

The background of the slide features a blurred image of laboratory glassware, including several glass bottles and test tubes, overlaid with a blue and grey geometric design.

NOVEL THERAPEUTICS
FOR **METABOLIC &**
ENDOCRINE DISORDERS

Corporate Presentation

January 2020

Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation contains statements about our future expectations, plans and prospects that constitute forward-looking statements for purposes of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by these forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including risks relating to: both our and our collaborators' ability to successfully research, obtain regulatory approvals for, develop and commercialize products based upon our technologies; our ability to obtain and maintain proprietary protection for our technologies and product candidates; our reliance on third parties to manufacture our preclinical and clinical drug supplies; competitive pressures; our ability to obtain and maintain strategic collaborations; compliance with our in-license agreements; our ability to successfully execute on, and receive favorable results from, our proprietary drug development efforts; market acceptance of our drug candidates; retaining members of our senior management; and our ability to raise additional funds to finance our operations.

The forward-looking statements included in this presentation represent our views as of the date of this presentation. We anticipate that subsequent events and developments will cause our views to change. While we may elect to update these forward-looking statements in the future, we specifically disclaim any obligation to do so. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing our views as of any date subsequent to the date of this presentation.

For more information regarding risks and uncertainties that could affect the results of our operations or financial condition review our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (in particular, our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and any subsequently filed Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q).

Investment Highlights

► Focused on best-in-class drugs for metabolic and endocrine diseases

- Two Phase 2 programs supported by positive clinical data

► Metabolic Disease Program: VK2809 for NASH

- Novel, selective thyroid receptor- β (TR β) agonist
- Phase 2 results demonstrate significant reduction in liver fat content, lipids

► Rare Disease Program: VK0214 for X-ALD

- Second selective thyroid receptor- β agonist
- In vivo data show improvement in key biomarkers

► Musculoskeletal Program: VK5211 for hip fracture recovery

- Non-steroidal selective androgen receptor modulator (SARM)
- Phase 2 results demonstrate significant increases in lean body mass

Pipeline Overview

Product Candidates	Indication	Development Stage				Status
Development Programs		Preclin	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	
VK2809 (TR β agonist)	NASH					Phase 2b VOYAGE trial ongoing
VK0214 (TR β agonist)	X-ALD					IND planned, 1H20
Other Programs		Preclin	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	
VK5211 (SARM)	Hip fracture, muscle wasting					Phase 2 completed
VK0612 (FBPase inhibitor)	Type 2 Diabetes					Phase 2a completed
VK1430 (DGAT-1 inhibitor)	Hypertriglyceridemia, NASH					Preclinical



Metabolic Disease Program

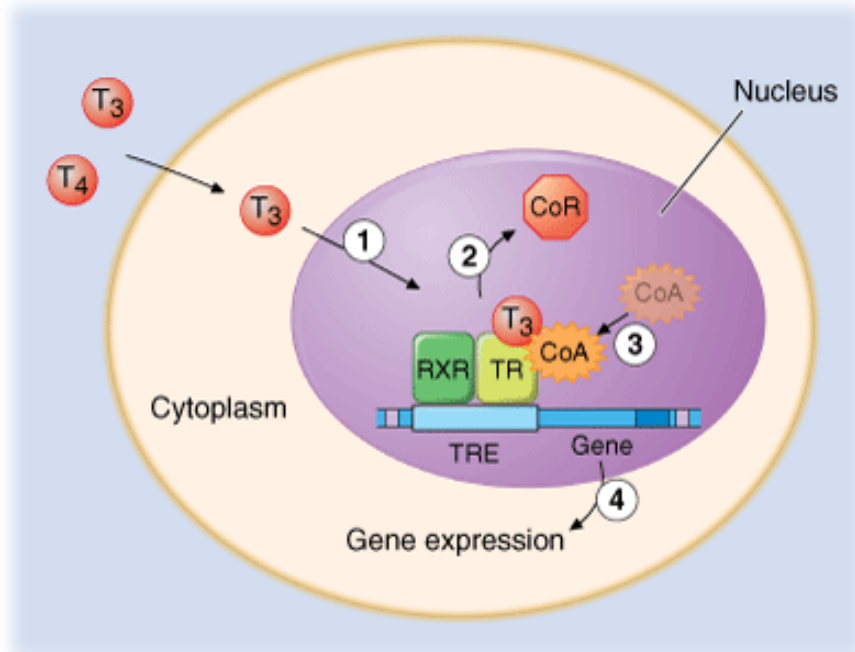
VK2809: Selective Thyroid Receptor- β Agonist

Liver Disorders

Metabolic Disease Program: Selective Thyroid- β Agonists

- ▶ **Proprietary platform for small molecule thyroid hormone mimetics**
 - Highly tissue and receptor selective
 - Produce potent lipid reductions in animals and humans
 - Unique chemical scaffolds, expected wider safety window vs. other approaches
- ▶ **Biological profiles suggest potential benefit in multiple indications**
 - Broad: NASH, hypercholesterolemia, dyslipidemia
 - Rare: X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD), other
- ▶ **Lead molecules VK2809, VK0214**
 - Oral, once-daily formulations
 - VK2809: Phase 2b, NASH
 - VK0214: Preclinical, X-ALD

Thyroid Receptor Overview

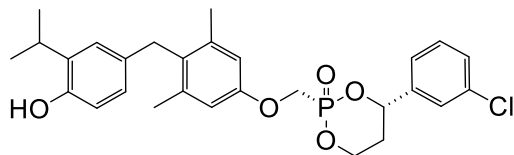


Key steps in receptor activation: Endogenous thyroid hormone T₃ crosses mitochondrial membrane (1) binding thyroid receptor TR, dissociating co-repressor CoR (2). Subsequent binding of co-activator CoA (3) results in altered gene expression (4). RXR: retinoid X receptor; TRE: thyroid response element.

- ▶ Nuclear hormone receptors
- ▶ Two major subtypes
 - **Thyroid beta receptor:** Liver, brain; modulates cholesterol, triglyceride levels
 - **Thyroid alpha receptor:** Cardiac tissue, modulates heart rate, contraction

Therapeutic goal, lipid setting: β -receptor selectivity;
minimize alpha-effects

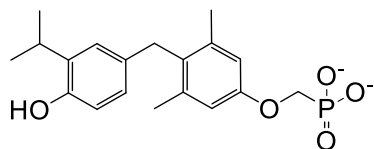
VK2809: Unique Liver-Targeted Characteristics



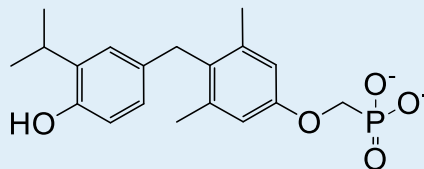
VK2809, Novel Prodrug

Following oral dosing:

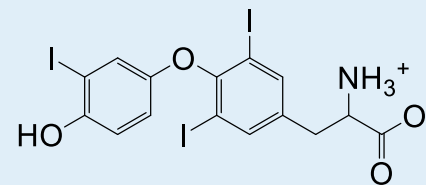
- Cyp3A4-mediated cleavage of prodrug
- 3A4 primarily expressed in liver
- Results in targeted delivery of drug to liver



VK2809A, Potent TR β Agonist,
2.2 nM Ki



VK2809A



T3 Thyroid Hormone

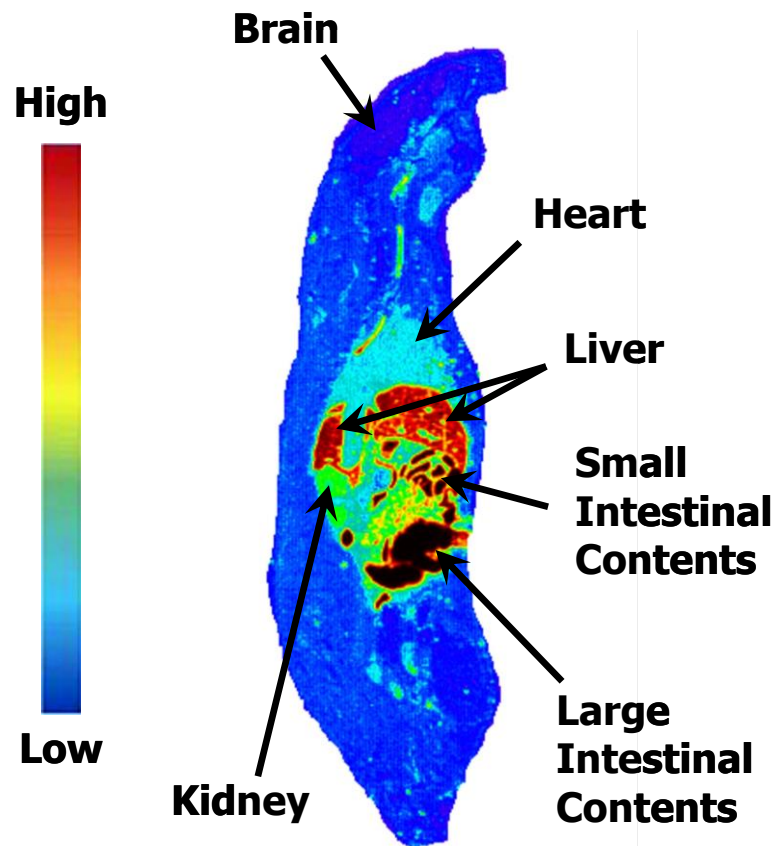
- ▶ 17:1 selective for β : α
- ▶ Highly negatively charged
 - Poor passive diffusion
- ▶ Not actively transported
 - Due to altered chemistry
- ▶ Targeted hepatic re-uptake
 - Selective liver re-absorption via hepatic OATP1B3 transporter

- ▶ 1:2 selective for β : α
- ▶ Effectively neutral charge
- ▶ Active uptake in multiple tissues via MCT8
- ▶ Broad systemic availability
- ▶ Impractical for development due to safety

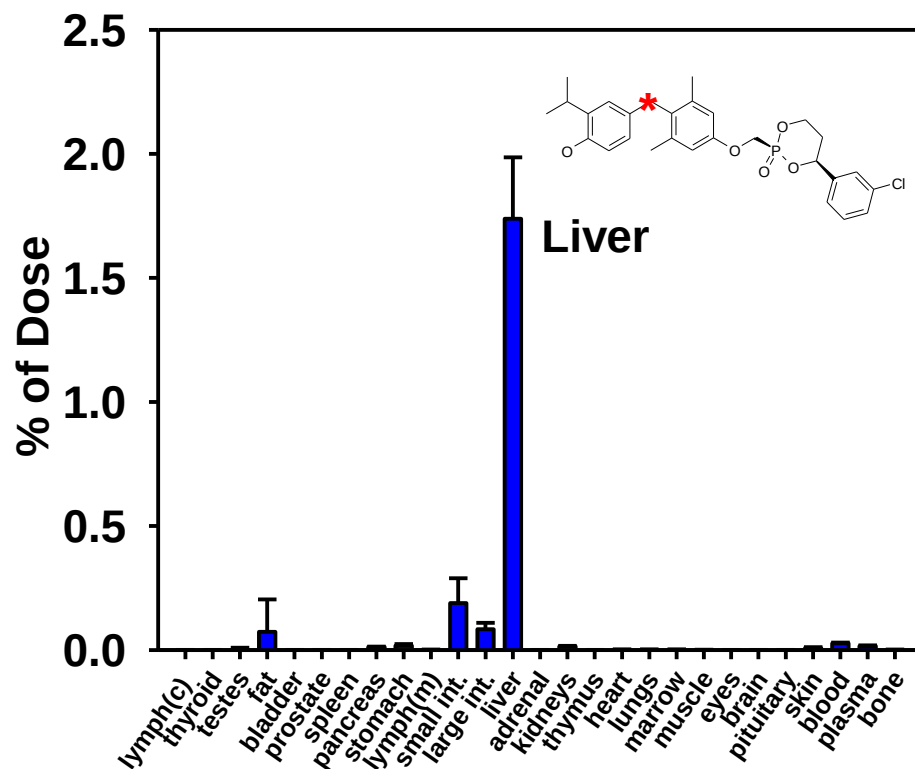
Selective activation, differentiated chemistry lends VK2809 liver selectivity; potentially minimizes risk of systemic effects

VK2809: Evidence of Liver Selectivity

^{14}C QWBA (4 h)



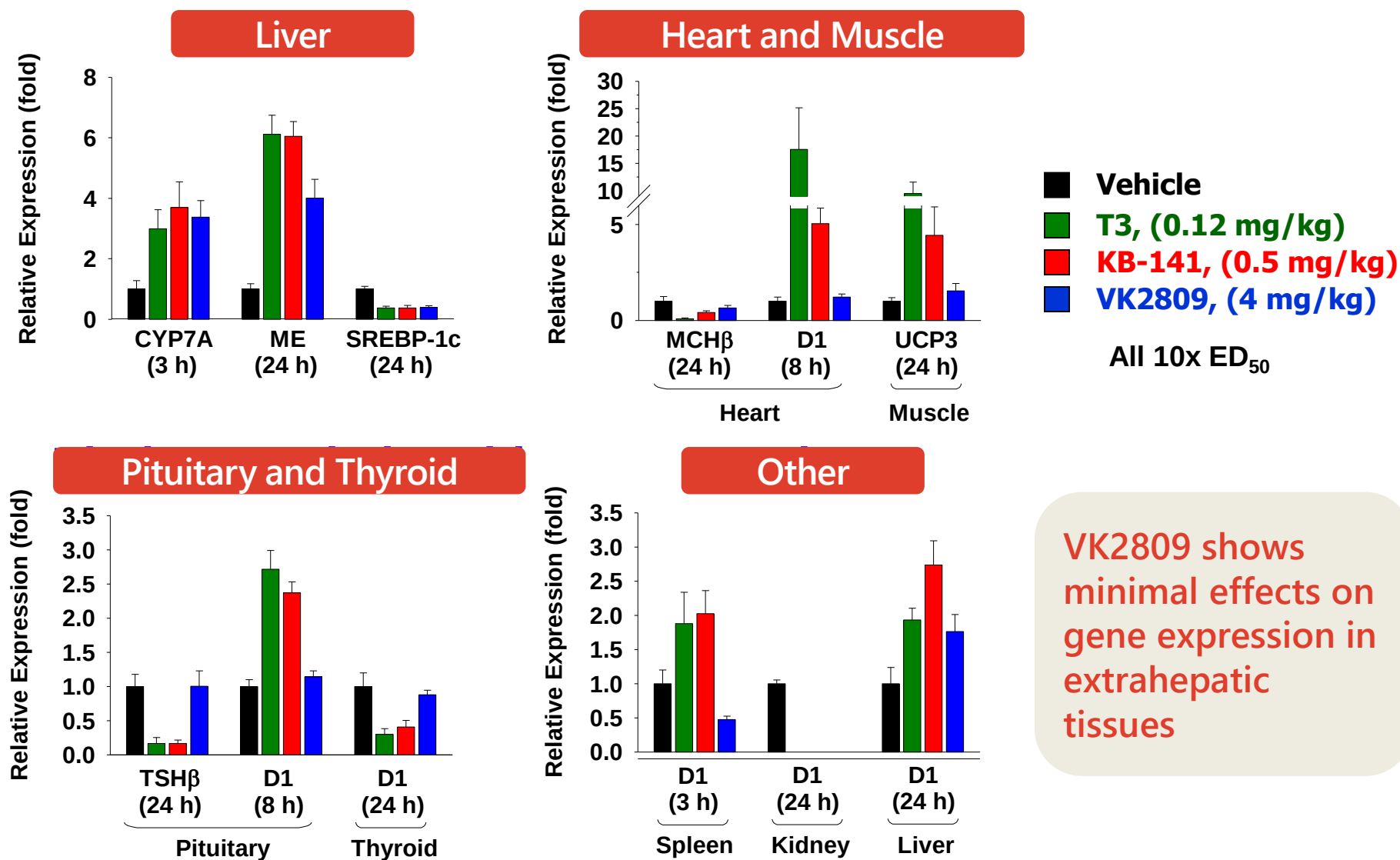
^{14}C Tissue Distribution (24 h)



SD rat, 5mg/kg dose; approx. 30x anticipated human doses

Liver selectivity confirmed via radiologic analysis

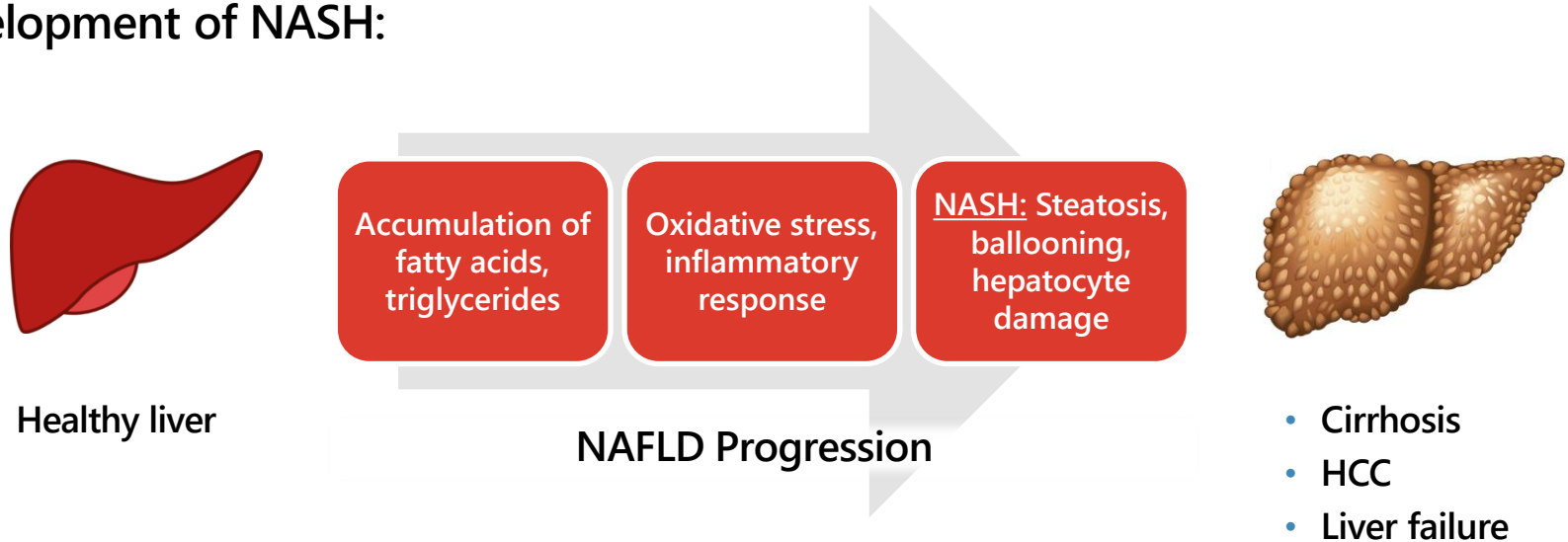
VK2809: Liver-Selective Transcriptional Effects



VK2809 shows minimal effects on gene expression in extrahepatic tissues

Thyroid Receptor β Agonists for NAFLD and NASH

Development of NASH:



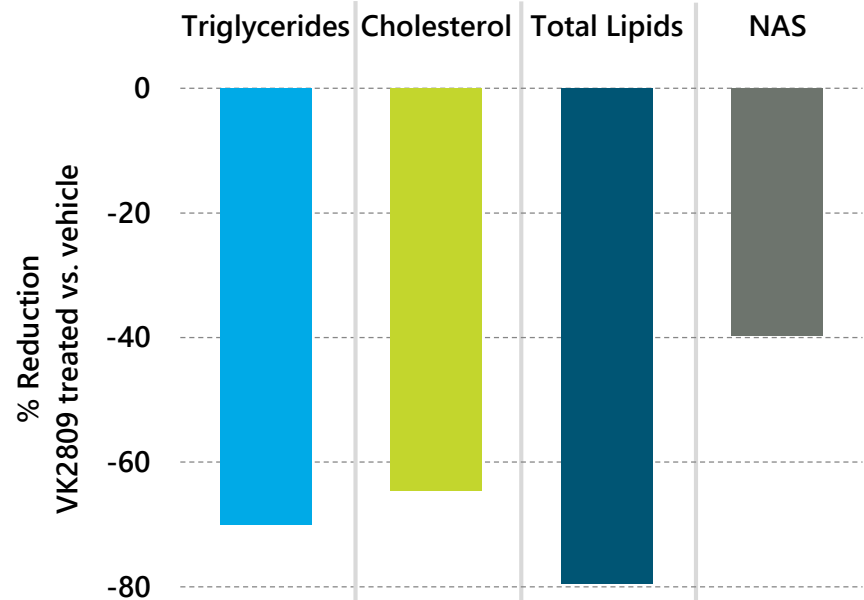
- ▶ β -Receptor: Key role in lipid metabolism; systemic and liver-specific effects
- ▶ Receptor localized to liver, limited ex-hepatic expression
- ▶ In vivo evidence suggests β -activation provides anti-fibrotic benefits
- ▶ Clinical data indicate a correlation between reduced liver fat, improvement in NAS

An agent that reduces liver fat, improves systemic lipids, and antagonizes fibrotic signaling could provide multi-pronged benefits in NASH

VK2809 Significantly Reduces Steatosis in Diet-Induced NASH

- ▶ Evaluation in biopsy-confirmed diet-induced NASH model
 - Rodent model designed to reflect progression of disease in humans
 - Animals biopsied pre-study; only those with NASH *and* fibrosis selected
 - VK2809 dosed once-daily for 8 weeks

Change in Liver Lipids Following 8 Weeks Dosing With VK2809



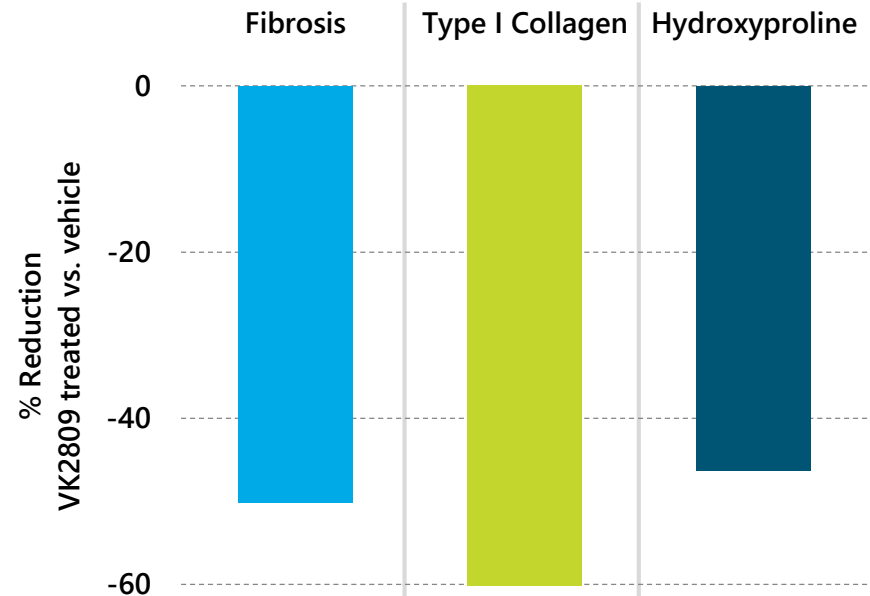
% Difference:	-70.0%	-64.6%	-79.5%	-39.7%
p-value:	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001

Treatment with VK2809 significantly improves lipids, steatosis, NAS at 8 weeks; well-tolerated with no evidence of toxicity

VK2809 Improves Fibrosis in Diet-Induced NASH Model

- ▶ Significant reductions in fibrosis, collagen, hydroxyproline after 8 weeks
- ▶ Supports thesis that selective TR β activation produces broad metabolic benefits
- ▶ Gene expression data show improvements in genes related to lipid metabolism, insulin sensitivity, fibrogenic signaling

Change in Liver Fibrosis Following 8 Weeks Dosing With VK2809



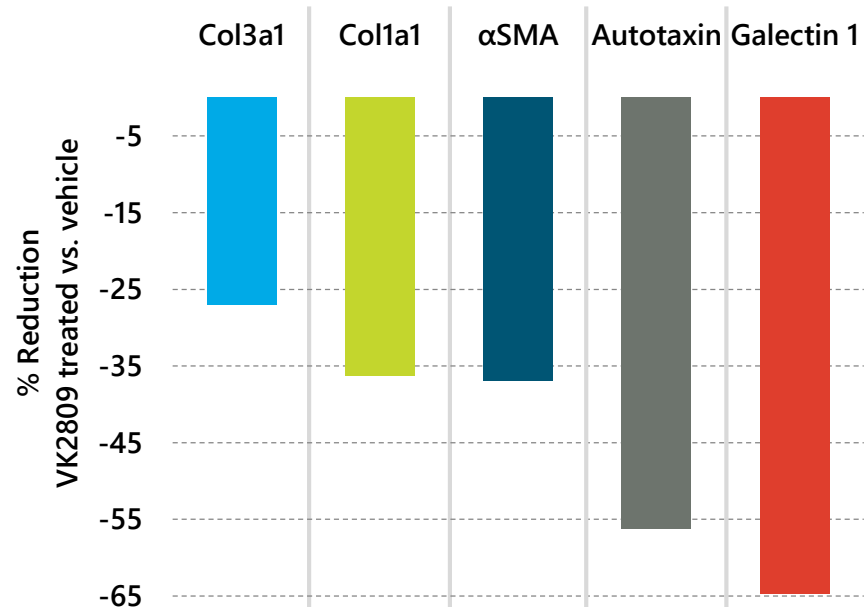
% Difference:	-50.2%	-60.2%	-46.3%
p-value:	<0.01	<0.005	0.01

VK2809 significantly improved NASH and fibrosis in this model

VK2809: Representative Gene Effects, DIO NASH Model

- ▶ VK2809 reduces expression and signaling of key fibrosis drivers
- ▶ Gene expression changes align with observed improvement in fibrosis histology
- ▶ Improvement in genes associated with lipid metabolism, insulin sensitivity also observed

Change Pro-Fibrogenic Gene Expression Following VK2809 Treatment

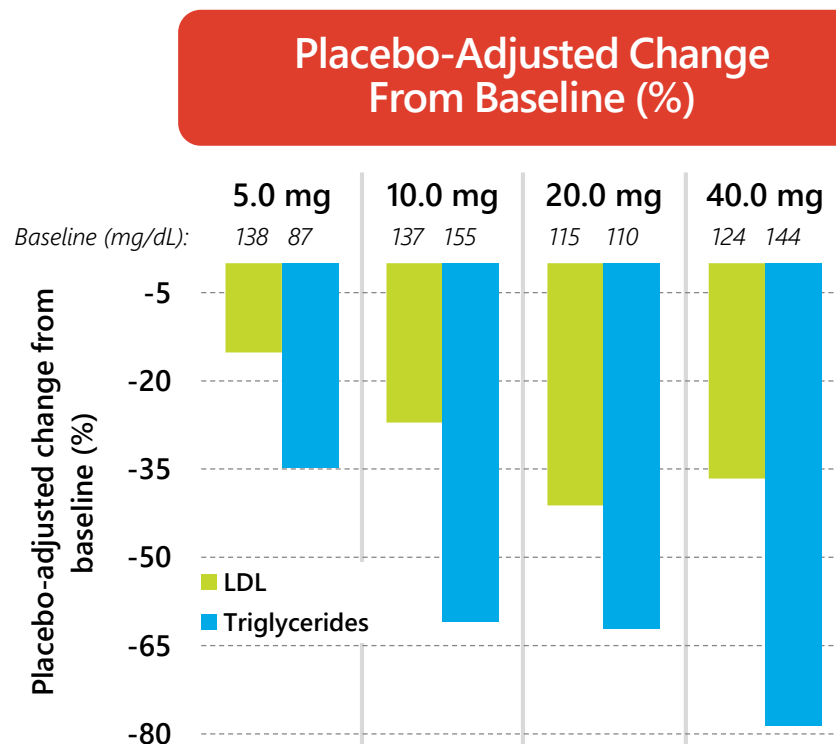


% Difference	-27.1%	-36.3%	-37.0%	-56.3%	-64.7%
p-value	0.07	<0.05	<0.05	<0.001	<0.001

TR β mechanism provides broad histologic benefits; improving steatosis, inflammation, fibrosis.

VK2809 Clinical Highlights: 14-Day Phase 1b Study

- ▶ Placebo-controlled trial (n=56), mild hypercholesterolemia
- ▶ Results: clinically, statistically significant reductions in LDL and triglycerides
- ▶ Encouraging safety and tolerability, no SAEs
- ▶ Results supported a proof-of-concept study in patients with NAFLD and elevated LDL-C



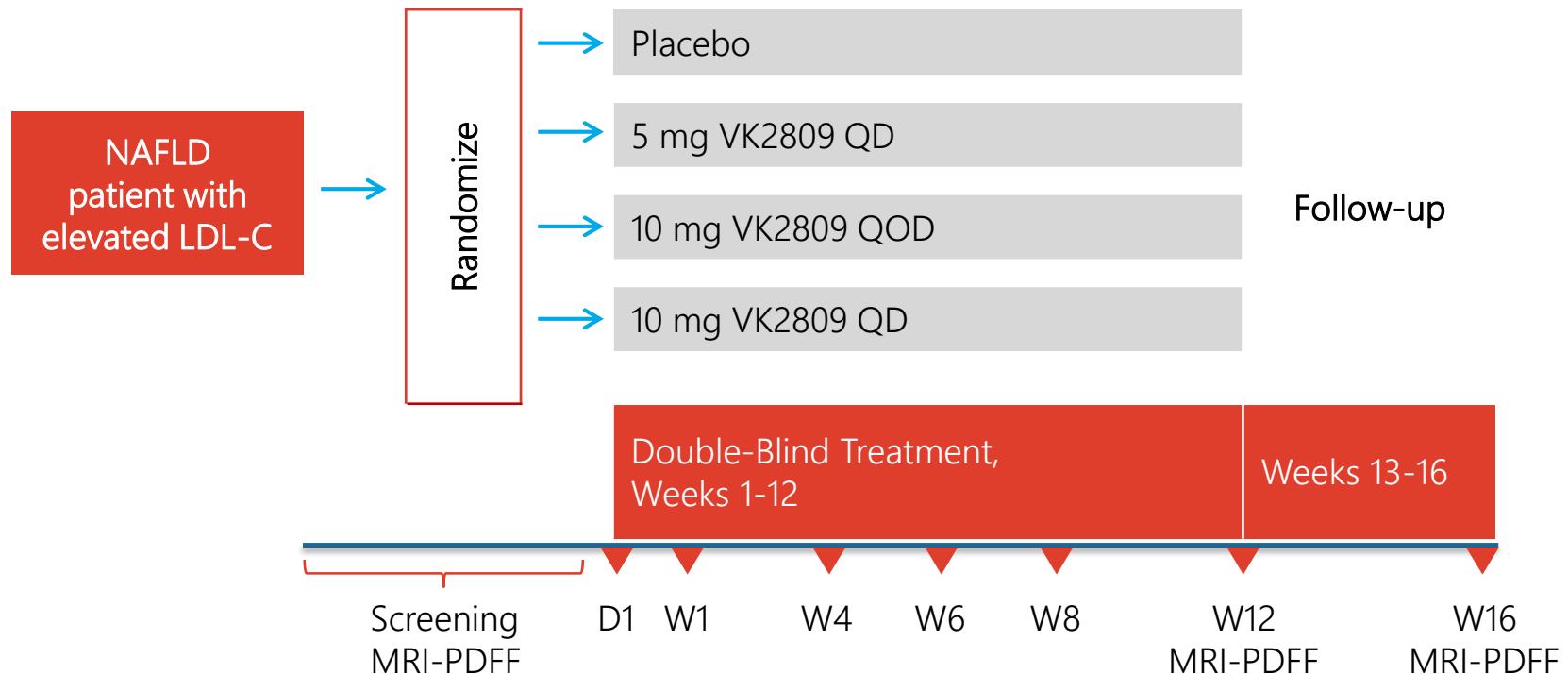
Placebo-adjusted reduction, LDL:

-15.2%	-27.1%	-41.2%	-36.6%
p=0.026	p=0.0003	p<0.0001	p<0.0001

Placebo-adjusted reduction, triglycerides:

-34.8%	-61.0%	-62.1%	-78.6%
p=0.052	p=0.0019	p=0.0007	p=0.0001

VK2809-201: Phase 2 Study Design

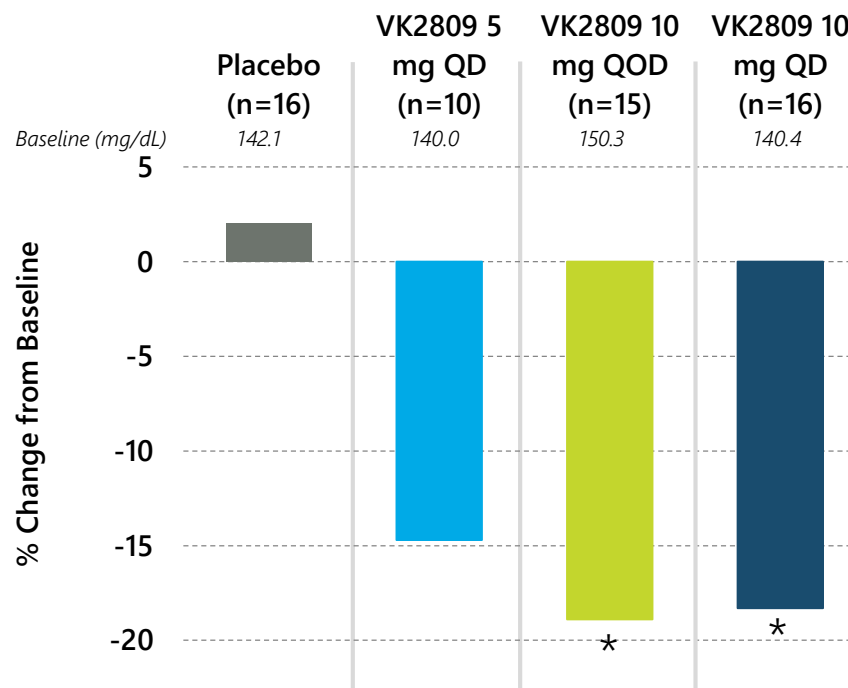


- ▶ Multi-arm, dose-ranging, 12 week Phase 2 trial
 - Target enrollment: 20 patients per arm
 - **Primary endpoint:** Change in LDL-C vs. placebo
 - **Secondary endpoint:** Change in liver fat by MRI-PDFF
 - **Exploratory endpoints:** Changes in atherogenic proteins

VK2809 Significantly Reduced LDL-C After 12 Weeks

- ▶ All VK2809 cohorts statistically significantly reduced vs. baseline
- ▶ Placebo-adjusted change from baseline
 - 5 mg QD: -23.7 mg/dL
 - 10 mg QOD: -27.1 mg/dL
 - 10 mg QD: -28.3 mg/dL

Mean % Change in LDL-C at 12 Weeks

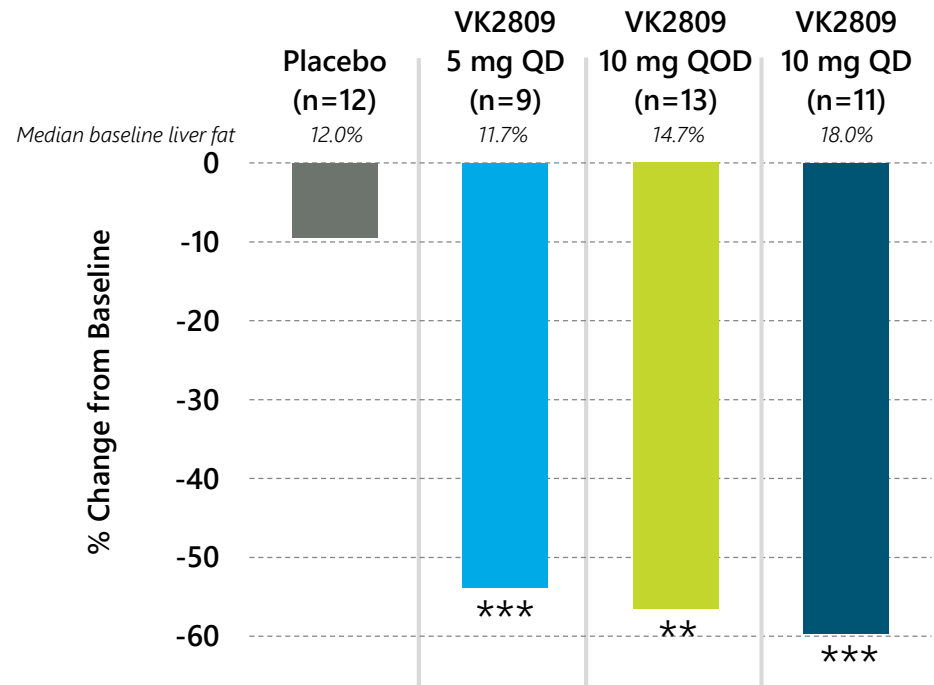


*p<0.05

VK2809 Produced Significant Relative Reductions in Liver Fat

- ▶ Significant Relative Reductions from Baseline in Liver Fat by MRI-PDFF
- ▶ Maximal reductions at Week 12
 - 5 mg QD: 78%
 - 10 mg QOD: 72%
 - 10 mg QD: 76%

Median Relative % Change in Liver Fat at 12 Weeks



% Change	-9.4%	-53.8%	-56.5%	-59.7%
p-value vs. placebo	-	0.0001	0.0018	0.0004

*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001

Representative Fat Reduction, VK2809 and Placebo Subject

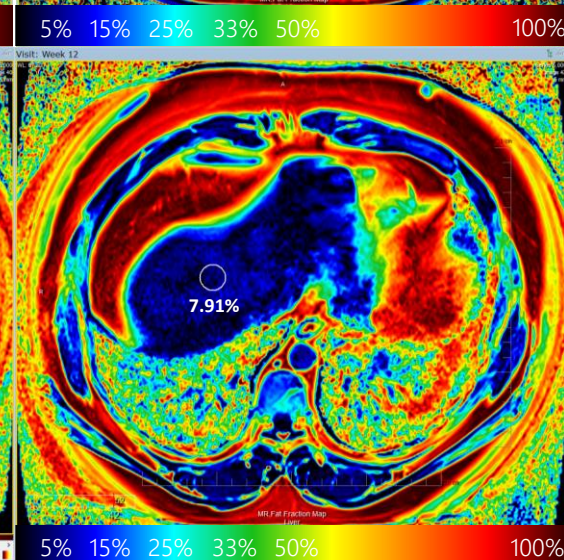
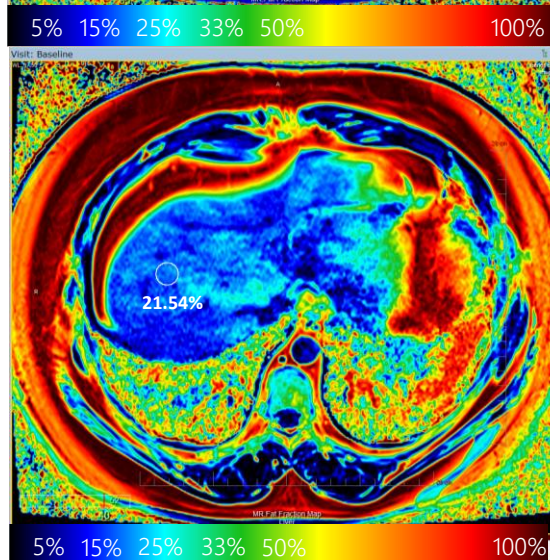
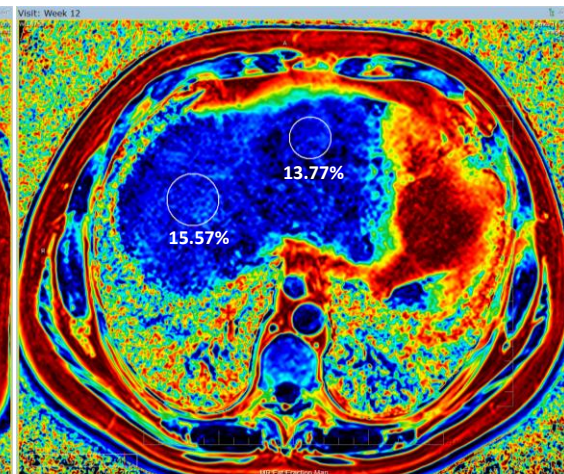
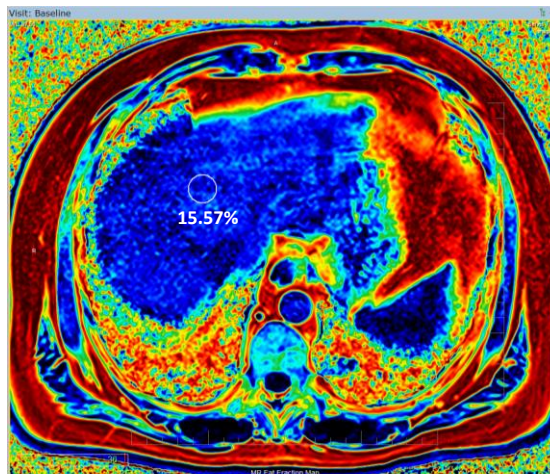
Overall Mean Hepatic Fat Values

Subject, Dose	Baseline	Week 12	Absolute Change	Relative Change
Subject A Placebo	15.7%	15.6%	-0.04%	-0.3%
Subject B 10 mg QD	24.6%	6.0%	-18.6%	-75.6%

Subject A, Segment 8

Baseline

Week 12

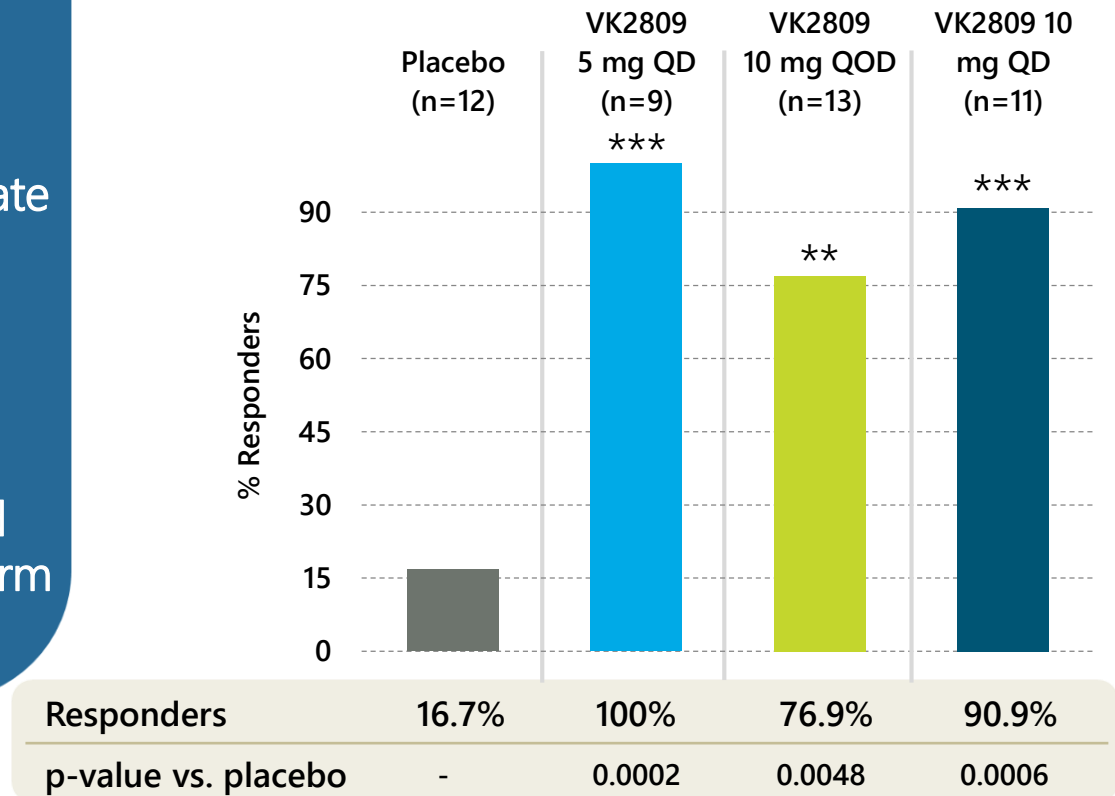


Subject B, Segment 8

VK2809 Cohorts Demonstrated High Relative Response Rates

- ▶ Up to 100% of VK2809 patients experienced response, as defined by $\geq 30\%$ decrease in liver fat at Week 12
- ▶ Combined VK2809 cohorts demonstrated 88% response rate
- ▶ 70% of all patients receiving VK2809 demonstrated liver fat reductions $\geq 50\%$
- ▶ Reduction in liver fat correlated with improved odds of long-term histology benefit¹

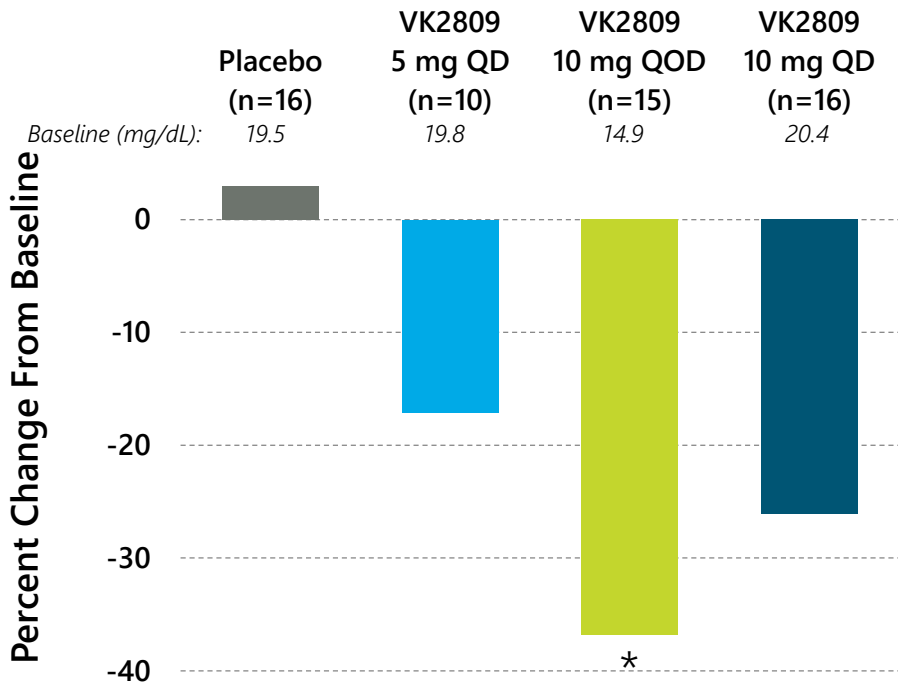
Patients with $\geq 30\%$ Relative Reduction in Liver Fat at 12 Weeks



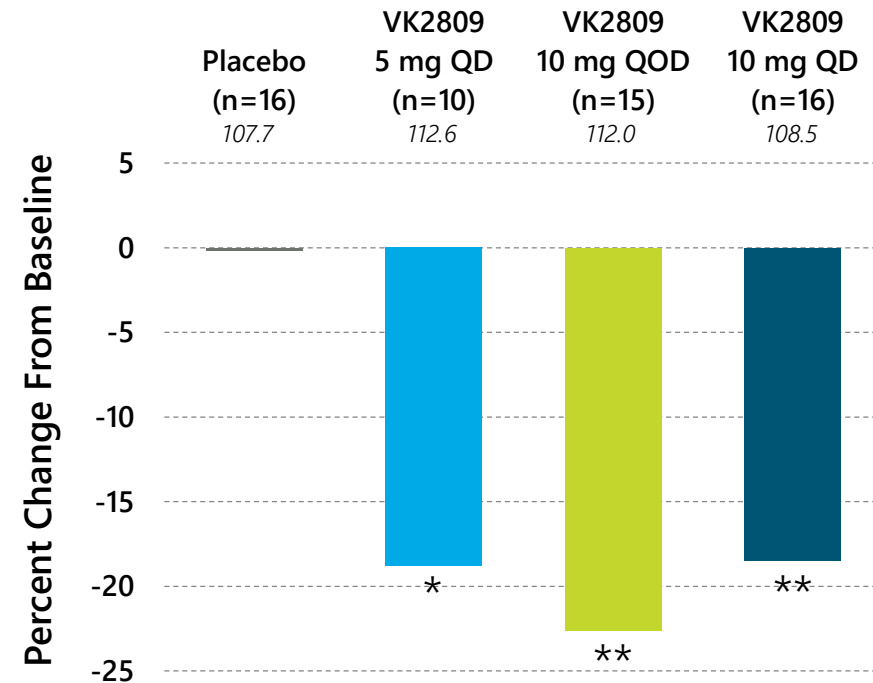
*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001

VK2809 Improved Atherogenic Protein Levels at 12 Weeks

Mean Change in Lipoprotein(a) at Week 12



Mean Change in Apolipoprotein B at Week 12



*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001

- ▶ Reductions in Lp(a), ApoB achieved at 12 Weeks
- ▶ Suggests potential cardiovascular benefit

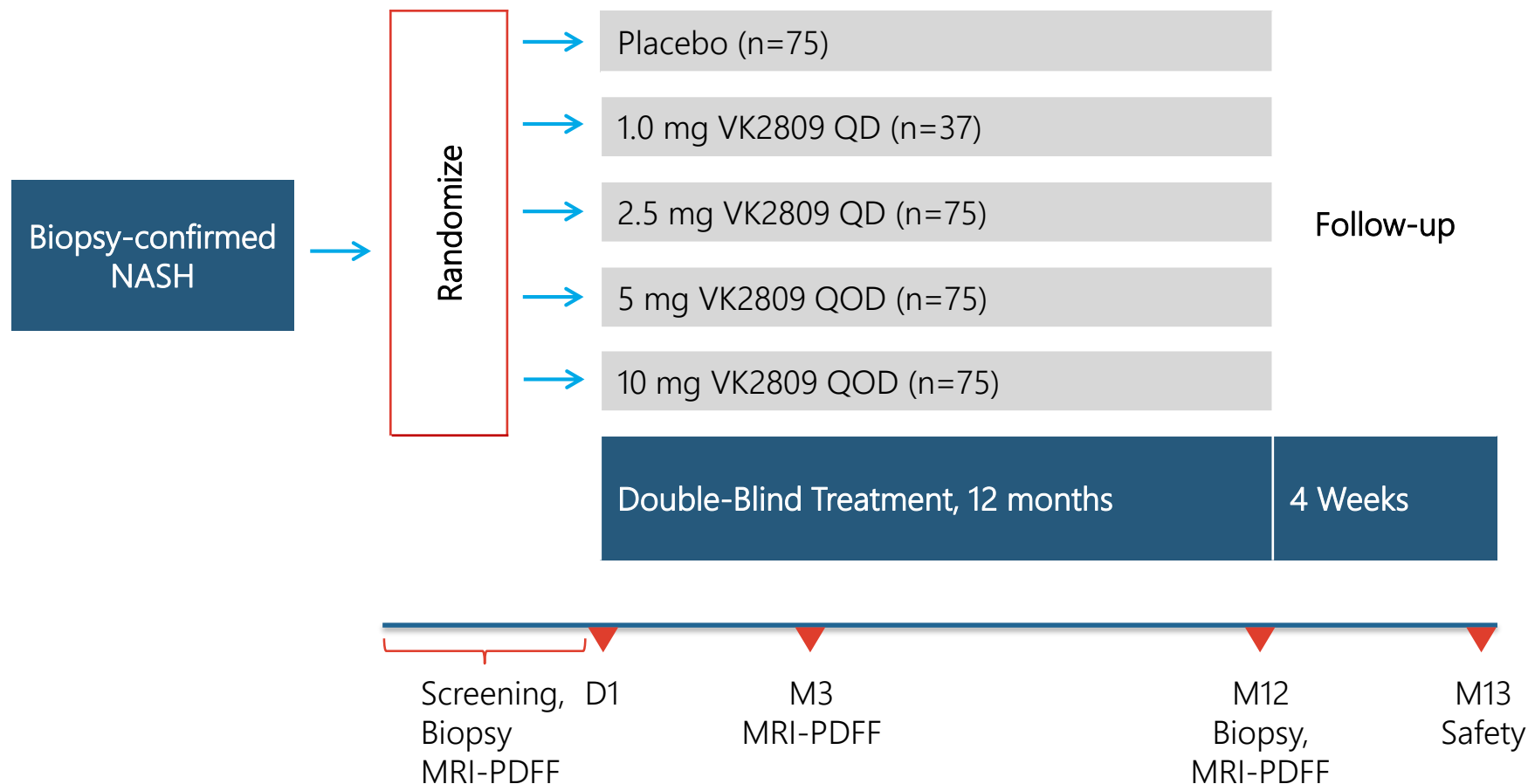
VK2809-201: Summary and Conclusions

- ▶ VK2809 produced robust reduction in liver fat on MRI-PDFF in NAFLD patients after 12 weeks of oral dosing
- ▶ 88% of patients receiving VK2809 experienced $\geq 30\%$ reduction in liver fat content at 12 weeks, including all patients receiving 5 mg daily doses
- ▶ 70% of VK2809 treated patients experienced liver fat reductions $\geq 50\%$
- ▶ Week 16 results maintain statistically significant liver fat reduction vs. baseline and placebo, despite no Tx for 4 weeks
- ▶ VK2809 produced significant reduction in LDL-C, triglycerides, Apo B, and Lp(a), suggesting potential long-term CV benefit
- ▶ VK2809 was safe in this 12-week Phase 2 study; No SAEs observed
- ▶ VK2809 was well-tolerated in this 12-week Phase 2 study
 - Diarrhea, nausea rates higher in placebo (18% vs. 7% for combined VK2809 cohorts)



VK2809: Phase 2b VOYAGE Study

VOYAGE Study: 12-Month Phase 2b Study of VK2809



- ▶ Multi-arm, dose-ranging, 12-month Phase 2 trial
 - **Primary endpoint:** Change in MRI-PDFF vs. placebo at 3 months
 - **Secondary endpoints:** Change in histology at 12 months (NAS, fibrosis markers, etc.)

VOYAGE Study: 12-Month Phase 2b Study of VK2809

- ▶ Key inclusion criteria
 - Biopsy-confirmed NASH with NAS ≥ 4
 - Liver fat content $\geq 8\%$
 - F2-F3 fibrosis, up to 25% F1
- ▶ Primary endpoint: Change in liver fat content at week 12
- ▶ Secondary, exploratory endpoints: Change in histology at 12 months
- ▶ Enrollment ongoing



Rare Disease Program

VK0214

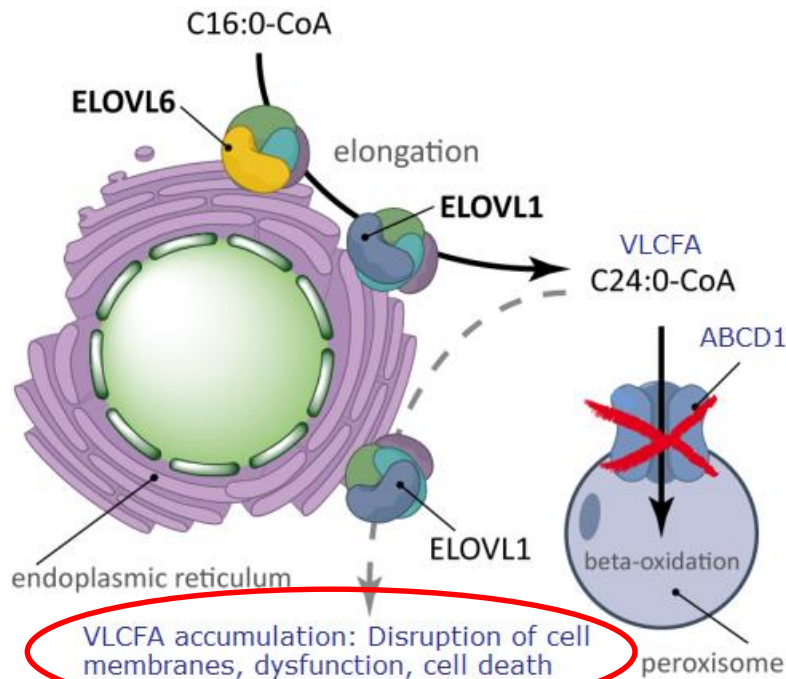
X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy

- ▶ X-Linked adrenoleukodystrophy (X-ALD)
 - Orphan neurodegenerative disorder
 - X-linked: Carried by females, primarily manifesting in males
 - No cure, no approved therapy
- ▶ Most severe form: Cerebral ALD
 - Rapidly progressive inflammatory demyelination; disruption of BBB
 - Affects ~35% before age 12 (CCALD), ~20% between age 20 – 35 (CALD)
 - Deterioration in speech, cognition; vegetative state within 3-5 years
- ▶ Most common form: Adrenomyeloneuropathy (AMN)
 - Affects spinal cord, motor neurons; no inflammatory component or brain involvement
 - Affects nearly all adult patients; considered “default” manifestation of ALD
 - Progressive motor impairment; wheelchair confinement, leg paralysis common

TR β : X-Linked Adrenoleukodystrophy

Caused by mutation in gene for the ATP-Binding Cassette transporter D1 (ABCD1)

- ▶ Peroxisomal transporter of very long chain fatty acids (VLCFA)



ABCD1: Normal function to transport VLCFA into peroxisome for degradation

X-ALD: Defective ABCD1 leads to accumulation of VLCFA in tissues

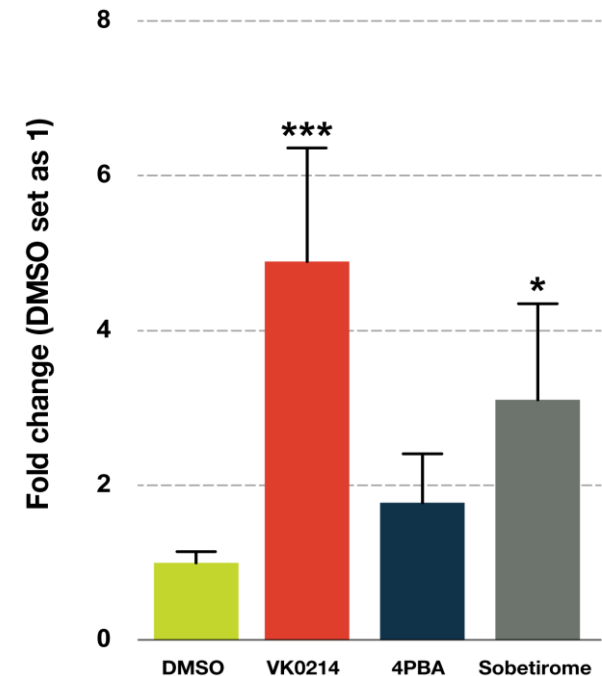
High VLCFA levels disrupt cell membranes; inflammatory demyelination in brain tissue; motor neuron deterioration

TR β Agonists: Stimulate expression of compensatory transporters ABCD2, 3; may mitigate VLCFA elevation

Strong Rationale for TR β Role in X-ALD

- ▶ Alternative VLCFA transporters ABCD2,-3 induced by TR β receptor
 - Mechanistically compensate for ABCD1 deficiency
- ▶ Over-expression of ABCD2 corrects VLCFA elevation *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- ▶ *In vitro* POC established in X-ALD fibroblasts

VK0214: Potent ABCD2 induction in X-ALD fibroblasts



VK0214 successfully induces ABCD2 expression in human X-ALD cells

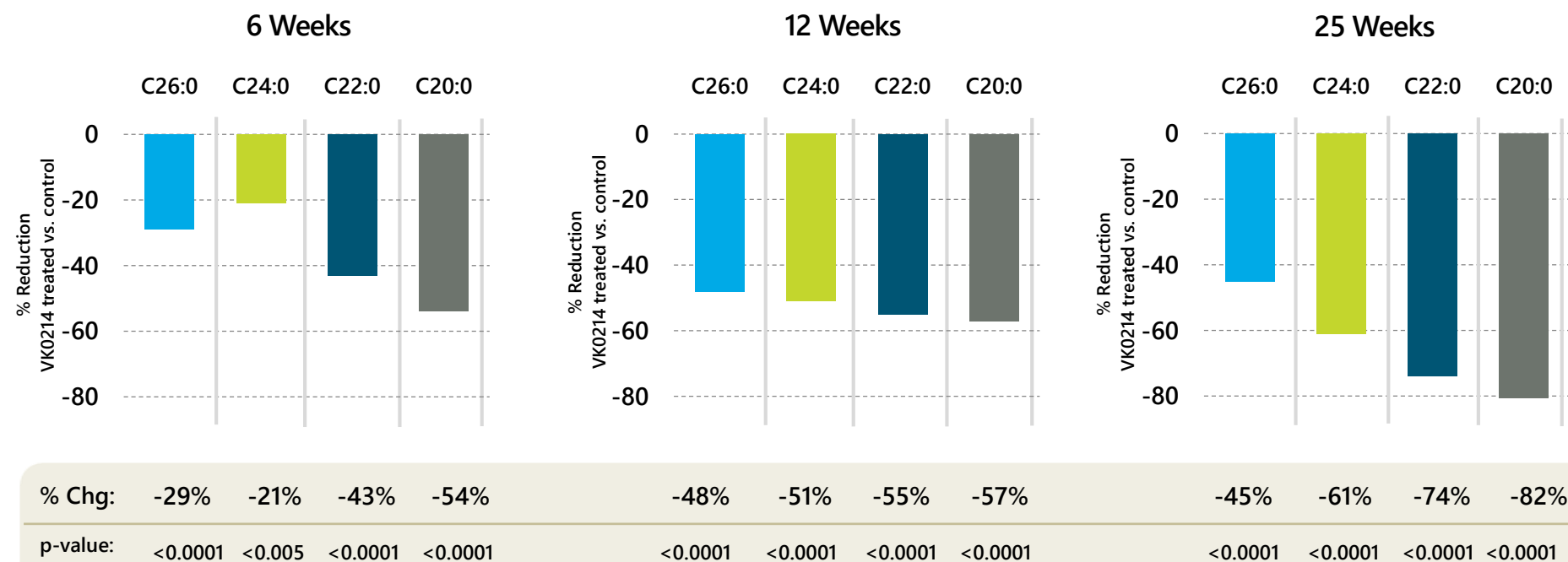
1. *Eur. J. Cell Biol.* **87**, 933-945, 2008
2. *J. Steroid Biochem. Mol. Biol.*, **116**, 37-43, 2009

3. Short call oral presentation 6, 84th American Thyroid Association, November 1, 2014.

VK0214: *In Vivo* Proof-of-Concept Data, ABCD1 KO Mouse

- ▶ ABCD1 Knockout model: Mimics biochemical features of human X-ALD
- ▶ VK0214: Durable and progressive reductions in plasma VLCFAs
 - Tissue effects suggest encouraging CNS activity following long-term exposure

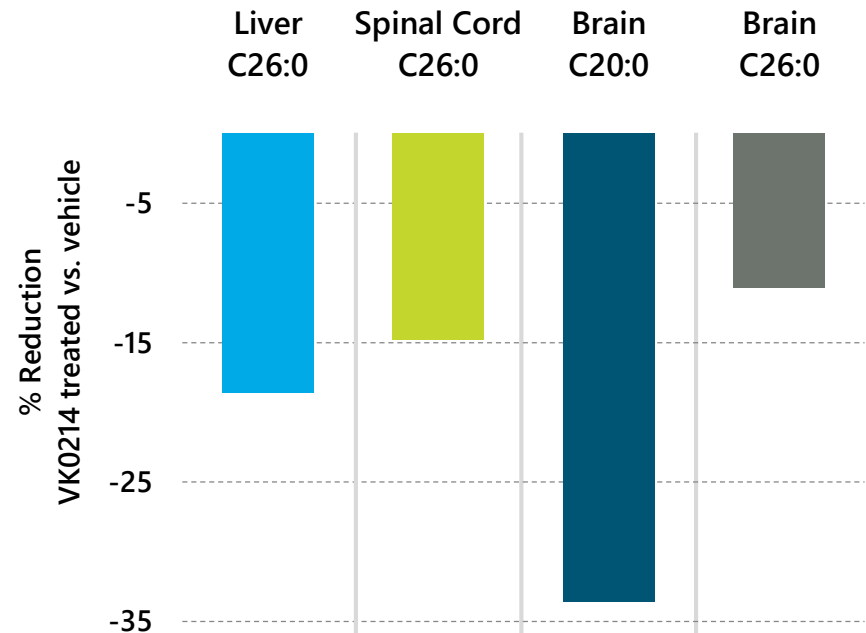
Reductions in Plasma VLCFA-LPC, ABCD1 Knockout Model



VK0214: Reduces VLCFA Levels in Key Tissues

- ▶ Significant VLCFA reductions observed in multiple tissues
- ▶ Encouraging evidence of CNS activity
- ▶ Reductions in multiple VLCFAs consistent with plasma observations
- ▶ Suggests potential benefit in both cerebral and AMN forms of X-ALD
- ▶ Next steps: IND-filing, planned 1H20

Change in Tissue VLCFAs: CNS and Peripheral Tissue



% Difference:	-19%	-15%	-34%	-11%
p-value:	<0.05	<0.01	<0.0001	0.07



Musculoskeletal Program

VK5211: Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator

Hip Fracture

Musculoskeletal Program: VK5211 for Hip Fracture

- ▶ **Novel Selective Androgen Receptor Modulator (SARM), for hip fracture**
 - VK5211 is a potentially best-in-class small molecule SARM
- ▶ **Promising efficacy signals to date**
 - Significant improvements in lean body mass in animals and humans
- ▶ **Target indication: Rehabilitation post-hip fracture**
 - Population rapidly loses muscle, bone, function
 - >300,000 patients per year, U.S.; expect continued growth
 - Market opportunity potentially exceeds \$1B annually
- ▶ **Potential benefits in other fractures, joint replacements, and muscle wasting disorders**



VK5211: Potential Therapeutic Benefits of SARMs



- ↑ Muscle Mass
- ↑ Muscle Strength



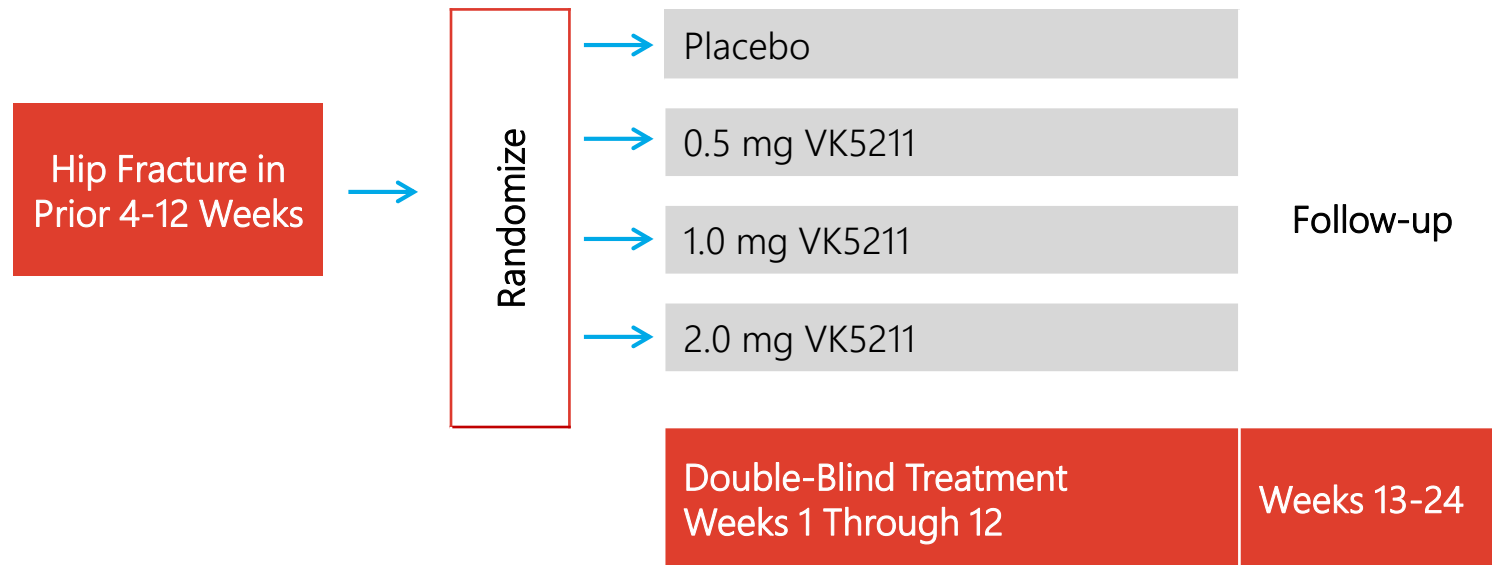
- ↑ Bone Formation
- ↑ Bone Strength
- ↓ Bone Resorption



- ↑ Cognition
- ↑ Libido
- ↑ Energy

Goal: Retain beneficial properties of natural androgens with fewer side effects relative to anabolic steroids

VK5211: Phase 2 Trial, Hip Fracture

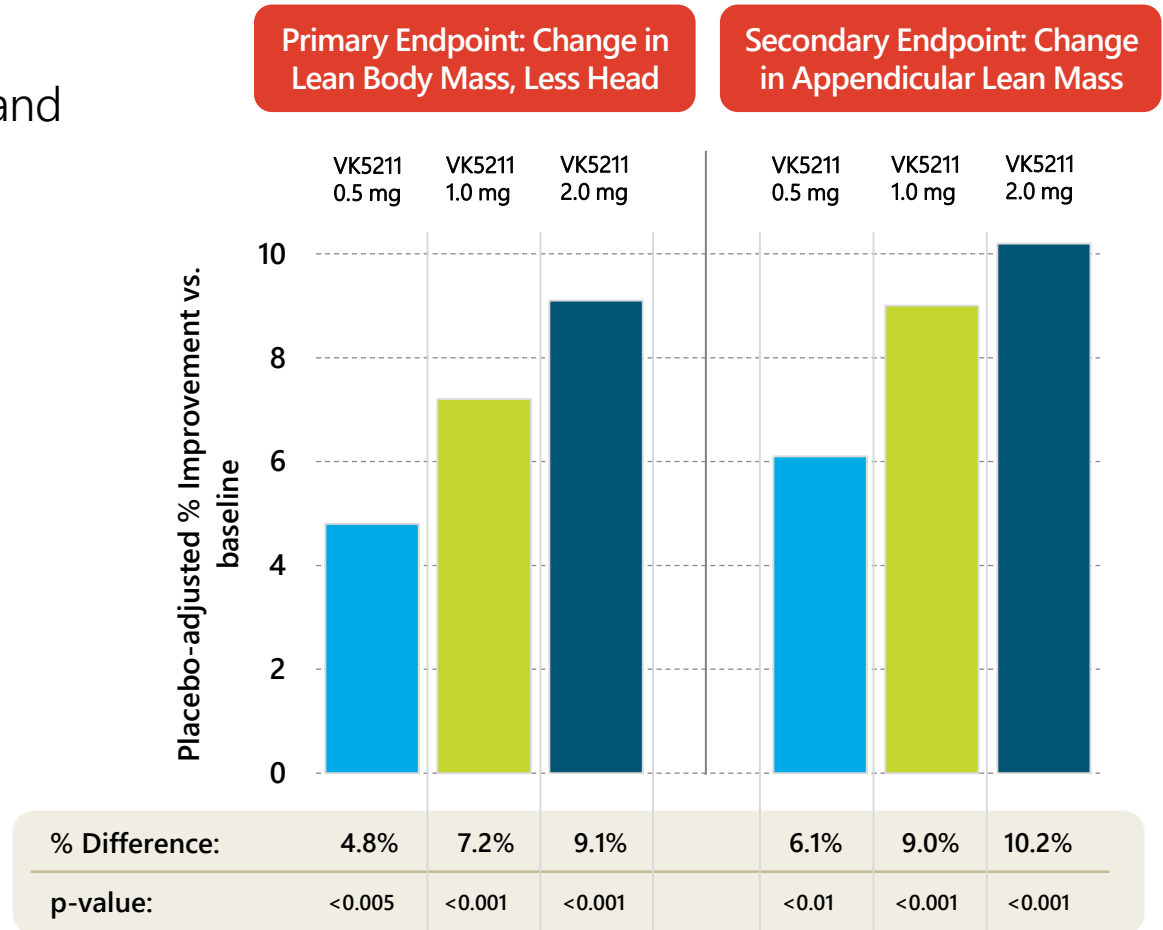


► 12-week Phase 2 trial in 108 patients

- Once-daily oral dosing
- Primary endpoint: Change in lean body mass
- Secondary and exploratory endpoints: Change in appendicular lean mass, total lean body mass, BMD, functional status, ADL, QOL

Phase 2 Results Show Significant Increases in Lean Body Mass

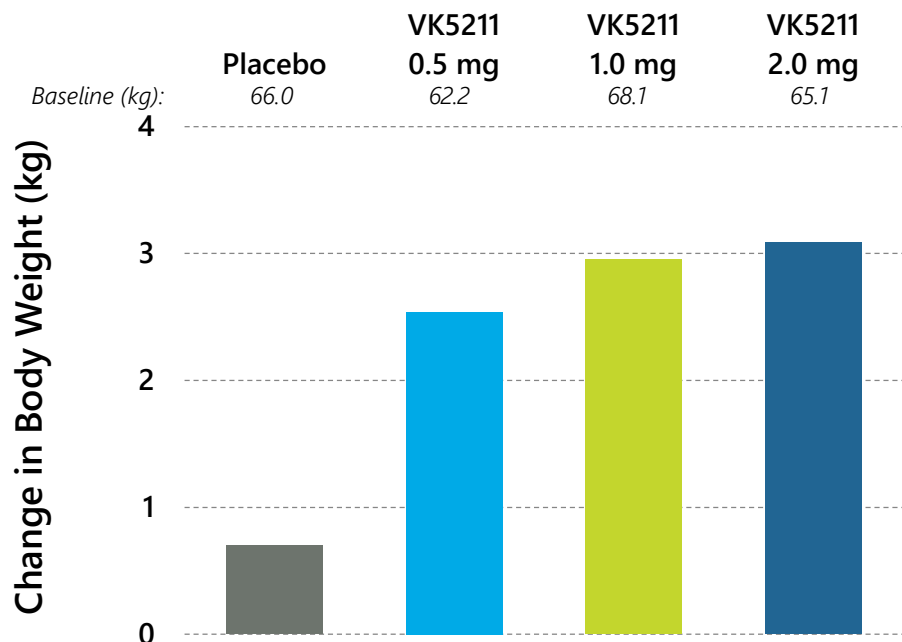
- ▶ Significant increases in LBM and appendicular lean mass following 12 weeks of daily dosing
- ▶ Consistent dose response observed across primary, secondary efficacy measures
- ▶ Encouraging safety and tolerability, no drug-related SAEs



VK5211 produced robust dose-dependent effects on primary and all secondary measures of lean body mass

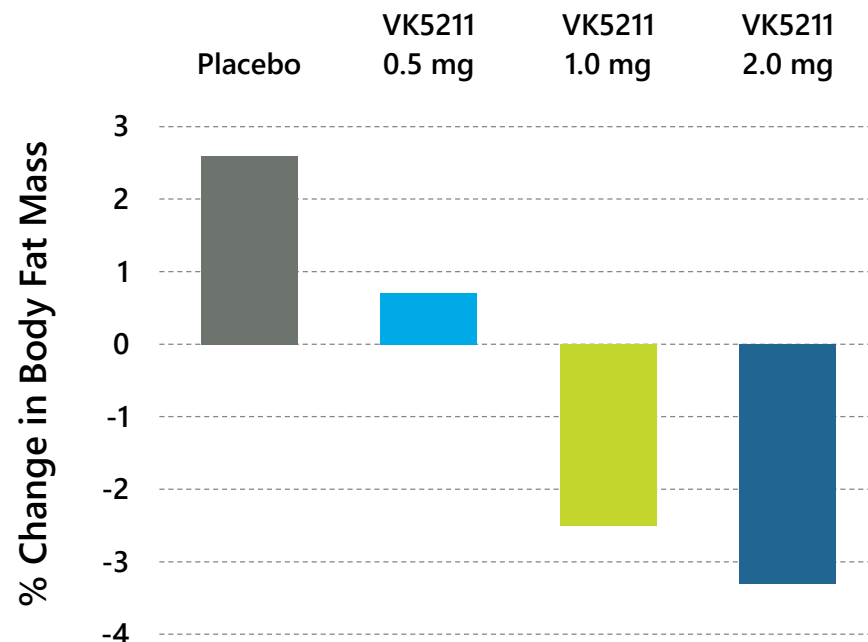
VK5211-201: Change in Body Composition at 12 Weeks

Change in Mean Body Weight, at Week 12



Change	0.70 kg	2.54 kg	2.95 kg	3.09 kg
p-value	-	NS	NS	NS

Change in Mean Fat Mass, at Week 12



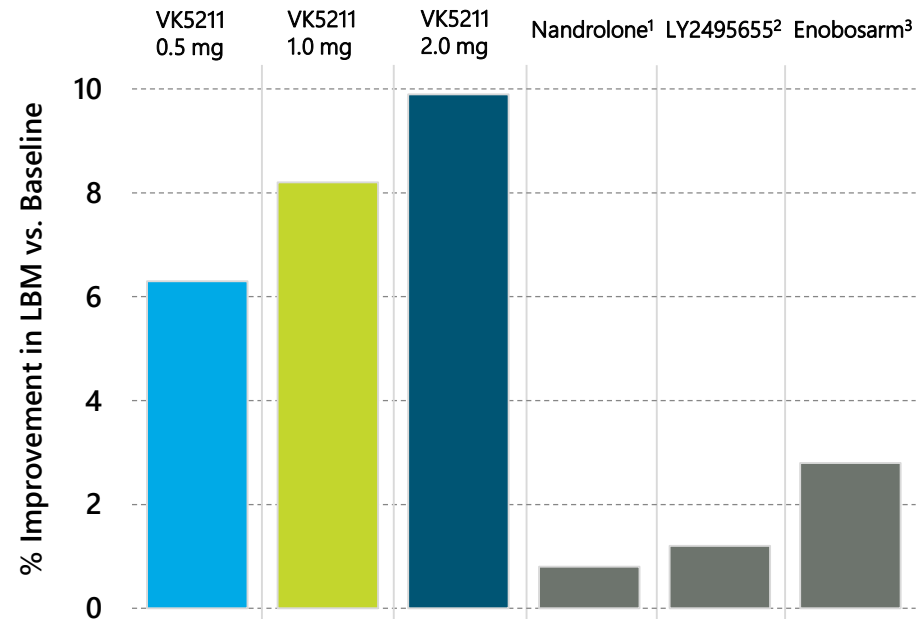
	2.9%	0.7%	-2.5%	-3.3%
p-value	-	0.24	0.11	0.01

- ▶ Dose-dependent increase in mean body weight
- ▶ Dose-dependent decrease in mean fat mass; significant at high dose

VK5211 Demonstrates Potency Advantages to Other Mechanisms

- ▶ Significantly greater potency relative to testosterone analogs
- ▶ Improved potency on muscle compared with myostatin-targeting approaches
- ▶ Competitive effect on total lean body mass relative to other clinical-stage SARMs

Reported Changes in Total Lean Body Mass in Older Adults



% Difference:	6.3%	8.2%	9.9%	0.8%	1.2%	2.8%
p-value:	<0.005	<0.001	<0.001	<0.05	0.02	<0.001

VK5211 in older adults provides increases in lean body mass that compare favorably to other developmental mechanisms

VK5211 Phase 2 Study: Overall Safety and Adverse Events

- ▶ Encouraging safety and tolerability
- ▶ Frequency of reported adverse events demonstrates no dose-relationship
- ▶ No drug-related SAEs
- ▶ Next steps
 - Exploring collaboration and licensing opportunities
 - Plan for next steps with partner

Financial Summary

► Capital structure and summary financials

Capital Structure ¹	In '000s
Shares outstanding	72,256
Options, RSUs	2,891
Warrants	5,979
Total shares, options, RSUs, warrants	81,126

Financials	Sept 30, 2019 (\$'000s)
Cash burn 3Q YTD 2019	\$13,009
Cash and ST Investments	\$288,072
Notes: 1) As of September 30, 2019.	

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- Two Phase 2 programs supported by positive clinical data

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- Novel, selective thyroid receptor- β (TR β) agonist
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► Rare Disease Program: VK0214 for X-ALD

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- In vivo data show improvement in key biomarkers

► Musculoskeletal Program: VK5211 for hip fracture recovery

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- Phase 2 results demonstrate significant increases in lean body mass

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Corporate Presentation