

Manipulating the Dark Side of Muscle Adaptation for Therapeutic Gain

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When We Exercise, Our Muscles Get Bigger and Stronger

NYT – 'How to get strong'





• Effect of 16 weeks resistance exercise (2/week) in healthy older men (65 yrs)

- Most metrics increased <u>30-50%</u>
- Individual muscle fibers approx. <u>30%</u> bigger

J Gerontology 2000, Vol. 55A, No. 7, B336-B346



More Protein and More Muscle – Dual Pathways to Speed Adaptation

New protein



Membrane stress to activate stem cells



Nat Rev Immunol 2017:17 p165

Combination of protein synthesis/degradation and controlled muscle injury

Cell Metabolism 2017: 25, 581–592



Adaptation Balance and Taking it Too Far!





Excessive or unaccustomed exercise

- Pain
- Stiffness
- Decreases in range of motion
- Increased muscle injury biomarkers (CK and other proteins)



Skeletal Muscle is Comprised of Slow (type I) and Fast (type II) fibers





Slow fibers are Less Prone to Disruption

MORE DISRUPTION

IN FAST





- 30 mins controlled eccentric exercise
- Muscle biopsy taken immediately after exercise

MORE STEM CELL MOBILIZATION IN FAST

- 30 mins controlled eccentric exercise
- Muscle biopsy taken immediately after exercise



J Gerontology Ser A 64A:No. 3, 2009 p332-339

Int. J.. Sports Med. 1983:4, p170176



Do we have different fiber injury susceptibility to maximize adaptation but minimize the risk of disabling injury?



Slow adaptation but less chance of injury?

Fast adaptation but greater chance of injury?



A Gene that Ruins Adaptive Balance - Dystrophin



Edgewise





Becker Muscular Dystrophy (BMD) – Partially Functional Dystrophin

- 4,000-5,000 patients in the U.S.
- Later onset versus DMD, typically 8-15 yrs.
- Variable progression for mobility (late 30s) and cardiomyopathy

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Normal Contraction Leads to Excessive Degeneration in Dystrophic Muscle



- Degeneration requires
 inflammation for repair
- Chronic inflammation leads to fibrosis
- Fibrosis leads to muscle loss and disability

mdx mouse lumbrical

Sue Brooks, Dennis Claflin, Sunny Yu, University of Michigan

Therapeutic interventions have focused on all elements of the degeneration process

Approved therapies

- High dose steroids alter inflammation to extend ambulation approx. 2 years but comes at a cost
- Antisense oligos weekly injections increase expression of shortened dystrophin in some patients. Unknown efficacy

Developing therapies

 Gene therapy – delivery of a micro version of dystrophin via AAV virus. Inherent challenges with safety, efficiency of delivery and micro-dystrophin functionality

Understanding the Function of Dystrophin – A Molecular Connector

Dystrophin connects contractile proteins to the membrane and surrounding matrix of fibers

With dystrophin – fibers support each other

No dystrophin – fibers contract without support

Similar to Healthy Muscle, Fast Fibers are More Sensitive in DMD

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Fast Muscle Fibers Are Preferentially Affected in Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

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Enrichment of muscle regeneration biomarkers in fast but not slow muscle fibers of young DMD kids

Injury Biomarkers Tell the Same Story - Fast but not Slow Fiber Biomarkers are Elevated in BMD and DMD

A Left-Field Strategy to Rebalance Dystrophic Muscle?

Would selective inhibition of fast fiber contraction stop muscle degeneration but allow mixed fast/slow muscles to still function?

The Target – Fast Skeletal Muscle Myosin, the Engine of Force Generation

- A specialized motor protein that generates force by consuming ATP
- Different types of myosin motor are used by different types of 'striated' muscle (fast vs slow vs cardiac)
- <u>The motor in slow</u> <u>fibers and the heart is</u> <u>the same</u>

Identifying a Selective Fast Myosin Inhibitor

700,000 starting compounds

EDG-5506!

EDG-5506 – A Potent, Selective Fast Skeletal Muscle Myosin Inhibitor

Selective inhibition of fast skeletal muscle suspension ATPase (but not slow/cardiac) Concentration-dependent inhibition of force in isolated mouse muscle

EDG-5506 Stops Fiber Breakdown in Contracting DMD Muscle

DMD muscle (*mdx* mouse) no treatment

Contracting at 100%

DMD muscle (*mdx* mouse) 0.3 µM EDG-5506

Contracting at 85%

Claflin, Su and Brooks. U Michigan

mdx mouse lumbrical muscle – 20, 1 second maximal isometric contractions (video sped up)

EDG-5506 Reduces DMD Mouse CK After Exercise Testing without Altering Performance

EDG-5506 Decreases CK and Increases Activity in DMD Dogs

Decreased injury biomarker (plasma CK) *Increased* activity measured with an activity monitor

Progressing EDG-5506 into Clinical trials

- Founded in Boulder, CO July 2017
- Oct 2017 discovery work to identify promising compounds starts
- May 2018 Discovery and advancement of EDG-5506
- Oct 2020 Started dosing healthy volunteers
- Oct 2021 Starting dosing adults with Becker muscular dystrophy
- Dec 2021 Start of 1 year extension study in Becker
- 2H 2022 Start of Becker phase 2 study
- 2H 2022 Start of Duchenne muscular dystrophy studies

EDG-5506 Phase 1 Study Conducted in Healthy Volunteers and Participants with Becker Muscular Dystrophy

Primary Endpoints

Safety and tolerability at 20 mg over a 14-day period in BMD

Participants were monitored as inpatients for 16 days, with follow-up 1 and 4 weeks after completion of dosing.

Participants in the BMD Phase 1b Had Significant Functional Impairment

Characteristic	BMD Participants (N=7) Age Normative Val		
Age	33.8 years		
Functional Measures (median)			
10-meter walk/run	8.3 sec	< 4 sec	
Rise from floor	20 sec	< 3 sec	
Serum Creatinine (mean, mg/dL)	0.58	0.92 - 1.16	
Serum Creatine Kinase (mean CK, U/L)	1,347	<205	

- Functional tests show significantly compromised or lost function
- Low creatinine consistent with decreased muscle mass
- Elevated CK levels reflect ongoing muscle damage

EDG-5506 was Well-Tolerated in BMD Subjects

TEAE	Placebo N=2	EDG-5506 (20 mg) N=5	Total N=7
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Any TEAE	2 (100%)	5 (100%)	7 (100%)
Dizziness	2 (100%)	5 (100%)	7 (100%)
Euphoric mood	0	2 (40%)	2 (29%)
Musculoskeletal stiffness	0	2 (40%)	2 (29%)
Somnolence	0	2 (40%)	1 (14%)
Diarrhea	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Nausea	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Fatigue	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Vessel puncture site bruise	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Back pain	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Pain in jaw	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Headache	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Presyncope	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
Nasal congestion	0	1 (20%)	1 (14%)
AEs of special interest	0	0	0

• No change in grip strength

• All AEs were mild (Grade 1); AEs were transient and generally declined with increasing exposure

How to Detect an Early Activity Signal in BMD?

- Two weeks dosing enough time to assess short-term safety and tolerability but not long enough to measure beneficial effects on strength etc
- Before treatment with EDG-5506, BMD participants had elevated levels of CK as a result of ongoing muscle injury
- Were there other circulating proteins that also leak from muscle?
- Did short-term EDG-5506 stabilize muscle to reduce these proteins?

SOMAscan Aptamer Technology Enables Relative Measurement of 7000 Proteins for a Single Blood Sample

- 'Slow Off-rate Modified Apatamer Scan'
- Aptamers are modified with a biotinylated photocleavable linker developed by Somalogic in Boulder, CO
- Aptamers are mixed with plasma samples then added to biotinylated beads
- Bead-bound proteins are biotinylated and beads are then washed and linker cleaved
- Protein/Aptamer complexes are bound to streptavidin beads and aptamers are then dissociated and quantified on a chip
- Note SOMAscan optimized against human proteins, aptamers may not cross-react with proteins from other species

Using SOMAscan 7,000 Analyte Set, A Proteomic Signature for BMD was Identified

Baseline BMD vs. Healthy Biomarker Fingerprint Analysis

- Baseline plasma samples (n=7) were compared to samples from healthy volunteers (n=25)
- Proteins filtered by magnitude of difference (≥1.5X) and adjusted *p* value (<0.05) vs. HV
- Baseline analysis identified a fingerprint of 125 elevated proteins in BMD

The Majority of Signature Proteins are Lowered by EDG-5506

Use of a Controlled Exercise Study to Annotate Our Becker Response Signature

- EDG-5506 lowered most proteins that were elevated in Becker vs healthy individuals
- However what evidence do we have that any of them are related to exercise-induced injury?

Defining a signature of proteins that directly increase with exercise in Becker

 Using controlled exercise, we established a set of 24 proteins that are elevated pre-exercise in Becker vs healthy and are then further elevated with exercise

EDG-5506 Significantly Reduces proteins associated with injurious exercise in Becker muscular dystrophy

 Reduction of <u>all</u> annotated injury biomarkers with EDG-5505 in Becker muscular dystrophy

EDG-5506 Also Reduces proteins that are Independent of Exercise – *Changing biomarkers outside of basic muscle protection?*

Summary and thanks

- Building on learnings from muscle adaptation to exercise and how different skeletal muscle fiber populations respond, we've devised a novel approach to reduce muscle stress in two grave muscle diseases
- Early tolerability and biomarker data suggest that EDG-5506 has the potential to significant impact skeletal muscle health in Becker muscular dystrophy
- Studies start in Duchenne muscular dystrophy in 2022!

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