Phase IIb, Randomized, Double-Blind Trial of GC4419 Versus Placebo to Reduce Severe Oral Mucositis Due to Concurrent Radiotherapy and Cisplatin For Head and Neck Cancer

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Abstract

Purpose
Oral mucositis (OM) remains a common, debilitating toxicity of radiation therapy (RT) for head and neck cancer. The goal of this phase IIb, multi-institutional, randomized, double-blind trial was to compare the efficacy and safety of GC4419, a superoxide dismutase mimetic, with placebo to reduce the duration, incidence, and severity of severe OM (SOM).

Patients and Methods
A total of 223 patients (from 44 institutions) with locally advanced oral cavity or oropharynx cancer planned to be treated with definitive or postoperative intensity-modulated RT (IMRT; 60 to 72 Gy [≥ 50 Gy to two or more oral sites]) plus cisplatin (weekly or every 3 weeks) were randomly assigned to receive 30 mg (n = 73) or 90 mg (n = 76) of GC4419 or to receive placebo (n = 74) by 60-minute intravenous administration before each IMRT fraction. WHO grade of OM was assessed biweekly during IMRT and then weekly for up to 8 weeks after IMRT. The primary endpoint was duration of SOM tested for each active dose level versus placebo (intent-to-treat population, two-sided α of .05). The National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.03, was used for adverse event grading.

Results
Baseline patient and tumor characteristics as well as treatment delivery were balanced. With 90 mg GC4419 versus placebo, SOM duration was significantly reduced (P = .024; median, 19 days). SOM incidence (43% vs 65%; P = .009) and severity (grade 4 incidence, 16% vs 30%; P = .045) also were improved. Intermediate improvements were seen with the 30-mg dose. Safety was comparable across arms, with no significant GC4419-specific toxicity nor increase of known toxicities of IMRT plus cisplatin. The 2-year follow-up for tumor outcomes is ongoing.

Conclusion
GC4419 at a dose of 90 mg produced a significant, clinically meaningful reduction of SOM duration, incidence, and severity with acceptable safety. A phase III trial (ROMAN; ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03689712) has begun.
SOM.22 GC4419 is a superoxide dismutase mimetic that rapidly and specifically converts $O_2^-$ to hydrogen peroxide ($H_2O_2$),23 arresting the initiation of this cascade. In a phase Ib/IIa trial in patients receiving standard concomitant cisplatin and intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for HNC, SOM incidence, duration, and severity (WHO grade 4 oral mucositis [OM] incidence) seemed improved compared with historical data when GC4419 was administered at doses of 30 or 90 mg before each IMRT fraction.24 The safety profile of GC4419 was acceptable. The 1-year tumor outcomes seemed consistent with expectations for IMRT plus cisplatin alone. We now report the efficacy and safety results of a randomized, double-blind trial of 30 mg or 90 mg of GC4419 versus placebo in a similar trial population.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Trial Design and Oversight

This randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase IIb trial was sponsored and financially supported by Galera Therapeutics. The protocol was approved by each institution’s institutional review board and was registered at ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT02508389). Investigators obtained written informed consent from each participant. Data were anonymized to protect the patients’ identities.

Patients

Eligible patients had stage III to IVb (according to American Joint Committee on Cancer, seventh edition), non-metastatic, oral cavity or oropharyngeal squamous cell cancer, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of 2 or less, and planned treatment with standard fractionation IMRT and concurrent cisplatin (80 to 100 mg/m² every 3 weeks or 30 to 40 mg/m² weekly) administered definitively or after surgical resection. IMRT plans had to include at least two oral mucosal sites (upper or lower lip, right or left buccal mucosa, right or left ventral/lateral oral tongue, floor of mouth, or soft palate) within the cumulative 50-Gy isodose line and were centrally reviewed by an independent radiation oncologist to confirm protocol adherence. Adequate marrow, renal, and hepatic functions were required. Prophylactic percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy tube placement was allowed, but patients were required to be able to eat soft solids at enrollment. Prior induction chemotherapy or concurrent treatment with nitrites was not allowed.

Treatment and Assessments

IMRT was administered in daily 2.0- to 2.2-Gy fractions, Monday through Friday, to a cumulative tumor dose of 60 to 72 Gy. Patients were randomly assigned in a 1:1:1 fashion to receive 30 mg of GC4419, 90 mg of GC4419, or placebo; each was administered intravenously in 250 mL of normal saline over 60 minutes and ended within 60 minutes before each radiation fraction. Enrollment was stratified by cisplatin schedule and tumor human papillomavirus status (p16 staining). Oral rinses—limited to sodium bicarbonate, lidocaine, and antifungal agents—were permitted. Other concurrent available or experimental systemic or topical pharmaceuticals or devices or low-level laser therapy for OM were excluded. Supportive care per ASCO guidelines was encouraged.

OM was assessed by trained investigator-evaluators using WHO criteria: grade 0, no mucositis; grade 1, pain and erythema; grade 2, ulceration, able to eat solid food; grade 3, ulceration, able to eat only liquids; and grade 4, ulceration, inability to eat, requiring tube or parenteral feeding. OM was assessed twice per week with at least 48 hours between assessments during IMRT and weekly thereafter for up to 8 weeks or until the WHO score was less than 2. OM assessment training and quality control were performed by Clinical Assistance Programs (Framingham, MA) to ensure that (1) all oral assessments were performed consistently using standardized questions, oral cavity examination technique and order, and data collection; and (2) WHO grade scoring was correctly assigned per assessment findings for all OM assessments. To reduce the variability in assessing a patient’s diet, investigator-evaluators were trained carefully to elucidate whether dietary compromise was because of oral pain. If not, and if the diet was compromised by confounding factors (eg, dysgeusia, edentulism, nausea, mucous, throat pain, functional dysphagia), the WHO score was determined on the basis of what the patient said they could eat absent these factors. Accuracy and consistency of WHO scores were evaluated within a few days of each assessment. Inconsistent or incomplete mucositis assessments were queried before final WHO scores were entered into the database.

Adverse events were assessed using the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.03. Dose reduction of 25% of GC4419 or placebo was required for grade 3 flushing, grade 2 or greater hypotension within 2 hours after the start of GC4419 or placebo infusion, grade 3 or 4 infusion reaction with GC4419 or placebo, or grade 4 vomiting despite optimal antiemetic therapy per current guidelines. Two dose reductions were permitted per patient, and the drug was discontinued if the patient was still unable to tolerate treatment. Tumor progression and survival were assessed every 3 months in the first year, and every 4 months in the second year, after IMRT. Data collected for exploratory assessments included the following: during IMRT, the Oral Mucositis Daily Questionnaire (OMDQ) responses, opioid use, insertion of gastrostomy tubes, use and complications of indwelling venous access catheters, and unplanned visits or hospitalizations; and in the 2 years after IMRT, measurement of trismus and visual analog scale of xerostomia. Peripheral blood specimens were collected before and during IMRT for future exploratory assessments of circulating cytokines and gene expression patterns.
Statistical Methods

Efficacy analyses were conducted on the intent-to-treat population (all randomly assigned patients). The primary efficacy endpoint was SOM duration, defined as the number of days from the first to the last occurrence of SOM, including any intervening days with grade 2 or lower OM. Patients with no WHO score greater than 2 had, by definition, an SOM duration of 0 days. Duration in patients with unresolved SOM as of the last evaluation was imputed as the median duration among patients in the same treatment arm with at least that duration. For patients without observed SOM but with incomplete follow-up, duration was imputed as the median duration among patients in the same treatment arm who were free of SOM for at least that length of follow-up. SOM duration in each active arm was compared separately with that of the placebo arm using the nonparametric van Elteren test.25

Secondary endpoints, tested using the Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test, were SOM incidence at any time during IMRT or through 60 Gy of IMRT and severity (grade 4 incidence) at any time during IMRT. Testing was performed in a conditional, sequential fashion: SOM duration, 90 mg versus placebo; then SOM duration, 30 mg versus placebo; then secondary endpoints, with formal testing proceeding as long as the \( P \) value was .05 or less. A sample size of 72 patients per group provided approximately 80% power with a two-sided type I error rate of .05 for each treatment arm’s comparison with placebo. Calculations assumed a median SOM duration of 0 days in the treatment arms compared with 28 days in the placebo arm, with 40% SOM incidence in each treatment arm compared with 65% in the placebo arm. Safety was assessed for all randomly assigned patients who received at least one dose of GC4419 or placebo.

RESULTS

Forty-four US and Canadian sites enrolled 223 patients, 217 of whom received at least one infusion of GC4419 or placebo (CONSORT diagram, Fig 1). Baseline patient characteristics were balanced across the three treatment arms (Table 1), as was delivery of IMRT plus cisplatin, which did not seem to be compromised with the addition of GC4419 (Table 2). Radiation therapy (RT) plan adherence to the protocol was confirmed in all cases. The initially assigned WHO score was correct—that is, consistent with source data—in 3,617 (95.3%) of all 3,794 OM assessments throughout the trial; all errors were queried and corrected to ensure 100% accuracy of scoring. Approximately 80% of patients in each treatment arm had complete OM follow-up; roughly 10% of patients were lost to follow-up before resolution of SOM to a WHO score of 0 or 1, and 10% were lost to follow-up without ever experiencing SOM.

Efficacy

SOM duration was significantly reduced among patients receiving 90 mg of GC4419 compared with those receiving placebo \( (P < .024\) using the van Elteren test; Table 3). The median SOM duration in the 90-mg arm also was reduced versus placebo—1.5 days versus 19 days—which reflected, in part, a 34% relative reduction of SOM incidence at any time during IMRT (43% vs 65%; nominal \( P = .009\)) and a corresponding increase in the number of patients with an SOM duration of 0 days. Severity (grade 4 OM incidence at any time during IMRT; 16% vs 30%; nominal \( P = .045\)) and SOM incidence through 60 Gy (37% vs 58%; nominal \( P = .010\)) also were lower for the 90-mg group than for the placebo group. Cumulative SOM incidence was progressively lower in the 90-mg arm than the placebo arm at serial RT delivery landmarks (30 Gy, 40 Gy, 50 Gy, 60 Gy; Fig 2). Primary and secondary efficacy results for the 30-mg group versus placebo were intermediate (SOM duration, 8 days \( [P = .163]\); SOM incidence thru 60 Gy, 40% \( [P = .026]\)).

We also asked if GC4419 tempered the course and severity of SOM even if it failed to completely prevent it. In the subgroup of patients who had at least 1 day of SOM, visual inspection of individual patient data (Fig 3) indicated reduction of SOM overall and of grade 4 OM with 90 mg of GC4419.

![FIG 1. CONSORT diagram: patient random assignment. ITT, intent to treat.](https://example.com/fig1.png)
| Characteristic               | Placebo (n = 74) | 30 mg GC4419 (n = 73) | 90 mg GC4419 (n = 76) | All Patients (N = 223) |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Sex                         |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Male                        | 64 (86)          | 64 (88)               | 64 (84)               | 192 (86)               |
| Female                      | 10 (14)          | 9 (12)                | 12 (16)               | 31 (14)                |
| Median age, years           | 58               | 58                    | 56                    | 57                     |
| Age range, years            | 33-77            | 34-77                 | 30-84                 | 30-84                  |
| ECOG PS                     |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| 0                           | 50 (68)          | 47 (64)               | 50 (66)               | 147 (66)               |
| 1                           | 24 (32)          | 25 (34)               | 22 (29)               | 71 (32)                |
| 2                           | 0                | 1 (1)                 | 4 (5)                 | 5 (2)                  |
| Tumor site                  |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Oropharyngeal               | 56 (76)          | 62 (84)               | 54 (71)               | 172 (77)               |
| Oral cavity                 | 14 (19)          | 9 (12)                | 17 (22)               | 40 (18)                |
| Unknown                     | 4 (5)            | 2 (4)                 | 5 (6)                 | 11 (5)                 |
| Treatment type              |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Definitive                  | 59 (80)          | 56 (77)               | 57 (75)               | 172 (77)               |
| Postoperative treatment     | 15 (20)          | 17 (23)               | 19 (25)               | 51 (23)                |
| TNM stage                   |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| 0-II                        | 3 (4)            | 0                     | 4 (6)                 | 7 (3)                  |
| III                         | 6 (8)            | 8 (11)                | 6 (8)                 | 20 (9)                 |
| IVa                         | 60 (81)          | 63 (86)               | 59 (78)               | 182 (82)               |
| IVb                         | 3 (4)            | 2 (3)                 | 7 (9)                 | 12 (5)                 |
| Unknown/not reported        | 2 (3)            | 0                     | 0                     | 2 (1)                  |
| Tumor HPV status            |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Positive                    | 53 (72)          | 53 (73)               | 54 (71)               | 160 (72)               |
| Negative                    | 21 (28)          | 20 (27)               | 22 (29)               | 63 (28)                |
| Cisplatin schedule          |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Every 3 weeks               | 28 (38)          | 27 (37)               | 30 (39)               | 85 (38)                |
| Weekly                      | 46 (62)          | 46 (63)               | 46 (61)               | 138 (62)               |
| No. of normal mucosa sites ≥ 50 Gy |          |                       |                       |                        |
| 2                           | 4 (5)            | 10 (14)               | 7 (9)                 | 21 (9)                 |
| 3-4                         | 41 (55)          | 35 (48)               | 41 (54)               | 117 (52)               |
| ≥ 5                         | 29 (39)          | 28 (39)               | 28 (37)               | 85 (38)                |
| Tobacco use                 |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Never                       | 23 (31)          | 25 (34)               | 17 (22)               | 65 (29)                |
| Past                        | 40 (54)          | 37 (51)               | 43 (57)               | 120 (54)               |
| Current                     | 11 (15)          | 11 (15)               | 16 (21)               | 38 (17)                |
| Current alcohol use         |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Yes                         | 39 (53)          | 32 (44)               | 44 (58)               | 115 (52)               |
| No                          | 35 (47)          | 41 (56)               | 32 (42)               | 108 (48)               |

Abbreviations: ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HPV, human papillomavirus.
GC4419 compared with placebo. Consistent with this, the persistence of grade 4 OM was less for 90 mg of GC4419 than for placebo (Appendix Fig A1, online only).

The duration and incidence of SOM in the active or placebo arms were not affected by cisplatin schedule (weekly vs every 3 weeks), tumor human papillomavirus status, definitive versus postoperative IMRT, or patient-reported smoking status (data not shown). The incidence of ulcerative OM (ie, OM WHO grade 2 or greater) was comparable across the treatment arms.

Safety

The overall adverse event profile in each of the GC4419 arms was comparable to that in the placebo arm and seemed consistent with the known toxicities of IMRT plus cisplatin when either events of all grades (Appendix Table A1, online only) or grades 3 or greater (Appendix Table A2, online only) were considered. Eight percent of patients, comparably distributed across the three arms, required dose reductions for adverse events.

Hematologic toxicities, particularly lymphopenia, attributable to cisplatin and IMRT were the most prominent toxicities. These were not increased in incidence or severity by the addition of GC4419.

Other specific adverse events attributable to cisplatin—severe nausea or vomiting, increased creatinine, or tinnitus—did not seem more frequent or severe with the addition of GC4419 (Table 4). Transient grade 3 hypokalemia, attributable to cisplatin as well as other factors, such as GI loss and poor oral intake, occurred in 15% of patients in the 90-mg arm versus 11% of patients in the 30-mg arm and 6% in the placebo arm. This adverse event was corrected with supplementation and was otherwise without clinical consequence.

Because superoxide reacts with nitric oxide, reduction of superoxide by GC4419 is expected to potentiate the activity of nitric oxide. This was reflected (Table 4) in an apparent dose-dependent increase in low-grade hypotension, without frank syncope, and in mild perioral tingling, both of which were transient and resolved promptly after GC4419 infusion (Table 4). One patient in the 90-mg arm who was taking metoprolol for pre-existing hypertension discontinued GC4419 in association with grade 3 orthostatic hypotension. However, overall, grade 3 hypotension was not increased with GC4419 compared with placebo.

An indwelling venous access device was used to facilitate repeated GC4419 or placebo infusion for 196 (90%) of 217 patients; 155 (71%) of the 217 patients had an implantable port. There were 0.09 device-related adverse events per

### Table 2. Treatment Delivery

| Variable | Placebo (n = 72) | 30 mg GC4419 (n = 73) | 90 mg GC4419 (n = 72) |
|----------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mean/median (range) total IMRT dose, Gy | 66.3/70 (11-70) | 64.8/70 (4-72) | 65.7/70 (11-74) |
| No. (%) receiving ≥ 60 Gy | 68 (94) | 65 (89) | 66 (92) |
| No. (%) with RT treatment breaks ≥ five consecutive fractions | 6 (8) | 1 (1) | 5 (7) |
| No./total No. (%) with cisplatin total dose delivered ≥ 200 mg/m² | 25/28 (89) | 23/27 (79) | 27/31 (87) |
| Planned GC4419/placebo doses received, % | 35/44 (80) | 31/44 (70) | 32/44 (78) |
| Median | 100 | 97 | 100 |
| Mean | 93 | 89 | 90 |

Abbreviations: IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; RT, radiation therapy.

### Table 3. Efficacy Results

| Parameter | Placebo | 30 mg GC4419 | 90 mg GC4419 | Relative Reduction, 90 mg GC4419 v Placebo (%) |
|-----------|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| SOM duration v placebo, van Elteren test | Reference | P = .163 | P = .024 * | — |
| Median SOM duration, days | 19 | 8 | 1.5 | 92 |
| Mean (SD) SOM duration, days | 24.8 (25.0) | 18.4 (21.5) | 16.1 (23.3) | NA |
| SOM (grade 3 or 4) incidence, % | 65 | 60 | 43 | 34 |
| Through IMRT | 58 | 40 | 37 | 36 |
| Through 60 Gy | 30 | 21 | 16 | 47 |

Abbreviations: IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; NA, not applicable; OM, oral mucositis; SD, standard deviation; SOM, severe oral mucositis.

*Statistically significant.
100 days of use. These results were similar in the three study arms.

**Tumor Outcomes**

At the time of this report, 2-year post-IMRT follow-up is ongoing for locoregional control, distant metastasis, progression-free survival, and overall survival. In the interim, through 1 year, the numbers of observed deaths or progression events (locoregional failures and distant metastases) were similar in the three arms (data not shown). Full, formal assessment awaits completion of the follow-up period.

**Exploratory Evaluations**

Among 112 patients who had at least one observation of SOM and who took at least one dose of a narcotic from the start through the end of IMRT, the median total morphine equivalent per patient was 1,410 mg for placebo (n = 40), 1,053 mg for 30 mg of GC4419 (n = 40), and 752 mg for 90 mg of GC4419 (n = 32). Overall, 188 (87%) of the 217 treated patients (a similar percentage in all three arms) took at least one dose of a narcotic. The WHO score was 0 for 116 (62%) of these 188 patients and was less than 3 for 179 (95%) of the 188 patients at the time of first narcotic use.
dose; this result also was comparable across the three arms. The median patient-reported subjective mouth and throat soreness, on the 5-point (0 to 4) OMDQ scale, was 0.5 for placebo and 1.0 for each GC4419 arm at baseline and increased to 2.0 for all three arms by week 4 of treatment.

Gastrostomy tube use varied by institutional practice. Overall, gastrostomy tubes were placed in 145 (67%) of 217 treated patients, and, as expected, gastrostomy use seemed to track with maximum WHO score. Placement was prophylactic (ie, placed before IMRT day 1) for 96 patients (placebo, n = 34; 90-mg arm, n = 28) and emergent (ie, on or after IMRT day 1) for 49 patients (placebo, n = 16; 90-mg arm, n = 13). Gastrostomy tubes were used for feeding at least once in 127 patients (placebo, n = 42; 90-mg arm, n = 36). Weight loss was comparable across the three arms (data not shown). The 2-year follow-up for xerostomia and trismus is in progress.

**DISCUSSION**

Oxidative stress plays a critical initiating role in the pathogenesis of OM. RT causes rapid production of large amounts of $O_2^{•−}$, which overwhelms the capacity of native superoxide dismutase enzymes to convert the $O_2^{•−}$ to $H_2O_2$ and so triggers signaling pathways in the submucosa, which results in apoptosis of epithelial stem cells, consequent loss of epithelial renewal, atrophy, and mucosal ulceration. Unlike palliative measures, the dismutase mimetic GC4419 is hypothesized to arrest this process at its initiation. The results of this trial extend prior nonclinical and clinical observations, which suggest that GC4419 protects normal oral mucosa from damage associated with RT for locally advanced HNC. In a phase Ib/IIa trial, SOM incidence, duration, and severity (WHO grade 4 OM incidence) seemed reduced compared with historical expectations with either the 30-mg or 90-mg doses of GC4419, indicating that additional evaluation of both doses was warranted. In this trial, GC4419 at the 90-mg dose reduced SOM duration compared with placebo. SOM incidence and severity (grade 4 OM incidence) were reduced by 34% and 47%, respectively. SOM results in the placebo arm were consistent with historical data, whereas results for 90 mg of GC4419 seem clinically significant and favorable in the context of historical data. Results for the 30-mg arm were intermediate between those for the 90-mg and placebo arms, consistent with a dose-response relationship for efficacy. The WHO OM score has the advantage of combining anatomic, functional, and symptomatic elements of OM and, when assessed by trained investigator-evaluators after a formal training process, is a well-defined, consistently and

**TABLE 4.** Specific Toxicities of Interest Thought Attributable to Cisplatin or GC4419

| Variable                              | Placebo | 30 mg GC4419 | 90 mg GC4419 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Total No. of treated patients         | 72      | 73           | 72           |
| Any grade 3-4 event                   | 68 (94%)| 70 (96%)     | 69 (96%)     |
| Nausea                                |         |              |              |
| Grade 1-2                             | 54 (75%)| 50 (68%)     | 59 (82%)     |
| Grade 3-4                             | 9 (13%) | 11 (15%)     | 8 (11%)      |
| Vomiting                              |         |              |              |
| Grade 1-2                             | 34 (47%)| 38 (52%)     | 35 (49%)     |
| Grade 3                               | 8 (11%) | 3 (4%)       | 6 (8%)       |
| Grade 3 creatinine elevation          | 2 (3%)  | 3 (4%)       | 4 (6%)       |
| Grade 1-2 tinnitus                    | 19 (26%)| 19 (26%)     | 15 (21%)     |
| Hypotension/orthostatic hypotension   |         |              |              |
| Grade 1                               | 1 (1%)  | 2 (3%)       | 7 (10%)      |
| Grade 2                               | 6 (8%)  | 11 (15%)     | 9 (13%)      |
| Grade 3                               | 4 (6%)  | 3 (4%)       | 3 (4%)       |
| Syncope                               |         |              |              |
| Grade 1-2                             | 1 (1%)  | 1 (1%)       | 1 (1%)       |
| Grade 3                               | 3 (4%)  | 3 (4%)       | 4 (6%)       |
| Dizziness                             |         |              |              |
| Grade 1                               | 8 (11%) | 12 (16%)     | 17 (24%)     |
| Grade 2                               | 1 (1%)  | 3 (4%)       | 2 (3%)       |
| Grade 3                               | 0       | 1 (1%)       | 0            |
| Facial tingling/paresthesia (all grade 1) | 11 (15%)| 7 (10%)     | 15 (21%)     |

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It is critical that any supportive cancer care intervention not antagonize anticancer efficacy and may, under certain conditions, enhance it. Normal and cancer cells respond to $O_2^-$ and $H_2O_2$ differently. Specifically, normal cells tend to be more sensitive to elevations in superoxide, whereas moderate elevations in superoxide may serve to promote tumor growth. Conversely, significant increases in hydrogen peroxide flux are less well tolerated by cancer cells than by normal cells. Thus, GC4419, by converting RT-induced $O_2^-$ into $H_2O_2$, should reduce normal tissue toxicity while maintaining anticancer efficacy. Nonclinical data have demonstrated anticancer synergy between GC4419 and higher dose-fraction RT regimens, as used in stereotactic body RT, with that synergy reversible in an inducible-catalase (which efficiently removes $H_2O_2$) tumor model. These data form the basis for an ongoing phase I/II clinical trial of GC4419 plus stereotactic body RT for patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03340974).

SOM remains a devastating toxicity, inadequately described by warning patients of mouth sores that may complicate their therapy, for which treatment options are limited. Our results demonstrate the potential for GC4419, an agent intended to interrupt SOM pathogenesis, to reduce the duration, incidence, and severity of radiation-induced SOM and thereby become an important new tool in the management of this adverse event in at-risk patients. Accordingly, a phase III confirmatory trial, the ROMAN trial, has been initiated (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03689712).

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AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Phase IIb, Randomized, Double-Blind Trial of GC4419 Versus Placebo to Reduce Severe Oral Mucositis Due to Concurrent Radiotherapy and Cisplatin For Head and Neck Cancer

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FIG A1. Numbers of patients with grade 4 oral mucositis of progressively greater length, 90 mg v placebo.
### TABLE A1. AEs Experienced by 10 or More (≥ 5%) of All Patients

| AE Data                                      | Placebo (n = 72) | 30 mg GC4419 (n = 73) | 90 mg GC4419 (n = 72) | All Patients (N = 217) |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Total No. of TEAEs                           | 1,847            | 2,055                | 2,189                | 6,091                  |
| Any TEAEs                                    | 72 (100)         | 73 (100)             | 72 (100)             | 217 (100)              |
| TEAE by preferred term                       |                  |                      |                      |                        |
| Lymphopenia                                  | 64 (89)          | 67 (92)              | 63 (88)              | 194 (89)               |
| Nausea                                       | 54 (75)          | 50 (68)              | 59 (82)              | 163 (75)               |
| Fatigue                                      | 50 (69)          | 44 (60)              | 47 (65)              | 141 (65)               |
| Oropharyngeal pain                           | 46 (64)          | 46 (63)              | 44 (61)              | 136 (63)               |
| Constipation                                 | 38 (53)          | 43 (59)              | 46 (64)              | 127 (59)               |
| Radiation skin injury                        | 34 (47)          | 37 (51)              | 38 (53)              | 109 (50)               |
| Vomiting                                     | 34 (47)          | 38 (52)              | 35 (49)              | 107 (49)               |
| Dysgeusia                                    | 35 (49)          | 40 (55)              | 31 (43)              | 106 (49)               |
| Dysphagia                                    | 31 (43)          | 31 (42)              | 34 (47)              | 96 (44)                |
| Weight decreased                             | 25 (35)          | 29 (40)              | 32 (44)              | 86 (40)                |
| Oral candidiasis                             | 21 (29)          | 33 (45)              | 31 (43)              | 85 (39)                |
| Leukopenia                                   | 28 (39)          | 27 (37)              | 28 (39)              | 83 (38)                |
| Diarrhea                                     | 28 (39)          | 31 (42)              | 22 (31)              | 81 (37)                |
| Dehydration                                  | 23 (32)          | 27 (37)              | 30 (42)              | 80 (37)                |
| Decreased appetite                           | 23 (32)          | 22 (30)              | 31 (43)              | 76 (35)                |
| Headache                                     | 17 (24)          | 16 (22)              | 24 (33)              | 57 (26)                |
| Neutropenia                                  | 19 (26)          | 18 (25)              | 17 (24)              | 54 (25)                |
| Hiccups                                      | 17 (24)          | 17 (23)              | 19 (26)              | 53 (24)                |
| Hypokalemia                                  | 13 (18)          | 19 (26)              | 21 (29)              | 53 (24)                |
| Tinnitus                                     | 19 (26)          | 19 (26)              | 15 (21)              | 53 (24)                |
| Dysphonia                                    | 18 (25)          | 16 (22)              | 16 (22)              | 50 (23)                |
| Hypomagnesaemia                              | 16 (22)          | 16 (22)              | 18 (25)              | 50 (23)                |
| Anemia                                       | 9 (13)           | 20 (27)              | 17 (24)              | 46 (21)                |
| Dizziness                                    | 9 (13)           | 16 (22)              | 19 (26)              | 44 (20)                |
| Pyrexia                                      | 15 (21)          | 15 (21)              | 13 (18)              | 43 (20)                |
| Candida infection                            | 12 (17)          | 13 (18)              | 11 (15)              | 36 (17)                |
| Hypotension                                  | 7 (10)           | 12 (16)              | 17 (24)              | 36 (17)                |
| Cough                                        | 11 (15)          | 13 (18)              | 8 (11)               | 32 (15)                |
| Gastroesophageal reflux disease              | 11 (15)          | 9 (12)               | 12 (17)              | 32 (15)                |
| Chills                                       | 10 (14)          | 10 (14)              | 11 (15)              | 31 (14)                |
| Insomnia                                     | 8 (11)           | 11 (15)              | 11 (15)              | 30 (14)                |
| Hypertension                                 | 10 (14)          | 7 (10)               | 12 (17)              | 29 (13)                |
| Dry skin                                     | 11 (15)          | 5 (7)                | 12 (17)              | 28 (13)                |
| Hyponatremia                                 | 10 (14)          | 11 (15)              | 7 (10)               | 28 (13)                |
| Paresthesia                                  | 9 (13)           | 7 (10)               | 12 (17)              | 28 (13)                |
| Dryness                                      | 6 (8)            | 13 (18)              | 8 (11)               | 27 (12)                |
| Dysnea                                       | 8 (11)           | 8 (11)               | 9 (13)               | 25 (12)                |
| Acute kidney injury                          | 8 (11)           | 10 (14)              | 5 (7)                | 23 (11)                |
| Neck pain                                    | 7 (10)           | 7 (10)               | 9 (13)               | 23 (11)                |

(continued on following page)
**TABLE A1.** AEs Experienced by 10 or More (≥ 5%) of All Patients (continued)

| AE Data                             | No. (%) of Patients by Group | Placebo (n = 72) | 30 mg GC4419 (n = 73) | 90 mg GC4419 (n = 72) | All Patients (N = 217) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Thrombocytopenia                    |                              | 10 (14)          | 5 (7)                 | 7 (10)                | 22 (10)                |
| Anxiety                             |                              | 7 (10)           | 8 (11)                | 6 (8)                 | 21 (10)                |
| Upper-airway cough syndrome         |                              | 7 (10)           | 9 (12)                | 5 (7)                 | 21 (10)                |
| Pruritus                            |                              | 6 (8)            | 7 (10)                | 7 (10)                | 20 (9)                 |
| Salivary hypersecretion             |                              | 3 (4)            | 6 (8)                 | 11 (15)               | 20 (9)                 |
| Edema, peripheral                   |                              | 6 (8)            | 5 (7)                 | 8 (11)                | 19 (9)                 |
| Alopecia                            |                              | 3 (4)            | 5 (7)                 | 9 (13)                | 17 (8)                 |
| Electrocardiogram QT prolonged      |                              | 4 (6)            | 6 (8)                 | 5 (7)                 | 15 (7)                 |
| Odynophagia                         |                              | 4 (6)            | 6 (8)                 | 5 (7)                 | 15 (7)                 |
| Stoma site pain                     |                              | 6 (8)            | 8 (11)                | 1 (1)                 | 15 (7)                 |
| Ear pain                            |                              | 4 (6)            | 5 (7)                 | 5 (7)                 | 14 (6)                 |
| Febrile neutropenia                 |                              | 3 (4)            | 5 (7)                 | 6 (8)                 | 14 (6)                 |
| Hypocalcemia                        |                              | 5 (7)            | 3 (4)                 | 5 (7)                 | 13 (6)                 |
| Pain in jaw                         |                              | 8 (11)           | 2 (3)                 | 3 (4)                 | 13 (6)                 |
| Renal disorder                      |                              | 4 (6)            | 4 (5)                 | 5 (7)                 | 13 (6)                 |
| Syncope                             |                              | 4 (6)            | 4 (5)                 | 5 (7)                 | 13 (6)                 |
| Asthenia                            |                              | 5 (7)            | 3 (4)                 | 4 (6)                 | 12 (6)                 |
| Flushing                            |                              | 2 (3)            | 8 (11)                | 2 (3)                 | 12 (6)                 |
| Hearing impaired                    |                              | 4 (6)            | 6 (8)                 | 2 (3)                 | 12 (6)                 |
| Hyponatremia                        |                              | 6 (8)            | 3 (4)                 | 3 (4)                 | 12 (6)                 |
| Urinary tract infection             |                              | 2 (3)            | 4 (5)                 | 6 (8)                 | 12 (6)                 |
| Depression                          |                              | 6 (8)            | 1 (1)                 | 4 (6)                 | 11 (5)                 |
| Hyperglycemia                       |                              | 3 (4)            | 3 (4)                 | 5 (7)                 | 11 (5)                 |
| Erythema                            |                              | 5 (7)            | 1 (1)                 | 4 (6)                 | 10 (5)                 |
| Face edema                          |                              | 4 (6)            | 3 (4)                 | 3 (4)                 | 10 (5)                 |
| Increased upper airway secretion    |                              | 2 (3)            | 3 (4)                 | 5 (7)                 | 10 (5)                 |
| Mucosal infection                   |                              | 3 (4)            | 5 (7)                 | 2 (3)                 | 10 (5)                 |
| Orthostatic hypotension             |                              | 4 (6)            | 4 (5)                 | 2 (3)                 | 10 (5)                 |

NOTE. All events of all grades are included without regard to reported causality. Abbreviations: AE, adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.
### TABLE A2. AEs of Grade 3 or Greater Experienced by Two or More Patients (≥ 1%)

| AE Data                        | Placebo (n = 72) | 30 mg GC4419 (n = 73) | 90 mg GC4419 (n = 72) | All Patients (N = 217) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| **Total No. of grade ≥ 3 TEAEs** | 391              | 417                   | 394                   | 1,202                  |
| **Any grade ≥ 3 TEAE**       | 68 (94)          | 71 (97)               | 69 (96)               | 208 (96)               |
| **TEAE by preferred term**   |                  |                       |                       |                        |
| Lymphopenia                  | 64 (89)          | 67 (92)               | 63 (88)               | 194 (89)               |
| Leukopenia                    | 27 (38)          | 24 (33)               | 28 (39)               | 79 (36)                |
| Neutropenia                   | 15 (21)          | 17 (23)               | 13 (18)               | 45 (21)                |
| Dysphagia                     | 14 (19)          | 12 (16)               | 13 (18)               | 39 (18)                |
| Anemia                        | 7 (10)           | 15 (21)               | 12 (17)               | 34 (16)                |
| Decreased appetite            | 10 (14)          | 11 (15)               | 8 (11)                | 29 (13)                |
| Hyponatremia                  | 10 (14)          | 11 (15)               | 7 (10)                | 28 (13)                |
| Nausea                        | 9 (13)           | 11 (15)               | 8 (11)                | 28 (13)                |
| Dehydration                   | 10 (14)          | 7 (10)                | 8 (11)                | 25 (12)                |
| Hypokalemia                   | 4 (6)            | 8 (11)                | 11 (15)               | 23 (11)                |
| Oropharyngeal pain            | 3 (4)            | 12 (16)               | 6 (8)                 | 21 (10)                |
| Vomiting                      | 8 (11)           | 3 (4)                 | 6 (8)                 | 17 (8)                 |
| Febrile neutropenia           | 3 (4)            | 5 (7)                 | 5 (7)                 | 13 (6)                 |
| Hypertension                  | 5 (7)            | 3 (4)                 | 5 (7)                 | 13 (6)                 |
| Hyperglycemia                 | 3 (4)            | 3 (4)                 | 5 (7)                 | 11 (5)                 |
| Syncope                       | 3 (4)            | 3 (4)                 | 4 (6)                 | 10 (5)                 |
| Weight decreased              | 3 (4)            | 4 (5)                 | 3 (4)                 | 10 (5)                 |
| Acute kidney injury           | 2 (3)            | 3 (4)                 | 4 (6)                 | 9 (4)                  |
| Hypophosphatemia              | 5 (7)            | 2 (3)                 | 2 (3)                 | 9 (4)                  |
| Hypotension                   | 4 (6)            | 2 (3)                 | 3 (4)                 | 9 (4)                  |
| Radiation skin injury         | 4 (6)            | 2 (3)                 | 2 (3)                 | 8 (4)                  |
| Hypocalcemia                  | 2 (3)            | 2 (3)                 | 3 (4)                 | 7 (3)                  |
| Liver disorder                | 2 (3)            | 3 (4)                 | 2 (3)                 | 7 (3)                  |
| Malnutrition                  | 2 (3)            | 2 (3)                 | 3 (4)                 | 7 (3)                  |
| Thrombocytopenia              | 3 (4)            | 2 (3)                 | 2 (3)                 | 7 (3)                  |
| Fatigue                       | 4 (6)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 6 (3)                  |
| Hypoxia                       | 3 (4)            | 3 (4)                 | 0 (0)                 | 6 (3)                  |
| Sepsis                        | 3 (4)            | 2 (3)                 | 1 (1)                 | 6 (3)                  |
| Headache                      | 3 (4)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 5 (2)                  |
| Lung infection                | 2 (3)            | 1 (1)                 | 2 (3)                 | 5 (2)                  |
| Pneumonia                     | 3 (4)            | 0 (0)                 | 2 (3)                 | 5 (2)                  |
| Pyrexia                       | 1 (1)            | 3 (4)                 | 1 (1)                 | 5 (2)                  |
| Cytopenia                     | 2 (3)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 4 (2)                  |
| Oral candididiasis            | 3 (4)            | 0 (0)                 | 1 (1)                 | 4 (2)                  |
| Pharyngitis                   | 2 (3)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 4 (2)                  |
| Stoma site infection          | 2 (3)            | 0 (0)                 | 2 (3)                 | 4 (2)                  |
| Asthenia                      | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 3 (1)                  |
| Constipation                  | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 3 (1)                  |
| Lymphocytosis                 | 1 (1)            | 2 (3)                 | 0 (0)                 | 3 (1)                  |

(continued on following page)
### Table A2. AEs of Grade 3 or Greater Experienced by Two or More Patients (≥1%) (continued)

| AE Data                              | Placebo (n = 72) | 30 mg GC4419 (n = 73) | 90 mg GC4419 (n = 72) | All Patients (N = 217) |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Pain                                 | 0 (0)            | 1 (1)                 | 2 (3)                 | 3 (1)                  |
| Renal disorder                       | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 3 (1)                  |
| Urinary tract infection              | 0 (0)            | 2 (3)                 | 1 (1)                 | 3 (1)                  |
| Atrial fibrillation                  | 0 (0)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Bacteremia                           | 0 (0)            | 1 (1)                 | 1 (1)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Blood sodium decreased               | 1 (1)            | 0 (0)                 | 1 (1)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| *Clostridium difficile* infection    | 0 (0)            | 2 (3)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Deep vein thrombosis                 | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Device-related infection             | 0 (0)            | 0 (0)                 | 2 (3)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Diarrhea                             | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Dysphonia                            | 0 (0)            | 2 (3)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Gastroesophageal reflux disease      | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Hematemesis                          | 0 (0)            | 0 (0)                 | 2 (3)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Esophageal pain                      | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Esophagitis                          | 1 (1)            | 0 (0)                 | 1 (1)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Oral herpes                          | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Pulmonary embolism                   | 1 (1)            | 0 (0)                 | 1 (1)                 | 2 (1)                  |
| Salivary duct inflammation           | 1 (1)            | 1 (1)                 | 0 (0)                 | 2 (1)                  |

NOTE. Events are included without regard to reported causality. Abbreviations: AE, adverse event; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.