

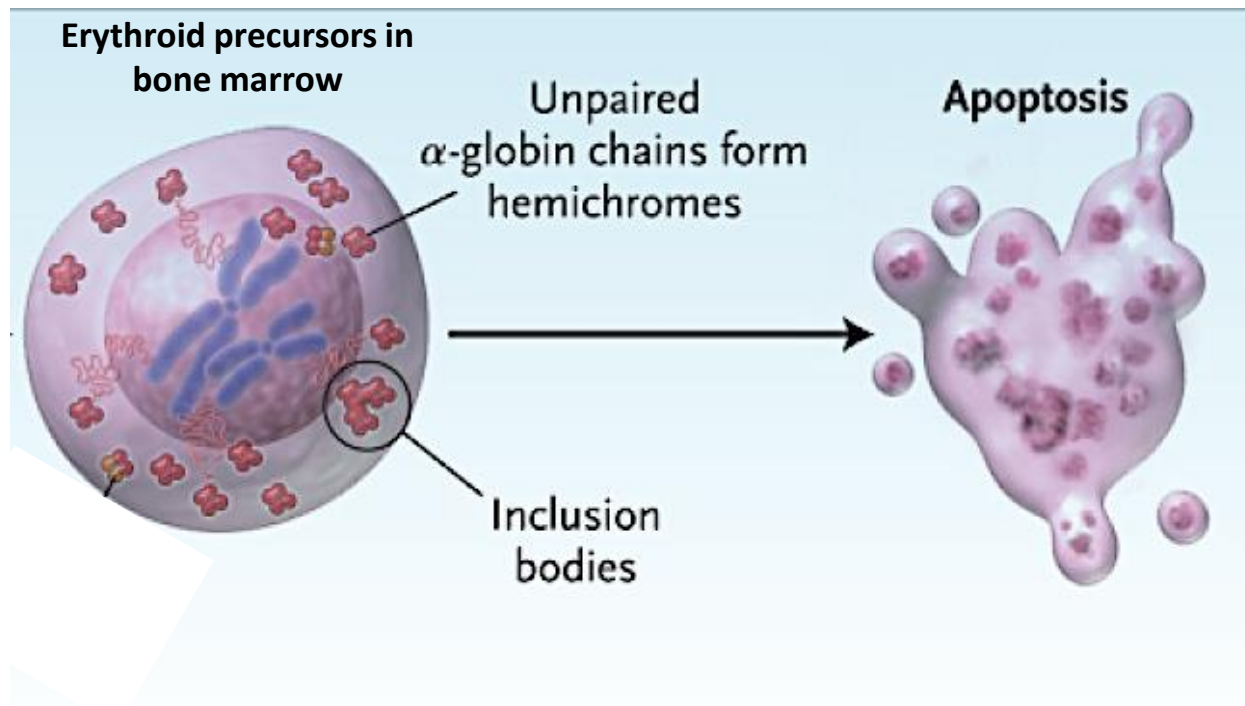
# Luspatercept Increases Hemoglobin, Decreases Transfusion Burden, and Improves Patient-Reported Outcomes in Adults with Beta-Thalassemia

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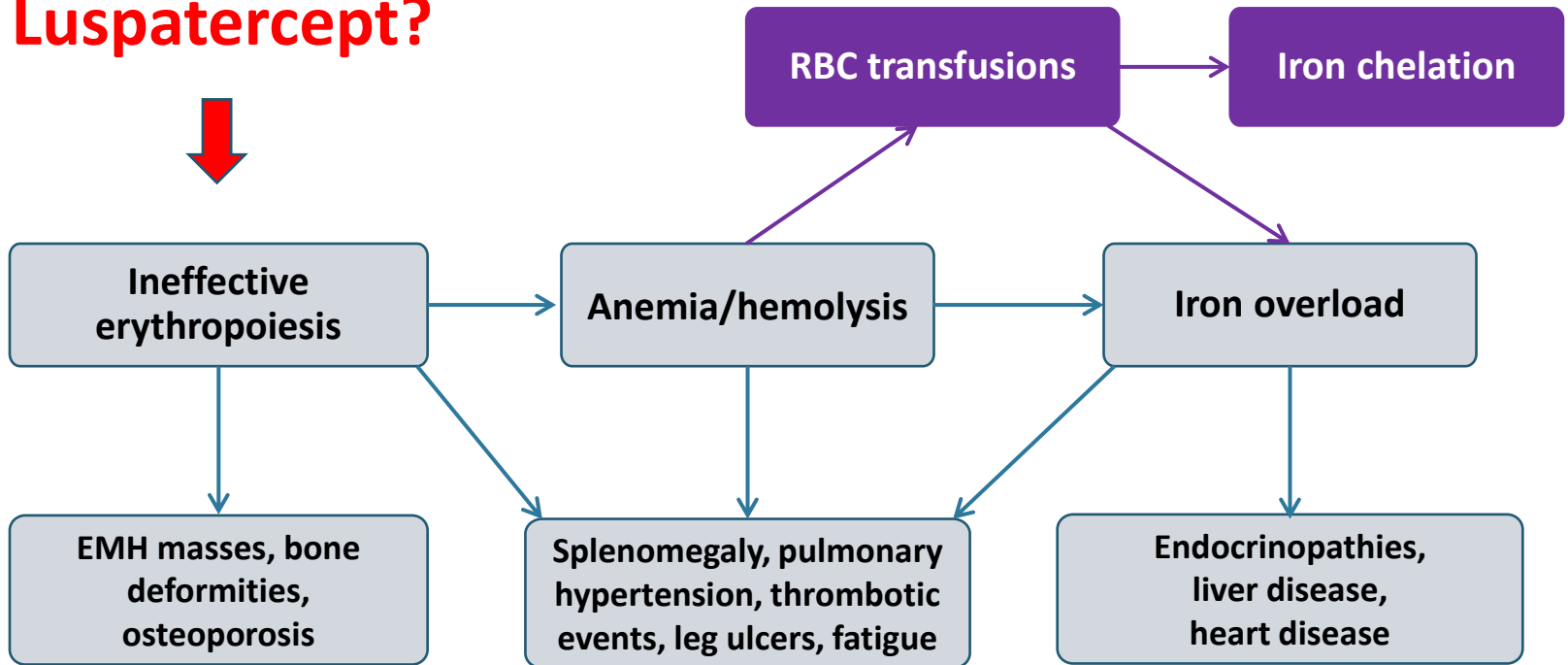
# $\beta$ -Thalassemia

- $\beta$ -thalassemia is an inherited anemia due to defective synthesis of  $\beta$ -globin
  - An excess of unpaired  $\alpha$ -globin chains leads to **ineffective erythropoiesis**, characterized by apoptosis of maturing erythroblasts in the bone marrow

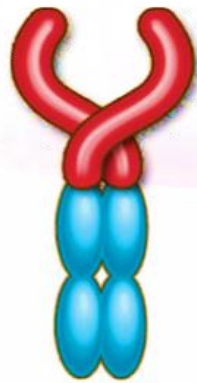


# Ineffective Erythropoiesis Drives $\beta$ -Thalassemia Complications

**Luspatercept?**



# Luspatercept structure and activity in $\beta$ -Thalassemia

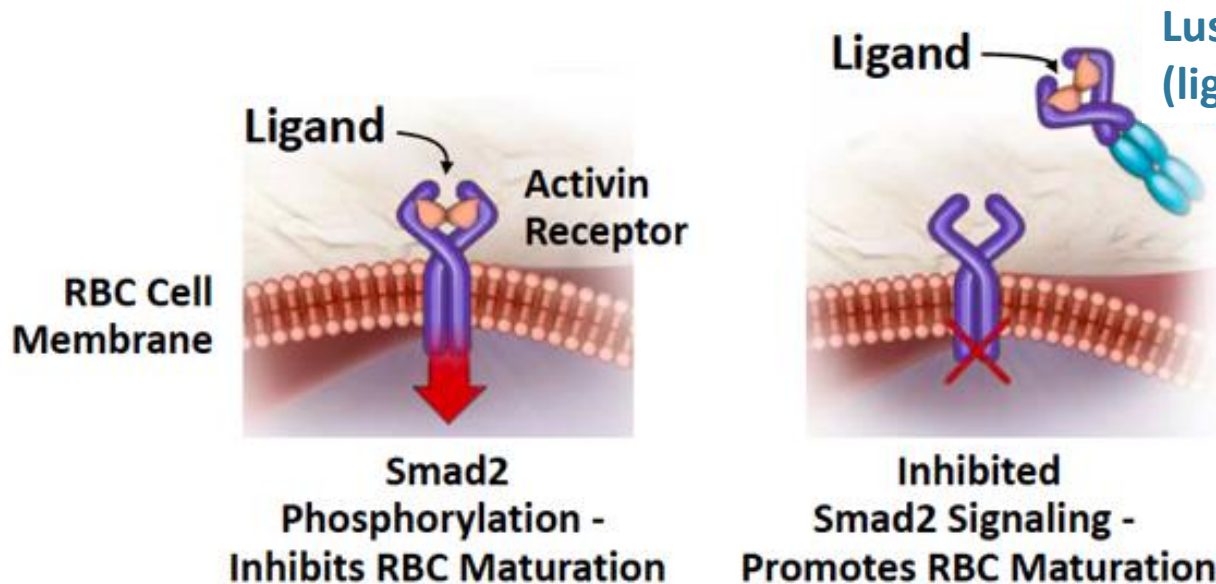


Modified ECD of ActRIIB receptor

Fc domain of human IgG1 Ab

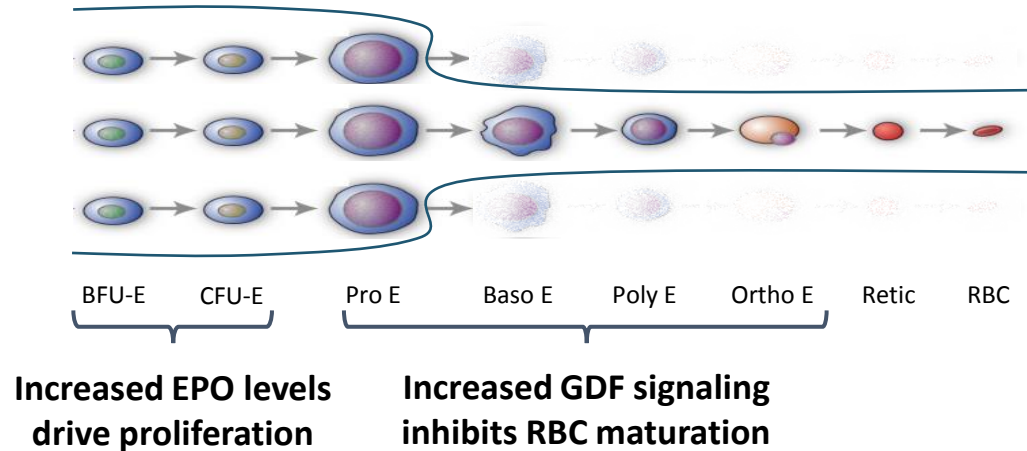
## Luspatercept

- Luspatercept is a modified activin receptor type IIB (ActRIIB) fusion protein
- Acts as a ligand trap for GDF11 and other TGF- $\beta$  family ligands to suppress Smad2/3 signaling; increased hemoglobin in healthy volunteers.<sup>1</sup>
- In a murine model of  $\beta$ -thalassemia, murine analog RAP-536 promoted late-stage erythropoiesis, increased hemoglobin, and reduced disease burden.<sup>2</sup>

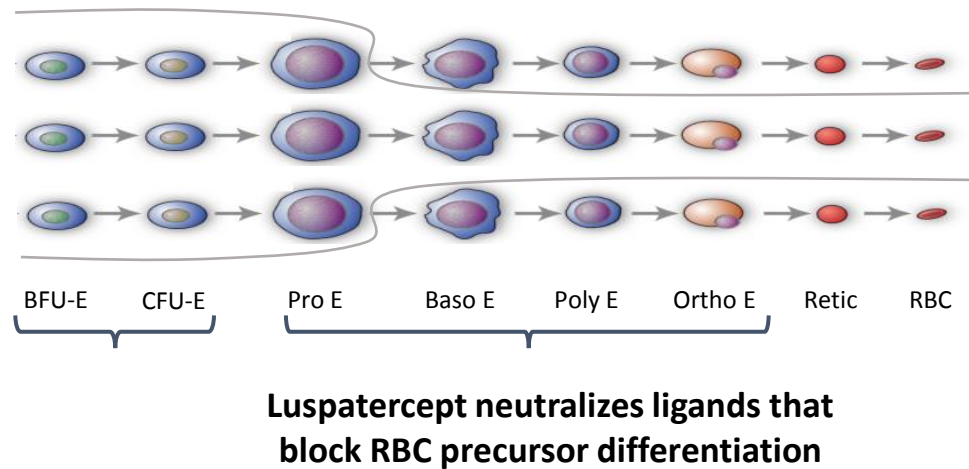


# Luspatercept Promotes Late-Stage Erythropoiesis

## Ineffective erythropoiesis in $\beta$ -thalassemia



## Luspatercept promotes late-stage erythropoiesis



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# CLINICAL TRIALS in THALASSEMIA

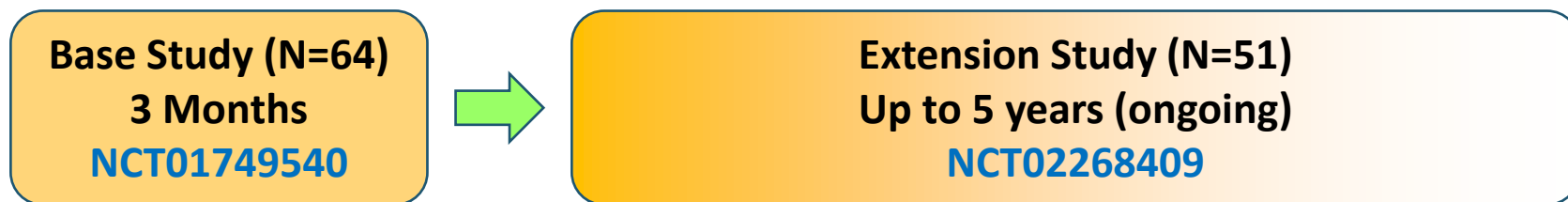
# Luspatercept $\beta$ -Thalassemia Phase 2 Clinical Trials: Overview

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- **Phase 2, multicenter, open-label studies in adults with  $\beta$ -thalassemia**
  - Non-transfusion dependent (NTD): <4 units/8 weeks and Hb < 10 g/dL
  - Transfusion dependent (TD):  $\geq 4$  units/8 weeks
- **Efficacy endpoints**
  - NTD: Hemoglobin increase  $\geq 1.0$ ; 1.5 g/dL
  - TD: Transfusion burden reduction  $\geq 20\%$ ;  $\geq 50\%$
- **Other endpoints**
  - Safety
  - Liver iron concentration (by MRI)
  - Health-related quality of life (FACT-An)

# Luspatercept Phase 2 Clinical Trials: Design

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## Dose Levels

- Dose escalation cohorts:  
**0.2-1.25 mg/kg**  
SC every 3 weeks
- Expansion cohort:  
**0.8-1.25 mg/kg**  
SC every 3 weeks

## Dose Levels

- Extension study:  
**0.8-1.25 mg/kg**  
SC every 3 weeks



## Baseline Characteristics

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Base Study N=64</b>	<b>Extension Study N=51</b>
Age, yr, median (range)	38.5 (20-62)	37.0 (22-62)
Sex, male, n (%)	33 (52)	29 (57)
Splenectomy, n (%)	43 (67)	34 (67)
<b>NTD patients (n)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>
Hemoglobin, g/dL, median (range)	8.5 (6.5-9.8)	8.7 (7.6-9.8)
Liver iron conc., mg/g dry wt, mean $\pm$ SD	5.4 $\pm$ 3.8	5.1 $\pm$ 3.8
<b>TD patients (n)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>
RBC units/12 weeks, median (range)	8 (4-18)	8 (4-15)
Liver iron conc., mg/g dry wt, mean $\pm$ SD	5.0 $\pm$ 5.3	4.9 $\pm$ 5.0

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# **Efficacy in Non-Transfusion-Dependent (NTD) Patients**

## Increase in Hemoglobin in NTD Patients

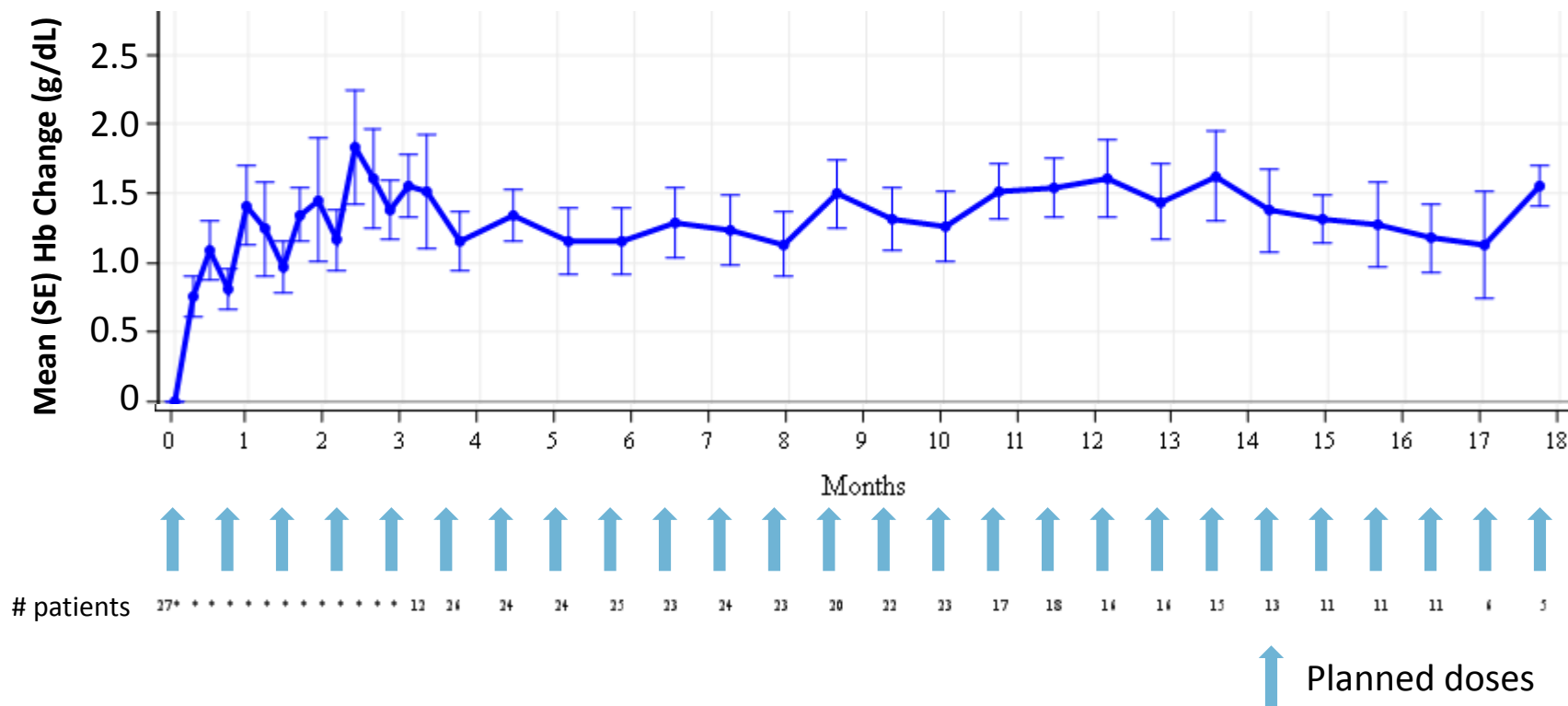
- Hemoglobin response over a 12-week period on treatment vs baseline\*

Hemoglobin response	Patients treated with $\geq 0.6$ mg/kg	
	Base Study N=21	Extension Study N=27
Increase in mean Hb $\geq 1.0$ g/dL	13 (62%)	21 (78%)
Increase in mean Hb $\geq 1.5$ g/dL	7 (33%)	14 (52%)

\*Baseline: average of at least 2 values within prior 7-28 days

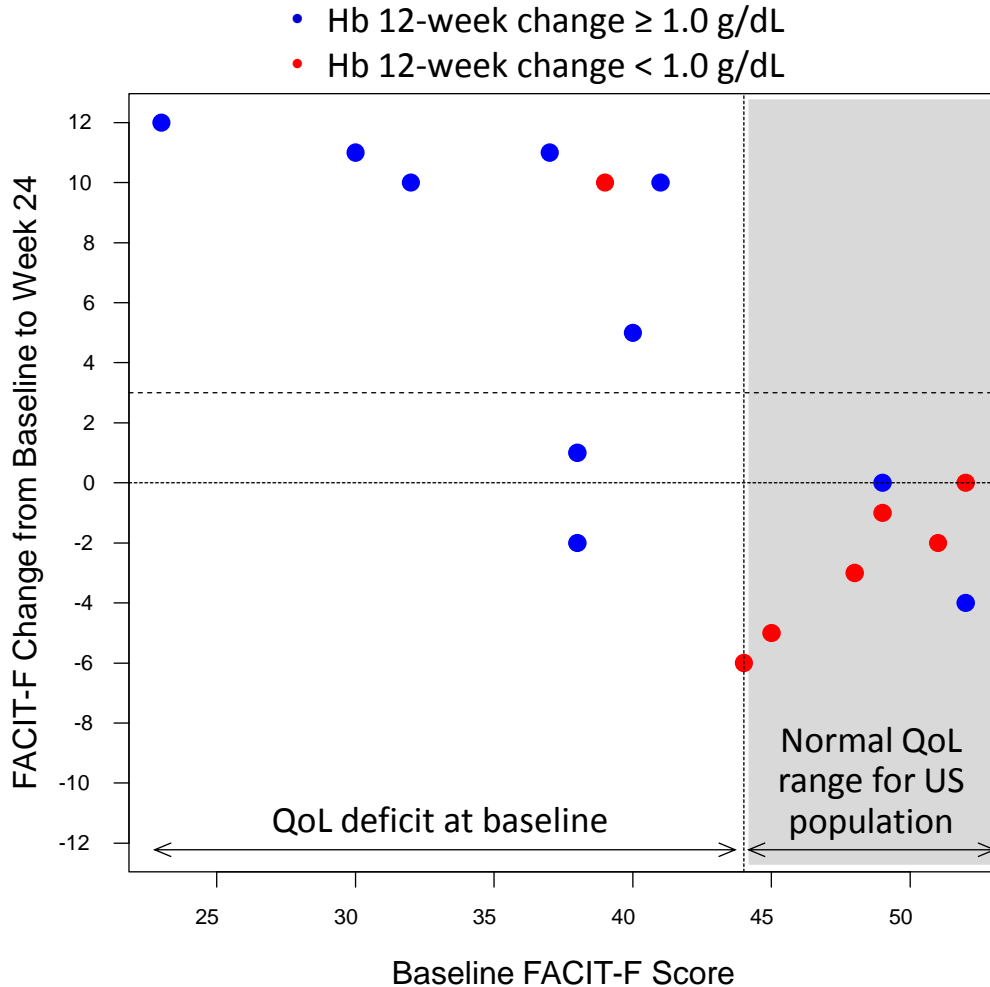
# Sustained Increase in Hemoglobin in NTD Patients with Longer-Term Treatment

- Median duration of treatment: 13.8 months (N=27)
- Median duration of Hb increase  $\geq 1.0$  g/dL/12 wks in responders (treatment ongoing): 13.5 months (N=21)



# Improvement in Quality of Life in Symptomatic NTD Patients

FACIT-F is a validated 13-question patient-reported outcome (PRO) questionnaire to assess anemia-related symptoms such as fatigue and weakness.<sup>1</sup>



- 7/9 (78%) patients with baseline FACIT-F deficit ( $<44$  points) improved by  $\geq 3$  points at 24 weeks
- 6/7 (86%) patients with an increase in FACIT-F score  $\geq 3$  points also improved mean hemoglobin over a 12-week period by  $\geq 1.0$  g/dL

<sup>1</sup>Cella D, et al, Cancer 2002

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## **Efficacy in Transfusion-Dependent (TD) Patients**

## Reduction in Transfusion Burden in TD Patients

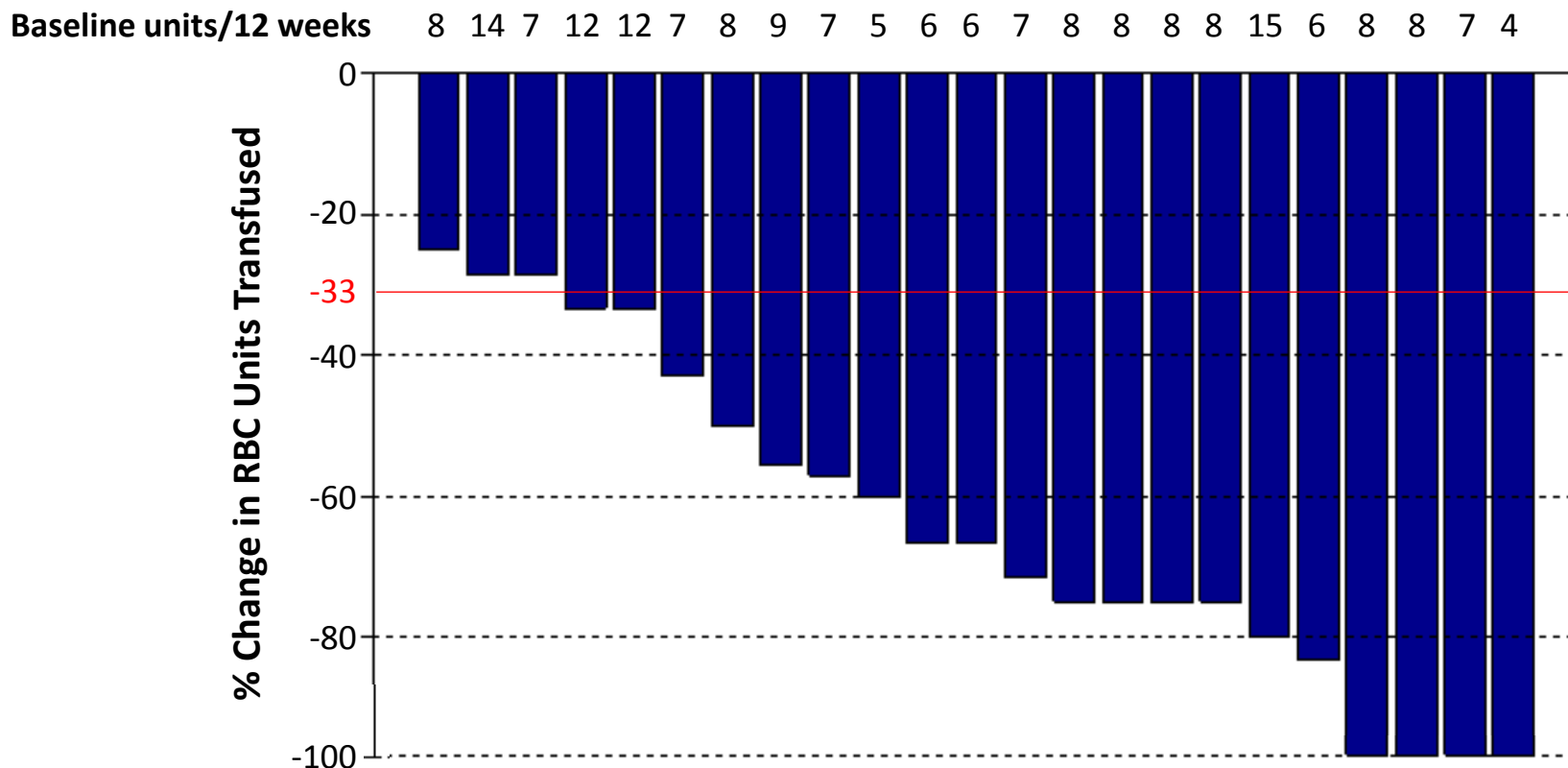
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- Transfusion burden reduction from 12 weeks pre-treatment to any 12-week period on treatment

<b>Reduction in RBC Units Transfused</b>	<b>Base Study N=31</b>	<b>Extension Study N=24</b>
≥ 20% reduction	25 (81%)	23 (96%)
≥ 33% reduction	22 (71%)	20 (83%)
≥ 50% reduction	17 (55%)	17 (71%)

# Reduction in Transfusion Burden in TD Patients in Extension Study

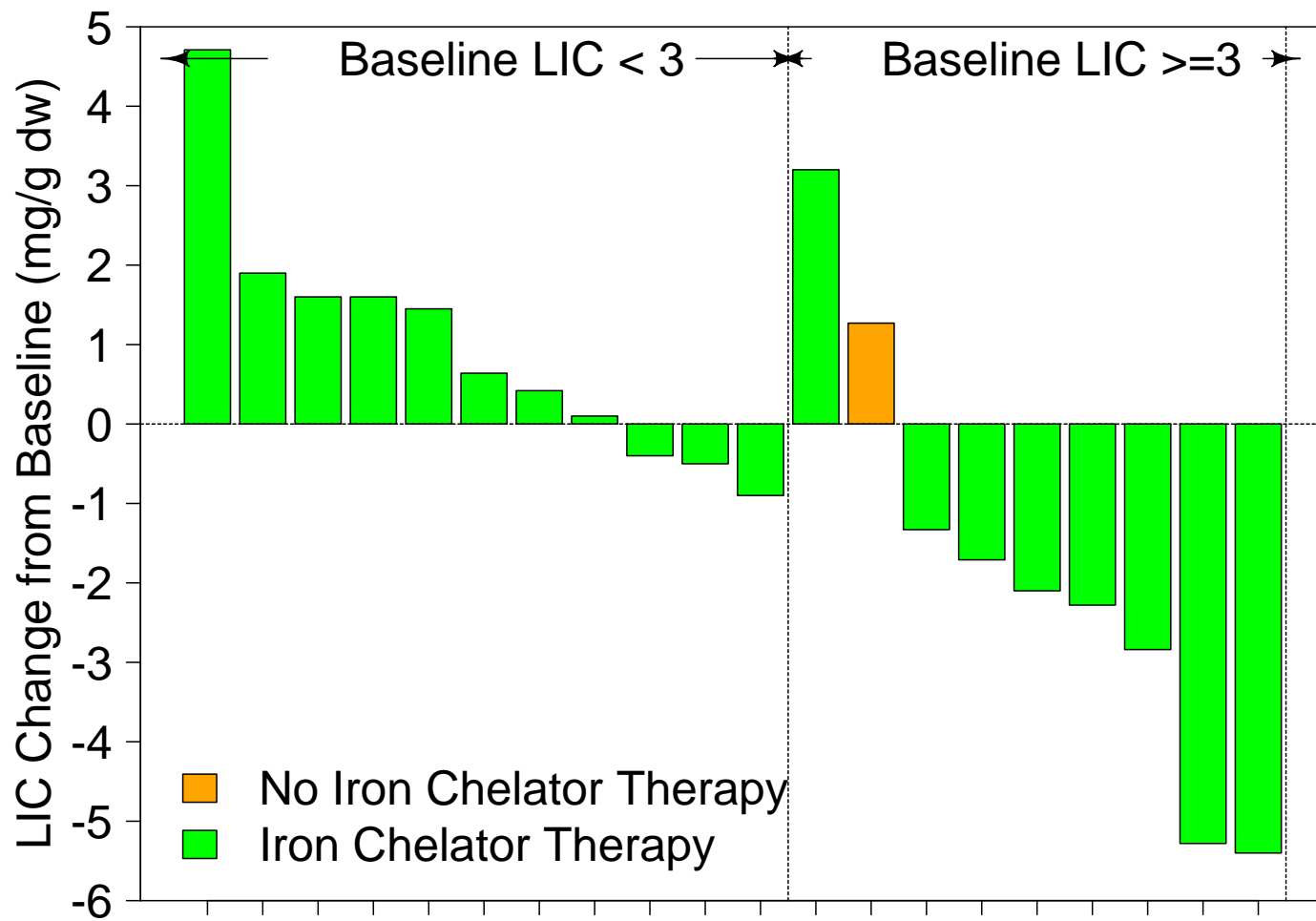
- Transfusion reduction from 12 wks pre-treatment to any 12-wk period on treatment
- Median treatment duration was 14.5 months (n=24)
- Median duration of  $\geq 33\%$  reduction (treatment ongoing): 6.3 months (n=20)



\* 1 subject discontinued before completing 12 weeks, not shown



# Change in Liver Iron Concentration (MRI) in TD Patients Follow-up: 5-11 Months



## Safety Summary – Adverse Events in Patients with $\beta$ thalassemia

- No related serious adverse events with luspatercept treatment (exposure ~66 pt-yr)
- Related grade 3 adverse events: bone pain (n=2 base, n=1 extension), asthenia (n=2 base) and headache (n=1 extension)
- Favorable safety profile maintained with long-term treatment
- Majority of AEs continue to be grade 1/2

Preferred Term	Possibly or Probably Related AEs (all grades) in $\geq 10\%$ Patients	
	Base Study N=64	Extension Study N=51
Bone pain	19 (30%)	11 (22%)
Myalgia	11 (17%)	4 (8%)
Headache	9 (14%)	8 (16%)
Musculoskeletal pain	8 (13%)	5 (10%)
Arthralgia	7 (11%)	5 (10%)
Injection site pain	2 (3%)	5 (10%)

## Conclusions - Luspatercept in Adults with $\beta$ -Thalassemia

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- Luspatercept was generally safe and well-tolerated at dose levels up to 1.25 mg/kg with no related serious adverse events
- Sustained hemoglobin increase in NTD patients, associated with an improvement in quality of life
- Sustained reduction in transfusion burden in TD patients, associated with reduction in liver iron concentration (LIC)
- Results supported the initiation of a Phase 3 study of luspatercept in regularly transfused patients with  $\beta$ -thalassemia (NCT 02604433)

# The BELIEVE Study

Phase 3 Study of Luspatercept in  $\beta$ -thalassemia: **NOW ENROLLING**



## Patient Population / Study Design

Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in adult  $\beta$ -thalassemia patients (including HbE/ $\beta$ -thal)  
300 patients, randomized 2:1; luspatercept 1 mg/kg SC every 3 weeks, titration up to 1.25 mg/kg possible

## Key Eligibility Criteria

Patients who receive 6-20 units of RBCs over past 24 weeks and no transfusion-free period  $\geq$  35 days (regularly transfused patients)  
No current ESA or hydroxyurea

## Primary Efficacy Endpoint

Proportion of patients with  $\geq$  33% reduction in transfusion burden from weeks 13-24 compared to the 12 weeks preceding treatment

*Study sponsored by Celgene in collaboration with Acceleron Pharma*

NCT02604433

# Luspatercept $\beta$ -Thalassemia Phase 2 Study: Acknowledgments

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- **Co-investigators:** S Perrotta, C Borgna-Pignatti, A Filosa, B Vania, M Zenone, S Mercurio, F Della Rocca, U Pugliese, L Manfredini, A Quarta, G Abbate, S Anastasi, R Lisi, M Casale, P Cinque, S Costantini, M Marsella, P Ricchi, A Spasiano
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- **Chiltern:** C Lanza, F Van der Schueren, M Belfiore
- **Independent Safety Reviewer:** E Neufeld

*Study sponsored by Celgene in collaboration with Acceleron Pharma*