Preclinical characterization of BGB-11417, a potent and selective Bcl-2 inhibitor with superior anti-tumor activities in haematological tumour models

**BGB-11417 in blood cancer models**

Nan Hu, Yunhang Guo, Hai Xue, Ye Liu, Yin Guo, Fan Wang, Xiaomin Song, Ying Guo, Shuaishuai Chen, Haipeng Xu, Taichang Zhang, Yanwen Ma, Xuebing Sun, Yuan Hong, Yutong Zhu, Aiying Xu, Zhenzhen Cheng, Haimei Xing, Zhiwei Wang, Xuesong Liu and Lai Wang

**Affiliations:** 1Department of Medicinal Chemistry, 2Department of Biochemistry, 3Department of Discovery Biology, 4Department of In Vivo Pharmacology, 5Department of DMPK, 6Biology, 7Global Research, Clinical Operation & Biometrics and APAC Clinical Development, BeiGene (Beijing) Co., Ltd., Beijing, P.R. China.

#Nan Hu and Yunhang Guo are considered co-first authors

*Corresponding author: Nan Hu, BeiGene (Beijing) Co., Ltd., No.30 Science Park Road, Zhong-Guan-Cun Life Science Park, Changping District, Beijing 102206, P.R.China. Phone: +86-10-5895-8191; Email: nan.hu@beigene.com

The ability to evade apoptosis is a hallmark of cancer. B-cell lymphoma-2 (Bcl-2), an anti-apoptosis protein, is overexpressed and leads to oncogenesis or drug resistance in various tumor types, including lymphoma and leukemia. Bcl-2 is a well-validated target for B cell malignancies as demonstrated by a Bcl-2 inhibitor venetoclax which was recently approved for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and is currently in phase III clinical development for other hematologic malignancies. With longer term treatment, recurrent mutation G101V in Bcl-2 has been reported to mediate resistance to venetoclax in patients with CLL. Herein, we report the pharmacological properties of BGB-11417, a highly potent and selective BCL-2 inhibitor, in preclinical models. BGB-11417 potently inhibited both wildtype and G101V-mutated Bcl-2 in SPR binding assay with IC50 of 0.035 and 0.28 nM, respectively. BGB-11417 was a more potent Bcl-2 inhibitor than venatoclax in both enzymatic and cellular assays. In a binding assay for BH3 peptide and Bcl2, BGB-11417 and venatoclax showed an IC50 of 0.014 nM and 0.2 nM, respectively. In addition, BGB-11417 potently inhibited the proliferation of a Bcl-2 dependent...
acute lymphoblastic leukemias (ALL) cell line RS4;11 with an IC₅₀ of 0.81 nM, but not a Bcl-xL dependent T-ALL cell line Molt-4. Moreover, BGB-11417 exhibited potent cell killing activity against a variety of lymphoma and leukemia cell lines, including follicular lymphomas (FL), mantle cell lymphomas (MCL), diffuse large B-cell lymphomas (DLBCL) and acute myeloid leukemias (AML). BGB-11417 was also highly selective, showing ≥2000folds selectivity to Bcl-xL, BCL-W, MCL-1 and BCL2A1. In pharmacokinetics (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD) studies, oral administration of BGB-11417 displayed a clear PK and PD correlation in RS4;11 ALL xenografts as shown by the increase of cleaved caspase 3 level with the increase of BGB-11417 concentration in tumor tissue. Furthermore, BGB-11417 demonstrated significantly greater efficacy than venetoclax in human ALL, MCL and DLBCL xenograft models without body weight loss. Collectively, BGB-11417 is a potent and highly selective Bcl-2 inhibitor with superior anti-tumor activities compared with venetoclax in preclinical studies. The phase I study of BGB-11417 for treatment of hematological cancers is ongoing.