



American Society of Hematology

Helping hematologists conquer blood diseases worldwide



Trial Update from IMproveMF, an Ongoing, Open-label, Dose-Escalation and -Expansion Phase 1/1b Trial to Evaluate the Safety, Pharmacokinetics, and Clinical Activity of the Novel Combination of Imetelstat with Ruxolitinib in Patients with Intermediate-1, Intermediate-2, or High-Risk Myelofibrosis

John O. Mascarenhas, MD,¹ Salman Otoukesh, MD,² Terrence Bradley, MD,³ Bart L. Scott, MD,⁴ Habte A. Yimer, MD,⁵ Souria Dougherty, MBA,⁶ Lixian Peng, PhD,⁶ Fei Huang, PhD,⁶ Ying Wan, MD, PhD,⁶ Faye M. Feller, MD,⁶ Vivian Rodolf, MD,⁶ Judy Ho, BS,⁶ Tymara Berry, MD,⁶ Andrew T. Kuykendall, MD⁷

¹Tisch Cancer Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA; ²City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, Duarte, CA, USA; ³University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, Miami, FL, USA; ⁴Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA, USA; ⁵Texas Oncology/US Oncology Research, Tyler, TX, USA; ⁶Geron Corporation, Foster City, CA, USA; ⁷Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, USA

Background

- MF is a progressive, life-threatening myeloproliferative neoplasm commonly associated with driver mutations in *JAK2*, *CALR*, or *MPL*^{1,2}
- JAKi (eg, ruxolitinib) can reduce MF spleen size and symptom burden but are not active against underlying drivers of disease^{1,3,4}
- Imetelstat is a first-in-class, direct, and competitive inhibitor of telomerase enzymatic activity approved for the treatment of adult patients with low- to INT-1–risk myelodysplastic syndromes with transfusion-dependent anemia^{4,5}
- Imetelstat demonstrated clinically meaningful improvement in symptom response and improved OS in patients with INT-2 or higher-risk MF relapsed or refractory to JAKi in the IMbark trial (NCT02426086)⁶
 - Spleen response with imetelstat sodium 9.4 mg/kg at week 24 was modest, but clinically meaningful for patients with high disease burden who are relapsed or refractory to JAKi, where 37% of patients achieved a $\geq 10\%$ SVR
- IMproveMF (NCT05371964) aims to evaluate safety, PK, and clinical activity of imetelstat in combination with ruxolitinib in patients with INT-1/INT-2/high-risk MF

INT, intermediate; JAKi, Janus kinase inhibitor; MF, myelofibrosis; OS, overall survival; PK, pharmacokinetics; SVR, spleen volume reduction.

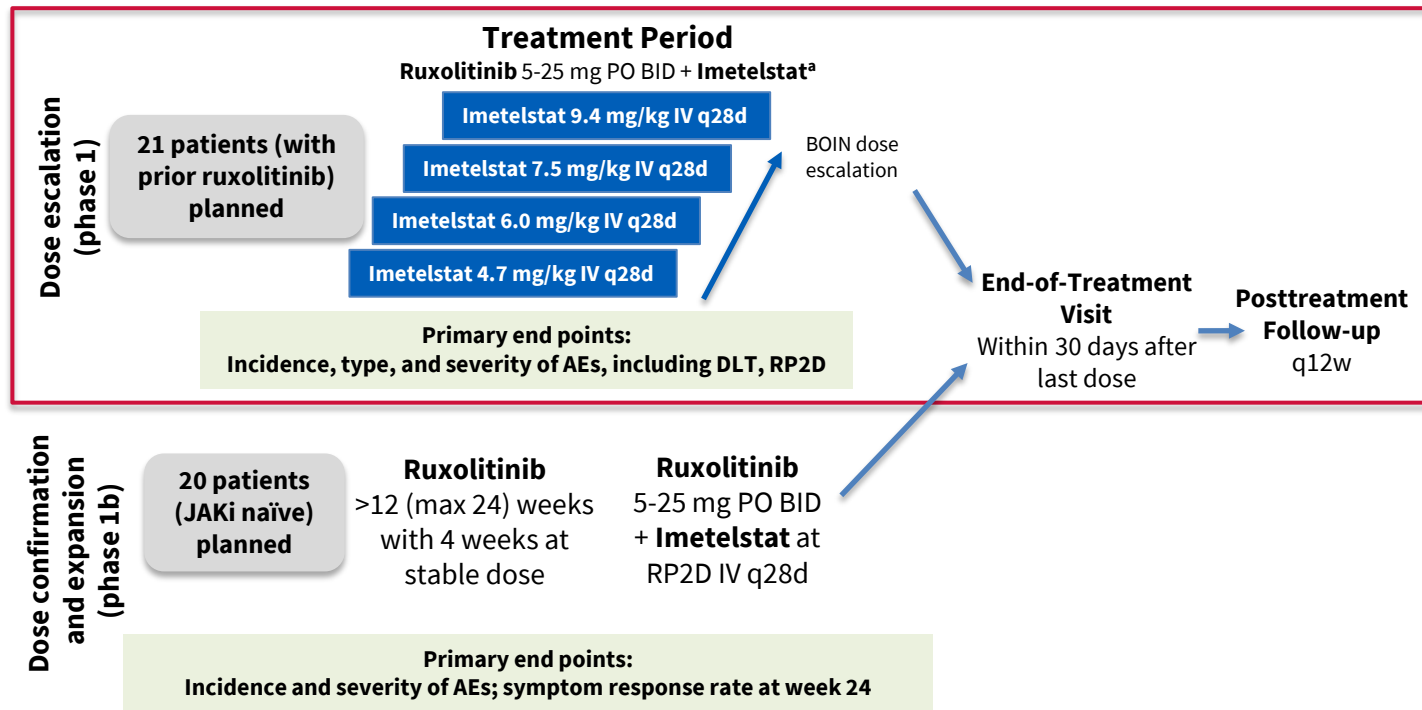
1. Tefferi A. *Am J Hematol*. 2021;96(1):145-162. 2. Schieber M, et al. *Blood Cancer J*. 2019;9(9):74. 3. Vachhani P, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2022;40(11):1147-1154. 4. Platzbecker U and Santini V, et al. *Lancet*. 2024;403(10423):249-260. 5. RYTELO (imetelstat) for injection, for intravenous use. Package insert. Geron Corporation; 2024. 6. Mascarenhas J, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021;39(26):2881-2892.



IMproveMF: Ongoing Multicenter Phase 1/1b Trial

Inclusion Criteria

- ≥18 years of age
- DIPSS INT-1, INT-2, or HR MF
- ECOG PS ≤2
- Prior JAKi use:
 - Phase 1: ≥12 weeks ruxolitinib with ≥4 weeks immediately before enrollment at stable dose
 - Phase 1b: JAKi naïve
- Peripheral blood blast count ≤10%
- Bone marrow blast count ≤10%



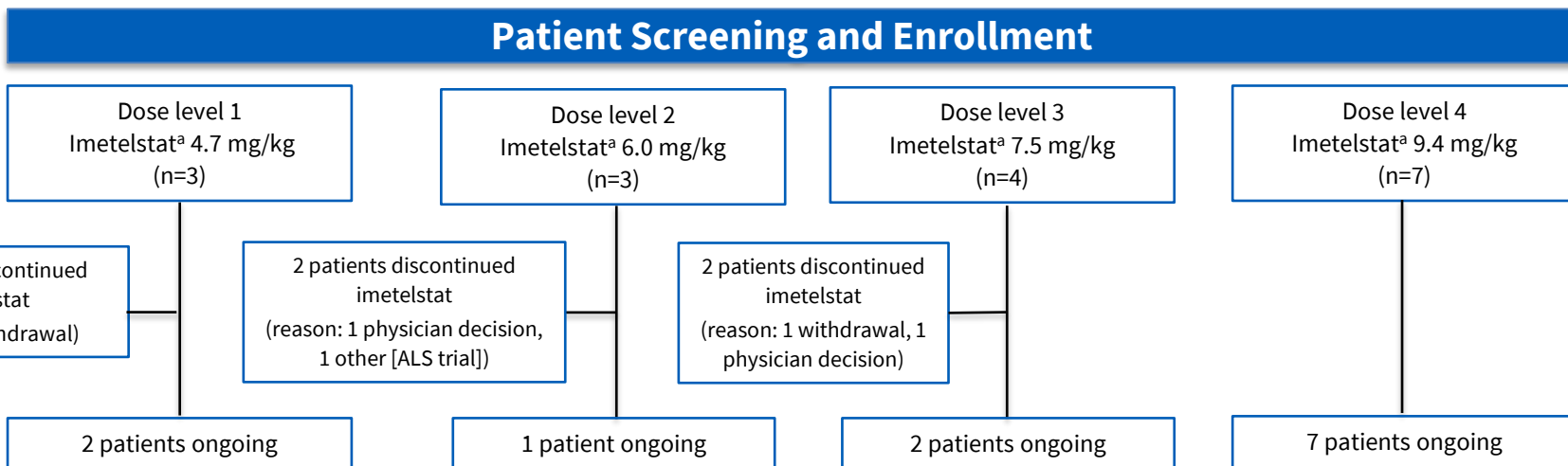
AE, adverse event; BID, twice daily; BOIN, Bayesian Optimal Interval Design; DIPSS, Dynamic International Prognostic Scoring System; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HR, high risk; INT, intermediate; IV, intravenous; JAKi, Janus kinase inhibitor; MF, myelofibrosis; PO, per oral; q12w, every 12 weeks; q28d, every 28 days; RP2D, recommended part 2 dose.

^aImetelstat sodium doses are listed, which are equivalent to 4.4, 5.6, 7.1, or 8.9 mg/kg active imetelstat doses, respectively.



Patient Disposition

- At the cutoff date November 4, 2024, 12 of 17 enrolled patients were still undergoing imetelstat treatment



ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

^aImetelstat sodium doses are listed, which are equivalent to 4.4, 5.6, 7.1, or 8.9 mg/kg active imetelstat doses, respectively.



Baseline Characteristics Were Balanced Across Cohorts

Parameter	Imetelstat 4.7 mg/kg (n=3)	Imetelstat 6.0 mg/kg (n=3)	Imetelstat 7.5 mg/kg (n=4)	Imetelstat 9.4 mg/kg (n=7)	Total imetelstat (N=17)
Time from initial diagnosis, median (range), mo	77.8 (5.4-86.7)	36.8 (12.8-49.5)	20.8 (10.5-110.8)	41.5 (17.4-114.5)	36.8 (5.4-114.5)
Sex, n (%)					
Male	2 (67)	2 (67)	3 (75)	5 (71)	12 (71)
Female	1 (33)	1 (33)	1 (25)	2 (29)	5 (29)
Type of MF, n (%)					
Primary MF	3 (100)	1 (33)	2 (50)	3 (43)	9 (53)
PET MF	0	0	2 (50)	2 (29)	4 (24)
PPV MF	0	2 (67)	0	2 (29)	4 (24)
DIPSS risk category, n (%)					
Intermediate-1	1 (33)	0	2 (50)	4 (57)	7 (41)
Intermediate-2	2 (67)	3 (100)	2 (50)	2 (29)	9 (53)
High	0	0	0	1 (14)	1 (6)
Bone marrow blasts, n (%)					
≥1%	2 (67)	1 (33)	1 (25)	1 (14)	5 (29)
<1%	1 (33)	2 (67)	3 (75)	5 (86)	11 (65)
Missing	0	0	0	1 (14)	1 (6)
Time on RUX before enrollment, median (range), mo	3.5 (3.4-86.2)	22.3 (8.5-39.7)	17.6 (6.7-67.3)	20.0 (9.1-65.2)	18.8 (3.4-86.2)
RUX dose at enrollment, median (range), mg	10 (10-10)	15 (10-20)	15 (10-25)	20 (15-20)	15 (10-25)
Baseline spleen volume, median (range), cm³	356.8 (196.5-1321.6)	1475.5 (353.8-3332.0)	1739.5 (315.9-2207.0)	1350.8 (243.7-3784.3)	1312.5 (196.5-3784.3)
Baseline TSS, median (range)	25.5 (22.7-25.7)	11.0 (3.7-24.0)	17.4 (3.9-28.3)	8.0 (0.3-31.5)	11.0 (0.3-31.5)

DIPSS, Dynamic International Prognostic Scoring System; MF, myelofibrosis; PET, post-essential thrombocythemia; PPV, post-polycythemia vera; RUX, ruxolitinib; SD, standard deviation; TSS, Total Symptom Score.



Baseline Hematology and Treatment Exposure

Baseline hematology parameter	Imetelstat				Total imetelstat (N=17)
	4.7 mg/kg (n=3)	6.0 mg/kg (n=3)	7.5 mg/kg (n=4)	9.4 mg/kg (n=7)	
Hemoglobin, median (range), g/L	82.0 (81.0-93.0)	105.0 (65.0-110.0)	108.0 (88.0-124.0)	112.0 (97.0-126.0)	105.0 (65.0-126.0)
Leukocytes, median (range), 10 ⁹ /L	5.4 (2.2-11.5)	8.1 (5.7-8.7)	4.3 (4.2-24.7)	7.8 (3.4-51.1)	6.6 (2.2-51.1)
Neutrophils, median (range), 10 ⁹ /L	3.1 (1.1-6.8)	5.3 (2.8-6.9)	2.6 (2.1-12.6)	4.4 (2.5-32.7)	4.3 (1.1-32.7)
Platelets, median (range), 10 ⁹ /L	211.0 (194.0-377.0)	361.0 (94.0-698.0)	287.0 (131.0-643.0)	192.0 (143.0-364.0)	211.0 (94.0-698.0)

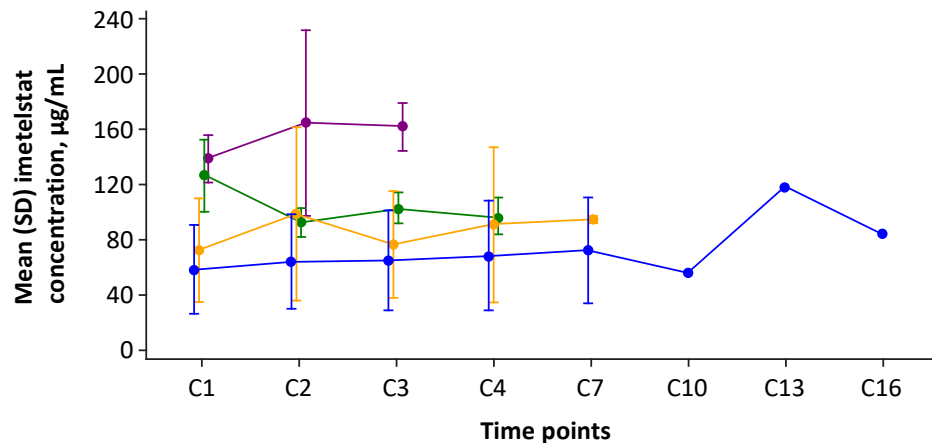
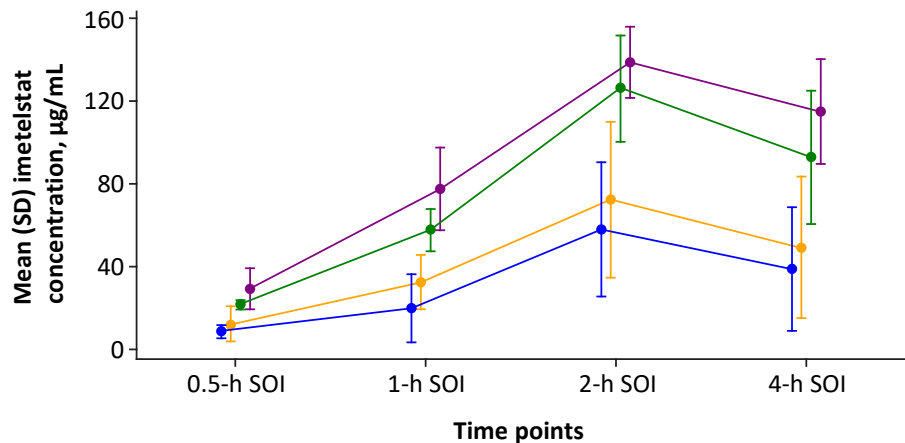
Exposure parameter	Imetelstat			
	4.7 mg/kg (n=3)	6.0 mg/kg (n=3)	7.5 mg/kg (n=4)	9.4 mg/kg (n=7)
Imetelstat duration, median (range), wk	56.1 (24.0-72.1)	28.3 (16.1-44.1)	28.2 (0.1-35.9)	12.1 (4.1-20.9)
Dose reductions	0	0	2 ^a	0
Number of cycles, median (range)	15 (7-19)	8 (5-12)	6 (1-8)	4 (2-6)
Ruxolitinib duration, median (range), wk	60.0 (57.3-76.7)	54.0 (54.0-62.7)	38.2 (31.7-39.7)	21.7 (13.1-32.3)

^aDose reductions occurred due to cytopenias.



The PK Profile of Imetelstat Was Consistent With Previous Studies

- Dose-dependent exposure at C1D1, with C_{max} reached at end of 2-hour infusion
- Similar C_{max} observed across cycles for each dose level, indicating no accumulation



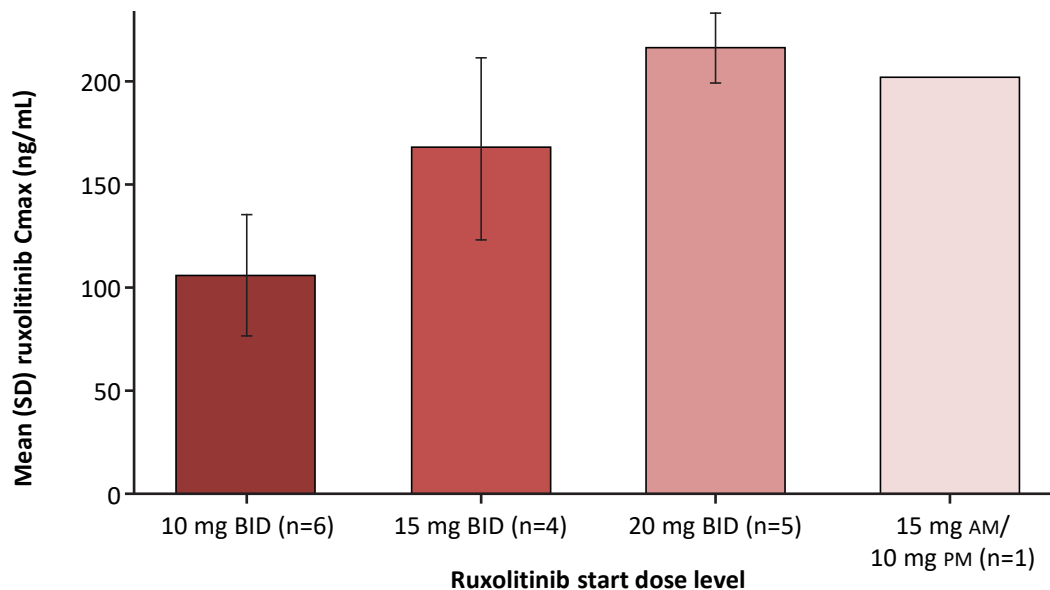
● 4.7 mg/kg ● 6.0 mg/kg ● 7.5 mg/kg ● 9.4 mg/kg

C, cycle; C_{max} , maximum plasma concentration; D, day; PK, pharmacokinetics; SD, standard deviation; SOI, start of imetelstat infusion.



Ruxolitinib PK Profile Was Consistent With Previous Reports¹

- Ruxolitinib C_{max} was observed 1-2 hours postdose
- Dose-dependent C_{max} was observed at C1D1



BID, twice daily; C, cycle; C_{max} , maximum plasma concentration; D, day; PK, pharmacokinetics; SD, standard deviation.

1. Shi JG, et al. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 2011;51(12):1644-1654.



Imetelstat Combined With Ruxolitinib Was Well Tolerated

- No DLTs^a were reported at any imetelstat dose level within the first 28 days of cycle 1

Any-grade TEAEs in ≥15% of patients

Preferred term, n (%)	Total (N=17)
Patients with ≥1 TEAE	15 (88)
Pain in extremity	7 (41)
Nausea	6 (35)
ALT increased	5 (29)
Anemia	5 (29)
Thrombocytopenia ^b	4 (24)
Fatigue	4 (24)
AST increased	3 (18)
Neutropenia ^c	3 (18)

Grade 3 TEAEs

Preferred term, n (%)	Total (N=17)
Patients with ≥1 grade 3 TEAE	8 (47)
Anemia ^d	4 (24)
Neutropenia ^c	3 (18)
Leukopenia ^e	2 (12)
Abdominal pain	1 (6)
Fatigue	1 (6)
Pneumonia ^f	1 (6)
Epistaxis ^f	1 (6)

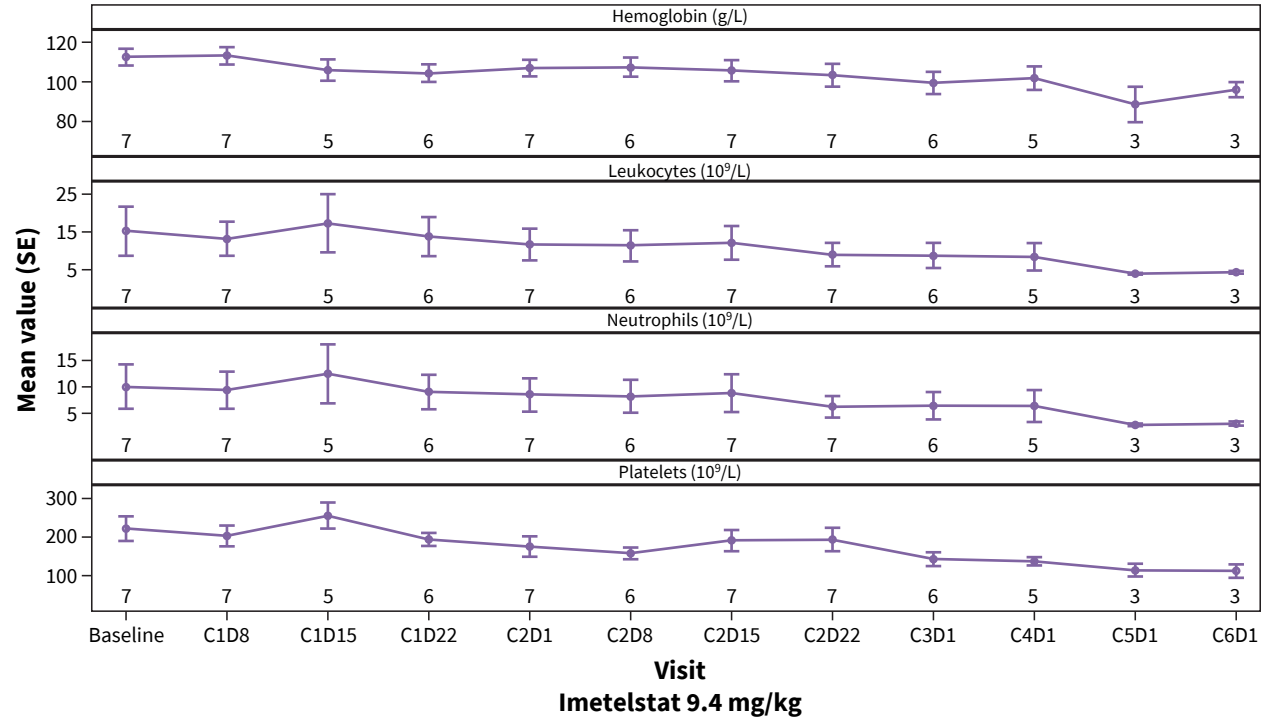
- No grade 4 or 5 events were reported

ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; SAE, serious adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

^aToxicities determined by the investigator to be possibly, probably, or definitely related to imetelstat treatment, and not attributable to the underlying disease, or toxicities with ruxolitinib increasing in grade and/or clinically significant from before imetelstat initiation. ^bCombined term includes decreased platelet count. ^cCombined term includes decreased neutrophil count. ^dOne was a SAE considered related to study treatments and resulted in dose reduction to 6.0 mg/kg. ^eCombined term includes decreased white blood cell count. ^fSAE considered to be related to underlying disease and resolved without dose modification.



Hematology Values Were Stable Over Time

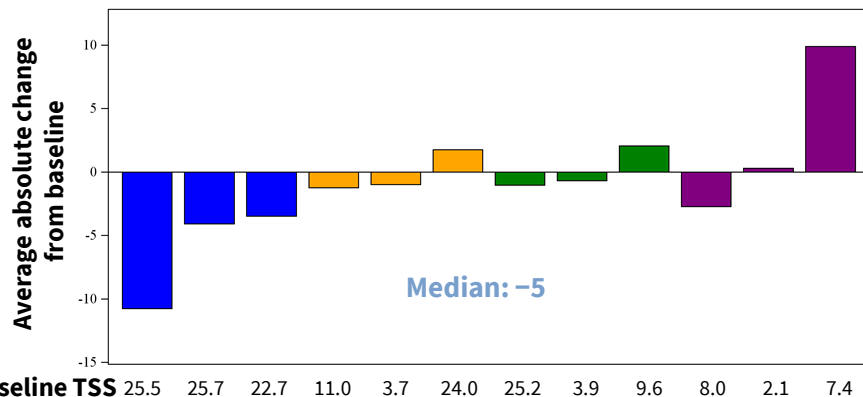


C, cycle; D, day; SE, standard error.

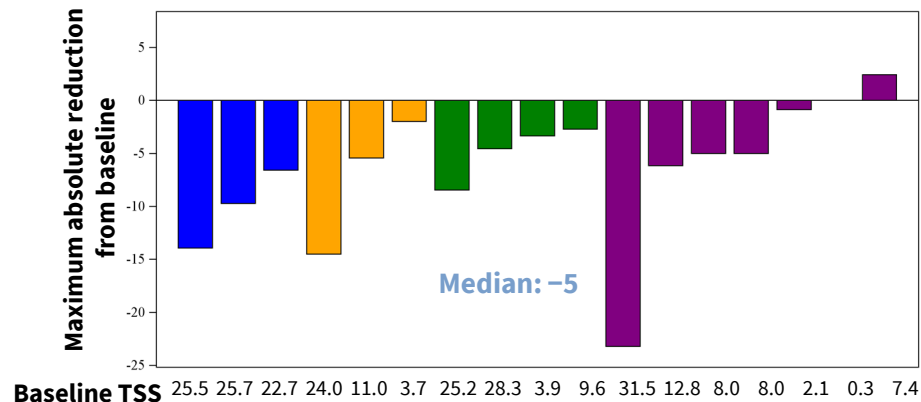


Change in TSS From Baseline by Patient

**Average Absolute Change From Baseline
TSS Over Week 12**



**Maximum Absolute Reduction From Baseline
TSS up to Week 24**

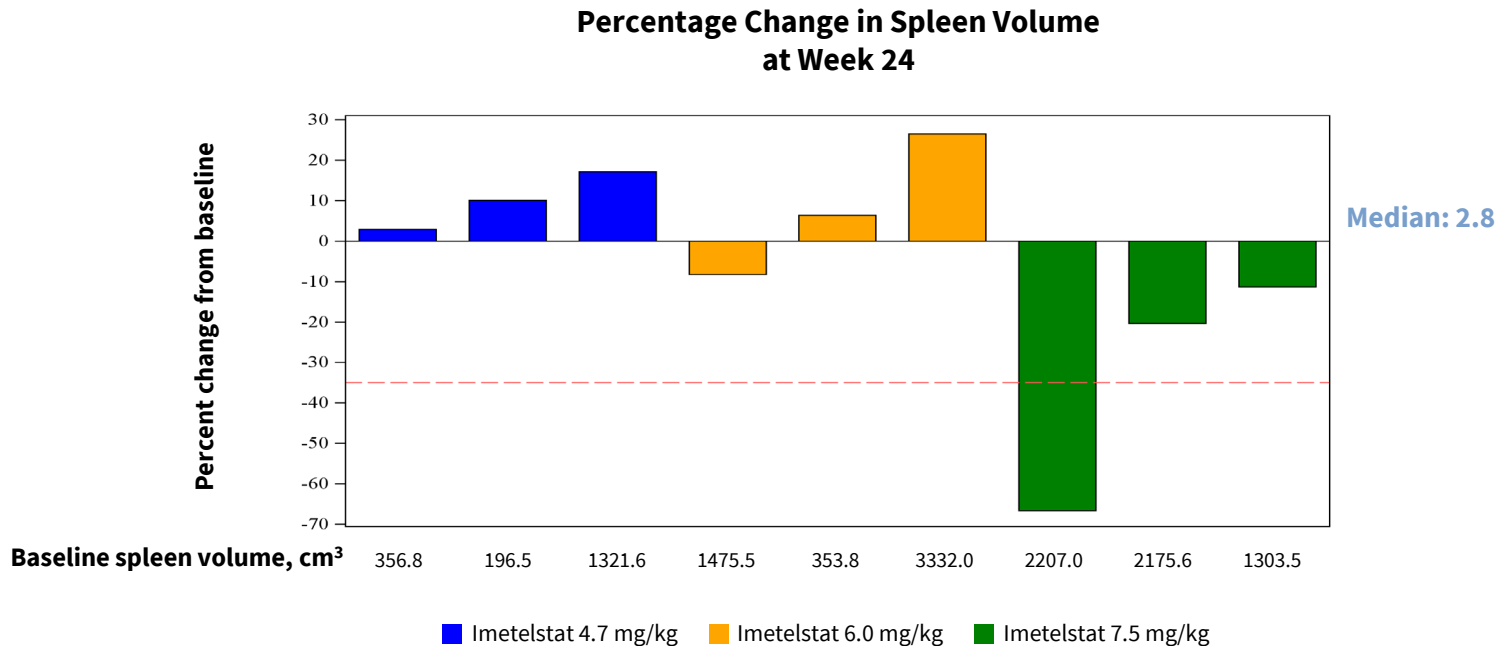


■ Imetelstat 4.7 mg/kg ■ Imetelstat 6.0 mg/kg ■ Imetelstat 7.5 mg/kg ■ Imetelstat 9.4 mg/kg

TSS, Total Symptom Score.



Maximum Spleen Volume Reduction by Patient

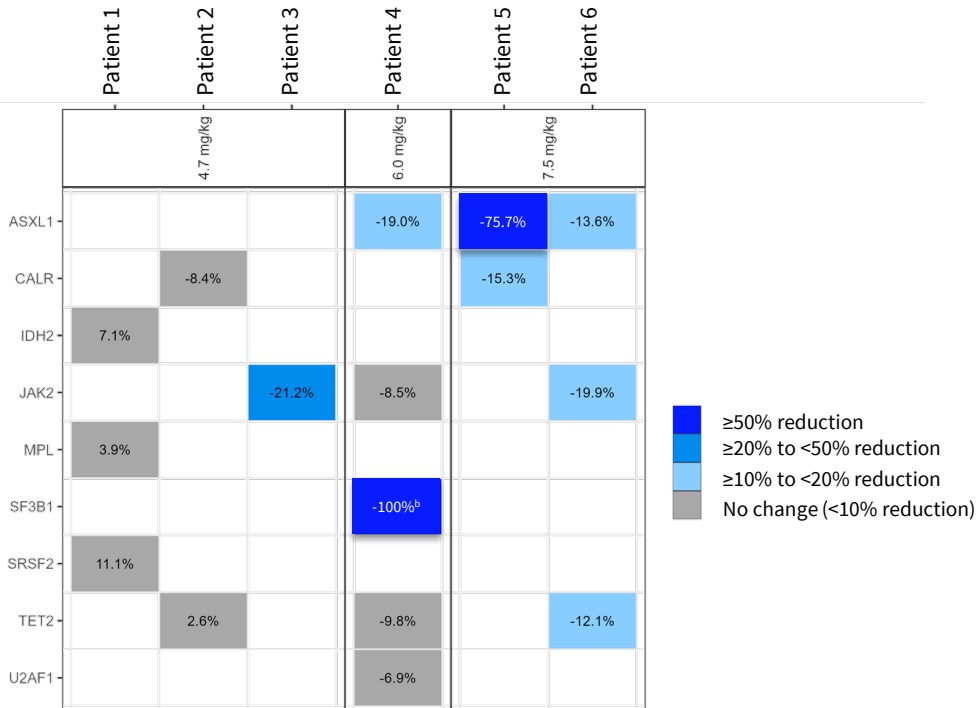


^aThe percent change for this patient is based on the spleen assessment at end of treatment due to the early discontinuation of treatment before week 24.

Preliminary Results Show VAF Reductions in Driver Mutations

Maximum Percent Reduction From Baseline in Mutation VAF During Treatment

Baseline mutation parameter	Imetelstat				Total (N=17)
	4.7 mg/kg (n=3)	6.0 mg/kg (n=3)	7.5 mg/kg (n=4)	9.4 mg/kg (n=7)	
Baseline mutation, n	3	2	4	2	11
<i>JAK2</i> mutation, n (%)	1 (33)	1 (50)	1 (25)	2 (100)	5 (45)
<i>CALR</i> mutation, n (%)	1 (33)	1 (50)	3 (75)	0	5 (45)
<i>MPL</i> mutation, n (%)	1 (33)	0	0	1 (50)	2 (18)
High molecular risk ^a mutation, n (%)	1 (33)	2 (100)	3 (75)	0	6 (55)



VAF, variant allele frequency.

^aHigh molecular risk indicates mutations that include *ASXL1*, *EZH2*, *IDH1*, *IDH2*, and *SRSF2* genes.

^bImputed value.



Conclusions

- In the dose finding (phase 1) of IMproveMF, no DLTs were observed with imetelstat plus ruxolitinib in patients with INT-1, INT-2, or HR MF, and safety profile was consistent with that observed in other clinical trials of imetelstat¹
- Imetelstat and ruxolitinib PK profiles in the combination study were similar to those reported for previous monotherapy studies¹
- These early findings from IMproveMF suggest tolerability and dose-dependent preliminary efficacy of imetelstat combined with ruxolitinib in this patient population with high unmet needs
- IMproveMF is actively enrolling patients at the 9.4 mg/kg imetelstat sodium dose level for dose confirmation and expansion (phase 1b)

DLT, dose-limiting toxicity; HR, high risk; INT, intermediate; MF, myelofibrosis; PK, pharmacokinetics.

1. Mascarenhas J, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021;39(26):2881-2892.



Acknowledgments

- The authors thank all the patients and caregivers for their participation in this study and acknowledge the collaboration and commitment of all investigators and their research support staff



Terrence Bradley
John O. Mascarenhas
Andrew T. Kuykendall
Habte A. Yimer
Salman Otoukesh
Bart L. Scott

- This study was funded by the Geron Corporation; writing and editorial assistance were provided by Jeremy J. Henriques, PhD, CMPP, of The Lockwood Group (Stamford, CT, USA), funded by the Geron Corporation

