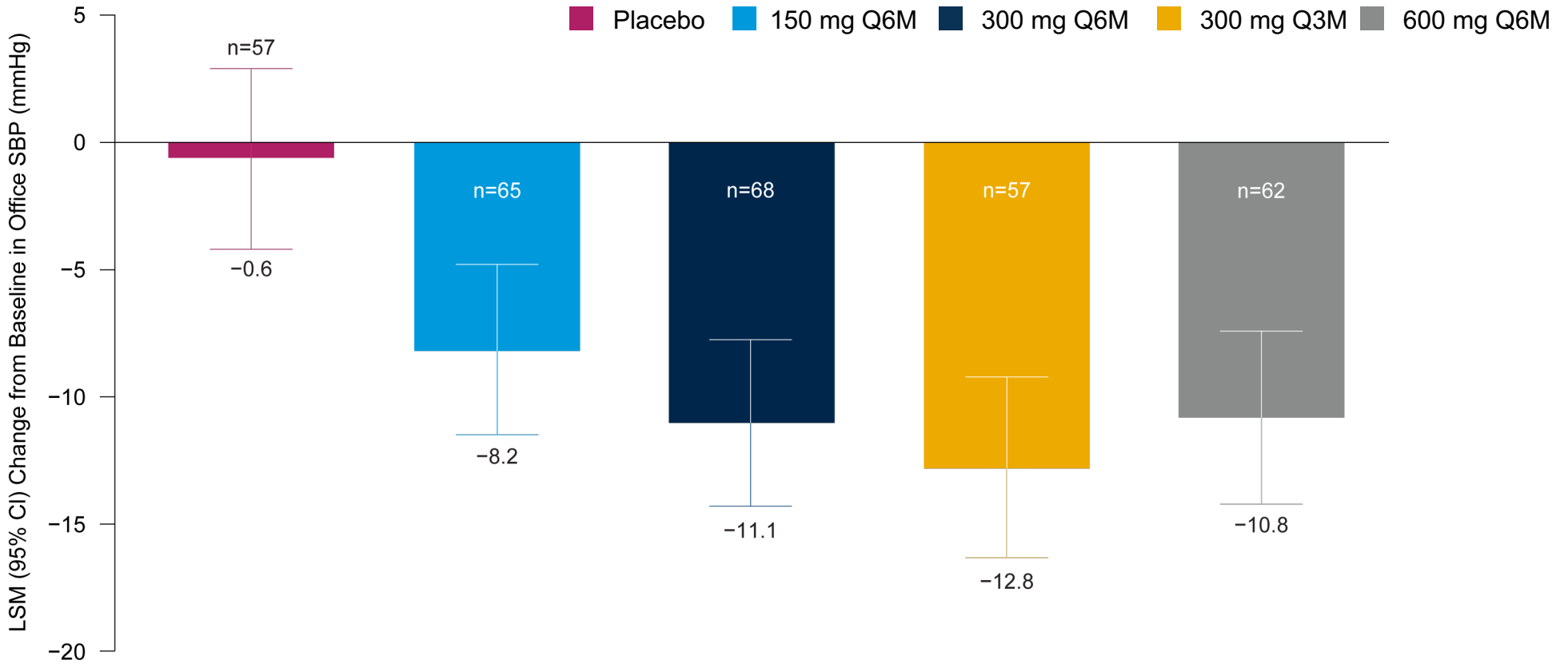
Month 6 (Key Secondary Endpoint)	150 mg Q6M	300 mg Q6M	300 mg Q3M	600 mg Q6M
LSMD vs placebo, mmHg (95% CI)	**−11.1** (−15.8, −6.4), p=4.5E−06	**−14.5** (−19.1, −9.9), p=1.8E−09	**−14.1** (−18.9, −9.4), p=9.1E−09	**−14.2** (−18.9, −9.5), p=5.8E−09

Blood pressure measurements were censored if taken while patients were receiving or within 2 weeks after stopping any rescue medication. [a]The adjusted 95% CI and *p* value are based on Dunnett's test.
ABPM, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring; BL, baseline; CI, confidence interval; LSM, least-squares mean; LSMD, least-squares mean difference; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

Note: The slide is animated to show Month 6 data upon click - please view in presenter mode to see the animation

Significant Decreases in Office SBP with All Zilebesiran Regimens

Change from Baseline to Month 6 in Office SBP



Month 6 (Key Secondary Endpoint)	150 mg Q6M	300 mg Q6M	300 mg Q3M	600 mg Q6M
LSMD vs placebo, mmHg (95% CI)	**−7.5** (−12.4, −2.7), p=0.0025	**−10.5** (−15.3, −5.7), p=2.5E−05	**−12.1** (−17.2, −7.1), p=2.8E−06	**−10.2** (−15.1, −5.3), p=5.9E−05

Blood pressure measurements were censored if taken while patients were receiving or within 2 weeks after stopping any rescue medication.
CI, confidence interval; LSM, least-squares mean; LSMD, least-squares mean difference; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

Consistent Treatment Response Observed with Zilebesiran

The Proportion of Patients Meeting Response Criteria was Significantly Higher with All Zilebesiran Regimens Versus Placebo

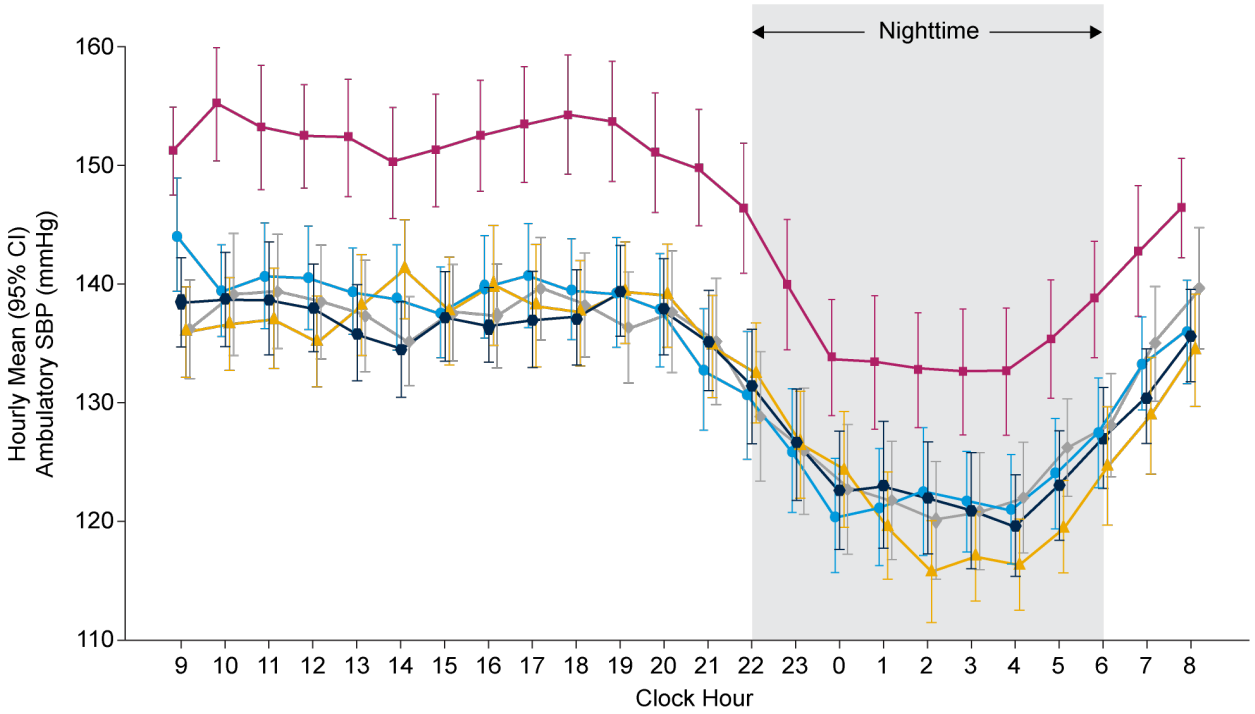
- Treatment response was defined as 24-hour mean ambulatory BPM SBP <130 mmHg and/or reduction of ≥20 mmHg, without additional antihypertensives

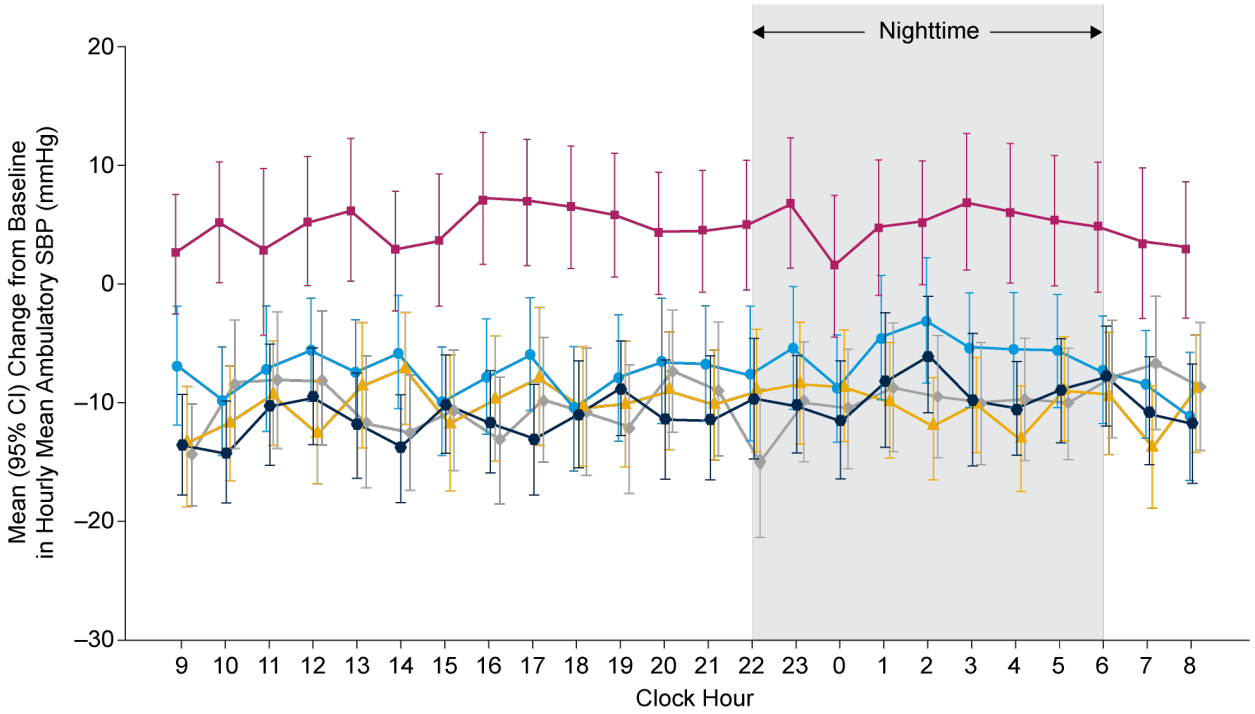
	Placebo (N=75)	Zilebesiran			
		150 mg Q6M (N=78)	300 mg Q6M (N=73)	300 mg Q3M (N=75)	600 mg Q6M (N=76)
Response criteria met, n (%)[a]	5 (7)	24 (31)	37 (51)	29 (39)	36 (47)
Zilebesiran vs placebo					
Odds ratio	–	6.75	19.73	10.73	17.93
95% CI	–	2.35, 19.37	6.84, 56.89	3.76, 30.64	6.24, 51.52
p value	–	0.0004	3.4E−08	9.3E−06	8.4E−08

Response rate defined as proportion of patients with 24-hour mean SBP assessed by ambulatory BPM <130 mmHg and/or reduction ≥20 mmHg without additional antihypertensive medications at Month 6. [a]Assessments are missing for 43 patients.
BPM, blood pressure monitoring; CI, confidence interval; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

Consistent 24-Hour SBP Control Observed Through Month 3

Hourly Mean SBP and Change from Baseline in Hourly Mean SBP Assessed by Ambulatory BPM over 24 Hours





Placebo (n=75) 150 mg Q6M (n=78) 300 mg Q6M (n=73) 300 mg Q3M (n=75) 600 mg Q3M (n=76)

- SBP data to Month 6 were consistent with SBP data to Month 3
- DBP data to Month 3 and Month 6 were consistent with SBP data

Daytime is from 6:00 a.m. to 9:59 p.m. Nighttime is from 10:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. BPM, blood pressure monitoring; CI, confidence interval; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

Zilebesiran Had a Favorable Safety Profile

AE, n (%)	Placebo (N=75)	Zilebesiran				Zilebesiran total (N=302)
		150 mg Q6M (N=78)	300 mg Q6M (N=73)	300 mg Q3M (N=75)	600 mg Q6M (N=76)	
At least 1 study drug-related AE	6 (8)	12 (15)	12 (16)	14 (19)	13 (17)	51 (17)
At least 1 study drug-related AE leading to study drug discontinuation	0	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	4 (1)
Study drug-related AEs (occurring in >5% of patients)						
ISR	0	3 (4)	4 (6)	8 (11)	4 (5)	19 (6)
Hyperkalemia	1 (1)	4 (5)	3 (4)	4 (5)	5 (7)	16 (5)
Additional TEAE of clinical interest (any relatedness)						
Acute renal failure	0	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)	4 (1)
Hepatic AE	1 (1)	2 (3)	2 (3)	4 (5)	1 (1)	9 (3)
Hypotension	1 (1)	3 (4)	3 (4)	3 (4)	4 (5)	13 (4)
Hyperkalemia[a]	2 (3)	5 (6)	4 (6)	5 (7)	5 (7)	19 (6)

- No drug-related AEs were classified as serious or severe
- One death due to cardiopulmonary arrest occurred in a patient receiving zilebesiran; it was not classified as drug-related
- Drug-related AEs leading to discontinuation of zilebesiran were orthostatic hypotension (n=2), BP elevation (n=1), and ISR (n=1)
- Most ISR and hyperkalemia AEs were mild, transient, and did not require therapeutic intervention
- Hypotension AEs were mild or moderate in severity and transient; most did not require therapeutic intervention
- No clinically relevant changes in renal or hepatic function were observed

Definitions based on MedDRA terminology. [a]Hyperkalemia AEs include AEs mapped to the customized query of hyperkalemia, blood potassium increased, and blood potassium abnormal.
AE, adverse event; BP, blood pressure; ISR, injection site reaction; MedDRA, Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities; Q3M, every 3 months; Q6M, every 6 months.

Conclusions

- In KARDIA-1, single subcutaneous doses of zilebesiran resulted in clinically meaningful and significant reductions in 24-hour mean SBP compared with placebo at Month 3, that were sustained through Month 6
  - Tonic blood pressure control was demonstrated by consistent 24-hour mean SBP reductions throughout the dosing period across all zilebesiran regimens
- Zilebesiran demonstrated an encouraging safety profile over 6 months; rates of serious or severe AEs were low, and only mild or moderate drug-related AEs were observed across all zilebesiran regimens
  - Most ISR and hyperkalemia AEs were mild, transient, and resolved without intervention, incidence of hypotension events was low, and no clinically relevant changes in renal or hepatic function were observed
- Zilebesiran is being further evaluated as an add-on therapy for treatment of hypertension in the ongoing KARDIA-2 (NCT05103332) Phase 2 study

Thank you to the patients, their families, investigators, study staff, and collaborators for their participation in the zilebesiran KARDIA-1 study

AE, adverse event; ISR, injection site reaction; SBP, systolic blood pressure.