Key Words: amines, antipsychotic agents, double-blind method, mood disorders, psychopharmacology, psychotic disorders, schizophrenia, tardive dyskinesia, valbenazine

Efficacy of Valbenazine (NBI-98854) in Treating Subjects with Tardive Dyskinesia and Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective Disorder

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ABSTRACT ~ **Background**: *Valbenazine (VBZ, NBI-98854) is a novel vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2) inhibitor approved for the treatment of tardive dyskinesia (TD). The KINECT 3 study (NCT02274558) evaluated the effects of VBZ on TD in subjects with schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder (SCHZ) or mood disorder (mood disorder presented separately) who received up to 48 weeks of treatment.* **Methods**: *KINECT 3 included: 6-week, double-blind, placebo (PBO)-controlled (DBPC) period (205 completers); 42-week VBZ extension (VE) period (124 completers): 4-week washout period (121 completers). Subjects entering the DBPC were randomized 1:1:1 to once-daily VBZ 80 mg, VBZ 40 mg, or PBO; stable concomitant antipsychotic medication regimens were allowed. Subjects completing the DBPC and entering the VE period were re-randomized (blinded) 1:1 from PBO to VBZ (80 or 40 mg) or continued VBZ treatment at the same dose. Efficacy assessments included: mean changes from baseline in Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS) total score (items 1–7); mean Clinical Global Impression of Change (CGI-TD) scores; AIMS responders (subjects with ⩾50% score reduction from baseline): and CGI-TD responders (subjects with score ⩽2 ["much improved" or "very much improved"]). Treatment effect sizes (Cohen's d) and numbers needed to treat (NNTs) were analyzed for DBPC outcomes.* **Results**: *Efficacy analyses were conducted in 148 subjects (DBPC) and 125 subjects (VE) with SCHZ. At Week 6 (end of DBPC), AIMS mean score improvements were greater in the VBZ groups (in a dose-related pattern) than in the PBO group (80 mg, −2.9, d = 0.88; 40 mg, −1.6, d = 0.52; PBO, +0.3). AIMS score changes at Week 48 (end of VE) showed continued TD improvement during long-term VBZ treatment (80 mg, −4.2; 40 mg, −2.5). By Week 52 (end of washout), AIMS scores were returning toward baseline levels, indicating re-emergence of TD. CGI-TD mean scores were as follows: Week 6 (80 mg, 3.0, d = 0.11; 40 mg, 2.9, d = 0.23; PBO, 3.2), Week 48 (80 mg, 2.2; 40 mg, 2.4), Week 52 (80 mg, 3.4; 40 mg, 3.3). AIMS responder rates (⩾50% score reduction) were greater with*

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VBZ than with PBO at Week 6 (80 mg, 40.9%, NNT = 4; 40 mg, 26.2%, NNT = 6; PBO, 9.3%), were increased at Week 48 (80 mg, 50.0%; 40 mg, 26.2%), and decreased after VBZ washout (80 mg, 21.6%; 40 mg, 9.5%). CGI-TD responder rates followed a similar pattern: Week 6 (80 mg, 29.5%, NNT = 17; 40 mg, 33.3%, NNT = 10; PBO, 23.3%), Week 48 (80 mg, 73.7%; 40 mg, 58.1%), Week 52 (80 mg, 29.7%; 40 mg, 33.3%). ***Conclusion****: Sustained TD improvements were found in subjects with SCHZ who received up to 48 weeks of VBZ, with TD reverting toward baseline when assessed 4 weeks after treatment withdrawal. Together with results from mood disorder subjects and the long-term safety profile (presented separately), these results indicate that long-term VBZ can be beneficial for managing TD regardless of psychiatric diagnosis category.* Psychopharmacol Bull. *2017;47(3):69–76.*

Introduction

- Tardive dyskinesia (TD) is a persistent movement disorder associated with prolonged exposure to dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), such as antipsychotics[1]
- Antipsychotics are first-line therapies in patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder, and it is important to evaluate TD treatment in this population
- Valbenazine (INGREZZA) is a novel and highly selective inhibitor of vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2), which is the first and only FDA-approved product indicated for the treatment of adults with TD

Objective

- To evaluate the effects of once-daily valbenazine (40 or 80 mg) in participants with TD and schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder who received up to 48 weeks of treatment in the KINECT 3 study (NCT02274558)

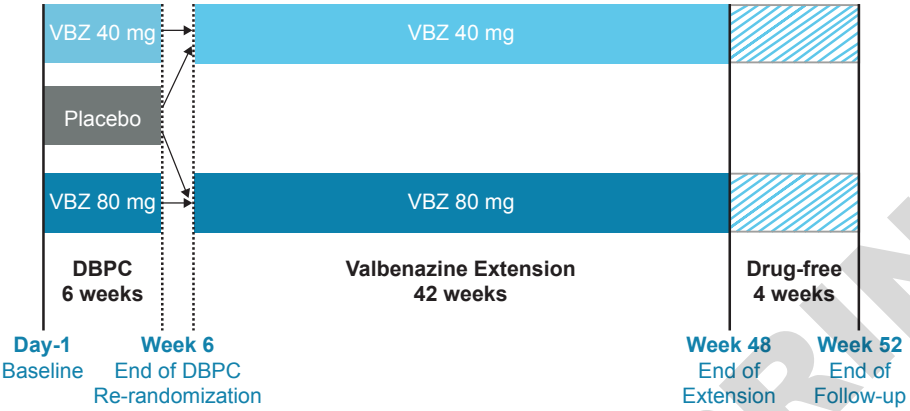
Methods

Study Design

- KINECT 3 included a double-blind, placebo-controlled (DBPC) period (6 weeks),[2] followed by a double-blind valbenazine extension (VE) period (42 weeks), and a post-treatment (drug-free) 4-week follow-up period (Figure 1)
  - Participants initially randomized to valbenazine (40 or 80 mg) in the DBPC period continued to receive the same dose during the VE period

FIGURE 1

Study Design



Abbreviations: DBPC, double-blind placebo-controlled; VBZ, valbenazine.

- Participants initially randomized to placebo in the DBPC period were re-randomized (1:1) to valbenazine 40 or 80 mg for the VE period; those re-randomized to valbenazine 80 mg received 40 mg during the first week and 80 mg thereafter
- All participants, investigators, and central Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale (AIMS) video raters were blinded to valbenazine dose during the VE period

Participants

- Key inclusion criteria
  - Adults aged 18–85 years with a *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (e.g., DSM-IV) diagnosis of schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder or mood disorder, and Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS) score <50 at screening
  - DSM-IV diagnosis of DRBA-induced TD for ⩾3 months prior to screening
  - Moderate or severe TD, as qualitatively assessed by a blinded, external reviewer using a video of the participant's AIMS assessment at screening
- Key exclusion criteria
  - Active, clinically significant, and unstable medical condition within 1 month prior to screening
  - Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) score ⩾70 at baseline and Calgary Depression Scale for Schizophrenia

(CDSS) score ⩾10 at screening or baseline for participants with schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder
  - Comorbid movement disorder (e.g., parkinsonism, akathisia, truncal dystonia) that is more prominent than TD
  - Significant risk for active suicidal ideation, suicidal behavior, or violent behavior
- Stable doses of concomitant medications to treat psychiatric disorders were allowed throughout the study

Analyses

- Analyses were conducted in the intent-to-treat (ITT) population (i.e., all participants who received study treatment and had ⩾1 post-baseline AIMS assessment)
- The schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup was analyzed in the ITT population
- Outcomes included
  - AIMS mean score change from baseline and Clinical Global Impression of Change-Tardive Dyskinesia (CGI-TD) mean score (ITT population, schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup)
  - Analyzed by study visit (Weeks 6, 8, 16, 32, 48, 52)
  - AIMS scoring was based on consensus of 2 central AIMS video raters who were blinded to treatment group and sequence of visit
  - CGI-TD scoring was conducted by the site investigator who was blinded to treatment group
- Response analyses (schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup)
  - Analyzed by study visit
  - AIMS response: ⩾50% improvement from baseline in the AIMS total score
  - CGI-TD response: score 1 (very much improved) or 2 (much improved)

Results

Participants

- 205 total participants completed the 6-week DBPC period, 198 entered the VE period, 124 completed the VE period, and 121 completed the post-treatment (drug-free) follow-up period
- In the 150 participants with schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder who received ⩾1 dose of treatment during the DBPC, baseline characteristics were generally similar across treatment groups (Table 1)

TABLE 1

Baseline Characteristics in the Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder Subgroup[a]

CHARACTERISTIC	PLACEBO (N = 50)	VALBENAZINE 40 MG (N = 48)	VALBENAZINE 80 MG (N = 52)
Age, mean years (SD)	56.8 (10.0)	55.6 (8.3)	56.8 (9.5)
Male, n (%)	34 (68.0)	31 (64.6)	29 (55.8)
White, n (%)	20 (40.0)	23 (47.9)	27 (51.9)
Black, n (%)	27 (54.0)	21 (43.8)	24 (46.2)
BMI, kg/m^2, mean (SD)	27.9 (5.8)	28.5 (5.5)	27.3 (5.7)
Age at TD diagnosis, mean years (SD)	47.7 (9.6)	47.2 (11.2)	47.6 (13.6)
BPRS score at screening, mean (SD)	31.9 (6.0)	32.5 (7.8)	30.4 (6.5)
AIMS score, mean (SD)	9.3 (4.5)	8.8 (4.2)	10.1 (3.5)

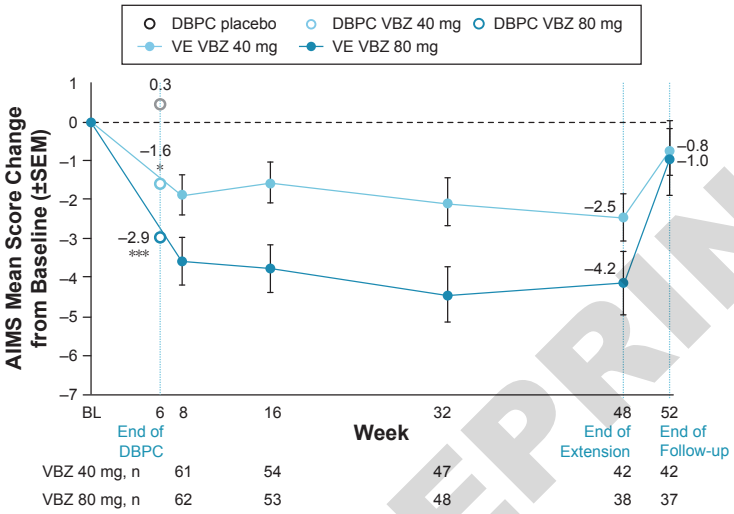
Notes: [a]In the safety population, defined as all participants who received ⩾1 dose of assigned study drug; no statistical testing between treatment groups.
Abbreviations: AIMS, Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale; BMI, body mass index; BPRS, Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale; PANSS, Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale; SD, standard deviation; TD, tardive dyskinesia.

Efficacy

- AIMS mean score changes in the overall ITT population
  - Week 6, least squares (LS) mean changes from baseline: 80 mg, −3.2 ($P < 0.0001$, statistically significant primary outcome per fixed-sequence testing procedure[2]); 40 mg, −1.9 ($P < 0.01$); placebo, −0.1
  - Week 48, mean changes from baseline: 80 mg, −4.8; 40 mg, −3.0; no statistical testing between dose groups
  - Mean scores increased from Week 48 (80 mg, 6.2; 40 mg, 6.8) to Week 52 (80 mg, 9.8; 40 mg, 8.4), indicating that TD symptoms returned toward baseline levels during the 4-week period following discontinuation of valbenazine
- A similar pattern of results was found in the schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup (Figure 2)
- CGI-TD mean scores in the overall ITT population
  - Week 6, LS mean scores: 80 mg, 2.9; 40 mg, 2.9; placebo, 3.2; no statistically significant difference
  - Week 48, mean scores; 80 mg, 2.1; 40 mg, 2.4; no statistical testing between dose groups
  - Mean scores at Week 52 (80 mg, 3.5; 40 mg, 3.1) were higher than those at Week 48, indicating worsening of TD severity after valbenazine was discontinued
- A similar pattern of results was found in the schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup (Figure 3)
- In the schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup, the percentage of participants achieving AIMS response (⩾50% total score improvement from baseline) remained relatively constant from Weeks 8 to

FIGURE 2

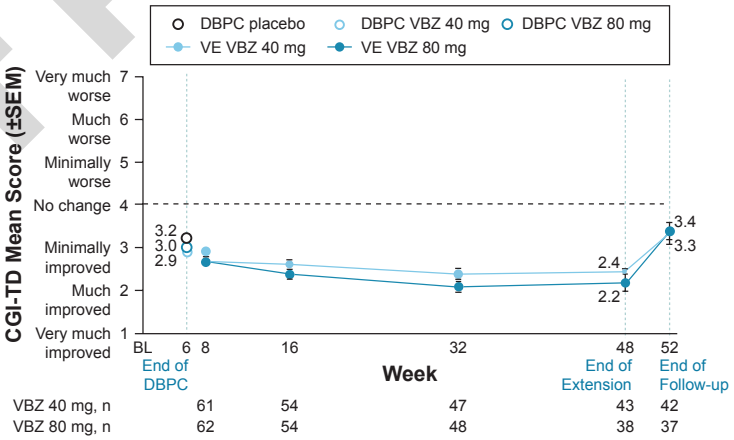
AIMS Mean Score Change from Baseline by Study Visit (Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder Subgroup)



Notes: At end of DBPC: $^{**}P < 0.01$ vs placebo; results based on least squares mean change from DBPC baseline, analyzed post hoc using a mixed-effects model for repeated measures. VE and drug-free follow-up periods: results based on arithmetic mean changes from DBPC baseline, with no imputation for missing values or significance testing between dose groups.
Abbreviations: AIMS, Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale; BL, baseline; DBPC, double-blind placebo-controlled; SEM, standard error of the mean; VBZ, valbenazine; VE, valbenazine extension.

FIGURE 3

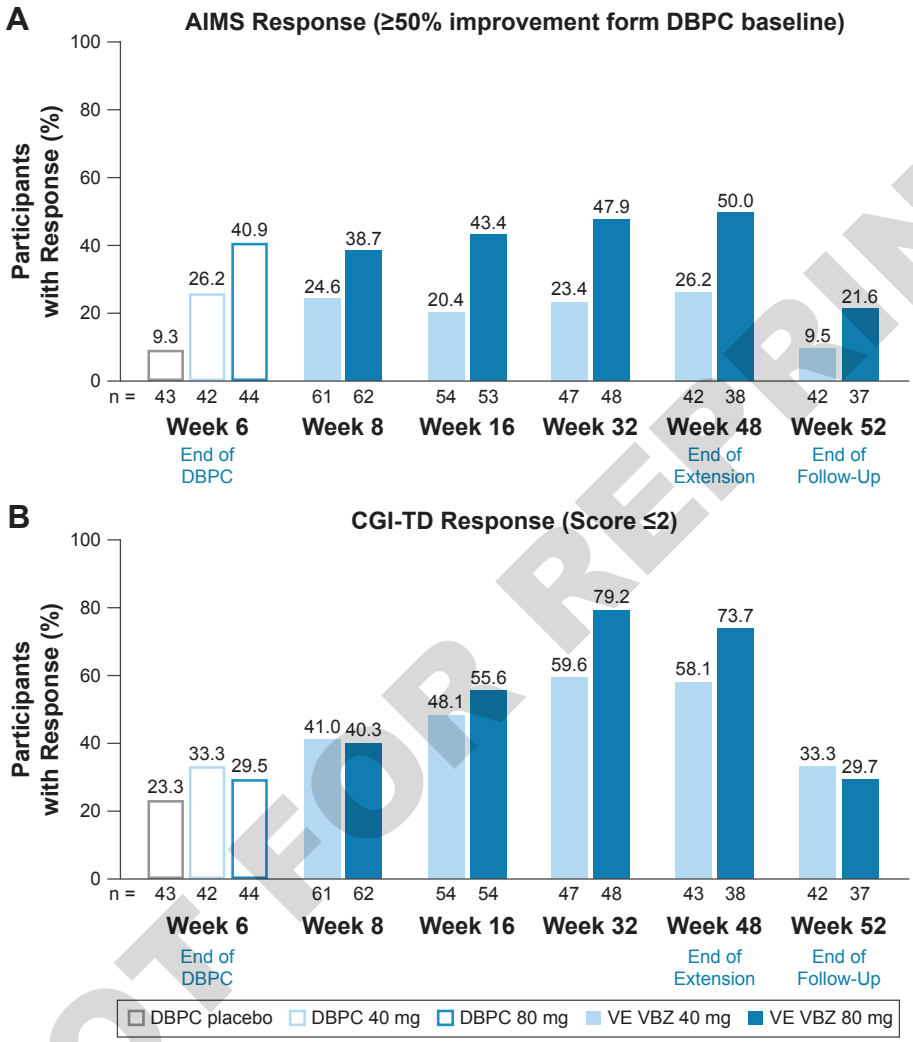
CGI-TD Mean Score by Study Visit (Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder Subgroup)



Notes: VE and drug-free follow-up periods: results based on arithmetic means, with no imputation for missing values or significance testing between dose groups.
Abbreviations: BL, baseline; CGI-TD, Clinical Global Impression of Change-Tardive Dyskinesia; DBPC, double-blind placebo-controlled; SEM, standard error of the mean; VBZ, valbenazine; VE, valbenazine extension.

FIGURE 4

Response Rates by Study Visit (Schizophrenia/Schizoaffective Disorder Subgroup)



Note: No significance testing was conducted between dose groups in the schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup.
Abbreviations: AIMS, Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale; CGI-TD, Clinical Global Impression of Change-Tardive Dyskinesia; DBPC, double-blind placebo-controlled; VBZ, valbenazine; VE, valbenazine extension.

48 in the 40 mg group and increased over time in the 80 mg group (Figure 4A)
- At Week 52 in both dose groups (i.e., 4 weeks after valbenazine was discontinued), AIMS response rates dropped to below the valbenazine response rates at Week 6 (i.e., end of DBPC)

- Similarly, rates of CGI-TD response (score ≤2) in the schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder subgroup were maintained or increased during the VE period but decreased by end of the drug-free follow-up period (Figure 4B)

Conclusions

- Reductions of TD with once-daily valbenazine appeared similar between the overall study population and the subgroup of participants with schizophrenia/schizoaffective disorder
  - At end of the DBPC period, AIMS mean score changes from baseline were significantly greater with valbenazine as compared to placebo
  - AIMS and CGI-TD results, including response rates, from the VE period indicate sustained TD improvements in participants who received valbenazine for up to 48 weeks
  - After treatment was discontinued, TD severity reverted toward baseline levels and response rates declined
- Together with results from mood disorder participants (poster #P5-005), these results indicate that long-term valbenazine may be beneficial for managing TD regardless of psychiatric diagnosis ✤

Disclosure

Medical writing and editorial assistance was provided by Prescott Medical Communications Group, Inc., Chicago, IL.

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