

Clinical Evaluation of the Effect of Aficamten on QT/QTc Interval in Healthy Participants

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INTRODUCTION

- Aficamten is a next-in-class small molecule, selective cardiac myosin inhibitor (CMI) in development for treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM).
- The potential of aficamten to prolong the corrected QT (QTc) interval was evaluated in nonclinical studies, including an in vitro human ether-à-go-go-related gene (hERG) assessment ($IC_{50} > 10 \mu\text{M}$) and a telemetry study in dogs (no drug-related effects on electrocardiogram [ECG] parameters at tested doses).
- This study was conducted in accordance with ICH E14 guidance to evaluate the effect of aficamten on the QTc interval in healthy participants and thereby exclude a clinically concerning effect on QTc interval at therapeutic concentrations.
- Evaluation of aficamten doses >50 mg was limited by potential systolic dysfunction in healthy participants.
- The main circulating metabolites in plasma (CK-3834282 and CK-3834283; pharmacologically inactive) were also included in the cardiodynamic evaluation.

METHODS

Study Design

- This was a phase 1, 2-part study in healthy participants.
 - Part A: dose-finding (n=10):
 - Open-label single-dose study to identify a dose for Part B (TQT study).
 - Part B: TQT study (n=34):
 - Randomized, double-blind, positive- and placebo-controlled single dose 3-way crossover study that minimizes potential decreases of LVEF <50% (Figure 1).

Study Endpoints

- PK parameters: area under concentration–time curve (AUC_{0-24}), maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}), and maximum time to plasma concentration (t_{max}), estimated using noncompartmental analysis.
 - Descriptive comparison of aficamten exposures with phase 3 (SEQUOIA-HCM, NCT05186818) PK data at steady state.
- Placebo-corrected change from baseline in QTc using Fridericia's correction (ddQTcF).
 - Primary analysis: Concentration-QTc interval (C-QT) evaluation using linear mixed-effects modeling.
 - Model components: Change from baseline QTcF (dQTcF) was used as the dependent variable, time-matched analyte plasma concentrations as explanatory variables, centered baseline QTcF as an additional covariate, and study treatment and time as fixed effects. A random intercept and slopes were reported per participant.
 - 5 C-QT models were explored: each analyte alone and a combination of the parent with each metabolite (aficamten + CK-3834282 and aficamten + CK-3834283).
 - Model with t-value <1.95 and the smallest Akaike information criterion (AIC) estimate were selected as the primary model.
 - Lack of QTc prolongation was concluded if the upper bound of the 2-sided 90% CI of least squares (LS) mean ddQTcF was <10 msec at the highest clinically relevant exposure (geometric mean C_{max}) of aficamten.
 - Secondary analysis: By time point:
 - Change in QTcF from baseline (central-tendency) between aficamten and placebo was estimated.
 - Aficamten was concluded not to prolong QTc interval if the upper bound of the 2-sided 90% CI of LS mean ddQTcF was <10 msec at all post-dose time points.

OBJECTIVES

Primary Objectives

- Dose determination for Part B (TQT study) using pharmacokinetics (PK) and safety data from Part A (dose-finding study).
- Evaluate the effect of a single oral dose of aficamten on the QTc interval in healthy participants.
- Evaluate PK of aficamten (and its metabolites CK-3834282 and CK-3834283) following a single oral dose in healthy participants.

Secondary Objectives

- Evaluate the effects of a single aficamten oral dose on other ECG parameters.
- Assess the safety and tolerability of a single oral dose of aficamten.

Exploratory Objective

- Evaluate the effect of aficamten metabolites CK-3834282 and CK-3834283 on the QTc interval in healthy participants following a single oral dose of aficamten.

RESULTS

Participants

- Baseline demographics of enrolled participants are provided in Table 1.
- All enrolled participants completed Part A, whereas 2 participants terminated early (before the start of period 3) in Part B.

Table 1: Summary of baseline demographics and clinical characteristics

Demographics	Part A (N=10)	Part B (N=34)
Sex (male / female), n	3 / 7	12 / 22
Age, mean (SD), y	32.8 (7.15)	35.3 (6.63)
BMI, mean (SD), kg/m ²	24.6 (2.74)	26.1 (2.65)
Race, n (%)		
Asian	1 (10)	2 (6)
Black or African American, Asian	1 (10)	9 (26)
White	8 (80)	22 (65)
White, Black or African American	0 (0)	1 (3)
Ethnicity, n (%)		
Hispanic or Latino	7 (70)	28 (82)
LVEF, mean (SD), %	66.2 (1.40)	67.0 (1.96)
BP (systolic / diastolic), mean (SD), mmHg	114 (16.6) / 69.4 (5.64)	114 (10.7) / 73.6 (9.00)

BMI=body mass index; SD=standard deviation.

Pharmacokinetics

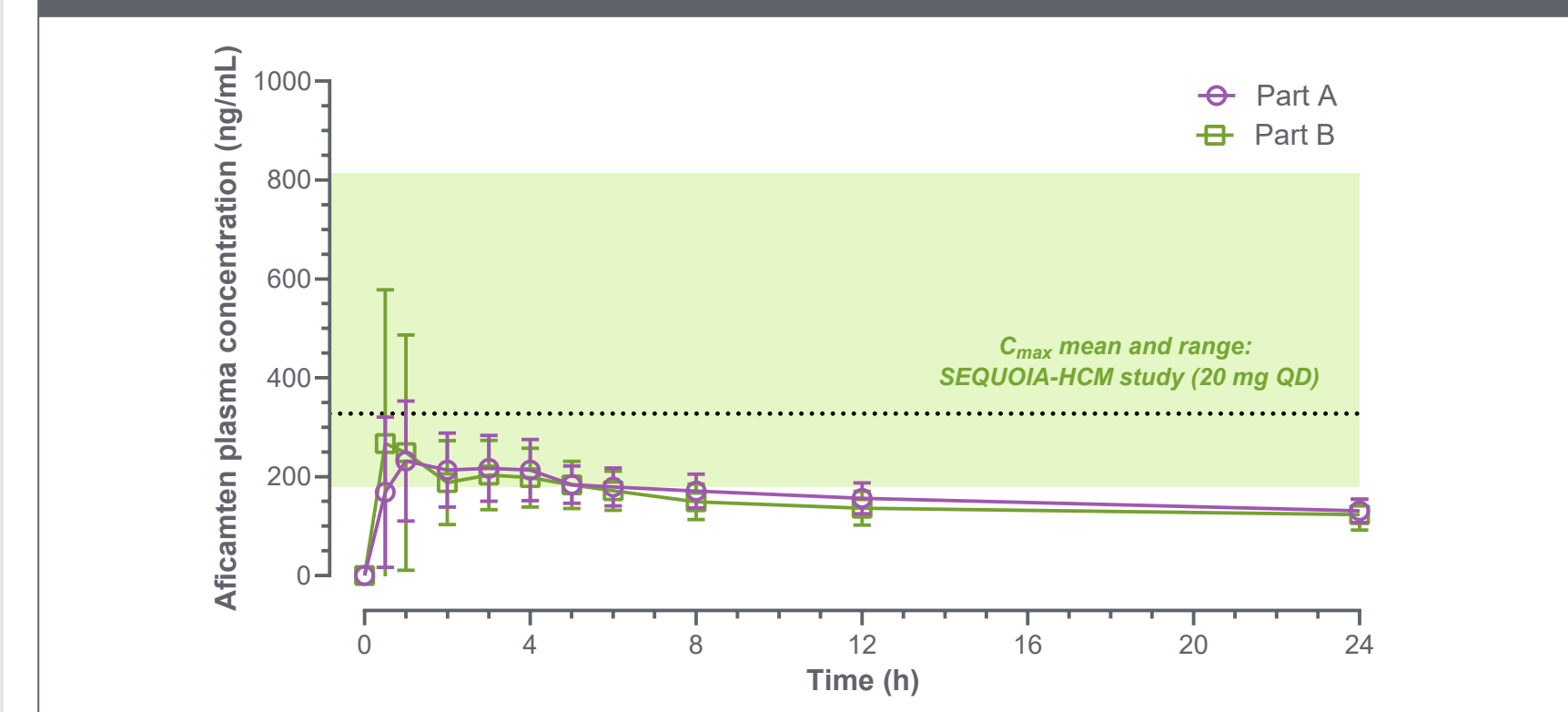
- Aficamten exposure in Part A was similar to that achieved following the highest planned clinical dose (20 mg once daily) in patients with obstructive HCM (oHCM; SEQUOIA-HCM) (Table 2); as such, the 50 mg dose was selected for Part B (TQT study).
- Aficamten PK was comparable between Parts A and B (Table 2, Figure 2).
- Moxifloxacin PK (C_{max} and AUC) was comparable to literature-reported values.¹

Table 2: Comparison of exposures between TQT and SEQUOIA-HCM

Analyte	Part A (N=10)	Part B (N=33)	SEQUOIA-HCM ^a (N=68)
Aficamten	C_{max} , ng/mL 310 (169, 448)	C_{max} , ng/mL 353 (124, 1660)	C_{max} or C_{2h} postdose, ng/mL 328 (179, 813)
CK-3834282	170 (52, 248)	136 (62.6, 213)	237 (31.6, 604)
CK-3834283	294 (106, 439)	228 (101, 343)	364 (60.4, 702)

Note: For Parts A and B, mean (min, max) C_{max} following aficamten 50 mg single dose are presented (N=33).
^a For SEQUOIA-HCM, population PK-estimated mean (min, max) C_{max} at steady state for participants with aficamten 20 mg QD as the last titrated dose is presented for aficamten (N=65), while mean (min, max) C_{2h} postdose observed for participants receiving aficamten 20 mg QD during the maintenance phase (Weeks 8–24) is presented for CK-3834282 and CK-3834283 (N=68).
 C_{max} =maximum plasma concentration; C_{2h} postdose=concentration at 2 h post dose; max=maximum; min=minimum; PK=pharmacokinetic; QD=once daily.

Figure 2: Mean (SD) aficamten plasma concentrations following a single 50 mg dose in Parts A and B

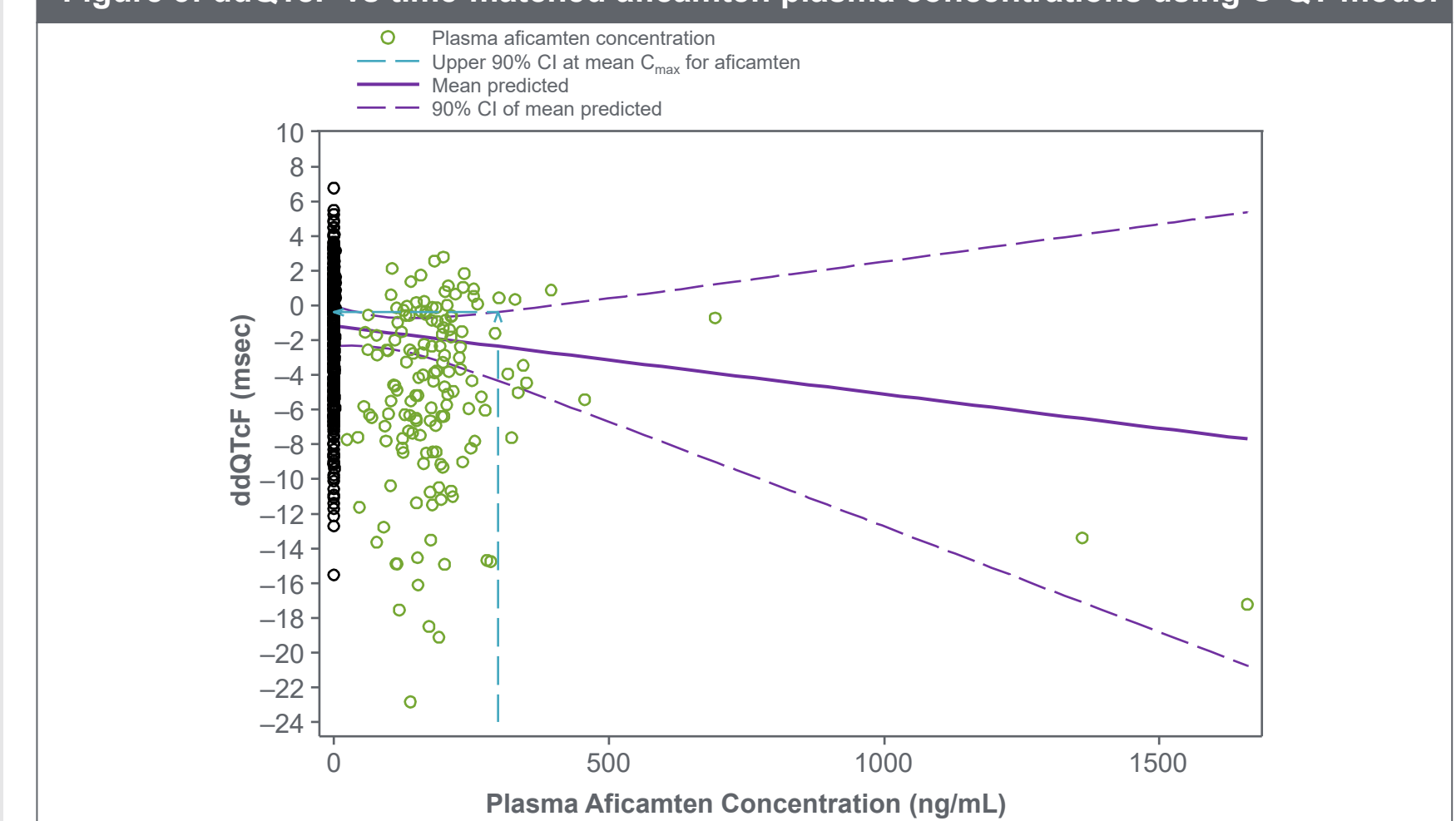


Mean (± SD) aficamten plasma concentrations following single 50 mg dose in Part A (N=10) and Part B (N=33) are presented. The dotted line and green shaded portion depict the mean and range, respectively, of population PK-estimated C_{max} at steady state in participants treated with aficamten 20 mg QD as the last titrated dose (N=65) in SEQUOIA-HCM.
 C_{max} =maximum plasma concentration; PK=pharmacokinetic; QD=once daily; SD=standard deviation.

Cardiodynamic Analysis

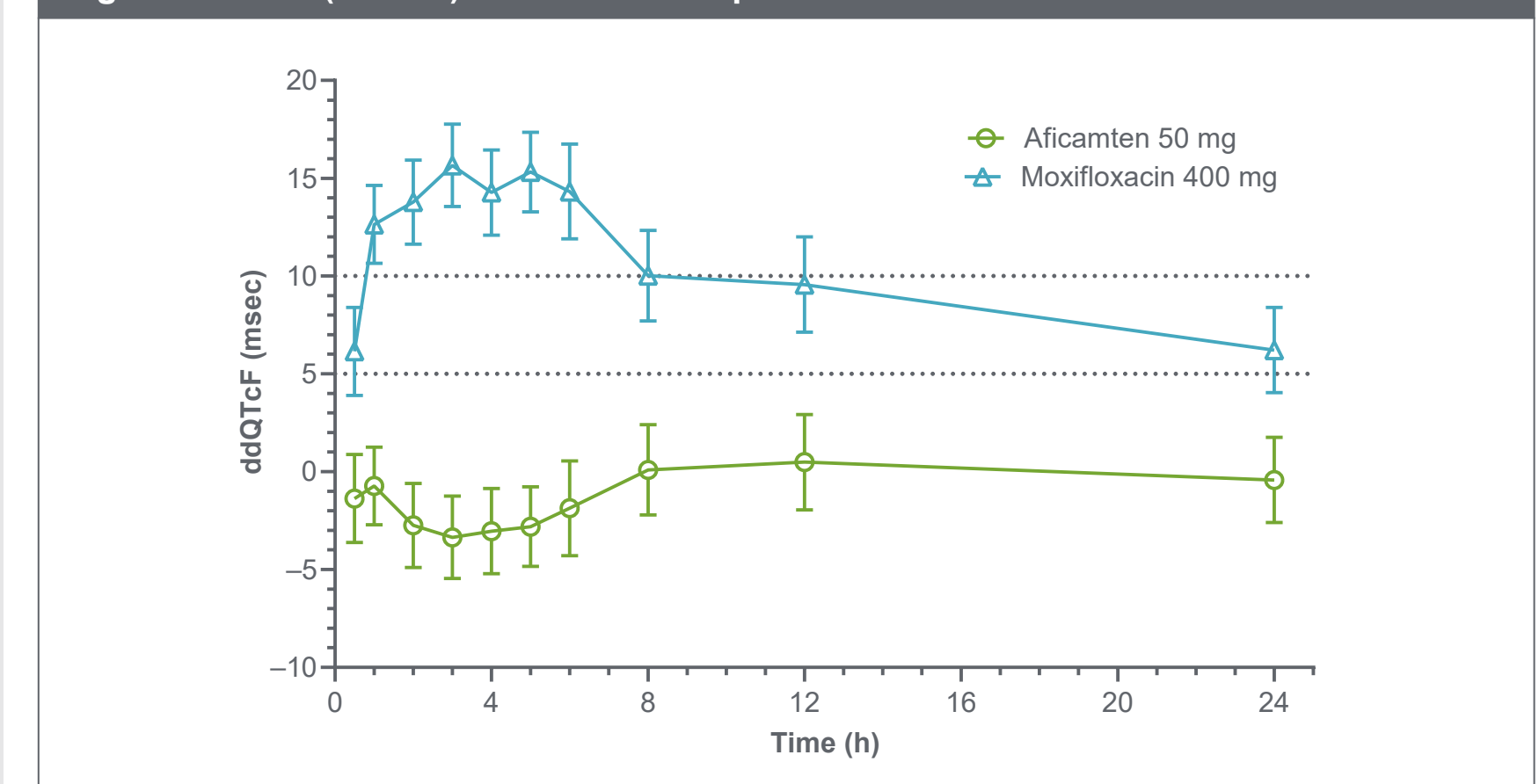
- All 5 C-QT models were comparable (t-value <1.95, similar AIC [range: 3966.7–4011.9]); as such, results for the aficamten alone model are presented in Figure 3.
- Aficamten did not cause QTc prolongation as the upper bounds of 2-sided 90% CI estimates were <10 msec using C-QT (up to 1660 ng/mL; Figure 3) and by time-point analysis.
 - Predicted ddQTcF of aficamten at its geometric mean C_{max} (298.3 ng/mL) was -1.82 msec (90% CI: -3.43, -0.214 msec).
 - Lack of QTcF prolongation was also noted for CK-3834282 (-1.74 msec [90% CI: -3.57, 0.088]) and CK-3834283 (-1.81 msec [90% CI: -3.76, 0.145]).
- Assay sensitivity was established as the lower bound of the 2-sided 90% CI of ddQTcF for moxifloxacin was >5 msec using C-QT and by time-point analyses (Figure 4).
 - Predicted ddQTcF of moxifloxacin at its geometric mean C_{max} (2533 ng/mL) was 15.2 msec (90% CI: 14.3, 16.2 msec).
- Absolute QTcF and change from baseline in QTcF remained within normal limits (Table 3).
- No remarkable observations in mean values for heart rate, PR, and QRS parameters.
- No significant observations in the categorical or waveform analyses.

Figure 3: ddQTcF vs time-matched aficamten plasma concentrations using C-QT model



The solid and dashed purple lines denote model predicted mean ddQTcF and 90% CI, respectively, calculated as $ddQTcF = -1.1750 - 0.0039 \times \text{aficamten}$. The green and black circles denote time-matched observed plasma concentrations and estimated ddQTcF for aficamten and placebo, respectively.
 C_{max} =maximum plasma concentration; ddQTcF=change from baseline in QTc using Fridericia's correction.

Figure 4: Mean (90% CI) ddQTcF vs timepoint for aficamten and moxifloxacin



The dotted lines denote the regulatory threshold of concern applicable to aficamten (10 msec) and moxifloxacin (5 msec).
 CI=confidence interval; ddQTcF=change from baseline using QTc using Fridericia's correction.

Safety

- There were no deaths, serious adverse events, or discontinuation due to TEAEs.
- In Part A, 6 TEAEs of mild severity were reported by 1 (10%) participant following aficamten 50 mg single dose; there were no occurrences of LVEF <50%.
- In Part B, 44 TEAEs were reported by 18 (53%) participants, including 13 (39%) participants following aficamten 50 mg, 5 (15%) following placebo, and 7 (21%) following moxifloxacin 400 mg; most were of mild severity, except 5 events that were deemed to be of moderate severity.
 - The most common TEAE was decreased ejection fraction, reported in 6 (18%) and 1 (3%) of aficamten- and placebo-treated participants, respectively.
- 6 participants who received aficamten in Part B experienced asymptomatic occurrences of LVEF <50% (range 44–48%) after a 50 mg single dose; all returned to baseline value without any intervention.

Table 3: Cardiodynamic categorical summary by treatment

Parameter	Category	Treatment		
		Aficamten 50 mg (N=33)	Placebo (N=34)	Moxifloxacin 400 mg (N=33)
Absolute QTcF, n (%)	≤450 msec	32 (97.0)	33 (97.1)	30 (90.9)
	>450 msec	1 (3.0)	1 (2.9)	3 (9.1)
	>480 msec	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	>500 msec	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
	>500 msec	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Change from baseline in QTcF, n (%)	≤30 msec	33 (100)	34 (100)	32 (97.0)
	>30 msec	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3.0)
	>60 msec	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

QTcF=corrected QT using Fridericia's correction.

CONCLUSIONS

- This was the first study to evaluate the effects of a CMI in healthy participants to categorically ascertain the impact on QT interval.
- Following 50 mg single dose, aficamten and its metabolites achieved generally comparable exposure to 20 mg once daily dosing in patients with obstructive HCM at steady state (SEQUOIA-HCM).
- Aficamten did not cause QTc prolongation as the upper bound of the 2-sided 90% CI estimates were <10 msec threshold using C-QT (up to aficamten concentration of 1660 ng/mL) and by time point analyses.
- Administration of aficamten at a dose of 50 mg was safe and well tolerated.

Reference

- Avelox (moxifloxacin) prescribing information. Bayer Health Care; 2016.

Disclosures

Cytokinetics, Inc. sponsored this research. All authors are employed by and/or hold stock in Cytokinetics.

Acknowledgments

Editorial support for the preparation of this poster was provided by Andrea Schauenburg, PhD, CMPP, on behalf of Engage Scientific Solutions, funded by Cytokinetics, Incorporated, and consisted solely of copyediting and poster formatting; no contribution was made to content.



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