

#761: Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic data from a Phase 1 Study of CI-8993 Anti-VISTA Antibody in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors

R Noelle^{1,7}, M Johnson², J Rodon³, M Zauderer⁴, LD Lewis¹, M Severgnini⁵, J Parker⁵, L Regales⁵, M Lane⁵, R von Roemeling⁵, AS Martin^{5,6}, M Molloy⁷, RE Martell⁵, T Dai⁸

¹ The Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth & The Dartmouth Cancer Center/ ² Tennessee Oncology/ ³ MD Anderson Cancer Center/ ⁴ Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center/ ⁵ Curis Inc/ ⁶ Tufts Medical Center/ ⁷ ImmuNext Inc/ ⁸ Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Background

- V-set immunoglobulin domain suppressor of T cell activation (VISTA) is a novel immunoregulatory protein that is broadly expressed on cells of the myeloid and lymphoid lineages, and is frequently implicated as a poor prognostic indicator in multiple cancers ⁽¹⁾
- VISTA is the only oncology checkpoint on quiescent T cells affecting earliest phase of response to tumor antigen ⁽¹⁾
- Negative immune checkpoint regulation by VISTA has been described as a mechanism of resistance in melanoma and prostate patients treated with anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors ^(2,3)
- Preclinically, CI-8993 shows anti-tumor efficacy and synergy with other checkpoint inhibitors (CPIs) through TME modulation via increased peripheral tumor-specific T cells numbers, monocyte- and T cell activation ⁽⁴⁾

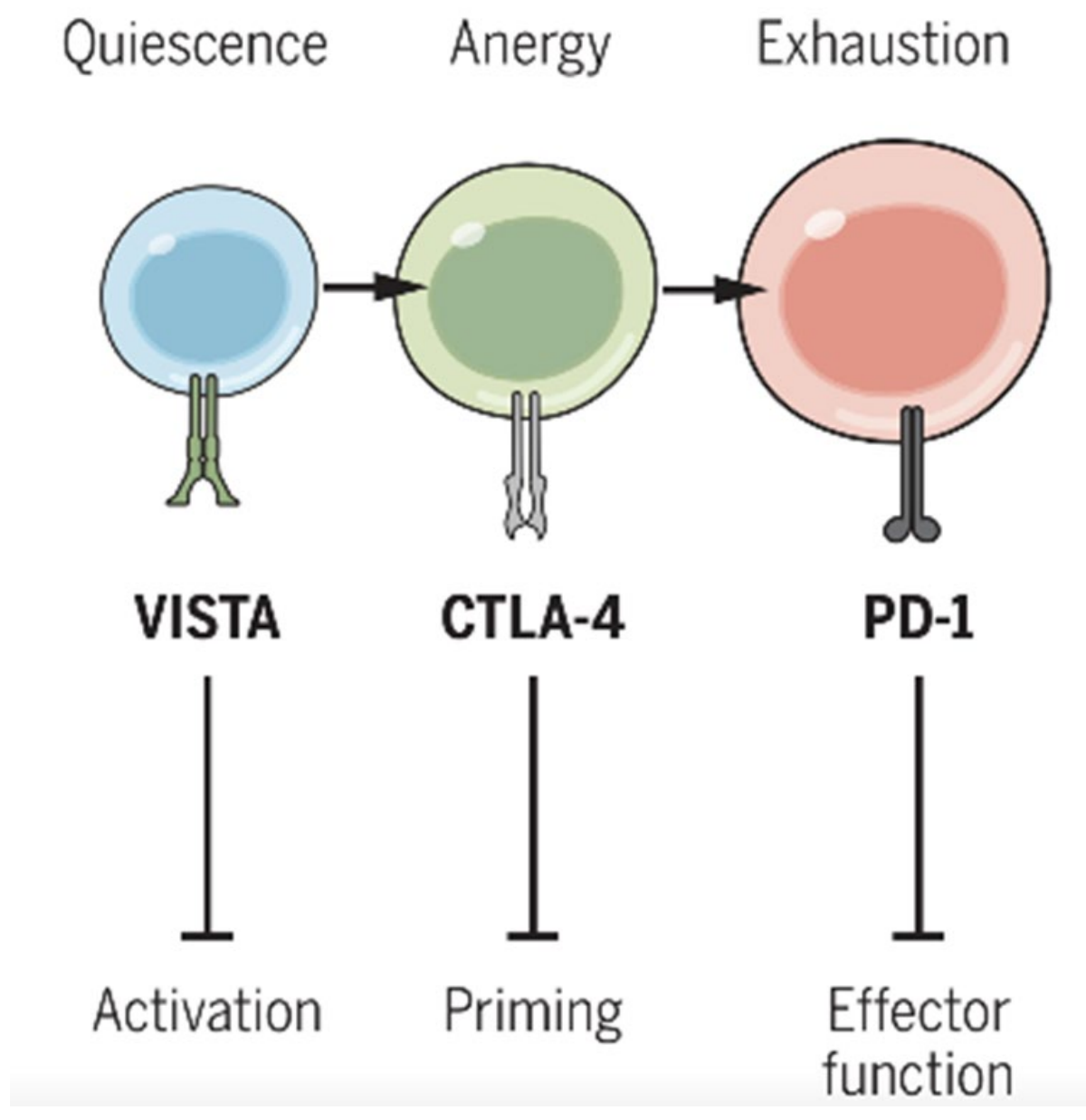
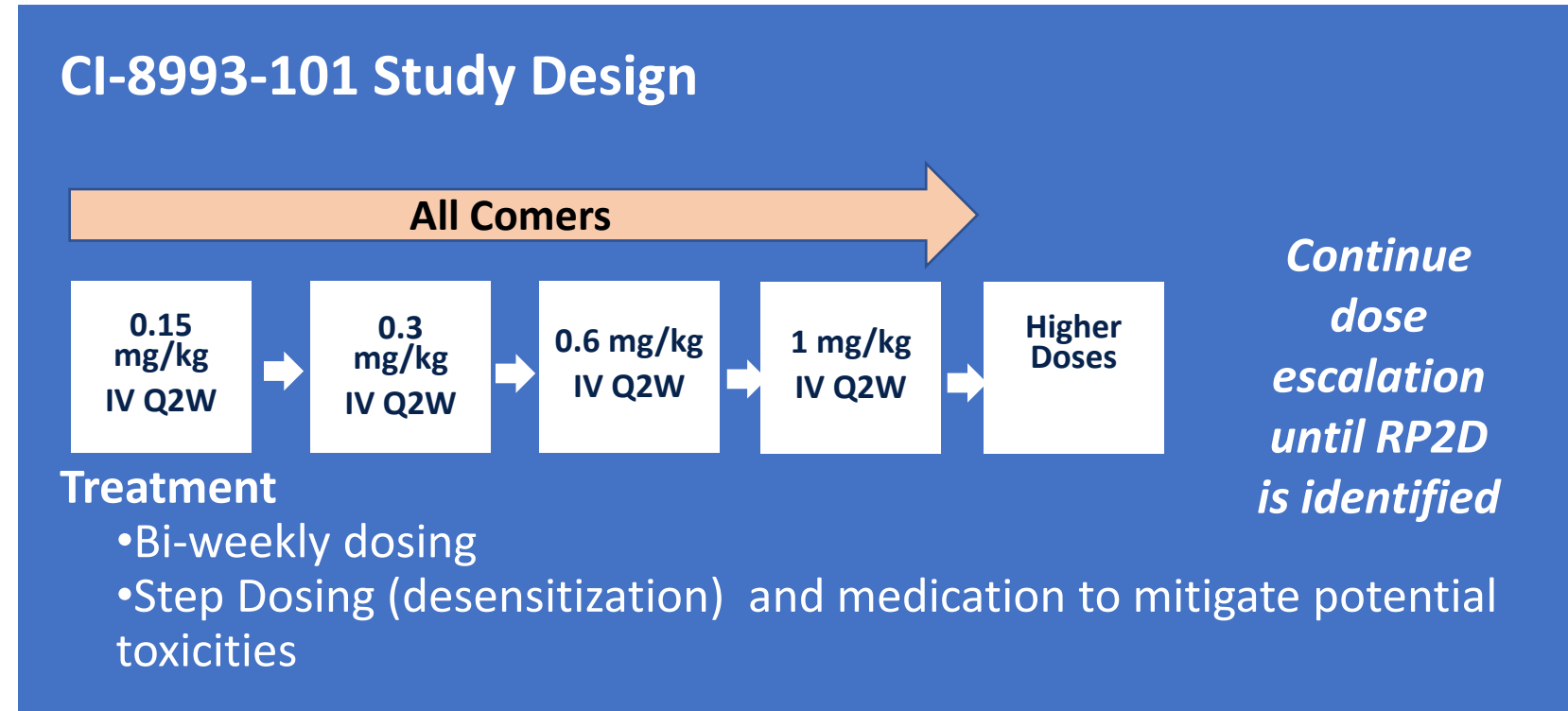


Figure 1: Integration of VISTA with other well established negative checkpoint regulators of T cell activation ⁽¹⁾

CI-8993-101 Study Design (NCT04475523)

- CI-8993-101 is an open label phase 1 dose escalation study with a 3+3 design
- Patients with solid tumor malignancy (non-lymphoma) that is metastatic or unresectable and considered relapsed and/or refractory to prior therapy, were included for this study
- Patients were enrolled into cohorts structured to receive step-dosing regimen before administering a single full dose of CI-8993 (Table 1). The full doses ranged from 0.15 mg/kg to 0.6mg/kg over three different cohorts



Cohort	Step Dose 1 (mg/kg)	Step Dose 2* (mg/kg)	Full Dose (mg/kg)
1	0.05	0.05	0.15
2	0.05	0.05	0.30
3	0.05	0.15	0.6
4**	0.05	0.15	1.0
5**	0.05	0.15	2.0
6**	0.05	0.15	4.0

Table 1: CI-8993-101 Step and Full Dosing Schema
* Step dose 2 taken 72 hours after step dose 1.
** Initial step dose administered within 1 week prior to full dose.

Methods

- Immune related PD, cytokine quantification and immune phenotyping was performed on peripheral blood from patients receiving a single full dose of CI-8993, divided in 3 cohorts (0.15, 0.3 and 0.6 mg/kg)
- Plasma concentration of CI-8993 (PK) was quantified on samples from patients at time points following step-dose, and a single full dose administration of CI-8993

Abbreviations: Pharmacokinetic (PK), Pharmacodynamic (PD), Dose Limiting Toxicities (DLT), Recommended Phase 2 Dose (RP2D), Maximum Concentration (C_{max}), Intravenous (IV), once every 2 weeks (Q2W), Non Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

Baseline Characteristics

Patient Characteristics	N (%)
Total Number of patients	16 (100)
Female/ Male	6 (37) / 10 (62.5)
Age, median (range in years)	63 (50-78)
Race/Ethnicity	
African American	1 (6.25)
White	14 (87.5)
Hispanic or Latino	1 (6.25)
Other	1 (6.25)
Cancer Types	
Colorectal	5 (31.25)
Head and Neck	3 (18.75)
Pancreatic	2 (12.5)
NSCLC	1 (6.25)
Breast	1 (6.25)
Bladder	1 (6.25)
Gastric	1 (6.25)
Mesothelioma	1 (6.25)
Endometrial	1 (6.25)

Table 2: CI-8993-101 Patient Baseline Characteristics

Cytokine Profile

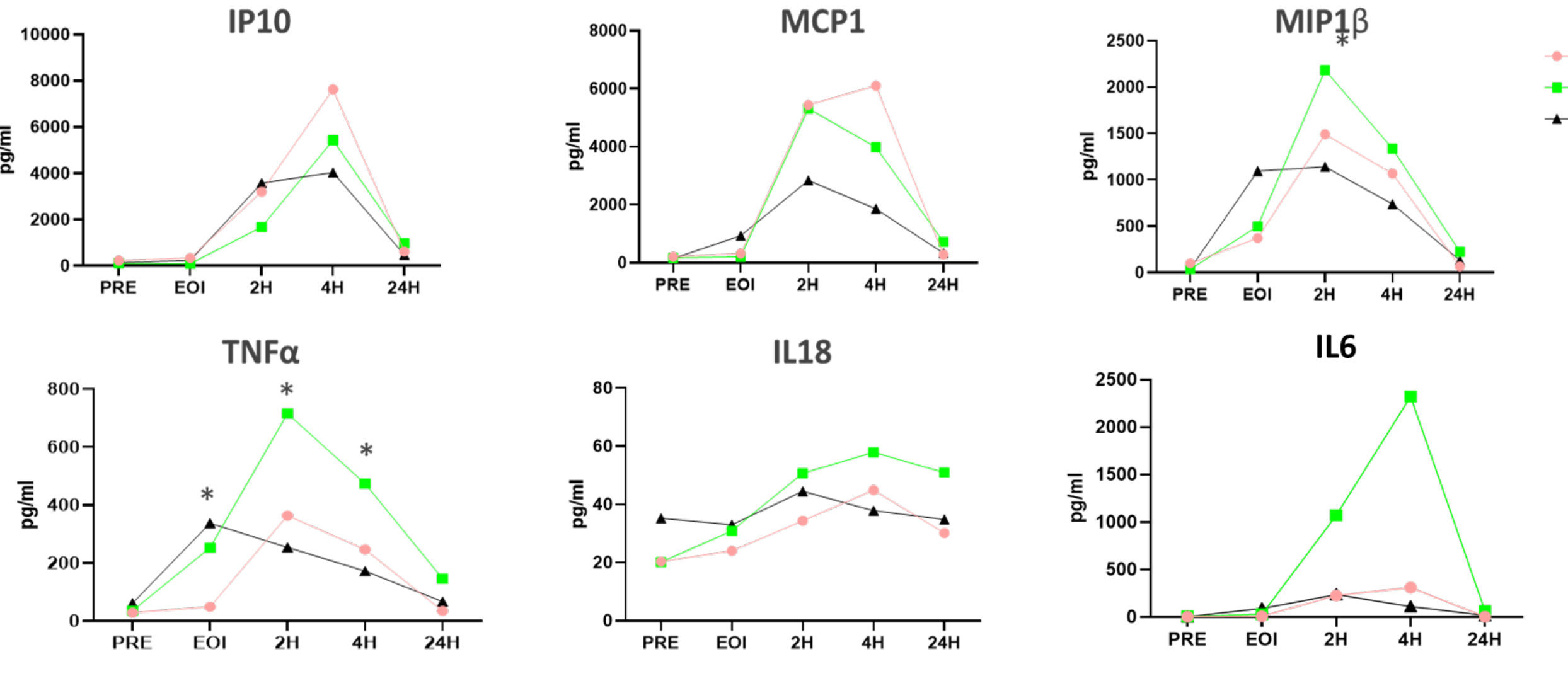


Figure 2: Average cytokine concentration at CI-8993 pre and post infusion at 0.15 mg/kg (n=7), 0.3 mg/kg (n=5) and 0.6 mg/kg (n=4) dose. (* P≤0.05)

- Results indicate a rapid, but transient, increase of inflammatory mediators including plasma cytokines (IL6, IL18) and chemokines (IP10, MCP1) (* P≤0.05)
- Soluble markers such as TNFα and MIP1β present differences between cohorts at 4 hours after treatment (* P≤0.05)
- Patients from CI-8993 cohort 3 (0.6 mg/kg) exhibit lower cytokine levels when compared to cohort 1 and 2 (0.15 and 0.3 mg/Kg)

Whole Blood Immunophenotyping

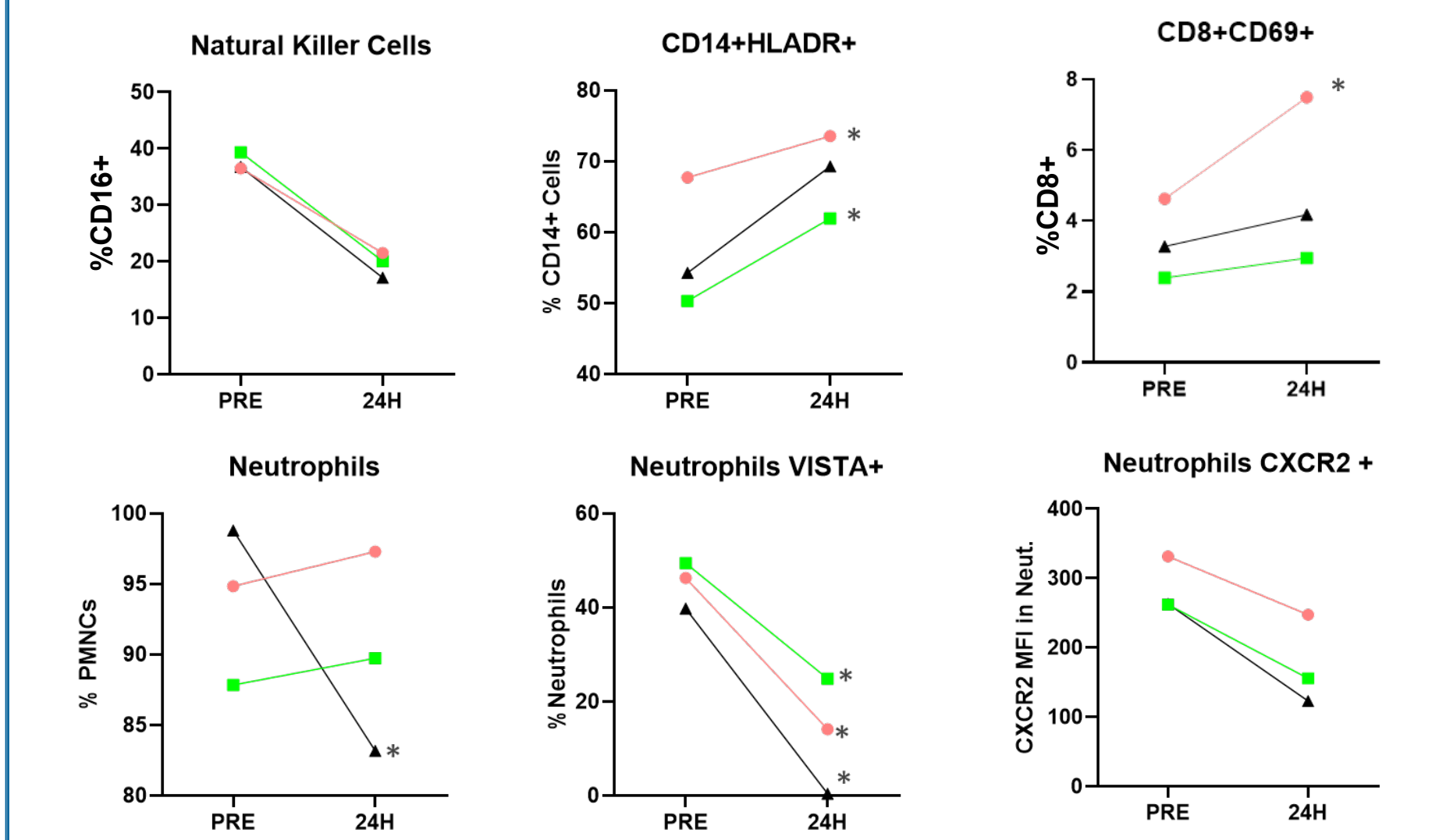


Figure 3: Average values of immunophenotypes at baseline and 24 hours after CI-8993 infusion at 0.15 (n=7), 0.3 (n=5) and 0.6 (n=4) mg/kg dose

- Activated T cells, suppression of CD16 on NK cells, and increased HLA-DR on monocytes, are observed between the three cohorts
- Significant changes in neutrophils and activated monocytes populations are observed after 24 hours of initial treatment (* P≤0.05)

CI-8993 Plasma Concentration

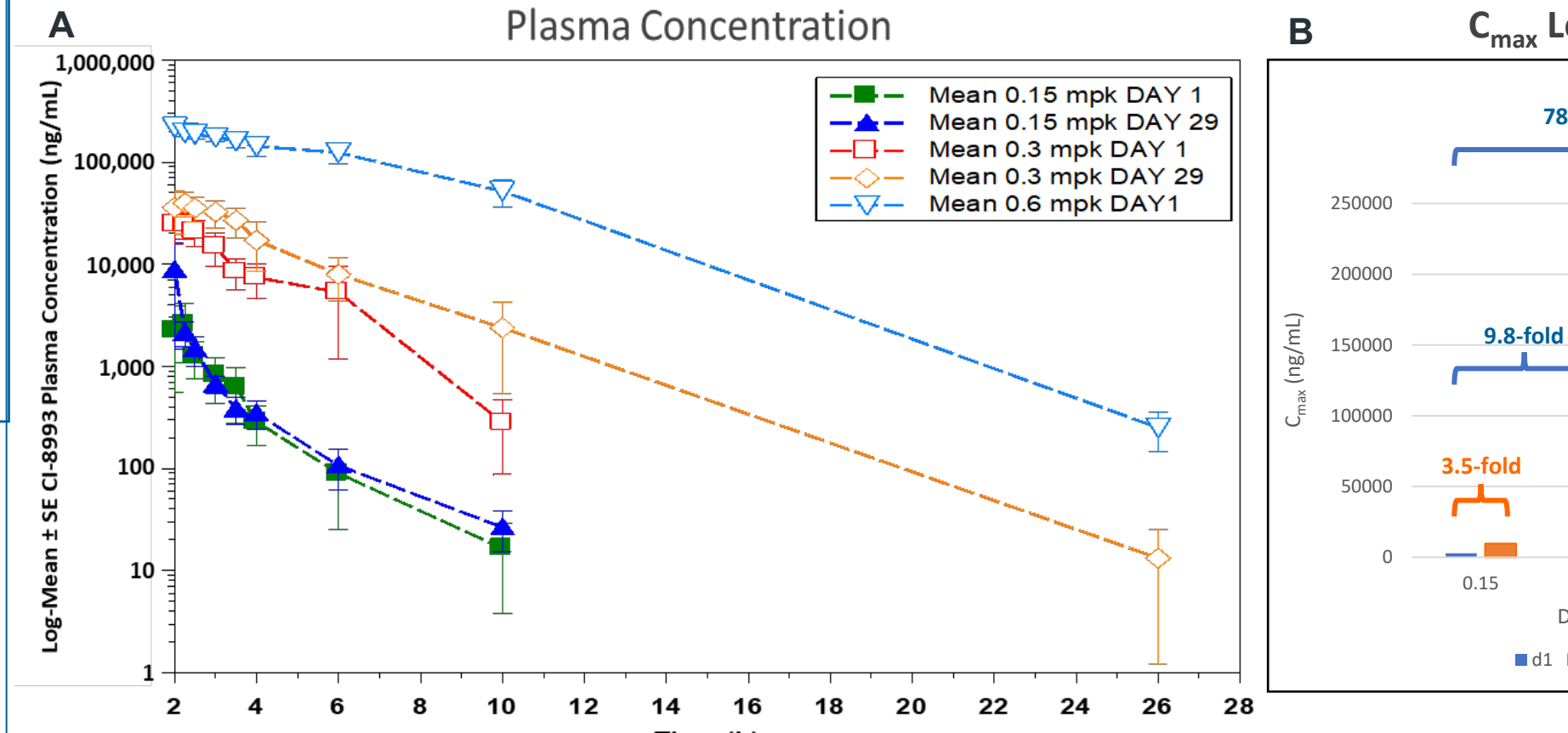


Figure 4: A. Arithmetic mean of the concentration-time profiles of CI-8993 following iv administration at 0.15, 0.3, and 0.6 mg/kg to patients with solid tumors in cycle 1. B. C_{max} levels versus CI-8993 dose. (* P≤0.05)

Conclusions

- In CI-8993-101 study, patients were safely managed without DLTs at 0.15, 0.3 and 0.6mg/kg dose levels
- Evidence of a rapid, transient and systemic inflammatory response is indicated by an increase of the inflammatory soluble mediators
- Increase on activated immune cells, and decrease on suppressor cells suggest an early immune response with different anti-tumoral mechanisms
- Lower cytokine levels in patients from cohort 3 (0.6 mg/kg) may be associated with the higher step dosing regimen used in this cohort
- Saturation kinetics suggest favorable drug bioavailability at higher dose levels
- CI-8993-101 study is open and currently enrolling patients at 1mg/kg dose. Further evaluation of the peripheral immune system and PK properties, will be performed as we move toward the determination of RP2D

References
 1. ElTanbouly MA, Noelle RJ et al. VISTA is a checkpoint regulator for naïve T cell quiescence and peripheral tolerance. Science. 2020; 367(6475)
 2. Gao J, Ward JF, Pettaway CA, et al. VISTA is an inhibitory immune checkpoint that is increased after ipilimumab therapy in patients with prostate cancer. Nat Med 2017; 23(5):551-55.
 3. Kakavand H, Jackett LA, et al. Negative immune checkpoint regulation by VISTA: a mechanism of acquired resistance to anti-PD-1 therapy in metastatic melanoma patients. Mod Pathol. 2017;30(12):1666-76.
 4. Johnson M, Lines JL, et al. Phase 1 Study of CI-8993 anti-VISTA antibody in patients with advanced solid tumor malignancies. SITC 2020 Abstract #392
 5. Wichmann CW, Burvenich JG, et al. Preclinical evaluation of anti-VISTA antibody CI-8993 in a syngeneic huVISTA-K1 model. SITC 2021 Abstract #324

Acknowledgment
 We would like to thank the patients, their families and caregivers for their invaluable contribution and participation in this study
 Curis Contact: Robert E Martell rmartell@curis.com

