

# Therapeutic Potential of LPCN 1144 in NAFLD/NASH

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No conflict of interest to report

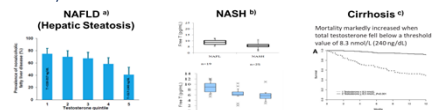


## INTRODUCTION

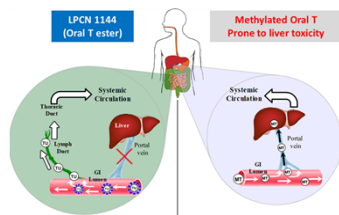
- Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease is a chronic liver disease associated with excess fat ( $\geq 5\%$ ) stored in the liver, not caused by viral infection or heavy alcohol use.<sup>1</sup>
- Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), a form of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), is defined as the presence of  $\geq 5\%$  hepatosteatosis, inflammation, and hepatocyte injury (ballooning) with or without any fibrosis.<sup>2</sup>
- A significant overlap of comorbidities such as obesity, hypertension, hypertriglyceridemia, type 2 diabetes, and metabolic syndrome exists between hypogonadism and NAFLD/NASH.<sup>3</sup>



- Male hypogonadism is an emerging risk factor for NAFLD/NASH.<sup>4</sup>
- NAFLD prevalence, severity, and associated mortality rate are related to T deficiency.<sup>5 a)-c)</sup>



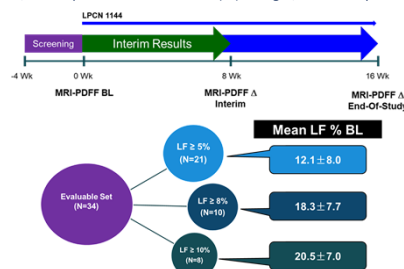
- Reportedly, symptoms of low T (sarcopenia, skeletal fragility, sexual/mood disorder, and anemia) are strongly associated with liver disease, likely due to compromised androgen signaling. Testosterone deficiency is also known to further exacerbate liver disease symptoms.<sup>6</sup>
- Unlike methyl-T, LPCN 1144 is a lymphatically delivered orally bioavailable prodrug of bioidentical testosterone.



- The objective of this report is to assess therapeutic potential of LPCN 1144 on NAFLD/NASH.

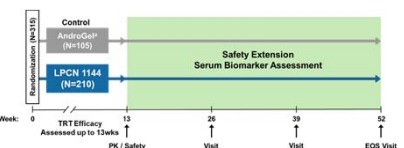
## METHODS

- The Liver Fat Study (LFS) is a 16-week open-label, multi-center, single arm study with LPCN 1144 treatment in subjects (N=36) assessing potential NAFLD/NASH\* prevalence and liver fat (LF) changes, assessed by MRI-PDFF.



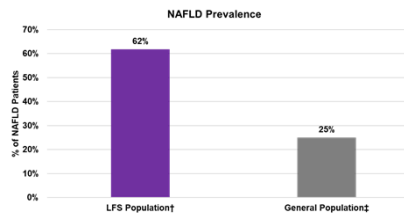
\* In this study, NAFLD is defined as LF  $\geq 5\%$  by MRI-PDFF measure and LF  $\geq 8\%$  is potential for NASH.

- The Study of Androgen Replacement (SOAR) trial was an active controlled (topical T gel) randomized multicenter 52-wk study with LPCN 1144.



## RESULTS – Liver Fat Study

- NAFLD is Over Represented in Hypogonadal Males

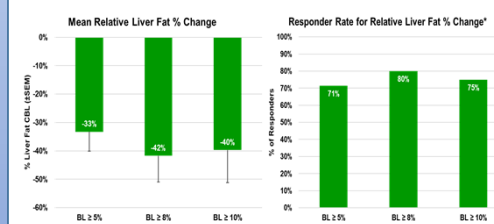


\* NAFLD identified by MRI-PDFF  $\geq 5\%$  in LPCN 1144 Liver Fat Study

† Prevalence of NAFLD diagnosed by imaging hepatosteatosis  $\geq 5\%$  liver fat in general population (Younossi et al., J Hepatol 2016)

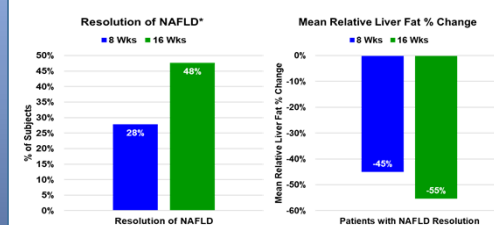
## RESULTS – Liver Fat Study

- Substantial Relative Reduction and Response with LPCN 1144



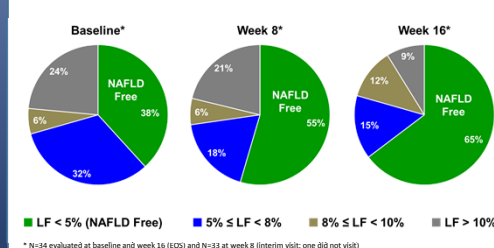
\* Responder rate for relative change is % of patients with at least 30% relative reduction from baseline.

- Substantial NAFLD Resolution with Robust Liver Fat Reduction



\* Resolution of NAFLD is defined, when liver fat  $\geq 5\%$  at baseline, as liver fat is reduced to  $< 5\%$  at 16 wks (EOS).

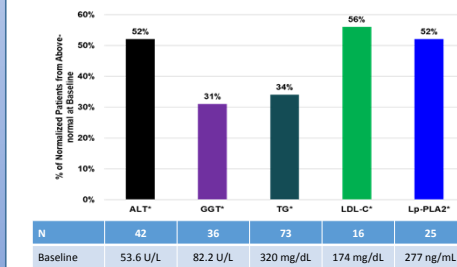
- Longer LPCN 1144 Therapy Results in Better Response



\* N=34 evaluated at baseline and week 16 (EOS) and N=33 at week 8 (interim visit; one did not visit)

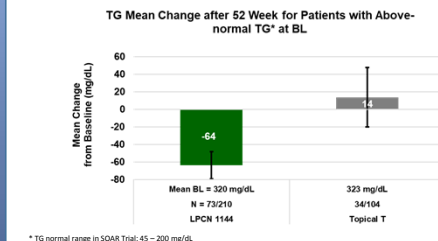
## RESULTS – SOAR Trial

- Meaningful Normalization of Key Serum Markers with LPCN 1144



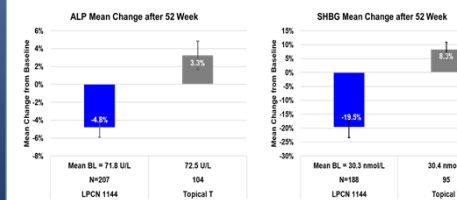
\* ALT, GGT, TG, LDL-C, and Lp-PLA2 normal range upper limit is 40 U/L, 49 U/L, 200 mg/dL, 160 mg/dL, and 235 ng/mL, respectively. ALT (Alanine aminotransferase), GGT (Gamma glutamyltransferase), TG (Triglyceride), LDL-C (Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol), Lp-PLA2 (Lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2)

- Unique Triglyceride Reduction Relative to Topical T Gel



\* TG normal range in SOAR Trial: 45 – 200 mg/dL

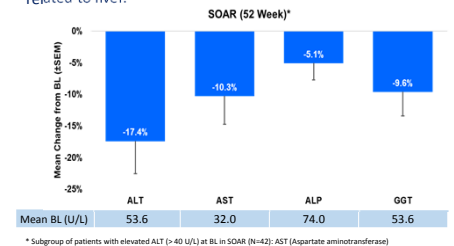
- Unique Reductions of Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) and Sex Hormone Binding Globulin (SHBG)



## RESULTS – SOAR Trial

- Liver-Related AEs and Liver Function Test

- LPCN 1144, with up to 52 weeks exposure, exhibited no adverse drug reaction in the Hepatobiliary System Organ Class (e.g., peliosis hepatitis, hepatic neoplasms, cholestatic hepatitis, and jaundice).
- Liver function test results show improvement of serum biomarkers related to liver.



\* Subgroup of patients with elevated ALT ( $> 40$  U/L) at BL in SOAR (N=42); AST (Aspartate aminotransferase)

## CONCLUSION

- Male hypogonadism is strongly associated with NAFLD.
- LPCN 1144 therapy meaningfully reduced liver fat in hypogonadal males.
- Substantial proportion of NAFLD patients experienced NAFLD resolution with LPCN 1144 treatment.
- Based on liver fat and serum biomarker reductions, LPCN 1144 therapy demonstrated therapeutic potential in NAFLD/NASH patients and warrants further assessment.

## REFERENCES

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- Sinclair et al., J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2015

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