



**Media contact:**

Bridget Kimmel  
Mobile: (215) 688-6033

**Investor contact:**

Raychel Kruper  
Office: (732) 524-6164

**New Phase 2 Data Demonstrate Potential Benefit of Nipocalimab for Pregnant Individuals at High Risk of Early-Onset Severe Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn (HDFN)**

*92 percent of pregnancies treated with nipocalimab resulted in a live birth, with 54 percent delivering at or after 32 weeks without intrauterine transfusions<sup>1</sup>*

**SPRING HOUSE, PENNSYLVANIA, JUNE 26, 2023** – The Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson today announced positive results from the proof-of-concept Phase 2 open-label UNITY clinical trial for the treatment of pregnant individuals at high risk of early-onset severe (EOS) hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN).<sup>1</sup> A statistically significant (54 percent [n=7/13]) proportion of participants who received nipocalimab achieved the primary endpoint of a live birth at or after gestational age of 32 weeks without intrauterine transfusions (IUTs)<sup>1,a</sup> compared to the historic reference point of 10 percent, which was derived from published and unpublished data.<sup>2-5,b</sup> Among the seven participants who achieved the primary endpoint, the median gestational age at delivery was 37 and 1/7 weeks.<sup>6</sup> This study demonstrates the potential for nipocalimab to help address the underlying disease mechanism of EOS HDFN.<sup>1</sup> If approved, nipocalimab would be the first anti-neonatal Fc receptor (FcRn) treatment and the first approved non-

surgical intervention for pregnancies at high risk of HDFN in the U.S.<sup>7</sup> These data will be presented for the first time at the Fetal Medicine Foundation World Congress in Valencia, Spain on June 26, 2023.<sup>1</sup> Janssen is planning [a pivotal Phase 3 trial for nipocalimab in pregnancies at risk for severe HDFN](#).

Nipocalimab is currently the only therapy reported in clinical development for the treatment of alloimmunized<sup>c</sup> pregnant individuals at high risk of severe HDFN,<sup>7</sup> a serious and rare condition which occurs when the blood types of a pregnant individual and the fetus are incompatible, potentially causing life-threatening anemia in the fetus or infant.<sup>8</sup>

“Pregnancies affected by HDFN currently experience a high treatment burden, such as repeated, invasive IUTs that require access to specialty care and put the life of the fetus at risk,” said Kenneth J. Moise Jr., M.D., Professor, Department of Women's Health and Director, Comprehensive Fetal Care Center, at Dell Medical School of the University of Texas at Austin and lead study investigator.<sup>d</sup> “I find these data encouraging, as they suggest the possibility of providing families with an effective, non-surgical HDFN treatment option if approved.”

### **In the UNITY clinical trial, 12 of 13 participants experienced a live birth.<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Additional results show:**

- In pregnancies that met the primary endpoint of a live birth at gestational age of or after 32 weeks without IUTs (54 percent; n=7/13), one infant required a simple (blood) transfusion.<sup>6,e</sup> In pregnancies requiring an IUT (n=6/13), all live-born infants (n=5/5) required a simple transfusion.<sup>1</sup> Among the 12 live-born infants, one infant required an exchange (blood) transfusion.<sup>1,f</sup>
- The median gestational age at the first IUT was 28 and 3/7 weeks (range: 24 1/7 – 31 5/7 weeks) for those with live births.<sup>1</sup>
- There were no reports of fetal hydrops.<sup>1,g</sup>

### **Nipocalimab was generally well tolerated across all the dose groups**

### **studied in pregnant individuals at high risk for EOS HDFN:**

- One pregnancy resulted in fetal demise due to complications following an IUT performed at gestational age 22 and 5/7 weeks.<sup>1</sup> These complications were considered unrelated to nipocalimab.<sup>1</sup> There were no maternal or infant deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- The most frequently reported adverse events (AEs) were events that are not uncommonly reported in pregnancy or underlying HDFN.<sup>1</sup>
- In the majority of participants, serious adverse events (SAEs [n=4]) were primarily related to HDFN or to various pregnancy-associated conditions and occurred with no discernible pattern or relationship to treatment with nipocalimab. Two participants who experienced live births demonstrated SAEs possibly related to nipocalimab.<sup>1</sup> One participant experienced a subchorionic hematoma,<sup>h</sup> fetal growth restriction and fetal heart rate deceleration.<sup>1</sup> The other participant experienced premature separation of the placenta.<sup>1</sup>
- Neonatal and infant serum immunoglobulin G (IgG) approximated normal physiological nadirs at 24 weeks of age.<sup>1</sup> Overall, in neonates/infants with maternal nipocalimab exposure, there were no unusual/unexpected childhood illnesses and infections reported in neonates/infants are generally those that are commonly seen during the neonatal period through infancy.<sup>1</sup>

Nipocalimab was shown to demonstrate an acceptable benefit-risk profile given the favorable efficacy results in the study, the significant unmet medical need with a potential for fetal/neonatal morbidity or mortality, and was overall well tolerated, supporting further clinical development for the treatment of HDFN.<sup>1</sup>

“I have both experienced and heard from others the profound and devastating impact of HDFN,” said Katie Shanahan, Executive Director, Allo Hope Foundation.<sup>i</sup> “An approved treatment option for HDFN could offer hope to pregnant individuals and may provide an important alternative to an invasive medical procedure for overwhelmed families struggling to find the right care and treatment plan following an HDFN diagnosis.”

“There is a significant unmet need to help address the serious and life-threatening health consequences of HDFN. Our aspiration is to transform the existing paradigm for families who endure the consequences of HDFN by seeking approval of a targeted and effective therapy,” said Katie Abouzahr, M.D., Vice President, Autoantibody Portfolio and Maternal Fetal Disease Area Leader, Janssen Research & Development, LLC. “These Phase 2 UNITY data in high-risk pregnancies demonstrated the important role that nipocalimab, an FcRn blocking antibody, may play in preventing the transfer of maternal alloantibodies through the placenta, thereby offering a potential treatment option for this devastating disease.”

Nipocalimab was granted Fast Track designation in July 2019 and orphan drug status in June 2020 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and orphan medicinal product designation by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in October 2019 for the prevention of HDFN.<sup>7,9,10</sup>

### **Editor’s Notes**

- a. Intrauterine transfusion: an invasive, technically complex surgical procedure performed by specialists to inject blood (red blood cells) from a donor to the fetus, usually through the umbilical cord, that may be associated with complications that could lead to morbidity, fetal mortality and premature birth.<sup>11,12</sup>
- b. Historical reference point used in this study is based on data from published literature (n=51); and academic research centers with expertise in managing EOS HDFN, including the Fetal Center at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas, U.S. (n=2); The Department of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, U.S. (n=4); and The University of Toronto Fetal Medicine program at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, Canada (n=12).<sup>2-5</sup> Across these 69 cases, all patients with prior EOS HDFN pregnancies required an IUT in subsequent at-risk pregnancies. A conservative benchmark of 10 percent of patients not requiring an IUT was chosen to account for uncertainties in the accuracy and representation of the

underlying data.<sup>2</sup>

- c. Alloimmunized: an immune response to foreign antigens upon exposure to genetically different cells or tissues.<sup>13</sup>
- d. Dr. Kenneth Moise is a paid consultant for Janssen. He has not been compensated for any media work.
- e. Simple transfusion: a procedure wherein a patient receives blood from another blood donor.<sup>14</sup> Neonates impacted by HDFN receive transfusions to treat severe anemia.<sup>10</sup>
- f. Exchange transfusion: a procedure that removes most of the patient's blood (which contains the antigen-positive red blood cells) and replaces it with fresh donor blood or plasma that has a normal bilirubin level.<sup>15</sup> Exchange transfusions are used in HDFN for neonates whose bilirubin levels continue to rise to treatable levels.<sup>15</sup> Exchange transfusions are an invasive procedure with potentially severe side effects and risk of mortality.<sup>15</sup>
- g. Fetal hydrops: a condition in which large amounts of fluid buildup in a baby's tissues and organs, causing extensive swelling (edema), and can be life-threatening.<sup>16</sup> About half of unborn babies with hydrops do not survive.<sup>16</sup> Fetal hydrops is a complication of HDFN, occurring when the mother's immune system causes a baby's red blood cells to break down.<sup>16</sup>
- h. Subchorionic hematoma: bleeding that occurs beneath the placental chorion membranes which enclose the embryo in the uterus.<sup>17</sup> It is believed to happen when the chorion membranes partially detach from the uterine wall.<sup>17</sup>
- i. Katie Shanahan has not been compensated for any media work.

### **About UNITY**

UNITY ([NCT03842189](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT03842189)) is a global, multicenter, open-label, non-blinded Phase 2 clinical trial designed to evaluate the safety, efficacy, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of nipocalimab for the treatment of pregnant individuals at high risk for EOS HDFN.<sup>18</sup> The trial enrolled RhD (D) or Kell (K) alloimmunized pregnant individuals with singleton pregnancies at high risk for EOS HDFN with an obstetric history of severe fetal anemia, fetal hydrops, or a stillbirth at  $\leq 24$  weeks gestation.<sup>1</sup> In the trial, 13 participants with 14 pregnancies were enrolled.<sup>1</sup> One pregnancy was

included in the safety analysis but was not included in the efficacy analysis due to early elective abortion for a genetic disorder unrelated to HDFN at gestational age 17 weeks.<sup>1</sup> Due to complications following an IUT that was performed at gestational age 22 and 5/7 weeks, one pregnancy resulted in fetal demise considered by the trial investigator to be unrelated to nipocalimab.<sup>1</sup> Participants received once-weekly intravenous infusions.<sup>1</sup> The primary endpoint was live birth at or after gestational age of 32 weeks, without a need for an IUT throughout the entire pregnancy.<sup>1</sup> Safety was monitored for 24 weeks post-delivery for the 13 maternal individuals enrolled, and up to 96 weeks post-birth for infants.<sup>1</sup>

### **About HDFN**

Hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN) is a rare disease where maternal alloantibodies produced in a pregnant person's immune system cross the placenta and attack fetal red blood cells — causing fetal red blood cell hemolysis, leading to anemia.<sup>8</sup> The symptoms of HDFN can range from mild to life threatening; some cases can involve neonatal jaundice or hyperbilirubinemia, and severe cases can result in life-threatening fetal anemia requiring intervention to prevent development of fetal hydrops.<sup>19</sup> With every pregnancy with an antigen-positive fetus, disease severity increases with an earlier gestational age of HDFN onset due to repeated alloimmunization.<sup>20</sup> There are currently no approved non-surgical interventions for pregnancies at high risk of EOS HDFN in the U.S., and pregnancies affected by severe HDFN may necessitate repeated IUTs.<sup>21</sup> IUTs are invasive, technically complex surgical procedures performed by specialists at specialized medical centers, and these procedures may be associated with an increased rate of fetal mortality and premature birth.<sup>11,12</sup> The most difficult to treat cases of HDFN are those that develop before 24 weeks gestational age, defined here as early-onset, due to the IUT-related higher procedural complication rate and related mortality.<sup>22</sup> HDFN is categorized as a rare disease and the severe form is even rarer.<sup>8,10</sup> According to the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, in the U.S., it is estimated that up to 80 out of every 100,000 pregnancies are affected by HDFN each year.<sup>23</sup>

## **About nipocalimab**

Nipocalimab is an investigational, high-affinity, fully human, aglycosylated, effectorless, monoclonal antibody that is believed to selectively block the FcRn to reduce levels of circulating IgG antibodies, including autoantibodies and alloantibodies that underlie multiple conditions.<sup>24</sup> Nipocalimab is the only anti-FcRn being studied across three key segments in the autoantibody space: maternal-fetal diseases mediated by maternal alloantibodies (e.g., HDFN); rare autoantibody diseases (e.g., generalized myasthenia gravis in adults and children, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia, and idiopathic inflammatory myopathies); and prevalent rheumatological diseases (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren's disease, and systemic lupus erythematosus).<sup>18,25-32</sup> Blockade of FcRn by nipocalimab has the potential to reduce overall autoantibody levels while maintaining immune function. FcRn blockade is also believed to prevent placental transfer of maternal alloantibodies to the fetus.<sup>18,33</sup>

## **About the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson**

At Janssen, we're creating a future where disease is a thing of the past. We're the Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, working tirelessly to make that future a reality for patients everywhere by fighting sickness with science, improving access with ingenuity, and healing hopelessness with heart. We focus on areas of medicine where we can make the biggest difference: Cardiovascular, Metabolism & Retina; Immunology; Infectious Diseases & Vaccines; Neuroscience; Oncology; and Pulmonary Hypertension.

Learn more at [www.janssen.com](http://www.janssen.com). Follow us at [www.twitter.com/JanssenGlobal](https://www.twitter.com/JanssenGlobal).

Janssen Research & Development, LLC is a part of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson.

## **Cautions Concerning Forward-Looking Statements**

*This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as defined in the Private*

*Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 regarding product development and the potential benefits and treatment impact of nipocalimab. The reader is cautioned not to rely on these forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current expectations of future events. If underlying assumptions prove inaccurate or known or unknown risks or uncertainties materialize, actual results could vary materially from the expectations and projections of Janssen Research & Development, LLC, any of the other Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies and/or Johnson & Johnson. Risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to: challenges and uncertainties inherent in product research and development, including the uncertainty of clinical success and of obtaining regulatory approvals; uncertainty of commercial success; manufacturing difficulties and delays; competition, including technological advances, new products and patents attained by competitors; challenges to patents; product efficacy or safety concerns resulting in product recalls or regulatory action; changes in behavior and spending patterns of purchasers of health care products and services; changes to applicable laws and regulations, including global health care reforms; and trends toward health care cost containment. A further list and descriptions of these risks, uncertainties and other factors can be found in Johnson & Johnson's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 1, 2023, including in the sections captioned "Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" and "Item 1A. Risk Factors," and in Johnson & Johnson's subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Copies of these filings are available online at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), [www.jnj.com](http://www.jnj.com) or on request from Johnson & Johnson. None of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies nor Johnson & Johnson undertakes to update any forward-looking statement as a result of new information or future events or developments.*

# # #

## **References**



1. Moise, K, et al. Safety and Efficacy of Nipocalimab in Pregnant Individuals at High Risk for Early-Onset Severe Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn: Results from the Phase 2 UNITY Study. Oral Presentation at The Fetal Medicine Foundation World Congress, June 25-29.
2. Janssen [data on file]. Probability of delivering a live baby at or after GA week 32, without an IUT for foetal anaemia. RF-271367. Prepared: June 2023.
3. Zwiers C, van der Bom JG, van Kamp IL, van Geloven N, Lopriore E, Smoleniec J, et al. Postponing early intrauterine transfusion with intravenous immunoglobulin treatment; the PETIT study on severe hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2018. Sep;219(3):291.e1-e9.
4. Colpo A, Tison T, Gervasi MT, Vio C, Vicarioto M, De Silvestro G, et al. Personalized treatment with immunoadsorption and intravenous immunoglobulin in a case of severe Rh alloimmunization during pregnancy unresponsive to plasma-exchange. *Transfus Apher Sci.* 2017 Jun;56(3):480-3. Doi: 10.1016/j.transci.2017.05.024. Last accessed: June 2023.
5. Ruma MS, Moise KJ Jr, Kim E, Murtha AP, Prutsman WJ, Hassan SS, et al. Combined plasmapheresis and intravenous immune globulin for the treatment of severe maternal red cell alloimmunization. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2007;196;138.e1-6. Last accessed: June 2023.
6. Moise, K, et al. Safety and Efficacy of Nipocalimab in Pregnant Individuals at High Risk for Early-Onset Severe Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn: Results from the Phase 2 UNITY Study. Abstract. Presented at The Fetal Medicine Foundation World Congress, June 25-29.
7. U.S. FDA. Orphan Drug Designations and Approvals. Available at: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/opdlisting/oodp/detailedIndex.cfm?cfgridkey=711519>. Last accessed: June 2023.
8. National Library of Medicine. Hemolytic Diseases of the Newborn. StatPearls Publishing. 2023 Jan. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK557423/>. Last accessed: June 2023.
9. Bloomberg. Momenta Pharmaceuticals Announces Fast Track Designation for M281 (nipocalimab) in Hemolytic Disease of the Fetus and Newborn. Available at: <https://www.bloomberg.com/press-releases/2019-07-30/momenta-pharmaceuticals-announces-fast-track-designation-for-m281-nipocalimab-in-hemolytic-disease-of-the-fetus-and-newborn>. Last accessed: June 2023.
10. European Medicines Agency. EU/3/19/2209: Orphan designation for the prevention of haemolytic disease of the foetus and newborn. Available at: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/medicines/human/orphan-designations/eu3192209>. Last accessed: June 2023.
11. Texas Children's Hospital. Intrauterine Transfusion. Available at: <https://women.texaschildrens.org/program/9exas-childrens-fetal-center/procedures-offered/intrauterine-transfusion>. Last accessed: June 2023.
12. de Winter DP, Kaminski A, et al. Hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn: systematic literature review of the antenatal landscape. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth.* 2023;23(12). Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-022-05329-z>. Last accessed: June 2023.
13. Zimring JC, Hudson KE. Cellular immune responses in red blood cell alloimmunization. *Hematology Am Soc Hematol Educ Program.* 2016 Dec 2;2016(1):452-456. Doi: 10.1182/asheducation-2016.1.452. PMID: 27913515; PMCID: PMC6142485.
14. Mayo Clinic. Blood transfusion. Available at: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/blood-transfusion/about/pac-20385168>. Last accessed: June 2023.
15. Ree IMC, Besuden CFJ, Wintjens VEJ, et al. Exchange transfusions in severe Rh-mediated alloimmune haemolytic disease of the foetus and newborn: a 20-year overview on the incidence, associated risks and outcome. *Vox Sang.* 2021 Oct;116(9):990-997. Doi: 10.1111/vox.13090. Last accessed: June 2023.
16. Boston's Children Hospital. Hydrops Fetalis. Available at: <https://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions/hydrops-fetalis>. Last accessed: June 2023.
17. Cleveland Clinic. Subchorionic Hematoma. Available at: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/symptoms/23511-subchorionic-hematoma>. Last accessed: June 2023.
18. ClinicalTrials.Gov. NCT03842189. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT03842189>. Last accessed: June 2023.
19. Ree IMC, Smits-Wintjens VEJ, van der Bom JG, et al. Neonatal management and outcome in alloimmune hemolytic disease, Expert Review of Hematology, 10:7, 607-616, doi: 10.1080/17474086.2017.1331124. Last accessed: June 2023.
20. Lobato G, Soncini CS. Relationship between obstetric history and Rh(D) alloimmunization severity. *Arch Gynecol Obstet.* 2008 Mar;277(3):245-8. Doi: 10.1007/s00404-007-0446-x. Last accessed: June 2023.
21. DeMoss, P., Asfour, M. and Hersey, K. Anti-K1 (Kell) antibody expressed in maternal breastmilk: A case report of a neonate with multiple intrauterine transfusions and postnatal exposure to Kell antibody in maternal breastmilk', Case reports in pediatrics. 2017. Doi:10.1155/2017/6927813. Last accessed: June 2023.
22. Lindenburg IT, van Kamp IL, van Zwet EW, Middeldorp JM, Klumper FJ, Oepkes D. Increased perinatal loss after intrauterine transfusion for alloimmune anaemia before 20 weeks of gestation. *BJOG.* 2013 Jun;120(7):847-52. doi: 10.1111/1471-0528.12063.
23. Delaney M, Matthews DC. Hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn: managing the mother, fetus, and newborn. *Hematology Am Soc Hematol Educ Program.* (2015) 2015(1):146-151. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1182/asheducation-2015.1.146>. Last accessed: June 2023.

24. Zhu LN, et al. FcRn inhibitors: a novel option for the treatment of myasthenia gravis. *Neural Regen Res.* 2023 Aug;18(8):1637-1644.
25. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT05265273. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05265273>. Last accessed: June 2023.
26. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04951622. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04951622>. Last accessed: June 2023.
27. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT05327114. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05327114>. Last accessed: June 2023.
28. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04119050. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04119050>. Last accessed: June 2023.
29. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04968912. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04968912>. Last accessed: June 2023.
30. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04882878. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04882878>. Last accessed: June 2023.
31. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT05379634. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05379634>. Last accessed: June 2023.
32. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04991753. Available at: <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04991753>. Last accessed: June 2023.
33. Roy S, Nanovskaya T, Patrikeeva S, et al. M281, an anti-FcRn antibody, inhibits IgG transfer in a human ex vivo placental perfusion model. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2019;220(5):498 e491-498 e499.