Further positive results for VAL001

Respiratorius announces that valproate has demonstrated enhanced inhibiting effects on cell growth, so-called antiproliferative effects, in combination with etoposide, which in recent years has been introduced together with standard R-CHOP therapy for DLBCL patients requiring more intense treatment. Based on these results, VAL001 demonstrates its potential as a pretreatment for R-CHOEP as well as R-CHOP therapy.

Chemotherapy consisting of a combination of cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone (CHOP) in combination with immunotherapy targeting CD20 such as rituximab (so-called R-CHOP therapy) is the standard initial treatment of newly diagnosed DLBCL. CHOP treatment together with valproate was shown to have significant antiproliferative effects *in vitro* (Ageberg *et al*. 2013) and this was later supported *in vivo* where significant clinical effects on e.g. overall survival were demonstrated when combining valproate with R-CHOP in patients with DLBCL in a phase I/IIa study (VALFRID trial, Drott et al., 2018).

Patients less than 70 years of age with intermediate or high risk might require intensified treatment with the addition of etoposide, so-called R-CHOEP. Howeveronly recently the effect of valproate with this treatment combination has t been investigated *in vitro*, using two different lymphoma B-cell lines. For the first time it was demonstrated that etoposide decreased cell proliferation and the combination of valproate and etoposide enhanced the antiproliferative effect in both cell lines. This would thus indicate that not only R-CHOP treated patients would benefit from the addition of valproate but also the more severely ill patients in need for R-CHOEP therapy.

We are excited about the new results which further emphasize the potential of VAL001 for the treatment of DLBCL. In addition, the preliminary clinical results from the ongoing pharmacokinetic study in healthy subjects of VAL001, which is the tailored formulation of valproate, have recently been evaluated by the internal Safety Review Committee. The relatively high doses of VAL001 given in the study are considered safe and achieved the anticipated concentrations. Thus, the study continues according to protocol, says CEO Johan Drott in a comment.

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Respiratorius AB (publ) is developing drug candidates with the goal to launch drugs for common diseases cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and severe asthma. In addition, the project portfolio is a project for improved diagnosis of certain cardiovascular diseases.