

# COVID-19 Update

## December 4, 2020

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# Outline

- Bamlanivimab EUA
- The concept of using monoclonal antibodies for COVID-19
- Blaze-1 Clinical Trial
- Questions, concerns and challenges
- CNHS working plan

# Bamla-nivimab EUA



November 10, 2020

## Bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555)

### - EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION -

**Mechanism of action<sup>1</sup>:** Bamlanivimab is a neutralizing IgG1 monoclonal antibody that binds to the receptor binding domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 to reduce viral load, ameliorate symptoms and prevent hospitalization.

**Current Status<sup>1,2</sup>:** Bamlanivimab is an investigational drug and is not currently FDA-approved for any indication. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the FDA issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for bamlanivimab for use in the outpatient setting to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing who are 12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg, and who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

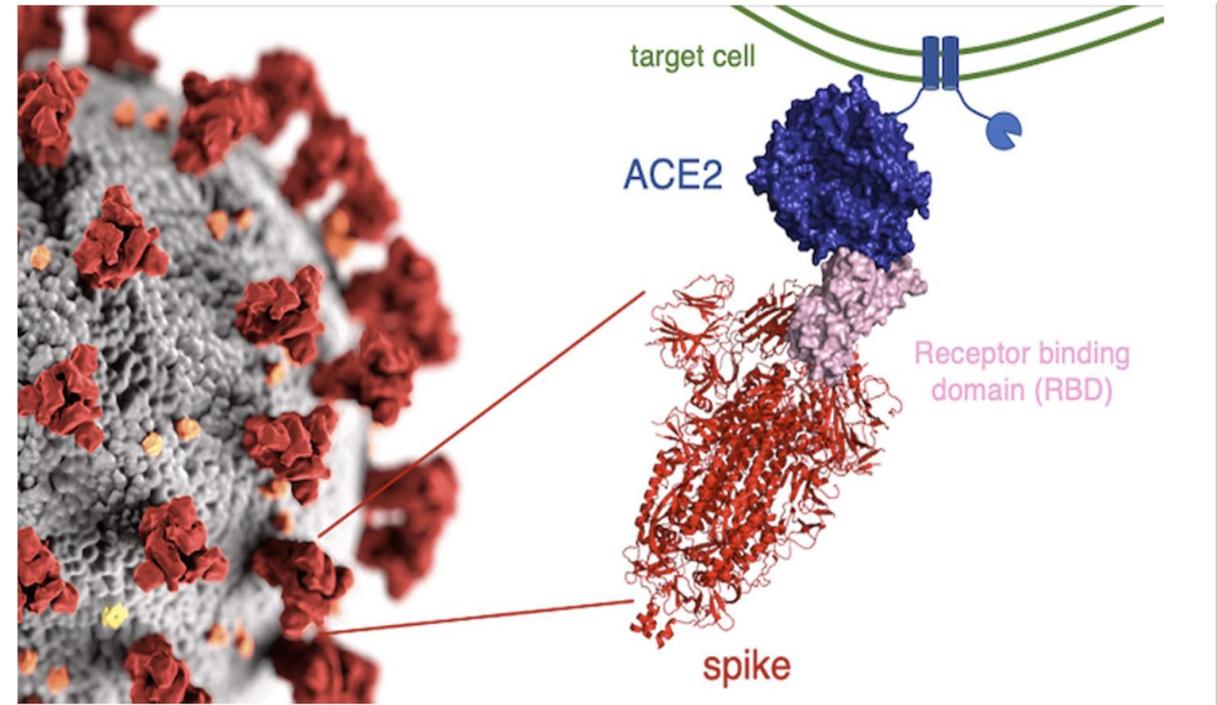
- High risk is defined as patients who meet at least one of the following criteria:
- Have a body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 35$
- Have chronic kidney disease
- Have diabetes
- Have immunosuppressive disease
- Are currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment
- Are  $\geq 65$  years of age
- Are  $\geq 55$  years of age AND have: cardiovascular disease, OR hypertension, OR chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/other chronic respiratory disease.
- **Are 12–17 years of age AND have:**
  - BMI  $\geq 85$ th percentile for their age and gender based on CDC growth charts, OR
  - Sickle cell disease, OR
  - Congenital or acquired heart disease, OR
  - Neurodevelopmental disorders, OR
  - A medical-related technological dependence or positive pressure ventilation (not related to COVID-19), OR
  - Asthma, reactive airway or chronic respiratory disease requiring daily medication.

# Concept of Using a Bamlanivimab for COVID-19

## Biological Plausibility

- Binds to the receptor binding domain in the spike protein
- Neutralizes the virus and prevents infection of tissue culture
- In animal models it has shown marked reductions in viral loads in the upper and lower respiratory tracts
- Passive protection against SARS-CoV-2 in nonhuman primates has been reported

## SARS-CoV-2 Structure

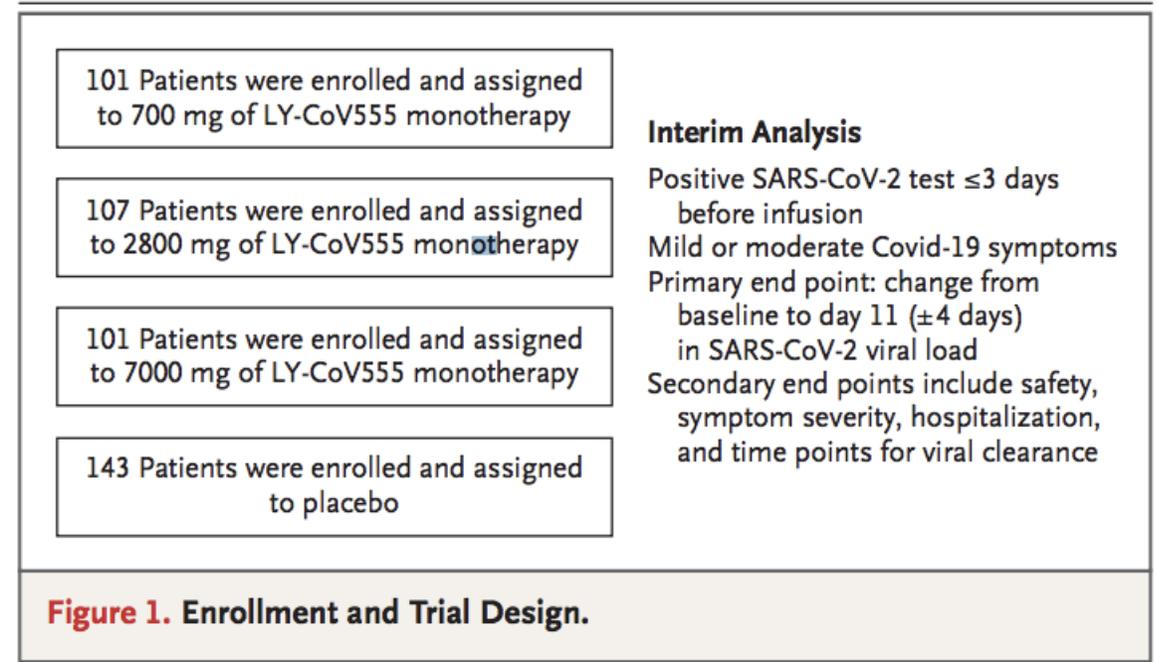


# SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY-CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19

## Inclusion Criteria

- Outpatients  $\geq$  18 years old, with recently diagnosed mild or moderate Covid-19
- Within 10 days of symptom initiation
- Within 3 days of positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR

## Trial Design



# SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY-CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19

NEJM, October 28, 2020

**Table 1. Characteristics of the Patients at Baseline.\***

Characteristic	LY-CoV555 (N = 309)	Placebo (N = 143)
<b>Age</b>		
Median (range) — yr	45 (18–86)	46 (18–77)
65 Yr or older — no. (%)	33 (10.7)	20 (14.0)
Female sex — no. (%)	171 (55.3)	78 (54.5)
<b>Race or ethnic group — no./total no. (%)<sup>†</sup></b>		
White	269/305 (88.2)	120/138 (87.0)
Hispanic or Latino	135/309 (43.7)	63/143 (44.1)
Black	22/305 (7.2)	7/138 (5.1)
<b>Body-mass index<sup>‡</sup></b>		
Median	29.4	29.1
≥30 to <40 — no./total no. (%)	112/304 (36.8)	56/139 (40.3)
≥40 — no./total no. (%)	24/304 (7.9)	9/139 (6.5)
Risk factors for severe Covid-19 — no. (%) <sup>§</sup>	215 (69.6)	95 (66.4)
<b>Disease status — no. (%)</b>		
Mild	232 (75.1)	113 (79.0)
Moderate	77 (24.9)	30 (21.0)
Median no. of days since onset of symptoms	4.0	4.0
Mean viral load — Ct value <sup>¶</sup>	23.9	23.8

# SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY- CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19

- **Primary Outcome:**
  - Change from baseline in the viral load at day 11
- **Secondary Outcome:**
  - Severity of symptoms
  - Covid-19 related hospitalization

# SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY-CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19

## NEJM October 28, 2020

### Primary Outcome

- Mean decrease from baseline in the log viral load for the entire population was  $-3.81$ , (99.97% of viral RNA)
- **Only patients on the 2800 mg arm had a significant difference VL decrease compared to placebo:  $-0.53$   $P=0.02$**

**Table 2. Change from Baseline in Viral Load.**

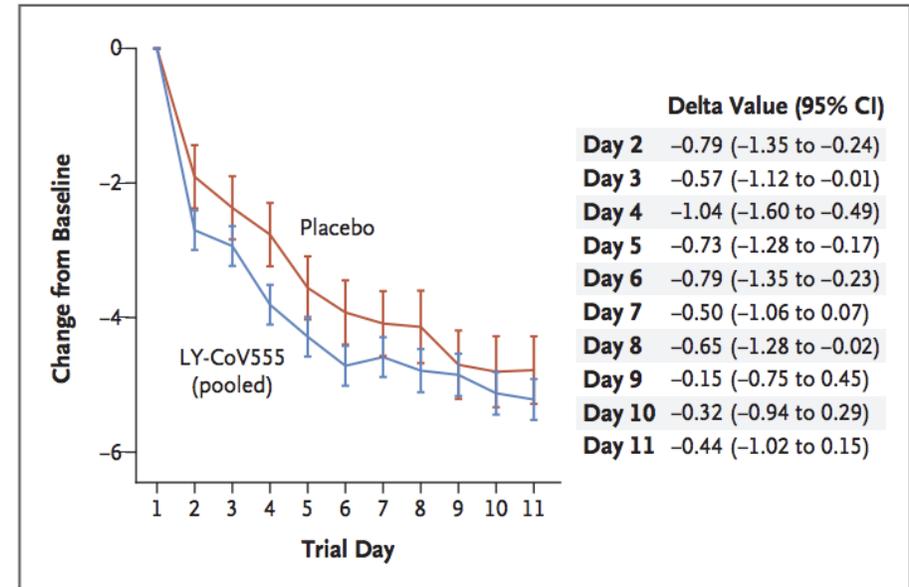
Variable	LY-CoV555 (N=309)	Placebo (N=143)	Difference (95% CI)
<b>Primary outcome</b>			
Mean change from baseline in viral load at day 11		-3.47	
	700 mg, -3.67		-0.20 (-0.66 to 0.25)
	<b>2800 mg, -4.00</b>		<b>-0.53 (-0.98 to -0.08)</b>
	7000 mg, -3.38		0.09 (-0.37 to 0.55)
	Pooled doses, -3.70		-0.22 (-0.60 to 0.15)
<b>Secondary outcomes*</b>			
Mean change from baseline in viral load at day 3		-0.85	
	700 mg, -1.27		-0.42 (-0.89 to 0.06)
	<b>2800 mg, -1.50</b>		<b>-0.64 (-1.11 to -0.17)</b>
	7000 mg, -1.27		-0.42 (-0.90 to 0.06)
	Pooled doses, -1.35		-0.49 (-0.87 to -0.11)
Mean change from baseline in viral load at day 7		-2.56	
	700 mg, -2.82		-0.25 (-0.73 to 0.23)
	2800 mg, -3.01		-0.45 (-0.92 to 0.03)
	7000 mg, -2.85		-0.28 (-0.77 to 0.20)
	Pooled doses, -2.90		-0.33 (-0.72 to 0.06)

# SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY-CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19

## NEJM October 28, 2020

### Secondary Outcomes

- Symptoms
  - On days 2 to 6, the patients who received LY-CoV555 had a slightly lower severity of symptoms than those who received placebo.



**Figure 3. Symptom Scores from Day 2 to Day 11.**

Shown is the difference in the change from baseline (delta value) in symptom scores between the LY-CoV555 group and the placebo group from day 2 to day 11. The symptom scores ranged from 0 to 24 and included eight domains, each of which was graded on a scale of 0 (no symptoms) to 3 (severe symptoms). The I bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Details about the symptom-scoring methods are provided in the Supplementary Appendix.

# SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY-CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19: OUTCOMES

## Secondary Outcomes

- Covid-19 related hospitalization or visit to an emergency department
  - **LY-CoV555 pooled group:** 1.6%
    - LY-CoV555 700 mg group: 1.0%
  - **Placebo group:** 6.3%

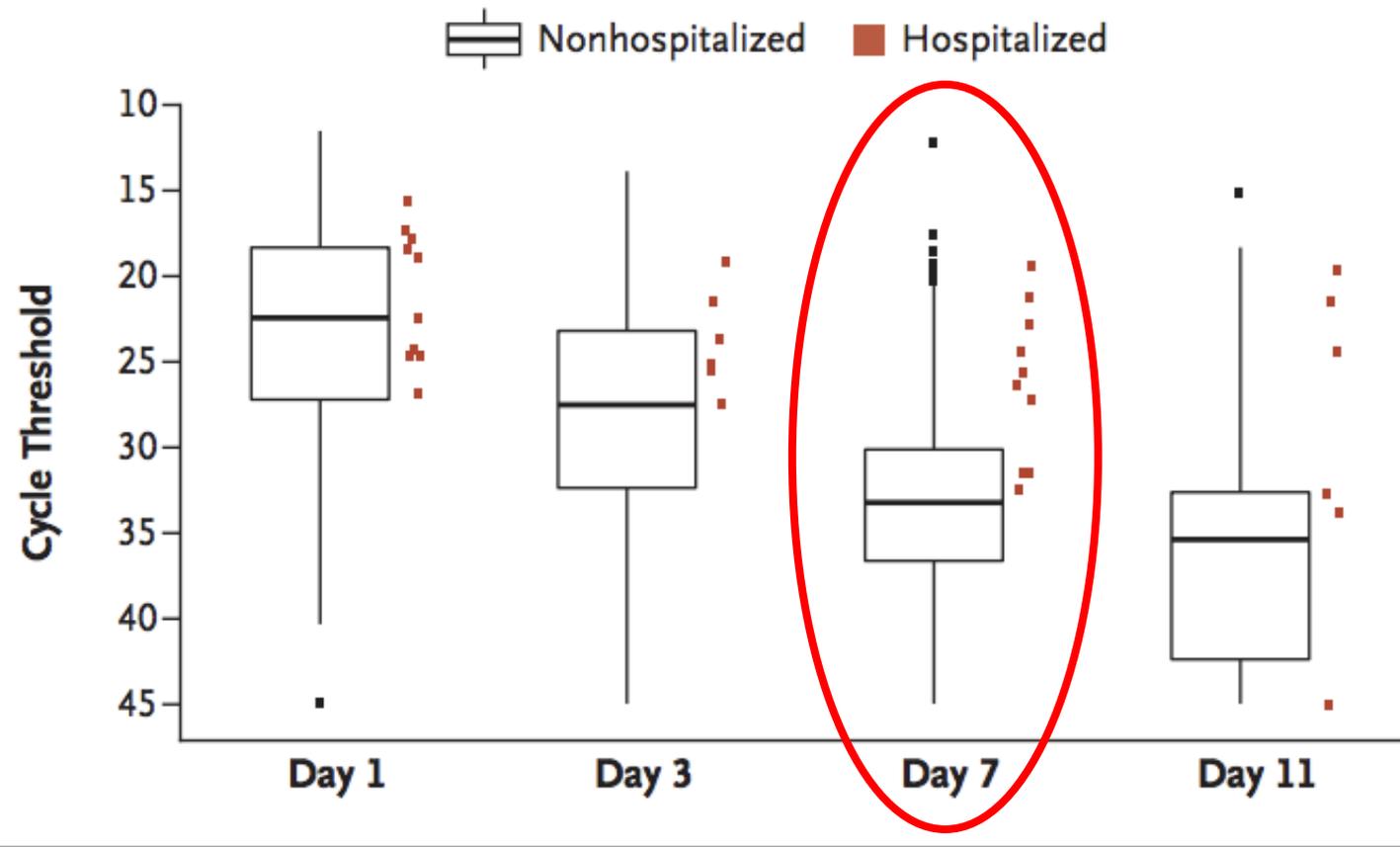
### Post hoc analysis

Patients  $\geq 65$  years of age and those with a BMI  $\geq 35$  or more who received LY-CoV55 had 4% (4 of 95) hospitalization rate compared to 15% (7 of 48) of those who received placebo.

**Table 3.** Hospitalization.\*

Key Secondary Outcome	LY-CoV555	Placebo	Incidence
	<i>no. of patients/total no.</i>		<i>%</i>
Hospitalization		9/143	6.3
	700 mg, 1/101		1.0
	2800 mg, 2/107		1.9
	7000 mg, 2/101		2.0
	Pooled doses, 5/309		1.6

### A Viral Load in All Patients



Hospitalization was 12% (7 of 56 patients) among those who had a high viral load, as compared with a frequency of 0.9% (3 of 340 patients) among those with a lower viral load.

Association  
Between Viral  
Load and  
Hospitalization

NEJM  
October 28, 2020

SARS-CoV-2  
Neutralizing  
Antibody LY-  
CoV555 in  
Outpatients with  
Covid-19:  
Conclusions

In this interim analysis of a phase 2 trial, one of three doses of neutralizing antibody LY-CoV555 appeared to accelerate the natural decline in viral load over time, whereas the other doses had not by day 11

NEJM October 28, 2020

# Factors to Consider in the Blaze-1 Trial

- **Primary Outcome was change in viral load** within 4 days of day 11
  - Only one dose (2800mg achieved this but not the one approved in EUA)
- **Secondary outcomes**
  - COVID related ED visits and Hospitalization were combined
- The mean time of enrollment was within **4 days of symptoms**
- **Pediatric population not evaluated**

# Caution with Phase II trials in General

- Phase II trials mainly tests safety, evaluates doses and may look at some measure of efficacy
- Measuring efficacy can be problematic when the outcome is infrequent because
  - The trial will have to be very long
  - The trial will need many patients
- To overcome this problem investigators look at other endpoints that correlate highly with the outcome we would like to measure
- **The problem is that for COVID-19 we really don't have strong predictors of treatment success**

# Challenges

## Adapted From Paul Sax ID Observation Journal Watch

- **Supply is limited**

- The supply could be exhausted in less than 2 weeks. How will we choose who gets it?
- **CN have chosen the ones at highest risk**
  - **Age > 65**
  - **BMI > 35**
  - **Diabetes**
  - **Anyone who meets EUA and is very interested except for Peds for now**

- **It must be given within 10 days of symptom onset.**

- In the clinical trial the mean time to delivery was within 4 days of symptoms
- Some experts think even 10 days is too long a wait for effective intervention — the sooner the better.

# Challenges

Adapted From Paul Sax ID Observation Journal Watch

- **It must be given intravenously.**
  - How many outpatient clinicians can give infusions in their clinics?
  - **CN is infusing it at one clinic and the UC/ED if capacity allows**
- **with early COVID-19 disease are at their most contagious.**
  - Most secondary transmissions happen between 1 day before and 5 days after the onset of symptoms, during which time respiratory viral load peaks. And this is precisely when we'll want to bring patients in for treatment.
  - **CN is well equipped**
- **Most infusion centers have a high proportion of patients who are immunocompromised.**
  - **CN is not using the the infusion center**

# Challenges

## Adapted From Paul Sax ID Observation Journal Watch

- **Many infusion centers are not set up for urgent referrals.**
  - Their regular patients have regularly scheduled infusions
    - **CN has a hot line, 2 ID providers on call 7 days a week and a dedicated case manager**
- **Both the infusion and the post-treatment monitoring take a lot of time.**
  - This isn't a simple matter of showing up, getting one quick shot, then leaving. The infusion takes 1 hour, and there is a 1-hour monitoring period afterward to ensure no severe allergic reactions ensue. Budgeting 3 hours seems about right.
    - **This is a problem if uptake of the medication increases**
- **ED do not want a 3-hour treatment clogging up their patient flow**
  - **Nobody does but "it is what it is"**

# Challenges

## Adapted From Paul Sax ID Observation Journal Watch

- **The formulation is tricky to prepare and not stable for very long.**
  - “Preparation of the IV admixture is not simple and is stable for just 7 hours at room temperature or 24 hours under refrigeration (including infusion time).”
  - **Our Pharmacists are on board.**
- **Serious side effects may occur**
  - Although not in the published paper, the package insert cites at least one case of anaphylaxis and another serious infusion reaction among bamlanivimab-treated patients.
  - As a result, we are advised that this treatment “may only be administered in settings in which health care providers have immediate access to medications to treat a severe infusion reaction, such as anaphylaxis.”
  - **BE PREPARED**

<b>What?</b>	Bamlanivimab 700mg IV (200mL total volume when mixed) One-time dose Infused over 1 hour Observation period 1-hour post-infusion
<b>Who?</b>	Age 65+ BMI 35+ Diabetes Others who meet EUA criteria and request it
<b>Where?</b>	Cherokee Nation Outpatient Health Center – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor - Screening Clinic Entrance WWH Emergency/Urgent Care Department
<b>When?</b>	CNOHC – Monday thru Friday (preferred) ED/UC – Evenings/Weekends if necessary
<b>How?</b>	ID nurse receives list of potential candidates and notifies patients of treatment option Schedules appointment for Provider visit/Infusion Provider to Provider: Call Dr. Mera or Whitney ED/UC: Offer and administer if able, or; Provider to Provider

# NIH COVID-19 Guidelines

- At this time, **there are insufficient data to recommend either for or against the use of bamlanivimab** for the treatment of outpatients with mild to moderate COVID-19.
- Bamlanivimab **should not be considered the standard of care** for the treatment of patients with COVID-19.
- **An interim analysis of the BLAZE-1** study, a Phase 2, randomized, placebo-controlled trial, suggested a potential clinical benefit of bamlanivimab for outpatients with mild to moderate COVID-19..
- **More data are needed to assess the impact of bamlanivimab on the disease course of COVID-19** and to identify those people who are most likely to benefit from the drug. Health care providers are encouraged to discuss participation in bamlanivimab clinical trials with their patients.