

Fosdick A, Zheng J, Pflanz S, Frey CR, Hesselgesser J, Halcomb RL, Wolfgang G, Tumas DB. Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic properties of GS-9620, a novel TLR7 agonist, demonstrates ISG induction without detectable serum interferon at low oral doses. *J Pharmacol Exp Ther*

Supplemental Materials

NF- κ B Reporter Assay

TLR agonist activity was detected by assessing the activation of the transcription factor NF- κ B in Human Embryonic Kidney 293 reporter cells stably expressing individual murine TLRs. In these cells activation of TLRs leads to translocation of NF- κ B to the nucleus with subsequently induced expression of the reporter protein secreted alkaline phosphatase (SEAP). SEAP activity is quantified in culture supernatants by addition of a colorimetric substrate and monitoring the optical density at 650 nm on a Beckman Coulter AD 340C Absorbance Detector at the end of the incubation period. Mouse TLR-expressing reporter cells were plated at a density of 50,000 per well (96-well format) and incubated with the vehicle control, the respective TLR agonist positive controls or GS-9620 for 16-20 hours in a humidified 5% CO₂ incubator. The following control stimuli were provided by InvivoGen: TLR2: heat-killed *Listeria monocytogenes*; TLR3: poly I:C; TLR4: *Escherichia coli* K12 LPS; TLR5: *Salmonella typhimurium* flagellin; TLR7: CL097 (imidazoquinoline compound); TLR8: CL075 (thiazoquinoline compound); and TLR9: CpG oligodeoxynucleotide 1826. All compounds and controls were tested in duplicate for each TLR expressing cells.

In the receptor screening format of the assay, GS-9620 was tested at 100 μ M on murine TLR2, TLR3, TLR4, TLR5, TLR7, TLR8 and TLR9 expressing reporter cells. Following initial identification of receptor agonist activity a subsequent experiment was then carried out to

determine the dose responsiveness of GS-9620 on murine TLR7-expressing reporter cells. In these assays, GS-9620 concentrations ranged from 10 μ M with 10-fold serial dilutions to 10 pM.

Splenocyte and PBMC In Vitro Cytokine Release Assays

Fresh splenocytes were harvested and pooled from spleens (6 male mice per splenocyte isolation) or total PBMC were isolated from whole blood (2 per sex for cynomolgus monkeys) from healthy animals using standard Ficoll density gradient separation centrifugation and isolation techniques under sterile conditions. PBMCs or splenocytes were plated in duplicate at a density of 750,000 cells per well (96-well format) in 190 μ L RPMI with Glutamax™ (Gibco), 10% heat inactivated fetal bovine serum (Hyclone, Logan, UT), Penicillin 100 Units/mL Streptomycin 100 μ g/mL (Gibco, Carlsbad, CA). GS-9620 was serially diluted (0.5 log₁₀ concentrations) into DMSO from a 10 mM DMSO stock solution onto a master plate to keep DMSO concentrations constant through the drug dilution series. Appropriate vehicle controls were included for each donor. After the incubation period culture supernatants were harvested and analyzed for levels of secreted proteins.

For in vitro cytokine induction studies, the following cytokines were evaluated by Luminex for cynomolgus monkeys: CCL3, CCL4, IL-1ra, IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-12p40, IL-15, IL-17, IL-18, IFN- γ , sCD40L, and TNF- α , and for mice: CXCL2, CCL4 G-CSF, IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-10, IL-12p40, IL-12p70, IL-17, IP-10, IFN- γ , and TNF- α . For detection of mouse and cynomolgus monkey IFN- α , ELISA kits were used. Murine IFN- α was determined using kits from PBL InterferonSource (Piscataway, NJ). Cynomolgus monkey IFN- α was quantified using a human IFN- α ELISA kit and a purified Rhesus/Cynomolgus IFN- α 2 standard from PBL InterferonSource (Piscataway, NJ).

ELISA kits were used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Standard curves for each cytokine were generated using a nonlinear five-parameter curve fit. Median fluorescent intensities or OD (ELISA only) of experimental samples were interpolated against the standard curve to determine cytokine concentrations in cell culture supernatants.

Minimum effective concentration (MEC) values were defined as the concentration of GS-9620 that produced a cytokine concentration at least 3-fold above the DMSO control and that the next highest concentration of GS-9620 also produced a cytokine concentration at least 3-fold over background (ie, the beginning of a dose-response curve).

Animals

Naïve male and female Crl:CD1 mice and cynomolgus monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*) were obtained from Charles River Laboratories or Covance Research Products Inc., respectively. Mice were approximately 7-9.5 weeks old and weighed between 19.9 and 44.6 g at initiation of dosing. Cynomolgus monkeys were approximately 2-6 years old and weighed between 2.3 and 7.3 kg at initiation of dosing. Animals were housed in temperature controlled rooms (18-26°C or 20-26°C mice and monkeys, respectively) with a 12-hour light/dark cycle ad libitum food and water.

Cytokine Analysis for in vivo studies

For in vivo cytokine induction studies, the following cytokines, or subset thereof, were evaluated by Luminex for cynomolgus monkeys: CCL2, CCL3, CCL4, CCL5, CD40L, CXCL9, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFN- γ , IL-1 β , IL-1ra, IL-2, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-10, IL-13, IL-12p40, IL-12p70, IL-17, IL-18, IP-10, I-TAC, TGF- α and TNF- α and for mice: CCL2, CCL3, CCL4, CCL5 CCL11, CXCL1, CXCL2, CXCL9, G-CSF, GM-CSF, IFN- β , IFN- γ , IL-1 α , IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-3, IL-4, IL-

5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-10, IL-12p40, IL-12p70, IL-13, IL-15, IL-17, IP-10, LIF, LIX, M-CSF, and TNF- α . Detection of mouse and cynomolgus monkey IFN- α were measured using VeriKine murine IFN- α serum ELISA kit and VeriKine Cynomolgus/Rhesus IFN- α serum ELISA kit, respectively (PBL InterferonSource, Piscataway, NJ). The lower limit of quantitation (LLOQ) for serum IFN- α ranged from 8 to 39 pg/ml for mouse and 25 to 130 pg/mL for cynomolgus monkey, depending on the dilution factor used.

ELISA kits were used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Standard curves for each cytokine were generated using a nonlinear five-parameter curve fit of fluorescent intensities (multiplex) or OD (ELISA). Median fluorescent intensities or OD values (ELISA only) of experimental samples were interpolated against the standard curve to determine cytokine concentrations in serum.

ISG Analysis for in vivo studies

1 mL of blood was pipetted into a polypropylene tube and centrifuged at $1300 \times g$ for 15 minutes within 1 hour of collection. Following centrifugation, the plasma layer was removed and discarded. The whole blood cell pellet was resuspended in 2.6 mL of RNAlater[®] (Qiagen Inc., Valencia, CA) solution and stored at -60 to -80°C , until shipped to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR; San Antonio TX), Covance Laboratories Inc (Madison, WI), or Gilead Sciences (Foster City, CA; mouse only) for analysis. After thawing, samples were centrifuged and the overlying RNAlater[®] was removed. The blood cell pellet was resuspended in up to 500 μL with PBS, and RNA was purified using Ambion RiboPure[™] Kit (Applied Biosystems/Ambion, Austin, TX) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

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All TaqMan[®] reactions were performed on an ABI 7900HT sequence detection system.

Appropriate reactivity of the ABI Assays-on-Demand[™] premixed primer/probes was verified in mouse or monkey prior to their use. The mRNA levels for the analyzed genes OAS1 and MX1 in blood were determined by the comparative C_T methodology using TaqMan[®] RNA-to-C_T 1-Step Kit (Applied Biosciences/Ambion) and specific probes.

LC/MS/MS Method

An aliquot of 50 µL of each serum sample was treated with 100 µL of cold acetonitrile containing internal standard. After the protein precipitation, the above solution was centrifuged at 3000 RPM for 20 minutes. An aliquot of 75 µL of the supernatant was mixed with 75 µL of water with 0.1% formic acid and 20 µL of the solution was injected into a HyPurity C18 HPLC column (30 × 2.1 mm; ThermoHypersil) using a TSQ Ultra Quantum LC/MS/MS system equipped with a Cohesive LX-2 multiplex system with two identical Agilent 1100 series binary pumps. The mass spectrometry was operating in positive ionization mode using selective reaction monitoring. The LLOQ for GS-9620 was 0.1 nM (or 0.04 ng/mL).

Mobile phases A and B contained 1% and 80% acetonitrile, respectively, in 10 mM ammonium formate aqueous solution containing 1% formic acid. The mobile phases program at an initial hold (0.0-1.5 min) was 0% B followed by a linear gradient 0-50% B (1.5-4.0 min); the conditions were then held at 100% B (4.0-7.0 min) and returned to the initial conditions (7.0-9.0 min). The total analysis duration was 9 min at a flow rate of 0.50 mL/min.

Pharmacokinetic Data Analysis

Pharmacokinetic parameters were calculated in individual animals by non-compartmental analysis using WinNonLin Professional (version 5.0.1; Pharsight, Mountain View, CA). The

maximum plasma/serum concentration (C_{\max}) and time to reach C_{\max} (T_{\max}) were directly recorded from experimental observations. The area under the concentration-time curve (AUC) was calculated using the trapezoidal rule up to the last measurable concentrations. The bioavailability (F) was determined from the dose-corrected AUC after oral and i.v. administration. The components of GS-9620 availability were further predicted on the basis of the following equations: $F = F_{\text{ABS}} \cdot F_{\text{G}} \cdot F_{\text{H}}$, in which F_{ABS} is the fraction of the dose absorbed from the gut lumen, F_{G} is the fraction of the dose not metabolized by intestinal metabolic enzymes, and F_{H} is the fraction of the dose absorbed into the hepatic vein that escapes first-pass effect in the liver. F_{H} is defined as follows: $F_{\text{H}} = 1 - \text{ER}_{\text{H}}$, in which ER_{H} is the hepatic extraction ratio defined as the clearance of i.v. administered GS-9620 divided by the hepatic blood flow rate in corresponding species (Davies and Morris 1993). Bioavailability in dog portal vein ($F_{\text{ABS}} \cdot F_{\text{G}}$) can be simplified to absorption (F_{ABS}) assuming that gut metabolism is negligible ($F_{\text{G}} = 1$).

Metabolic Stability Assessment in Liver Microsomes

In this assay, mouse, rat, dog, monkey, and human liver microsomal incubations were conducted in duplicate. Reactions were commenced with the addition of NADPH and shaken in a water bath at 37°C. At $t = 0$ and at five time points ranging to 65 minutes, aliquots (25 μL) were removed and added to quenching solution (50 nM of internal standard with 0.2% formic acid in 95% acetonitrile/5% water). Final composition of the reaction mixture was: 0.25 mL of 2 μM compounds, 0.5 mg microsomal protein/mL, 1.25 mM NADPH (Phase I metabolism cofactor), 3.3 mM MgCl_2 in 50 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. After quenching, the plates were centrifuged and 5 μL of the sample were injected into a LC/MS/MS.

Data (analyte to internal standard area ratios) are plotted on a semilog scale and fitted using an exponential fit:

$$C = C_0 * \exp^{(-Kt)}.$$

Assuming first order kinetics, the $T_{1/2}$ and rate of metabolism are determined from the K values ($T_{1/2} = \text{Ln}(2)/K$ and rate = amount of drug/mg protein x K = 1000 pmol/mg x K).

The in vitro hepatic clearance, $CL_{\text{in vitro}}$, is calculated from in vitro $T_{1/2}$ data as described by Obach et al. (Obach et al 1997). Conversion of in vitro CL to hepatic CL uses the well-stirred model of hepatic clearance.

Estimation of Portal Vein Absorption In Vivo

Absorption of GS-9620 in vivo was estimated by measuring both portal vein and jugular vein concentrations in portal vein cannulated (PVC) dogs. In this study, surgical placement of portal vein catheter was performed to allow mesenteric access. Blood samples were collected from both the jugular vein and portal vein access port at the time points specified in the study design and processed to plasma. Concentrations of GS-9620 in plasma were determined by a LC/MS/MS method. The % of dose in portal vein was calculated based on similar method described in the previous section.

Pharmacokinetic Data Analysis. Total bioavailability (F) was estimated based on the exposure in jugular vein (AUC_{jv}) and the IV exposure from previous study with dose correction.

$$F = (AUC_{\text{jv}}/\text{PO Dose})/(AUC_{\text{iv}}/\text{IV Dose})$$

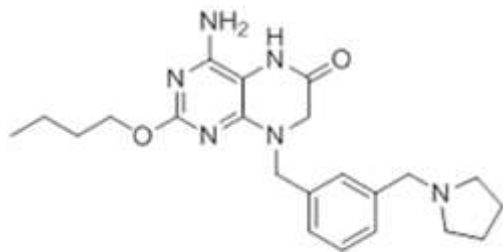
The fraction of the dose absorbed into the jugular vein that escapes first-pass effect is:

$$F_H = AUC_{\text{jv}}/AUC_{\text{pv}} \text{ (} AUC_{\text{pv}} \text{ is portal vein exposure).}$$

The absorption in port vein is estimated as: $F_{\text{ABS}} = F/F_H$ (assuming $F_G = 1$). **Supplemental Fig. 1**

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Chemical Structure of GS-9620



Supplement Figure 1

A

TLR7_hu MVFPMWTLKRLILILFNIIILSKLLGARWFPKTLPCDVTLDVDPKNHVIIVDCTDKHLTEIP
 TLR7_cy MMFPVWTLKRQILILFNIIILSKLLGARWFPKTLPCDVTLDVSKNHVIIVDCTDKHLTEIP
 TLR7_mo MVFSMWTRKRQILIFLNMLLVS RVFGFRWFPKTLPCCEVKVNIPEAHVIIVDCTDKHLTEIP
 TLR8_hu MENMFLQSSMLTCIFLLISGSCELCAEENF SRSYPCDEKKQN--DSVIAECSNRRLQEVF
 TLR8_cy MENMFLQSSMLTCLFLLIPGSCELCPEENF SRSYPCCEKKQN--HCVIAECSNRRLREVF
 TLR8_mo MENMPPQSWILTCFCLLSSGTS AIFHKANY SRSYPCDEIRHN--SLVIAECNHRQLHEVF
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TLR7_hu GGIPTNTTNTLTINHI PDISPASFHRLDHLVEIDFRNCVPIPLGSKNNMCIKRLQIKP
 TLR7_cy GGIPTNTTNTLTINHI PDISPASFHRLVHLVEIDFRNCVPIRLGSKNNMCPRRLQIKP
 TLR7_mo EGIPTNTTNTLTINHI PISPDSFRRLNHLEEIDLRNCVPIVLLGSKANVCTKRLQIRP
 TLR8_hu QTVGKYVTELDLSDNFITHITNESFQGLQNLTKINLNHNPNVQHQNGNPGIQSNGLNITD
 TLR8_cy QTVGKYVTELDLSDNFITHITNESFQGLQNLTKINLNHNPNVQHQNGNPGMQSNGLNITD
 TLR8_mo QTIGKYVTNIDLSDNAITHITKESFQKLQNLTKIDLHNHNAKQQHPNEN---KNGMNI TE
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TLR7_hu RSFSGLYLKS LYLDGNQLEI PQGLPSSLQLLSLEANNIF SIRKENLTELANIEILYLG
 TLR7_cy RSFSGLYLKS LYLDGNQLEI PQGLPSSLQLLSLEANNIF SIRKENLTELANIEILYLG
 TLR7_mo GSFSGLSDLKALYLDGNQLEI PQDLPSSLHLLSLEANNIF SITKENLTELVNIEITLYLG
 TLR8_hu GAFLNLKNLRELLLEDNQLPQIPSGLPESLTEL SLIQNNIYNITKEGISRLINLKNLYLA
 TLR8_cy GAFLNLKNLRELLLEDNQLPQIPSGLPESLTEL SLIQNNIYNITKEGISRLINLKYLYLA
 TLR8_mo GALLSLRNLTVLLEDNQLYTI PAGLPESL KELS LIQNNIFQVTKNNTFGLRNLERLYLG
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TLR7_hu QNCYYRNPCYVSY SIEKDAFLNLT KLVLSLKDNNVTAVPTVLPSTLT ELYLYNNMIAKI
 TLR7_cy QNCYYRNPCYVSY SIEKDAFLNLT KLVLSLKDNNVTAVPTVLPSTLT ELYLYNNMIAEI
 TLR7_mo QNCYYRNPCVNSYSIEKDAFLVMRNLK VLSLKDNNVTAVPTTLPNLELYLYNNI IKKI
 TLR8_hu WNCYFNKVCEKTN-IEDGVFETLTNLELLSLSFNLSLHVPPKLPSSLRKLFLSNTQIKYI
 TLR8_cy WNCYFNKVCEKTN-IEDGVFETLTNLELLSLSFNLSLHVPPKLPSSLRKLFLSNTQIKYI
 TLR8_mo WNCYF-KCNQTFK-VEDGAFKNLIHLK VLSL SFNNLFYVPPKLPSSLRKLFLSNAKIMNI
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TLR7_hu QEDDFNNLNQLQILDLSGNCPRCYNAPFP CACPKNNSPLQIPVNAFDALTELKVLRLHSN
 TLR7_cy QEDDFNNLNQLQILDLSGNCPRCYNAPFP CT PCKNNSPLQIPVNAFDALTELKVLRLHSN
 TLR7_mo QENDFNNLNELQVLDLSGNCPRCYNVPY PCTPCENNSPLQIHDNAFNSLTELKVLRLHSN
 TLR8_hu SEEDFKGLINLTLLDLSGNCPRCFNAPFP CVPCDGGASINIDRFAFQNLTLQRLYNLSST
 TLR8_cy GEEDFKGLINLTLLDLSGNCPRCFNAPFP CVPCDGGASINIDRFAFQNLTLQQLYNLSST
 TLR8_mo TQEDFKGLENLTL DLSGNCPRCYNAPFPCT PCKENSSIHHLPLAFQSLTLQLLYLNLSSST
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TLR7_hu SLQHVP PRWFKNINKLQELDLSQNF LAKEIGDAKFLHFLPSLIQLDLSFN FELQVYRASM
 TLR7_cy SLQHVP PRWFKNINNLQELDLSQNF LAKEIGDAKFLHFLPNLIQLDLSFN FELQVYRASM
 TLR7_mo SLQHVPPTWFKNMRNLQELDLSQNYLAREIEEAKFLHFLPNLVELDFSNFYELQVYHASI
 TLR8_hu SLRKINAAWFKNMPHLKVL DLEFNLYLVEIASGAFLTMLPRLEILDLSFN YIKGSYPQHI
 TLR8_cy SLRKINAAWFKNMPHLKVL DLEFNLYLVEIASGEFLTMLPRLEILDLSFN YIKGSYPQHI
 TLR8_mo SLRTIPSTWFENLSNLKELHLEFNLYLVEIASGAFLTKLPSLQILDLSFN FQYKEYLQFI
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TLR7_hu NLSQAFSSLSKILRIRGYVFKELKSFNLSPLHNLQNLEVL DLGTNFIKIANLSMFKQF
 TLR7_cy NLSQAFSSLSKILRIRGYVFKELKSFNLSPLHNLQNLEVL DLGTNFIKIANLSMFKQF
 TLR7_mo TLP HSLSSLENL KILRVKGYVFKELKNS SVLHKLPRLEVL DLGTNFIKIADLNI FKFH
 TLR8_hu NISRNF SKLLSLRALHLRGYVFEQELREDDFQPLMQLPNLSTINLGINFIKQIDFKLFQNF
 TLR8_cy NISKNFSKLLSLRALHLRGYVFEQELR KDDFQPLMQLPNLSTINLGINFIKQIDFNKAFQNF
 TLR8_mo NISSNFSKLRSLKHLHLRGYVFEQLR KKHFEHLQSLPNLATINLGINFIEKIDFKAFQNF
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Supplemental Table 1

Mean pharmacokinetic parameters of GS-9620 following oral administration of GS-9620 at 1 mg/kg in portal vein-cannulated male beagle dogs

Parameter	Sample Collection	
	Portal Vein	Jugular Vein
C_{\max} (ng/mL)	248 ± 149	13.6 ± 1.6
T_{\max} (hr)	0.83 ± 1.00	0.92 ± 0.95
AUC_{last} (ng•hr/mL)	302 ± 93	70.2 ± 6.6
F_{ABS}	82% ± 24%	N/A
F	N/A	20% ± 0%

AUC, area under the concentration-time curve; C_{\max} , maximum plasma/serum concentration; F, bioavailability; F_{ABS} , absolute bioavailability; T_{\max} , time to reach C_{\max} .

Values are mean ± SD; n = 3.