



SUVOREXANT SAFETY AND EFFICACY

Nadine Margaretten, Ph.D.
Merck Research Laboratories

Introduction to Suvorexant/Belsomra

- ▶ **New chemical entity with novel mechanism of action**
- ▶ **Transiently blocks wake signaling, allowing sleep to occur**
- ▶ **Provides alternative treatment option for patients with insomnia:**
 - ▶ **Improved sleep onset and maintenance that is sustained during the night**
 - ▶ **Efficacy demonstrated after the first night of therapy and after chronic use, with no evidence of tolerance, or withdrawal after treatment cessation**
 - ▶ **Well-tolerated acutely and with long term use, and with acceptable residual effect profile**

Phase 3 Dose Selection

▶ Doses selected:

- ▶ High dose = 40 mg: showed maximum and most consistent efficacy, chosen as primary dose
- ▶ Low dose = 20 mg: chosen as secondary dose due to mixed efficacy in the clinical data and agency feedback to test multiple doses in Phase 3

▶ Doses not selected:

- ▶ 10 mg: inconsistent efficacy and lower efficacy than 20 mg
- ▶ 80 mg: no additional benefit over 40 mg

Clinical Development: Phase 3 Trials

Phase 3

- **3 trials: 1 long-term safety and 2 confirmatory efficacy**
- **2809 patients; 1784 with suvorexant (160 treated for ≥ 12 months) = 758.2 person years (>275,000 patient nights) exposure**
- **Diverse population: 46% elderly; patients from 24 countries**

Long-Term Safety (P009)

- N=779; 521 with suvorexant HD
- 12-month treatment;
2-month rand. discon. (RD) phase
- Suvorexant HD

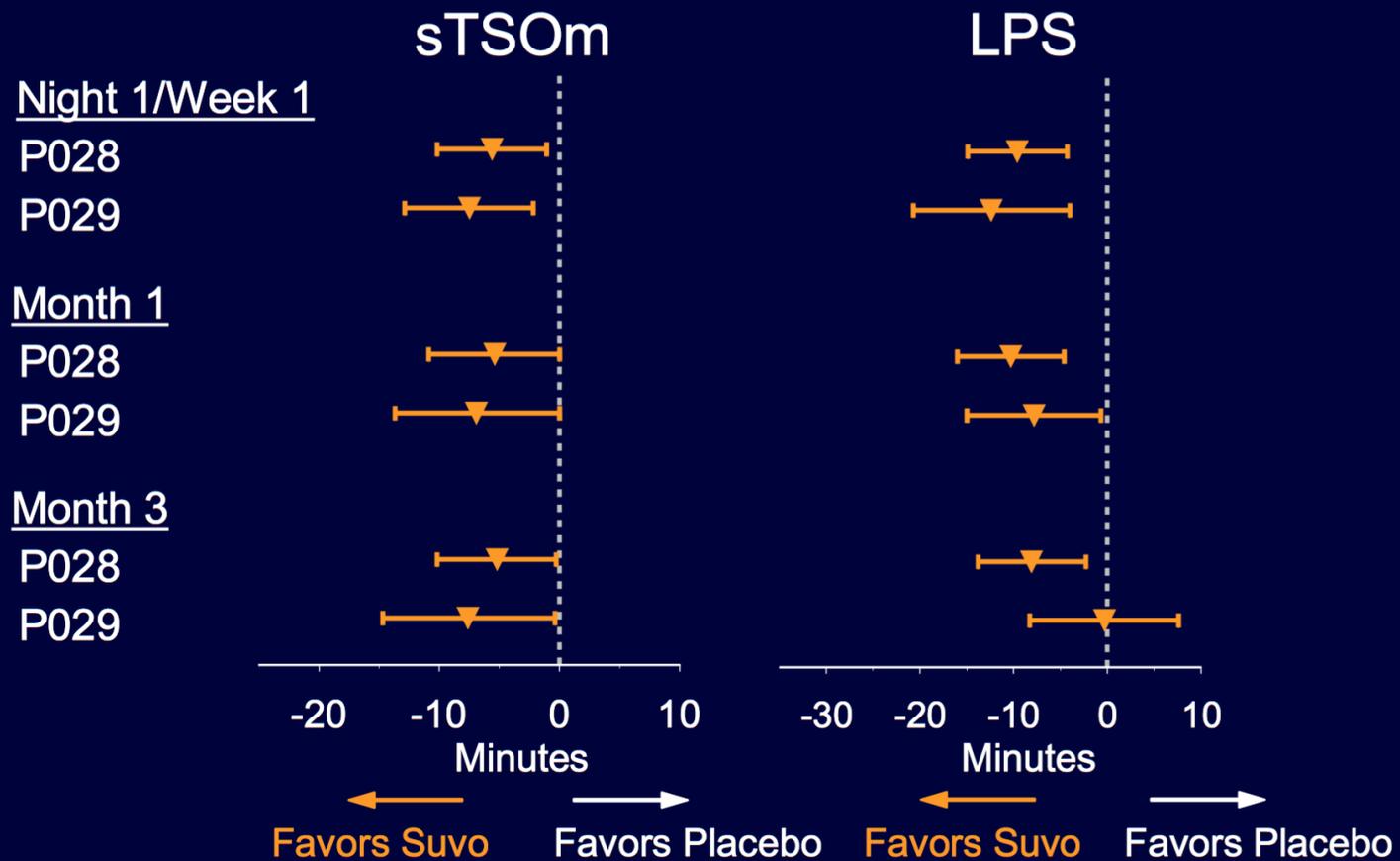
Confirmatory Efficacy (P028 & P029)

- N=2030; 1263 with suvorexant
- 3-month treatment;
3-month extension in P028
- Suvorexant HD and LD

HD = high dose; LD = low dose

Belsomra LD Improves Sleep Onset

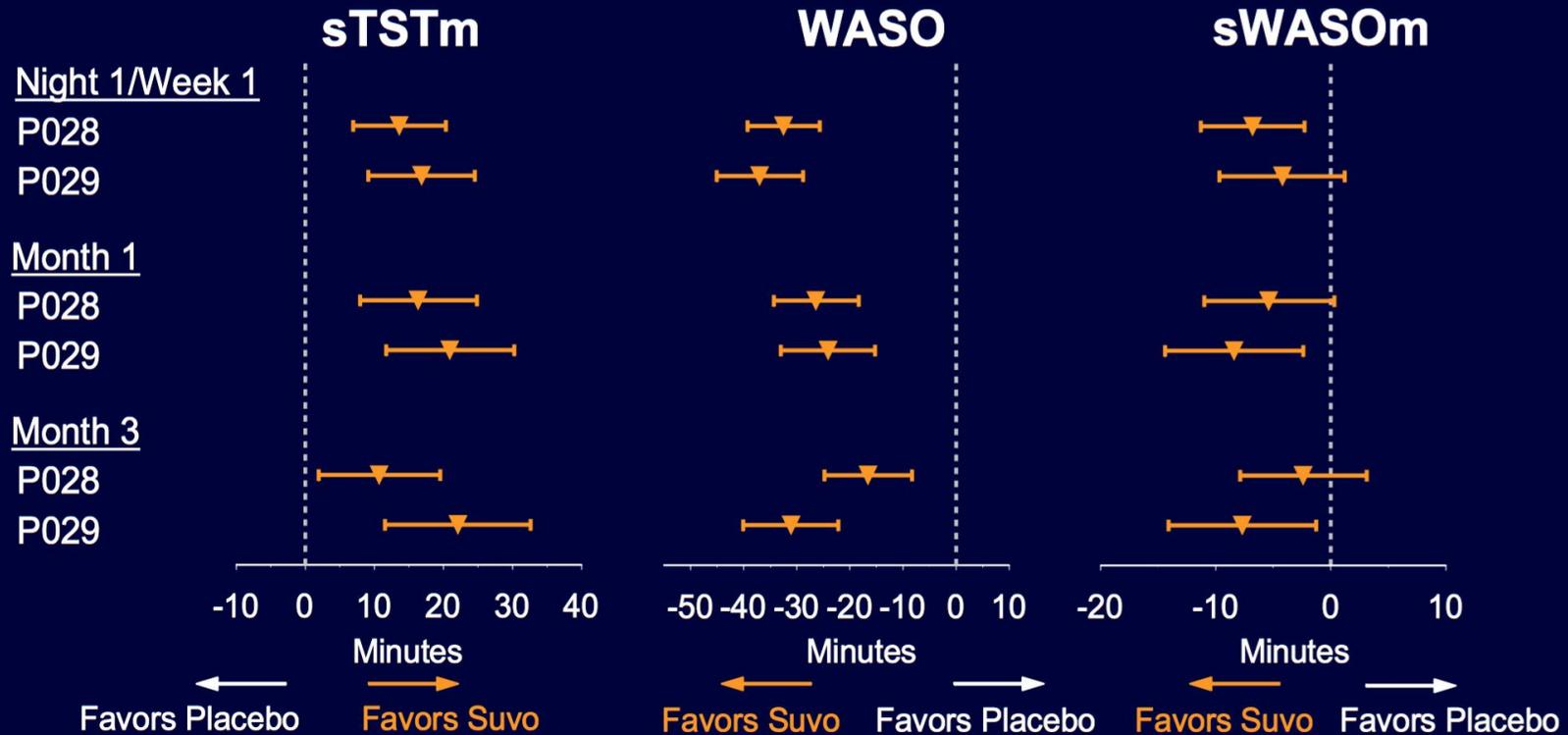
Estimate (95% CI) of Difference in LS Mean for Suvorexant Low Dose vs. Placebo



LS=Least-Squares; sTSOm=subjective Time to Sleep Onset mean; LPS=Latency to onset of Persistent Sleep.

Belsomra LD Improves Sleep Maintenance

Estimate (95% CI) of Difference in LS Mean for Suvorexant Low Dose vs. Placebo



LS=Least-Squares; sTSTm=subjective Total Sleep Time mean; sWASOm=subjective Wake After Sleep Onset mean; WASO=objective Wake After persistent Sleep Onset.

Efficacy Conclusions

- ▶ Efficacy was demonstrated objectively and subjectively for sleep onset and sleep maintenance in replicate 3 month pivotal trials
- ▶ Efficacy was sustained over the course of a full year
- ▶ Both high (40/30 mg) and low (20/15 mg) suvorexant doses were efficacious, with consistent results in elderly and nonelderly
- ▶ HD consistently delivered more efficacy across endpoints than LD

Belsomra Safety

- ▶ **Potential for next-day effects was comprehensively assessed**
- ▶ **While the majority of patients did not report residual effects, somnolence was the most common adverse event**
 - ▶ Somnolence was generally of mild-moderate severity, and usually resolved with continued treatment
 - ▶ A small minority of patients on suvorexant HD asked to discontinue due to somnolence
- ▶ **Objective measures of next-day performance, including driving, indicated suvorexant was not associated with impairment for most patients**
 - ▶ Driving model symmetry data and stopped drives indicate a treatment effect in some subjects
- ▶ **Phase 3 assessment of driving in outpatient setting shows incidence of accidents and violations was low and comparable across treatments**
- ▶ **Results did not differ by age subgroup**

Pre-specified Adverse Events of Clinical Interest Were Uncommon

	Phase 3 Totals			
	0-6 Months		0-12 Months	
	Placebo† (N=767)	Suvorexant LD (N=493)	Placebo (N=1025)	Suvorexant HD (N=1291)
ECIs = Pre-specified Events of Clinical Interest	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Complex sleep behaviors	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.2)
Hypnagogic/hypnopompic hallucination	0 (0.0)	2 (0.4)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.4)
Sleep paralysis	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	5 (0.4)
Excessive daytime sleepiness	1 (0.1)	3 (0.6)	3 (0.3)	20 (1.5)
Cataplexy (confirmed by adjudication)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Falls (adjudicated to rule out cataplexy)	7 (0.9)	5 (1.0)	15 (1.5)	21 (1.6)
Adverse events of potential for abuse liability‡	19 (2.5)	20 (4.1)	31 (3.0)	34 (2.6)
Drug administration errors	19 (2.5)	20 (4.1)	31 (3.0)	32 (2.5)

- Based on circumstances and timing, no instances of fall were suggestive of potential cataplexy, and none were adjudicated as cataplexy by a blinded external adjudication committee

Safety Conclusions

- ▶ The Phase 3 program established a safety database in >2800 subjects and insomnia patients, with over 275,000 person nights of exposure to suvorexant
- ▶ Suvorexant has an acceptable safety profile, with a low incidence of next day residual effects
 - ▶ Few adverse events occurred at $\geq 2\%$ and greater than placebo, with somnolence most common
 - ▶ Across multiple assessments, a dose-related increase in residual effects was observed
- ▶ Abrupt cessation of suvorexant was not associated with withdrawal or clinically meaningful insomnia rebound
- ▶ Suvorexant appears to have a low risk for abuse

Conclusions

- ▶ **Suvorexant is a first in class orexin receptor antagonist that specifically targets the regulation of wakefulness**
- ▶ **Suvorexant is efficacious**
 - ▶ For sleep onset
 - ▶ For sleep maintenance throughout the night
 - ▶ For elderly and non-elderly
 - ▶ As early as night 1 and chronically over a year
- ▶ **Suvorexant was generally safe and well-tolerated acutely and chronically**
- ▶ **Suvorexant's clinical profile meaningfully expands the options available to patients suffering with insomnia**