Per-Treatment Post Hoc Analysis of Clinical Trial Outcomes With Tolvaptan in ADPKD

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Introduction: In pivotal trials of patients with autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease at risk of rapid progression, tolvaptan slowed estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) decline in early-to-moderate (TEMPO 3:4 [NCT00428948]) and moderate- to late-stage (REPRISE [NCT02160145]) chronic kidney disease (CKD). Discontinuation was less frequent in REPRISE (15.0%) than TEMPO 3:4 (23.0%), given that in REPRISE, only subjects who tolerated tolvaptan 60/30 mg daily initiated the double-blind phase. We evaluated whether the greater treatment effect in REPRISE was attributable to different completion rates.

Methods: We conducted post hoc analyses of TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE completers, defined as subjects who took trial drug to the end of the treatment period in TEMPO 3:4 (3 years) or REPRISE (1 year). Efficacy (rate of change in eGFR for tolvaptan vs. placebo) was analyzed as in each trial. Subjects from TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE were also matched by propensity score for age, gender, and baseline eGFR to explore potential additional determinants of treatment effect.

Results: The annualized tolvaptan treatment effect in TEMPO 3:4 completers (difference vs. placebo of 0.98 ml/min per 1.73 m²/y) and REPRISE completers (difference of 1.23) was similar to that of the respective total trial populations (TEMPO 3:4: 0.94; REPRISE: 1.27). The treatment effect of tolvaptan was also similar between matched subjects.

Conclusion: Greater treatment completion rate did not drive greater treatment effect in REPRISE. The more advanced CKD of REPRISE subjects may be more relevant. More rapid decline in kidney function in later-stage CKD enabled the effects of tolvaptan to be more easily discerned.

Keywords: autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease; clinical trial; chronic kidney disease; persistence; tolvaptan; treatment effect

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Inhibition of vasopressin activity also decreases urine concentrating activity and is associated with aquaretic adverse events (e.g., polyuria, thirst, nocturia, pollakiuria), which can negatively impact adherence to treatment. In TEMPO 3:4, 23.0% of tolvaptan-treated subjects discontinued from the trial early; the most common reason for discontinuation was adverse events (15.4% of subjects), and those most frequently leading to discontinuation were aquaretic adverse events (8.3% of subjects). The double-blind treatment phase of REPRISE included only subjects who tolerated tolvaptan at a split dose of at least 60/30 mg during a preceding single-blind tolvaptan treatment phase. Compared with TEMPO 3:4, discontinuations were, therefore, less frequent during the double-blind phase of REPRISE: 15.0% of subjects in the tolvaptan arm discontinued treatment; 9.5% discontinued due to adverse events, and 2.1% discontinued due to aquaretic adverse events.

Both trials were analyzed in accordance with the intention-to-treat principle, which mandates that outcome analyses are based on all subjects randomized to a treatment, without regard for noncompliance, protocol deviations, or early withdrawal. Intention-to-treat is an established feature of interventional clinical trial design intended to minimize bias in the estimation of treatment effect that would arise from the exclusion of subjects nonadherent to study treatment. The approach is mandated by many regulatory bodies, even if studies go on to also include additional per-protocol or as-treated analyses. However, it is widely recognized that in scenarios in which there are high levels of nonadherence to a trial treatment, intention-to-treat analysis may substantially underestimate the effect of a therapy.

To evaluate the possibility that subjects who completed their respective trials on treatment would show a larger effect size than those who terminated treatment early, we conducted a post hoc analysis. The primary objective of this analysis was to assess the effects of tolvaptan on eGFR in subgroups of TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE trial subjects who completed the follow-up period on treatment. A secondary objective was to explore the potential effects of treatment completion on the magnitude of treatment responses observed in TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE.

**METHODS**

**TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE Trial Design and Population**

TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE trial design and enrollment criteria have been described previously. Both were randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials. In TEMPO 3:4, tolvaptan was initiated at a daily split dose of 45/15 mg, which was increased weekly to 60/30 mg and then to 90/30 mg, based on subject-reported tolerability. Subjects took the highest tolerable dose for the 36-month treatment period.

In REPRISE, all subjects received tolvaptan during a single-blind, 5-week titration and run-in phase. Those who tolerated a 60/30-mg or 90/30-mg dose were then randomized to 12 months of double-blind tolvaptan or placebo. Tolvaptan was taken at the highest dose tolerated (with a maximum dose of 90/30 mg).

Both studies targeted ADPKD populations with a high likelihood of rapid disease progression. TEMPO 3:4 enrolled subjects with preserved renal function: 18 to 50 years old with estimated creatinine clearance ≥60 ml/min and TKV ≥750 m. REPRISE enrolled an older population with more advanced disease: ages 18 to 55 years with eGFR ≥25 and ≤65 ml/min per 1.73 m², or ages 56 to 65 years with eGFR ≥25 and ≤44 ml/min per 1.73 m² and evidence of ADPKD progression (an eGFR decline of ≥2.0 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year based on historical eGFR data). Based on the preceding enrollment criteria, TEMPO 3:4 had a trial population in CKD stages 1 to 3, >80% in stage 1 or 2 CKD. In REPRISE, 75% of subjects were in stage 3 and 20% were in stage 4 CKD. A post hoc analysis of the TEMPO 3:4 trial population indicated a population enriched for high risk of rapid progression, with 89.5% of the population in Mayo risk classes 1C-1E versus 60.5% in an unselected ADPKD population of Mayo Clinic patients.

**Outcomes Evaluated in the Post Hoc Analyses**

The effect of tolvaptan on rate of change in eGFR in each trial was evaluated for the subgroup of completers, that is, subjects who continued to take the trial drug to the end of the treatment period in TEMPO 3:4 (3 years) or REPRISE (1 year). Similarly, the effect of tolvaptan on annualized rate of TKV growth was calculated for the completer subpopulation in TEMPO 3:4 (TKV was not assessed in REPRISE).

To further explore determinants of tolvaptan treatment effects on kidney function in ADPKD, subgroup analyses of change in eGFR over time by baseline demographic and clinical variables were performed. Finally, subject characteristics by completer/noncompleter status were compared to identify variables associated with completion/noncompletion.

**Statistical Methods**

Analysis of efficacy endpoints was based on the methods used in each trial and using the full trial datasets. For TEMPO 3:4, comparisons between tolvaptan completers and placebo completers were
derived by testing the time treatment interaction with a linear mixed model in which both intercept and slope are fixed and random effects. For REPRISE, the comparison was derived from a weighted analysis of covariance with effects of treatment and randomization stratification factors and covariate baseline.

In an analysis of the effects of baseline variables, we compared eGFR slope between subjects from TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE who were matched by propensity score for gender, age, and baseline eGFR. Propensity score-based matching was used to exclude the effects of differences in trial populations (for example, in the proportions of subjects with early versus late-stage CKD) and assess the treatment effects of tolvaptan in subjects with similar clinical profiles. For the propensity analysis, the SAS (SAS Inc., Cary, NC) procedure PROC PSMATCH was utilized in 3 steps with the local optimal algorithm, caliper = 0.03, and the sex as exact match. In Step 1, TEMPO 3:4 placebo subjects were matched to TEMPO 3:4 tolvaptan subjects. The total absolute difference in the logit of the propensity score for all matches was 0.692729. In Step 2, REPRISE tolvaptan subjects were matched to the TEMPO 3:4 tolvaptan subjects found in Step 1. The total absolute difference in the logit of the propensity score for all matches was 1.722285. In Step 3, REPRISE placebo subjects were matched to TEMPO 3:4 placebo subjects found in Step 1. The total absolute difference in the logit of the propensity score for all matches was 0.78467.

In a comparison of subject characteristics by completer/noncompleter status, P values were derived by Fisher exact test for binary characteristics and by t-test/Wilcoxon Test for continuous characteristics.

### RESULTS

#### Subject Disposition

In TEMPO 3:4, 740 of 961 (77.0%) subjects randomized to the tolvaptan arm and 417 of 484 (86.2%) randomized to the placebo arm completed the trial on treatment. In REPRISE, the number of completers was 578 of 683 (84.6%) for tolvaptan and 637 of 687 (92.7%) for placebo. Several completers in each trial had missing or unusable eGFR data, yielding an efficacy analysis population of 713 tolvaptan and 410 placebo completers for TEMPO 3:4 and 576 tolvaptan and 634 placebo completers for REPRISE (Figure 1). Testing of the potential interaction between completer status and treatment found no treatment difference between completers and noncompleters in either TEMPO 3:4 (P = 0.4846) or REPRISE (P = 0.0924).

#### Efficacy in the Completer Subpopulation

In both TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE, rates of change in eGFR with tolvaptan and placebo were very similar between the total trial population and the subgroup of treatment completers (Figure 2). Accordingly, the treatment effect of tolvaptan versus placebo was also similar between the total population and the subgroup of treatment completers. Annualized TKV growth rate was 2.8% for subjects in the tolvaptan group and 5.5% for those in the placebo group in the total TEMPO 3:4 population (P < 0.001). Among the subgroup of TEMPO 3:4 completers, annualized TKV growth rate was 2.7% for subjects in the tolvaptan group and 5.5% for those in the placebo group (P < 0.001). As with rates of change in kidney function, rates of TKV

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**Figure 1.** Subject flow.
growth in the subpopulation of completers were similar to those in the total trial population.

Impact of Baseline Characteristics
Subgroup analyses of completers by baseline characteristics showed that tolvaptan was efficacious versus placebo in slowing renal function decline regardless of age, sex, or race in both trials (Supplementary Tables S1 and S2). The few nonsignificant differences between tolvaptan and placebo were in subgroups with low subject numbers: non-Caucasian subjects in TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE and subjects aged >55 years in REPRISE.

Propensity score matching for gender, age, and baseline eGFR generated an analysis set of 108 subjects for each trial (54 subjects in each of the tolvaptan and placebo treatment arms). Gender composition was 23 women (43%) and 31 men (57%) in each matched tolvaptan and placebo group, and mean age was 42 to 44 years (Figure 3a). The mean eGFR (~53 ml/min per 1.73 m²) in the matched population fell within CKD stage 3a, indicating the area of overlap in the 2 trial populations between subjects with early- to moderate-stage CKD (TEMPO 3:4) and subjects with moderate- to late-stage CKD (REPRISE) (Figure 3b). The baseline characteristics of the matched population are provided in Supplementary Table S3 and the age and CKD stage distributions are shown in Supplementary Figure S1. In the matched population, the treatment effect of tolvaptan in TEMPO 3:4 (1.44 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year) was similar to that in REPRISE (1.89 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year), with a nonsignificant difference of −0.45 (P = 0.71) (Figure 4).

Analyses of baseline demographic and clinical characteristics revealed potential associations of age, body mass index, use of blood pressure lowering drugs, history of hematuria, and history of kidney pain with treatment completion in TEMPO 3:4 but not REPRISE (Table 1).

DISCUSSION
Tolvaptan has demonstrated statistically and clinically significant efficacy in reducing the rate of kidney function decline in patients with ADPKD with both early-stage and later-stage CKD, with slight differences observed in the tolvaptan effect sizes between the total TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE populations. In TEMPO 3:4, the annualized mean change in eGFR was reduced by 1.20 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year with tolvaptan versus placebo.
In REPRISE, tolvaptan reduced the annualized mean change in eGFR by 1.27 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year. In TEMPO 3:4, the annualized eGFR slope was −2.72 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year in the tolvaptan group versus −3.70 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year in the placebo group (a difference of 0.98 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year; 95% confidence interval 0.60–1.36; \(P < 0.001\)).

In REPRISE, annualized eGFR slope was 3.16 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year with tolvaptan and 4.17 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year with placebo, a significant difference of 1.01 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year (95% confidence interval 0.62–1.40; \(P < 0.001\)).

The slightly greater tolvaptan treatment effects in REPRISE might plausibly be ascribed to the higher frequency of tolvaptan discontinuation during double-blind treatment in TEMPO 3:4 (23.0%) compared with REPRISE (15.0%). In this post hoc analysis, we evaluated the hypothesis that subjects completing their respective trials on treatment would show a larger effect size than those who discontinued treatment early. No difference in effect size, however, was found between the total trial population and the subgroup of completers. Tolvaptan was generally effective versus placebo in subgroups of completers defined by baseline age, sex, and race. The treatment difference between tolvaptan and placebo was not significant in non-Caucasian subjects in both trials and in subjects aged >55 years in REPRISE, observations that may have been due to the small sample sizes of these subgroups. Given the lack of impact of treatment completion and demographic characteristics on outcomes, the small differences in tolvaptan treatment effect between TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE therefore appeared to be due to differences in disease stage between the trial populations, namely, earlier-stage CKD in TEMPO 3:4 and later-stage CKD in REPRISE. Deterioration in kidney function accelerates over the course of ADPKD, enabling the easier detection of inhibitory effects on eGFR decline in patients with later-stage disease.

The importance of CKD stage at baseline is supported by the observation that when differences in subject baseline characteristics were accounted for via
propensity matching, the treatment effect was not significantly different between TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE. The lack of a significant treatment difference observed between tolvaptan and placebo within the matched REPRISE population may be due to the small size of the propensity matched subgroup relative to the total REPRISE cohort, which represents a limitation of the analysis. An analysis of changes in TKV in TEMPO 3:4 completers versus the total trial population showed similar results to the eGFR analyses, with little evident effect of completion on outcomes.

Tolvaptan was consistently associated with a slowing of eGFR decline by approximately 1 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year relative to placebo in TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE across completers and the overall trial populations. Although evaluating the efficacy of treatment for ADPKD remains an underresearched topic and there are no generally agreed-on standards for the clinic, a slowing of eGFR loss of 1 ml/min per 1.73 m²/year is clinically meaningful and can be expected to substantially slow progression to ESKD. Similarly, tolvaptan slowed the annual increase in TKV by approximately half, which can be expected to make an impact on patient outcomes and quality of life over the long-term.

We found associations between baseline characteristics and treatment completion in TEMPO 3:4. Subjects who were older or took blood pressure medication were more likely to be completers, possibly because they were already accustomed to daily pharmacotherapy. Mean baseline blood pressure itself did not significantly differ by completer/noncompleter status. A history of hematuria or kidney pain was negatively associated with treatment completion. Previous research on predictors of medication utilization supports a positive association between older age and better adherence, whereas data on the impact of comorbidity or the use of multiple medications on adherence are equivocal. Lower body mass index was also positively associated with treatment completion in TEMPO 3:4. The finding of correlations between subject characteristics and completer/noncompleter status in TEMPO 3:4 but not REPRISE may be due to the longer treatment period in TEMPO 3:4 (3 years vs. 1 year). Differences in trial design and trial populations between TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE must also be borne in mind. The double-blind treatment phase of REPRISE included only subjects who tolerated tolvaptan during a preceding single-blind phase. Subjects enrolled in REPRISE may also have been aware of the earlier TEMPO 3:4 findings demonstrating efficacy of tolvaptan in ADPKD and thus have been more willing to tolerate aquaretic adverse events. Given the established association of decreased drug compliance with negative health outcomes in chronic conditions, more research on predictors of medication persistence is needed in the context of treatment for ADPKD.

Limitations of the analysis are the post hoc nature of the analyses and the relatively small proportion of

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**Figure 4.** Tolvaptan effect on eGFR slope (ml/min per 1.73 m²/year) in TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE in subjects matched by propensity score (a). Comparison of tolvaptan effect on eGFR slope (ml/min per 1.73 m²/year) between TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE in subjects matched by propensity score (b). Comparison of TOL versus PBO in the subset of propensity-matched subjects within TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE. Comparison of TOL effect between TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE. eGFR data are ± standard error. eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; PBO, placebo; TOL, tolvaptan.
Table 1. Baseline characteristics of TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE participants by completer status

| Parameter                  | Completers (n = 1157) | Noncompleters (n = 288) | TEMPO 3:4 | P value | REPRISE | Noncompleters (n = 155) | P value |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| Age (y), mean (SD)         | 39.03 (6.97)          | 37.15 (7.47)            | <.001     |         | 47.38 (8.05)           | 46.33 (8.99) | 0.13     |
| Age ≤55 y, n (%)           | 1157 (100)            | 288 (100)               |           |         | 1041 (86)            | 132 (85)     | 0.90     |
| Malaria, n (%)             | 605 (52)              | 141 (49)                | 0.32      |         | 612 (50)            | 68 (44)      | 0.15     |
| BMI (kg/m²), mean (SD)     | 25.95 (4.79)          | 26.88 (5.93)            | 0.005     |         | 27.87 (5.71)          | 27.71 (5.77) | 0.75     |
| DBP (mm Hg), mean (SD)     | 82.44 (9.63)          | 82.59 (10.08)           | 0.81      |         | 82.18 (9.62)          | 83.52 (10.17) | 0.10     |
| Hematuria, n (%)           | 287 (25)              | 88 (24)                 | 0.70      |         | 548 (45)            | 60 (39)      | 0.15     |
| DBP (mm Hg), mean (SD)     | 856 (74)              | 191 (66)                | 0.01      |         | 1048 (86)           | 127 (82)     | 0.14     |
| Caudician, n (%)           | 848 (73)              | 191 (66)                | 0.02      |         | 5.04 (1.01)          | 4.99 (0.96)  | 0.55     |
| Cholesterol (mmol/l), mean (SD) | 5.00 (0.91)  | 5.03 (0.97)            | 0.71      |         | 5.16 (0.83)          | 5.04 (0.69)  | 0.13     |
| Diabetes mellitus, n (%)   | 1 (0)                 | 0 (0)                   | 1.00      |         | 28 (2)            | 4 (3)        | 0.78     |
| Hypercholesterolemia, n (%) | 287 (25)           | 88 (24)                 | 0.63      |         | 396 (33)           | 45 (29)      | 0.41     |
| Glucose (mmol/l), mean (SD) | 5.32 (0.90)           | 25 (0.0)                | 1.00      |         | 82 (24)            | 25 (2)       | 0.92     |
| Total kidney volume (ml), median (IQR) | 1470 (1072, 2024) | 1454 (1066, 1976) | 0.34 |         | 131 (11)           | 18 (12)      | 0.78     |
| Total kidney volume <2000 ml, n (%) | 498.4 (180.0)   | 515.3 (173.4)          | 0.15      |         | 168.8 (61.12)       | 169.1 (66.36) | 0.95     |
| Urine osmolality (mOsm/kg), mean (SD) | 498.4 (180.0) | 515.3 (173.4)         | 0.15      |         | 168.8 (61.12)       | 169.1 (66.36) | 0.95     |

BMI, body mass index; BPLD, blood pressure-lowering drugs; CKD-EPI, Chronic Kidney Disease-Epidemiology Collaboration; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; GLD, glucose-lowering drugs; IQR, interquartile range; LLD, lipid-lowering drugs; RAASI, renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system inhibitors; SBP, systolic blood pressure; UTI, urinary tract infection.

# Values were derived by Fisher exact test for binary characteristics. P values were derived by F-test/Wilcoxon test for continuous characteristics.

noncompleters in each trial arm (ranging from 7.7% to 23.0%). The small number of noncompleters may have decreased the power to detect differential effects of completer versus noncompleter status. When REPRISE was conducted, more was understood about the short-term hemodynamic effects of tolvaptan, with the timing of eGFR assessments designed to take these effects into account in evaluating long-term efficacy. The assessment of treatment effect was therefore not identical between TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE. In addition, outcomes after drug discontinuation were monitored differently in each trial. In REPRISE, eGFR data after discontinuation were included in the dataset for the overall population only for subjects who underwent the Month 12 visit and at least 1 follow-up serum creatinine assessment. In TEMPO 3:4, there was no requirement for follow-up after discontinuation to extend to end of study. Accordingly, the TEMPO 3:4 data may provide a less robust pool of data on noncompleters.

Within the context of the demonstrated efficacy of tolvaptan in subjects with ADPKD with early- to late-stage CKD, the most important factor in determining tolvaptan effect size in inhibiting eGFR decline appears to be stage of kidney disease at treatment commencement. This conclusion is consistent with earlier findings. Given that kidney function decline accelerates with the progression of ADPKD, the effects of tolvaptan in slowing kidney function loss are most easily discernible in later-stage patients. In clinical practice, monitoring kidney function to assess the effects of tolvaptan therapy, therefore, may be particularly useful for patients with later-stage disease.

DISCLOSURES

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL
Supplementary File (PDF)
Table S1. TEMPO 3:4 completers, annual rate of change in renal function, estimated by CKD-EPI formula (ml/min per 1.73 m²/year).

Table S2. REPRISE completers, annualized change in eGFR (ml/min per 1.73 m²/year) from pretreatment baseline to posttreatment follow-up.

Table S3. Baseline characteristics of matched subjects from TEMPO 3:4 and REPRISE.

Figure S1. The age (A) and chronic kidney disease stage (B) distributions of the matched analysis population.

CONSORT Statement.

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