

**HEALTH SOLUTIONS** 

## Clinically relevant ADA testing for monoclonal antibody biologics

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## Immunogenicity of therapeutic mAbs

- Development of anti-drug antibodies (ADA) towards the therapeutic mAbs
- Theoretically reduced immunogenicity with humanized and human mAbs



Immunogenicity Lopes dos Santos BJPS 2018

Antibody INN (Trade name)	Antibody type (Generation Technique)	Target	Observed adverse events	Anti-drug antibodies	References
Antibodies targeting cytokines					
Adalimumab ( <i>Humira</i> )	Human (phage display)	TNF	Infections, fever, diarrhea, rash	++++ Neutralizing	Bender, et al. 2007; <sup>48</sup> Coenen, et al. 2007 <sup>49</sup>
Golimumab (Simponi)	Human (transgenic mouse)	TNF	Infusion reactions, nausea, infections	+ Non-neutralizing	Shealy, et al. 2010, <sup>50</sup> Kay, et al. 2010, <sup>51</sup> Kay, et al. 2008 <sup>52</sup>
Certolizumab pegol ( <i>Cimzia</i> )	Humanized Fab	TNF	Abdominal pain, diarrhea, injection site reactions, infection	+ Neutralizing	Baker 2009, <sup>53</sup> Lichtenstein, et al. 2010 <sup>54</sup>
Briakinumab	Human (phage display)	IL12/IL23p40	Infections, fever, diarrhea, malignancies	Unknown	Gandhi, et al. 2010 <sup>55</sup>
Ustekinumab ( <i>Stelara</i> )	Human (transgenic mouse)	IL12/IL23p40	Fatigue, headache, cardiac toxicity, infections	+ Neutralizing	Gandhi, et al. 2010,55 Cingoz 200956
Canakinumab (Ilaris)	Human (transgenic mouse)	IL1	Infections	None Described	Dhimolea 2010,57 Lachmann, et al. 200958
Tocilizumab/ Atlizumab ( <i>Actemra</i> )	Humanized	IL6 receptor	Infusion reactions, infections, malignancy, anaphylaxis	+ Neutralizing	Sharma, et al. 200859
Lerdelimumab	Human (phage display)	TGFβ	Eye based infusion-Cataracts, pain, conjunctivitis	+ Non-neutralizing	Khaw, et al. 2007 <sup>60</sup>
B-E8	Murine	IL6	Headache, vomiting, fever, thrombocytopenia	+ Non-neutralizing	Rossi, et al. 2005,61 Emilie, et al. 199462
CB6	Murine	TNF	Infections, headache, vomit- ing, fever, infusion reactions	+++++	Fisher, et al. 199363
B-N10	Murine	IL10	Infusion reactions	+++++ Neutralizing	Llorente, et al. 2000 <sup>54</sup>
Afelimomab	Murine Fab	TNF	Infections, headache, vomit- ing, fever, infusion reactions	++ Non-neutralizing	Panacek, et al. 2004,65 Reinhart, et al. 200166
Nerelimomab	Murine	TNF	Serum sickness, hypotension	+++++	Cohen and Carlet 199667

Getts moAbs 2010

### Differences in immunogenicity of same drug

Phase I/II adalimumab biosimiars, single dose 40mg, 72d follow-up



Difference in anti-drug antibody ratio despite

- Same technique (MSD ECL)
- Same assay design (homogeneous bridging, acid dissociation)
- Same capture/detection reagents (labeled biologic)
- Small difference is reagent concentrations, and the properties of surrogate positive control determines cut-off for positivity

 Immunogenicity rate in initial clinical studies of Humira in different diseases are much lower: 2 % -26 %



## Requirements from regulatory agencies

Development of different assays:

- 1. Screening assay
- 2. Confirmation assay
- 3. Titre assay
- 4. Neutralization assay

Important requirements

- Detection of all (clinically) relevant antibodies
- Low false positive rate is desirable, false negative results are unacceptable
- Drug tolerant



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Important requirements

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- Low false positive rate is desirable, false negative results are unacceptable
- Drug tolerant
- Only applicable for monoclonal antibodies



## ADA testing in the clinic

- Patients studies of approved drug
  - Adalimumab (anti-TNF)
  - Infliximab (anti-TNF)
  - Ustekinumab (anti-IL-12)
  - Natalizumab (anti- $\alpha 4\beta 1$  integrin)
- Anti-drug antibodies (ADA) to help physician in decisions on treatment
- Clinical relevance of ADA





\*: depending on the capture reagent used, here specified for protein A

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### Drug tolerance of the assays is improved by acid dissociation



Bloem et al. J. Immunol. Methods 2015

### Increased ADA detection in drug tolerant assays

- 94 adalimumab treated RA patients
- 40 mg every other week SC
  - 20 patients 80 mg
- Samples taken before the next administration

However, which assay is correlated with clinical relevance?



Bloem et al. J. Immunol. Methods 2015

#### Development of Antidrug Antibodies Against Adalimumab and Association With Disease Activity and Treatment Failure During Long-term Follow-up JAMA. 2011;305(14):1460-1468

**Context** Short-term data on the immunogenicity of monoclonal antibodies showed associations between the development of antidrug antibodies and diminished serum drug levels, and a diminished treatment response. Little is known about the clinical relevance of antidrug antibodies against these drugs during long-term follow-up.

**Objective** To examine the course of antidrug antibody formation against fully human monoclonal antibody adalimumab and its clinical relevance during long-term (3year) follow-up of patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

**Design, Setting, and Patients** Prospective cohort study February 2004-September 2008; end of follow-up was September 2010. All 272 patients were diagnosed with RA and started treatment with adalimumab in an outpatient clinic.

Main Outcome Measures Disease activity was monitored and trough serum samples



Number of patients with available serum samples are shown.



### Correlation ADA and clinical efficacy in other diseases

Immunogenicity negatively influences the outcome of adalimumab treatment in Crohn's disease

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#### Extent and Clinical Consequences of Antibody Formation Against Adalimumab in Patients With Plaque Psoriasis

Lidian L. A. Lecluse, MD; Rieke J. B. Driessen, MD; Phyllis I. Spuls, MD, PhD; Elke M. G. J. de Jong, MD, PhD; Steven O. Stapel, PhD; Martijn B. A. van Doorn, MD, PhD; Jan D. Bos, MD, PhD, FRCP; Gert-Jan Wolbink, MD, PhD



Lecluse et al. Arch dermatol 2010







Correlation with clinical outcome depends on ADA assay

ABT: drug sensitive

PIA: drug tolerant



Van Schouwenburg et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2013



99 adalimumab treated RA patients

## ADA and drug levels

#### Drug senstive ADA assay

#### Drug tolerant ADA assay



### Clinical relevant ADA for ustekinumab



Ustekinumab: anti-IL-12 (p40 subunit) 340 patients with psoriasis RIA: drug sensitive dtELISA: drug tolerant

Loeff et al. J Invest Derm 2020



### Clinical relevant ADA for ustekinumab



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< 0.0001

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Higher drug tolerance for natalizumab (IgG4 moAb)



IgG4 can exchange half molecules with other IgG4 Resulting in bi-specific antibodies

Rispens et al. Anal. Biochem. 2011

Reduced drug interference of IgG4 moAb biologics

Rispens et al. J Pharm biomed Anal 2013



High levels of anti-natalizumab antibodies reduce efficacy



73 natalizumab treated patients with multiple sclerosis



Vennegoor et al. Mult Scler 2013

## Drug concentration is the main driver in clinical efficacy



Jani *et al* ARD 2017; Tsakok *et al* Jama Dermatol 2020; Takahashi *et al* J Dermatol 2013; Wilkinson *et al* J Invest Dermatol 2019; Kneepkens *et al* 2016; Harrer *et al* Clin Immunol 2017; Pouw *et al*. Ann Rheum Dis 2015

# PK is driving our testing advice













125 infliximab treated patients with Crohn's disease measured in drug sensitive assay





- Increased sensitivity of ADA assays is not always needed (or even wanted)
- Drug tolerant assays are not preferred when clinically relevant ADA needs to be detected (at trough)
- Increased sensitivity and drug tolerant assays can confound effect of ADA on efficacy
- Side effects can be caused by ADA, but mostly related to high ADA levels
- Drug level is the main driver in treatment efficacy



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