

Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases & Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center (Philadelphia VA)

Orthopoxvirus pathogenesis and where we stand with therapeutics

Stuart N. Isaacs, M.D.

December 1, 2023

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

Committee on the Current State of Research, Development, and Stockpiling of Smallpox Medical Countermeasures



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Cytoplasmic membrane





Adapted from J. Gen. Virol. (2002)





Adapted from J. Gen. Virol. (2002)



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Adapted from J. Gen. Virol. (2002)

NHP challenge with monkeypox virus

	Tecovirimat (10 mg/kg) q24-h x 14 days		Brincidofovir	
Day treatment started	5x10 ⁷ pfu (i.v.)			
post-infection	Placebo	Tecovirimat		
4 (study 1)	0% (0/7)	80% (4/5)		
4 (study 2)	0% (0/6)	100% (6/6)		
4 (study 3)	0% (0/3)	83% (5/6)		
5		83% (5/6)		
6		50% (3/6)		



Mouse challenge with ectromelia virus

	Tecovirimat	Brincidofovir (10/5/5 mg/kg) q48-h x 3 doses		
Day treatment started post-infection		200 pfu (i.d.)		
		Placebo	Brincidofovir	
4			66% (25/32)	
5		13% (4/32)	66% (21/32)	
6			34% (11/32)	



Rabbit challenge with rabbitpox virus

	Tecovirimat (40 mg/kg) q24-h x 14 days		Brincidofovir (20/5/5 mg/kg) q48-h x 3 doses	
Day treatment started post-infection	1,000 pfu (i.d.)		600 pfu (i.d.)	
	Placebo	Tecovirimat	Placebo	Brincidofovir
4	0% (0/10)	90% (9/10)*	29% (8/28)	90% (26/29)
5				69% (20/29)
6				69% (20/29)

* Repeat 88% (7/8)



Poxvirus life cycle

(Other therapeutic targets)

Virus entry Genome replication Concatemers Uncoating Intermediate transcription • Late transcription Early transcription Nucleus Release (@@@ Maturation/ Assembly golgi wrapping



Poxvirus immune evasion proteins as therapeutic targets (simplified diagram)





Moss and Shisler, 2001

U.S. Monkeypox cases reported to CDC: Age and Gender (30,969 cases)



9/28/23

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https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/response/2022

ORTHOPOXVIRUS PATHOGENESIS AND WHERE WE STAND WITH THERAPEUTICS

NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE

COMMITTEE ON THE CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND STOCKPILING OF SMALLPOX MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES



Questions and Discussion