Activation of innate and adaptive immune response with a clinical stage TLR7 agonist prodrug PRTX007

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Background

- Use of the toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) pathway to stimulate innate and adaptive immunity for treatment of cancer and multiple viral diseases has been well characterized
- Historically, systemically administered TLR7 agonists present a variety of challenges in providing therapeutic benefit that have been successfully addressed with PRTX007
- PRX034, an orally administered TLR7 agonist comprised of the prodrug PRTX007, elicits a robust, well-tolerated immune response involving activation of plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs), CD8+ T cells, and natural killer (NK) cells throughout the body with no evidence of nuclear factor κB (NF-κB)–mediated inflammation^{1,2}; it is expected to also activate these cells in cancer patient tumor microenvironments
- We performed a first-in-human, phase 1, prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, singleascending dose (SAD) and multiple-ascending dose (MAD) study of PRTX007, and reported interim results on the following
- PRTX007 demonstrated a favorable safety profile with no serious adverse events (SAEs) and a lack of the adverse events (AEs) historically associated with TLR7 agonists
- Robust systemic immune induction was achieved, without counter-regulation or evidence of systemic inflammation, in healthy volunteers (HVs) receiving PRTX007 in the 300- to 500-mg MAD cohorts
- Here we report clinical pooled safety for the phase 1 study and new data on the immune correlate endpoints for the 750-mg cohort
- Data from preclinical studies (including primates) and this phase 1 clinical study suggest a novel mechanism of action (MOA) for PRX034. Like other classical TLR7 agonists, PRX034 stimulates systemic immune induction via activation of pDCs; however, unlike the classical TLR7 agonists, downstream activation is restricted to NK cells (innate immunity) and naïve and cytotoxic T cells (adaptive immunity), with minimal activation of B cells (Figure 1). The activation and downstream cascade elicit effective antitumor and antiviral responses

Mechanism of Action (MOA)

Activation of pDCs by TLR7 Agonist PRX034 Elicits Effective Antitumor and Antiviral Responses Figure 1. MOA for PRX034 is focused on pDC activation



IFN=interferon; NK=natural killer; TC=cytotoxic T cell; TH1= T helper type 1; TME=tumor and its surrounding microenvironment; TLR7=toll-like receptor 7

• **PRTX007** is an oral prodrug that delivers the TLR7 agonist **PRX034** throughout the body

- PRX034 pharmacologic activities are more restricted than most TLR7 agonists Avoids induction of NFκB-mediated biosynthesis of proinflammatory factors Minimizes activation of B cells
- **PRX034** pharmacologic activity engages CD8+ T cells and NK cells, the two most important immune cells for killing cancer cells
- Avoids systemic inflammation while delivering therapeutic benefit

PRX118 and the Mouse Model Experimental Design

Figure 2. Experimental design for assessing mono and combination therapy of PRX118 in a mouse tumor model

		PRX118 (prodrug of PRX Every other day (10 doses):	(034)ª Day 7 - 25		
					Analysis - Tumor growth/Tumor weight - Flow cytometry
C3H/HeN WT	Day 0 Tumor injection AT-84-E7-OVA 5 × 10 ⁵ cells	Anti (α)-PD-L1 ^ь Every 3 days (5 doses): Day 7, 10, 13, 16, 19		Day 26 Sacrifice	
Tumor cell			Groups (n=7 or 8 per	group)	
AT-84-E7-C 5 × 10⁵ cell)VA s in right flank		 Control (PBS) α-PD-L1 PRX118 	(n=8) (n=8) (n=7)	
Mouse C3H/HeN, 1	female, 12 weeks o	ld	4. PRX118 + α-PD-L1	(n=7)	
Analysis - Tumor gro - Flow cytor	owth metry		PRX118: 100 mg/kg, e α-PD-L1: 200 μg/mou	every 2 day se, every 3	s, total 10 doses, i.p. days, total 5 doses, i.p.
i.p.=intraperitoneal; PBS [°] PRX118, a mouse-comp [°] Anti (α)-PD-L1, an antib	=phosphate buffered saline. atible prodrug surrogate for I ody directed against program	PRTX007 that converts to PRX034. Imed cell death ligand 1 (PD-L1) and used an immune checkpoir	it inhibitor.		

• Preclinical testing of the MOA was carried out in a mouse tumor model (Figure 2)

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• Mono and combination immunotherapy of PRX118, the mouse-compatible prodrug surrogate for PRTX007, was assessed in a murine tumor model expressing the E7 oncogene from the human papillomavirus (HPV)^{3,4}

PRX118 Mono and Combination Immunotherapy in Murine Tumor Model Expressing the E7 Oncogene From the HPV Demonstrate Importance of TLR7 Agonist

Figure 3. Tumor volume reduction and enhanced infiltration of tumor-associated CD8+ T-cells observed after mono and combination therapy



 $*P \le 0.05; **P \le 0.01; ***P \le 0.001; ****P \le 0.0001$

- Significant antitumor activity of TLR7 agonist monotherapy was observed (exceeding that of PD-L1 inhibitor alone) (Figure 3, left panel)
- Increased antitumor activity was obtained when combining these 2 mechanisms
- The percent of tumor growth inhibition observed at Day 25 compared to placebo was 18% for α-PD-L1, 31% for PRX118, and 56% for combination therapy (PRX118 + α -PD-L1)
- Orthogonal antitumor mechanisms were induced (Figure 3, right panel)
- An increase in CD8+ T-cell tumor infiltration was observed with combination therapy compared with monotherapy - Systemic activation of CD8+ T cells resulted in increased CD8+ T-cell infiltration in the presence of the CPI, resulting in increased killing of tumor cells
- PRX034 and closely related compounds have also demonstrated activity in CT26 colon carcinoma and B16F10 melanoma rodent tumor models (data not shown)

Overview of Pharmacodynamic (PD) Markers and Relative Sensitivity to PRTX007 Dose in the Phase 1a Clinical Study

Figure 4. PD markers and their sensitivity to optimized TLR7 agonists



Methods

- This was a first-in-human, phase 1, single-center, prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 9 single-ascending dose (SAD) cohorts and 4 multiple-ascending dose (MAD) cohorts of PRTX007 administered every other day (QOD) orally to adult healthy volunteers (HVs) in Sydney, Australia²
- The 500-mg MAD cohort terminated early (after 5th dose) because of COVID-19
- Primary objectives were to assess clinical safety and tolerability of PRTX007 in HVs
- Secondary objectives were to (1) assess the pharmacokinetic (PK) characteristics of both PRTX007 and PRX034, (2) assess the PD responses of PRX034 over single and multiple doses in normal HVs, and (3) compare the PK profiles of free-base and salt forms of PRTX007
- Rationale for conducting a phase 1 study in HVs included: (1) identification of drug-specific AEs and PD markers, which is not possible to do in combination therapy in oncology patients, (2) increased clinical sampling, allowing investigators to build a comprehensive PD profile, and (3) identification of the specific active dosing range for use in cancer studies, which will help significantly reduce time, costs, and patient burden in future studies



Clinical Pooled Safety Summary

AE profile for the 104 of 130 HVs receiving study drug.

The total number of AEs recorded in treated HVs was 110, with 42 attributed to PRTX007.

- There were no Grade 3 or higher AEs
- There were no clinically meaningful changes observed in creatinine, BUN, or uric acid
- There was no dose modification or discontinuation due to treatment-related AEs

Table 1. Most common AEs coded as treatment-related compared with placebo

			PRTX007 Percent (X/104=%) Grade Response		Response
AEs (X from N=130)	Placebo (n=26)	PRTX007 (n=104)	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3
Nervous System Disorders					
Headache (40)ª	4	17ª	12%	5%	0
Hepatobiliary Disorders					
Elevated ALT (5) ^b	0	5 ^b	5%°	0	0
General Disorders					
Fever (transient) (4)	1	3 ^d	3%	0	0
ALT-alaning transaminaso					

19 additional headaches in the PRTX007-treated group were coded as unrelated to drug. There was no dose dependence ^bNo significant changes in aspartate transferase, bilirubin, or alkaline phosphatase were observed

^c4 of 5 HVs exhibited levels between 1.5x and 2x the upper limits of normal (ULN); 1 HV was at ~2.8x the ULN. ^dTransient fever; resolved within 24-36 hours and did not recur upon subsequent dosing.

Individual HV Clinical Data for the 750-mg MAD Cohort

Well-behaved PK of PRX034 Following Oral Administration of 750 mg

As presented previously,² the PKs of PRTX007 and PRX034 were well behaved with exposure increasing proportionally to PRTX007 dose without accumulation upon repeated dosing (mean PRX034 AUC (hr*ng/ml) on D1: 13,692; D13: 13,933 for 750-mg dose cohort)

PD Responses in 750-mg Cohort



Values are Log, R_{max 0-24hr} (Log, maximal fold-change from pretreatment baseline during 24-hr period following administration of PRTX007). All HVs receiving PRTX007 in the 200- to 800-mg SAD cohorts, and the 300- to 750-mg MAD cohorts (n=68) are shown. Color intensity is as shown in scale.

- Coordinated expression of ISGs and genes known to be related to TLR7 agonism were observed in immune cells in blood in all HVs
- The well-controlled expression seen with a single dose was maintained during repeated doses
- Two HVs that were poorly responsive to the first dose (first dose response highlighted in orange) established a robust response upon repeated dosing
- The increased responsiveness in HVs 1 and 2 was not due to increased drug exposure, but rather due to increased sensitivity to drug
- There was no change in expression of NF-κB–regulated gene products

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ISG=interferon-stimulated gene

PRTX007 Immune Cytokine Profile Demonstrates Compatibility for Combination Treatment With CPIs Figure 7. Individual time course of cytokine profiles for all subjects in the 750-mg PRTX007 cohort (n=8)^{a,b}

PRTX007 was administered for 2 weeks to 8 HVs (n=8) at 7 doses at 750 mg/dose QOD. Each colored line represents an individual H Day 1 was the predose data point and serves as a baseline. Day 21 was 8 days post last dose and shows cytokine levels return to baseline

• A coordinated downstream immune response is suggested by the induction of selected circulating markers by the oral PRTX007 TLR7 agonist prodrug

- Increases in IP10, monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 (MCP-1), and IL-1RA in plasma were observed
- IL-6 and TNF- α remained essentially unchanged from pretreatment levels
- No substantive increase in circulating Type I IFN or IL-1 β were measured; these markers were less than lower limit of quantitation

Activation and Proliferation Markers Demonstrate Systemic CD8+ T Cell and NK Cell Engagement in 750-mg PRTX007 Cohort

Figure 8. Activation and proliferation in CD8+ T Cells and NK Cells in 750-mg PRTX007 cohort (n=8)



• The proportion of CD8+ T cells and NK cells, with significant expression of the activation marker CD38 and proliferation marker Ki67, increased markedly from pretreatment to end of dosing in all HVs. During this period:

- CD38+ CD8+ T cells increased from 11.8% to 21.9% and CD38+ NK cells increased from 59.4% to 80.0% - Ki67+ expressing CD8+ T cells increased from 1.1% to 9.8% and Ki67+ expressing NK cells increased from 3.6%
- to 10.3% • In contrast, minimal change in activation and proliferation markers was observed for CD4+ T cells and B cells (data not shown; data on file). See also Figure 1

Conclusions & Discussion

• PRTX007 demonstrated a favorable safety profile in all HVs receiving drug in phase 1

• In the 750-mg MAD cohort, activation of the innate and adaptive immune response, including important effector cell populations, were observed without systemic increases in proinflammatory factors

- Induction of ISGs without significant increases in circulating IFNs was observed
- No increase in expression or circulating levels of proinflammatory cytokines (eg, TNF- α) was noted
- CD8+ NK and T-cell activation (CD38+ markers) increased markedly from pretreatment to end of dosing in all HVs • Both the clinical characteristics and unique pattern of immune induction by PRTX007 support its use in
- combination with CPIs
- Local antitumor activity of intratumorally administered pDC-activating agents in combination with systemic CPIs is well recognized, but overall clinical benefit has been limited
- Use of PRTX007 in combination with CPIs in the murine tumor model expressing the HPV E7 oncogene revealed robust antitumor activity. Increased CD8+ T-cell infiltration of tumors occurred only in the presence of the CPI - We believe the proposed combination will increase therapeutic benefit in cancer immunotherapy
- These data justify further exploration of PRTX007 as a potential cancer therapeutic; a future study will include a combination with a CPI in solid tumors at active doses identified in this HV study

References

1. Appleman JA, et al. Abstract 582: Selection of a novel toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist PRX034 for immunotherapy of cancer. Cancer Res. 2020;80(16S):582. 2. Lemech C, et al. Abstract CT189: PRTX007, an optimized TLR7 agonist for systemic immunotherapy of cancers: Interim analysis of phase I study in healthy volunteers. *Cancer Res.* 2022;82(suppl 12):CT189-CT189. **3.** Paolini F, et al. Immunotherapy in new pre-clinical models of HPV-associated oral cancers. Hum Vaccin Immunother. 2013;9(3)534-543. 4. Kim SS, et al. B cells improve overall survival in HPV-associated squamous cell carcinomas and are activated by radiation and PD-1 blockade. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2020;26(13):3345-3359.

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PRTX007, an Optimized TLR7 Agonist for Systemic Immunotherapy of Cancers: Interim Analysis of Phase I Study in Healthy Volunteers Charlotte R. Lemech¹, Christopher Argent¹, <u>Curtis L. Scribner²</u>, Richard Daniels³, James R. Appleman³

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Background

- The TLR7 (toll-like receptor 7) pathway to stimulate innate and adaptive immunity for treatment of cancer and multiple viral diseases, has been well characterized
- Systemically administered TLR7 agonists present a variety of challenges as clinical drug candidates to provide therapeutic benefit
- Primmune Therapeutics has designed and developed an orally administered, systemically distributed TLR7 agonist that elicits a robust, well-tolerated immune response involving activation of plasmacytoid dendritic cells (pDCs) throughout the body¹; it is expected to also activate pDCs resident in the tumor microenvironment in cancer patients
- PRTX007 (oral prodrug) and the corresponding well-tolerated TLR7 agonist, PRX034, achieve acceptable potency with dose- dependent control of immune induction without driving a pro-inflammatory response

Activation of Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cells (pDCs) by TLR7 Agonists Elicits Effective Anti-tumor Response



PRX034 is Highly Preferential for pDC-mediated Interferon Induction While Minimizing Inflammatory Cytokine Production When Compared to Traditional TLR7 Agonists



Overview of Pharmacodynamic Markers and Relative Sensitivity to PRTX007 Dose in the Phase 1a Clinical Study



Methods

- This is a first-in-human, phase 1, single-center, prospective, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of 9 single-ascending dose (SAD) cohorts and 4 multiple-ascending dose (MAD) cohorts of PRTX007 administered orally to adult healthy volunteers (HVs) that is ongoing in Sydney, Australia 500 mg MAD cohort truncated after 5th dose because of COVID
- Primary objective is to assess clinical safety and tolerability of PRTX007 in HVs
- Secondary objectives are to (1) assess the pharmacokinetic (PK) characteristics of both PRTX007 and PRX034, and (2) assess the pharmacodynamic (PD) responses of PRX034 over single and multiple doses in normal HVs

Study Design for Phase 1 SAD and MAD Trial in Healthy Volunteers (Double-blind, Placebo-controlled)

Healthy Volunteers – SAD cohorts ^a			n=72			
50 mg 100 mg	150 mg	200 mg	300 mg	400 mg	500 mg	600
Healthy Volunteers – MAD cohorts [®]			n=40			
			300 mg	400 mg	500 mg	

^a: Each SAD cohort contains 6 treated and 2 placebo HVs/group; food effect study at 100 mg ^b: Each MAD cohort contains 8 treated and 2 placebo HVs/group; administered QOD over 13 days (7 doses); TBD initiates in Mar 2022

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Results

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Favorable Safety Profile and Tolerability

- Safety and adverse event (AE) data for 102 subjects across nine SAD and three MAD cohorts Most AEs are incidental and not dose related. No moderate or severe AEs; no serious
- AEs (SAEs) • Most common drug-related AE is headache, which is seen in 11.8% of subjects Mild (9.8%, n=10), Moderate (2.0%, n=2)
- Transient in nature and resolved either without intervention or with use of OTC meds These occur in both treated and placebo groups (n=10 vs n=20) with no

Well-behaved PK of PRX034 Following Oral Administration of PRTX007



PRX034 following oral administration Targeted short duration of pulsatile exposure to PRX034 Duration of systemic exposure to PRX034 at pharmacologically active levels is consistent with activation of innate immune response without counter-regulation



Induction of IFN-Stimulated Gene Products (ISG) and Other TLR7-Associated Cytokines Without NF-κB-Mediated Inflammatory Cytokines (IL-18, IL-6, TNFα) Heat map of selected transcripts demonstrates coordinated response following first dose







- Pharmacodynamic response increases with dose as measured by: Proportion of HVs responding to first- or single-dose administration Magnitude of induction within responders
- The integrated response rate at 800 mg in the SAD cohort is 100%
- These ISG transcript increases are observed in the absence of a corresponding increase in circulating interferons (data not shown)





Increases in IFN levels in plasma



- Elevated ALT noted in two subjects at both the 300 mg MAD and 400 mg MAD dose cohorts Not seen in the 500 mg MAD cohort
- No associated changes in AST, bilirubin or alkaline phosphatase
- No stopping or dose modifications required, and ALT levels resolved to within normal range post-dosing
- Three mild to moderate fevers recorded at the 500 mg MAD dose







nsity is	as	shown	in	scale.	

hanistic ther)	CCL2 (MCP-1)	C-C motif chemokine ligand 2; MCP-1		
	CXCL10 (IP10)	C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 10; IP-10		
	IL1RN (IL-1RA)	interleukin 1 receptor antagonist; IL-1RA		
Mec (o	IRF7	interferon regulatory factor 7		
	TLR7	toll-like receptor 7		









- Selected circulating markers induced by PRX034 exposure in 50 to 600 mg SAD in HVs shown for IL-1RA, MCP1, or TRAIL)
- IP-10 protein levels and mRNA levels increase in response to drug exposure (A)
- Increased IP-10 in plasma indicates activation of multiple cell types downstream from activated pDCs (see cell types in, B)

is Reached



AUC = area under the plasma drug concentration-time curve

Population pharmacodynamic responses to repeated doses at 300, 400 and 500 mg/dose are shown. Detailed daily kinetics are available following administration of the first three doses (Day 1-6, top row). Sparse kinetics are available on subsequent days (sparse kinetics depicted for D1-14 for 300 and 400 mg dose groups and D1-10 for 500 mg dose group, middle row). • No induction is observed for classic inflammatory factors IL-6, TNFα and IL-1β (data not shown)

- until steady state is achieved (bottom row)

Conclusions & Discussion

- No SAEs; lack of AEs historically associated with TLR7 agonists
- Induction of ISGs without significant increases in circulating IFNs

- Reference

adaptive immunity

Disclosures & Acknowledgements This study was funded by Primmune Therapeutics, Inc.



IP-10 (CXCL10): Breadth of immune induction without induction of NF-κB pathway products

Increased IP-10 in plasma indicates action through extended cellular network Not accompanied by increased inflammatory factors

AUC=area under the plasma drug concentration-time curve; IFNAR=IFN alpha receptor; IFNGR=IFN gamma receptor; IP-10=interferon gamma-induced protein 10; OAS1=2'-5'-oligoadenylate synthetase 1; Rmax=maximum response A. mRNA expression of markers after a SAD of PRTX007 at 50 to 600 mg (n = 64; includes placebo-treated HVs). The inset shows that some statistically significant responses (values above dashed line) of lower magnitudes also occur at lower exposures to PRX034. The threshold for significance is set from the placebo group (n = 16) as the geometric mean (GM) of IP10 mRNA + 2*SD of the GM; values above this line represent true responders. **B.** Coordinated downstream immune response.

- IP-10, IL-1RA, monocyte chemoattractant protein 1 (MCP1), and tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL) are expressed at high levels in plasma (data not

• Inflammatory factor production (IL-6, TNFα, IL-1β) is not observed even in the face of this profound immune stimulation (B)

When PRTX007 is Administered Repeatedly on a QOD (Every Other Day) Dosing Schedule, the Magnitude of ISG Induction Increases Until a Steady State



• In general, the magnitude of response increases with each dose until a steady-state is achieved (typically by dose 3-4, see middle row)

- For ISG15, OAS1 and CXCL10 (IP-10), expression peaks at 12-24 hours followed by a decline until the next dose of PRTX007 is administered (top row)

- For IFI27 (interferon alpha inducible protein 27), accumulation is observed throughout the entire time course until steady state is achieved (top and middle rows)

• For the classical ISGs (ISG15, OAS1, IFI27), the number of responders (HVs achieving a defined threshold for increase in mRNA level versus baseline) increases with repeated dosing

- For CXCL10 (IP-10) which is not directly linked to type I interferons, this pattern is less obvious (bottom row)

• At the interim analysis, PRTX007 demonstrated a favorable safety profile when administered orally to all 9 SAD and 3 MAD cohorts tested

• Stable systemic immune induction without evidence of counter-regulation is achieved upon QOD dosing

- No increase in expression or circulating levels of proinflammatory cytokines (eg, TNF α , IL-6, IL-1 β)

• Both the clinical characteristics and unique pattern of immune induction by PRTX007 support its use in combination with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICPIs)

- Local antitumor activity of intratumorally administered pDC-activating agents in combination with systemic ICPIs is well recognized but overall clinical benefit has been limited - We believe the proposed combinations will increase therapeutic benefit in cancer immunotherapy by maintaining sustained, systemic immune pressure involving both innate and

1. Appleman JA, et al. Abstract 582: Selection of a novel toll-like receptor 7 (TLR7) agonist PRX034 for immunotherapy of cancer. Cancer Res. 2020; 80 (16S): 582

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