

**(12) STANDARD PATENT
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE**

(11) Application No. AU 2017234009 B2

(54) Title
Method of preventing graft versus host disease

(51) International Patent Classification(s)
C07K 16/28 (2006.01) **A61K 39/00** (2006.01)

(21) Application No: **2017234009** (22) Date of Filing: **2017.03.13**

(87) WIPO No: **WO17/160699**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number **62/307,896** (32) Date **2016.03.14** (33) Country **US**

(43) Publication Date: **2017.09.21**
(44) Accepted Journal Date: **2024.06.06**

(71) Applicant(s)
Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

(72) Inventor(s)
Sachs, Jessica A.;Ford, John E.

(74) Agent / Attorney
Davies Collison Cave Pty Ltd, Level 15 1 Nicholson Street, MELBOURNE, VIC, 3000, AU

(56) Related Art
Floisand, Y. et al., 'Targeting Integrin #4#7-Expressing T-Cells in Steroid Refractory Intestinal GvHD', Blood, (2015-12-03), vol. 126, no. 23, page 3137.
Lundin, K. et al., 'Abstract - P-067: Vedolizumab in Treatment of Severe Intestinal Graft Versus Host Disease', Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's National and Clinical Research Conference 2015, (2016-03-01), pages s30 - s31, XP055412890 WO 98/06248 A2
Chen, Y. et al., Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, (2012-02-01), vol. 18, no. 2, doi: 10.1016/J.BBMT.2011.12.053.
Chen, Y. et al., 'Expression of #4#7 integrin on memory CD8+ T cells at the presentation of acute intestinal GVH', Bone Marrow Transplantation, (2012-10-08), vol. 48, no. 4, pages 598 - 603, doi: 10.1038/bmt.2012.191.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(10) International Publication Number

WO 2017/160699 A3

(43) International Publication Date

21 September 2017 (21.09.2017)

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07K 16/28 (2006.01) A61K 39/00 (2006.01)

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))
- with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2017/022065

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

23 November 2017 (23.11.2017)

(22) International Filing Date:

13 March 2017 (13.03.2017)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/307,896 14 March 2016 (14.03.2016) US

(71) Applicant: MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US]; 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (US).

(72) Inventors: SACHS, Jessica A.; 16 Hawthorn Avenue, Needham, Massachusetts 02492 (US). FORD, John E.; 1700 De Anza Boulevard, Apt. 208, San Mateo, California 94403 (US).

(74) Agent: CONNARN, Kristin A. et al.; McDermott Will & Emery LLP, 500 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, District of Columbia 20001-1531 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

WO 2017/160699 A3

(54) Title: METHOD OF PREVENTING GRAFT VERSUS HOST DISEASE

(57) Abstract: A method for preventing GvHD in a human patient, comprising administering to a patient suffering from GvHD or at risk for GvHD, a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, wherein the human patient has or is going to have an allogeneic stem cell transplantation, and wherein the dosing regimen prevents, improves or eliminates GvHD.

METHOD OF PREVENTING GRAFT VERSUS HOST DISEASE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/307,896 filed on March 14, 2016. The entire contents of the foregoing application are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation, such as hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT) is an important therapy that is used to treat hematological malignant disorders and hematological genetic diseases, but its use is limited by the major complication of graft-versus-host disease (GvHD). GvHD following an allo-HSCT is a major cause of morbidity and mortality. The risk of GvHD is variable and depends on patient factors, donor factors, the degree of histocompatibility between donor and recipient, the conditioning regimen, and the GvHD prophylaxis strategy employed. Conditioning the patient for allo-HSCT permits engraftment of donor hematopoietic cells and involves chemotherapy or irradiation and is given immediately prior to a transplant. The purpose of conditioning is to help eradicate the patient's disease prior to the infusion of hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) and to suppress immune reactions. The post-transplant prognosis often includes acute and chronic graft-versus-host disease that may be life-threatening. In patients receiving allogeneic hematopoietic stem cells after myeloablative conditioning, the risk of Grade 2 to 4 acute GvHD is approximately 40% to 50%. The reduction of GvHD without causing significant systemic immunosuppression may improve overall outcomes following allo-HSCT.

GvHD results from an activation of alloreactive donor lymphocytes by histocompatibility antigens on host antigen-presenting cells (APCs). It has been postulated that intestinal microflora and endotoxin exert a crucial step in APC activation, and that this process occurs in the gut-associated lymphoid tissues (GALT). Clinically, GvHD can be reduced through the use of T-cell depletion strategies and gut decontamination, highlighting the respective roles of both T cells and gastrointestinal (GI) microflora on the development of GvHD. In clinical HSCT, expression of the human lymphocyte integrin $\alpha 4\beta 7$ has been shown to be significantly increased on naïve and memory T cells in patients who subsequently developed intestinal acute GvHD compared with patients who developed skin acute GvHD or no GvHD. T-cell trafficking to GALT

and the interaction between $\alpha 4\beta 7$ and mucosal addressin cell adhesion molecule-1 (MAdCAM-1) has been studied in murine models of acute GvHD.

The risk of GvHD is variable and depends on patient factors, donor factors, the degree of histocompatibility between donor and recipient, the conditioning regimen, and 5 the GvHD prophylaxis strategy. In patients receiving hematopoietic stem cells from an unrelated donor source after myeloablative conditioning, the risk of Grade 2, 3, or 4 acute GvHD is approximately 40% to 50%. Patients who develop acute GvHD have an increased risk of adverse events including infections related to immunosuppressive therapies for GvHD and the development of chronic GvHD. The combined mortality 10 attributable to GvHD and infection is high in patients after allo-HSCT, second only to death due to primary disease. Additionally, the prognosis for patients who do not achieve a response after initial therapy for acute GvHD is poor. Thus, there remains an urgent unmet medical need for a selective anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody (e.g., vedolizumab) immunosuppressant agent that can be used for the prevention of acute GvHD.

15

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to the prevention of graft versus host disease (GVHD) with an antagonist of the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, such as a humanized anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody (e.g., vedolizumab). In some embodiments, the patient has acute 20 lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) or acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

GvHD is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in patients undergoing allo-HSCT. The significant mortality from GvHD limits the use of HSCT as a potentially curative therapy for disease, e.g., malignant disease. Reducing nonrelapse mortality (such as from GvHD and infection) may improve overall survival after allo HSCT. Steroids and 25 other systemic immunosuppressive agents (such as tacrolimus+short-term methotrexate) are the current standard of care (SOC) used to prevent and treat GvHD. However, this standard of care can increase the risk of infections, and is also not completely effective. Immunosuppression geared at reducing GvHD can also decrease graft-versus-tumor (GvT) effects. Therefore, reducing GvHD without systemic immunosuppression, as described in 30 the present invention, has the potential to improve overall outcomes in allo-HSCT and possibly extend and/or save lives from this disease.

Following allo-HSCT, naïve T cells in the hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) inoculum expressing low levels of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin circulate to host Peyer's patches (PP), or

mesenteric lymph nodes (MLN), where they encounter intestinal microbial antigens in the context of alloantigens and are activated. These activated effector T cells upregulate $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, next home toward the intestinal mucosa via the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ /MADCAM-1 pathway, and generate intestinal mucosal damage. The interaction between alloreactive effector T cells, 5 intestinal microbes, and intestinal mucosal tissues leads to release of numerous inflammatory mediators, creating a positive feedback loop. The combination of expansion of alloreactive T cells, breakdown of intestinal barriers leading to translocation of microbes and microbial stimuli, and a systemic cytokine storm lead to diffuse systemic symptoms of GvHD.

10 For the prevention of GvHD, without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that the present invention blocks the initial trafficking of T cells to secondary lymphoid organs, e.g., PP or MLN, by interfering with the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ /MADCAM-1 pathway. Thus, the present invention suppresses and/or prevents the evolution of acute GvHD. In some embodiments, the present invention provides for a 50% reduction in cumulative 15 incidence & severity of acute GVHD at Day 100 and 25% reduction in 1 year mortality as compared to the current standard of care (SOC). In another embodiment, the present invention improves GvHD-free survival at 6 months and improves GvHD-free and relapse-free survival at 1 year; improved cumulative incidence and severity of acute GvHD at 6 months following HSCT; improved cumulative incidence of chronic GVHD 20 requiring immunosuppression at 12 months; or improved GRFS (GvHD-free and relapse-free survival) compared to SOC. In some embodiments, administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, results in a 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30% reduction in the risk of mortality, e.g., from 40% to e.g., 35% or 30% or less risk of mortality from acute GvHD.

25 In one aspect, the invention relates to a method of preventing graft versus host disease (GvHD), wherein the method comprises the step of: administering to a human patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT), a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, wherein the humanized antibody is administered to the patient according to 30 the following dosing regimen:
a. an initial dose of 75 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg or 600 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion the day before allo-HSCT;

- b. followed by a second subsequent dose of 75 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg or 600 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about two weeks after the initial dose;
- c. followed by a third subsequent dose of 75 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg or 600 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about six weeks after the initial dose;

5 optionally wherein the dosing regimen results in Grade II GvHD, Grade I GvHD or no GvHD, further wherein the humanized antibody comprises an antigen binding region of nonhuman origin and at least a portion of an antibody of human origin, wherein the humanized antibody has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex, wherein the antigen-binding region comprises the Light chain CDRs of SEQ ID NO:7 (CDR1), SEQ ID NO:8 (CDR2) and SEQ ID NO:9 (CDR3); and Heavy chain CDRs: SEQ ID NO:4 (CDR1), SEQ 10 ID NO:5 (CDR2) and SEQ ID NO:6 (CDR3).

In another aspect, the invention relates to a method of reducing the occurrence of acute graft versus host disease (GvHD), wherein the method comprises the step of: administering to a human patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell 15 transplantation (allo-HSCT), a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, wherein the humanized antibody is administered to the patient according to the following dosing regimen:

- a. an initial dose of 75 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg or 600 mg of the humanized antibody as an 20 intravenous infusion the day before allo-HSCT;
- b. followed by a second subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about two weeks after the initial dose;
- c. followed by a third subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about six weeks after the initial dose;

25 wherein the humanized antibody comprises an antigen binding region of nonhuman origin and at least a portion of an antibody of human origin, wherein the humanized antibody has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex, wherein the antigen-binding region comprises the Light chain CDRs of SEQ ID NO:7 (CDR1), SEQ ID NO:8 (CDR2) and SEQ ID NO:9 (CDR3); and Heavy chain CDRs: SEQ ID NO:4 (CDR1), SEQ ID NO:5 (CDR2) 30 and SEQ ID NO:6 (CDR3). In some embodiments, reducing the occurrence of acute GvHD results in Grade I or Grade II GvHD, per modified Glucksberg criteria, or similar severity of GvHD per other scoring system, or no GvHD. In other embodiments, reducing the occurrence of acute GvHD is a 50% reduction in cumulative incidence and severity of Grade II-IV or Grade III-IV acute GvHD at Day 100 as compared to treatment with

methotrexate and calcineurin inhibitor alone. In other embodiments, reducing the occurrence of acute graft versus host disease (GvHD) is a reduction in 1 year mortality as compared to treatment with methotrexate and calcineurin inhibitor alone.

In another aspect, the invention relates to a method of treating a patient suffering from cancer or a nonmalignant hematological, immunological disease or autoimmune disease, comprising the steps of

- a. conditioning the immune system of the patient for hematopoietic stem cell transplant,
- b. administering a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin,
- 10 c. waiting at least 12 hours,
- d. administering allogeneic hematopoietic stem cells,
- e. waiting thirteen days, then administering a second dose of humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, and
- f. waiting four weeks, then administering a third dose of humanized antibody having
- 15 binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin.

In another aspect, the invention relates to a method of suppressing an immune response in a cancer patient, wherein the method comprises the step of:

administering to a human patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell

transplantation (allo-HSCT), a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human

20 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin,

wherein the humanized antibody is administered to the patient according to the following dosing regimen:

- a. an initial dose of 75 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg or 600 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion the day before allo-HSCT;

25 b. followed by a second subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about two weeks after the initial dose;

c. followed by a third subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about six weeks after the initial dose;

further wherein the humanized antibody comprises an antigen binding region of nonhuman

30 origin and at least a portion of an antibody of human origin, wherein the humanized

antibody has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex, wherein the antigen-binding region comprises the Light chain CDRs of SEQ ID NO:7 (CDR1), SEQ ID NO:8 (CDR2) and SEQ ID NO:9 (CDR3); and Heavy chain CDRs: SEQ ID NO:4 (CDR1), SEQ ID NO:5 (CDR2) and SEQ ID NO:6 (CDR3).

The humanized antibody may have a heavy chain variable region sequence of amino acids 20 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:1.

The humanized antibody may have a light chain variable region sequence of amino acids 20 to 131 of SEQ ID NO:2.

5 The humanized antibody may have a heavy chain comprising amino acids 20 to 470 of SEQ ID NO:1 and a light chain comprising amino acids 20 to 238 of SEQ ID NO:2. In some embodiments, the humanized antibody is vedolizumab.

In a further aspect, the invention relates to a method of treating a transplant patient, wherein the transplant patient is a recipient of an infusion of allogeneic hematopoietic 10 cells, comprising administering an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist. In some embodiments, the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin antagonist is an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody. In some embodiments, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is a humanized antibody.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

15 FIG. 1 is a schematic illustrating an overview of the study design from days -1 to +50. Allo-HSCT occurs on day 0. Vedolizumab is administered the day before the allo-HSCT (day -1), and on days +13 and +42 after allo-HSCT.

20 FIG. 2 illustrates how blocking the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ /MADCAM-1 interaction in GALT and MLNs may reduce the generation of allo-reactive memory T cells and their subsequent entry into the gut, thereby reducing the occurrence of GvHD.

FIG. 3 is a graph showing simulated and observed PK data from three patients. The PK simulated data is shown by the region between the jagged lines (2.5 and 97.5 percentiles of simulated data), the dashed black line without dots represents the median of simulated data, the points and lines are individual observed data plotted using nominal 25 times, and the horizontal dashed line represents the LLOQ of 0.2 mcg/mL.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to a method of treating disease through preventing GvHD. The method comprises administering an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin antagonist, such as an anti-30 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, to a patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, such as allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (allo-HSCT). In some embodiments, the disease suffered by the patient is cancer, e.g., hematological cancer (such as leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma or myelodysplastic syndrome). In other embodiments, the disease

suffered by the patient is characterized by a nonmalignant hematological or immunological defect (such as a bone marrow failure syndrome, hemoglobinopathy, or SCID). In one aspect, the transplant patient is conditioned, e.g., undergoes a process to prepare the body to receive the transplant. In some embodiments, the conditioning is 5 myeloablative conditioning (“myelo conditioning”) or reduced-intensity conditioning (RIC), e.g., less, such as 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 20-40%, 30-50% or 50% less, of the agents used in myeloablative conditioning. In some embodiments, the conditioning is chemically-induced, e.g. by cyclophosphamide and/or busulfan and/or fludarabine, 10 radiation-induced, e.g., by total body irradiation, or induced by a combination of chemical treatment and radiation, such as cyclophosphamide and total body irradiation.

In one aspect, the patient, e.g., transplant patient, is administered allogeneic hematopoietic cells, e.g., as an infusion. In some embodiments, the allogeneic hematopoietic cells are allogeneic hematopoietic stem cells, i.e., the patient receives an 15 allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (allo-HSCT). In some embodiments, the allogeneic hematopoietic cells are allogeneic leukocytic cells. In some embodiments, the allogeneic leukocytic cells comprise lymphocytes, e.g., T-lymphocytes. In some 20 embodiments, the allogeneic leukocytic cells comprise lymphocytes expressing a chimeric antigen receptor. In some embodiments, the allogeneic leukocytic cells comprise natural killer cells. In some embodiments, the allogeneic leukocytic cells comprise cytotoxic T-lymphocytes, e.g., T-cells expressing CD8. In some embodiments, the allogeneic 25 leukocytic cells are selected to consist of at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% lymphocytes. In some embodiments, the allogeneic leukocytic cells are selected to consist of at least 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99% or 100% T-lymphocytes. In some 25 embodiments, the allogeneic hematopoietic cells have one or more recombinant modifications known in the art to control their behavior in the patient.

In some embodiments, the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, 30 prevents graft versus host disease (GVHD). In some embodiments, the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, does not prevent graft versus tumor activity. In some embodiments, the transplanted cells engraft with tolerance to the patient’s tissues. In some embodiments, the invention relates to methods of preventing graft versus host disease (GvHD) by administering an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody to a patient undergoing allo-HSCT. In some embodiments, the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist is administered to a patient prior to receiving hematopoietic cells, such as allogeneic hematopoietic stem cells, and further is provided

5 during hematopoietic cell engraftment, and thereby prevents GVHD. In other embodiments, the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist is administered to a patient shortly after, such as up to seven days after, receiving the hematopoietic cells. In some embodiments, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is a humanized antibody, e.g., a humanized antibody with the epitopic specificity of Act-1 mouse monoclonal antibody. In some embodiments, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is vedolizumab.

10 The hematopoietic cells, e.g., stem cells, may be derived from bone marrow or from blood (e.g., peripheral blood or umbilical cord blood) of a non-self donor, i.e., allogeneic. In some embodiments, the hematopoietic cells, e.g., stem cells, may be manipulated before infusion, e.g., enriched for or depleted of certain cells by antibody-selection or other mechanism, expanded *in vitro*, or subjected to gene editing or gene 15 therapy. Examples of compositions of hematopoietic cells which are enriched or depleted for infusion include cells, which can be collected by e.g., negative selection, e.g., separation of leukocytes from red blood cells (e.g., differential centrifugation through a dense sugar or polymer solution (e.g., FICOLL® solution (Amersham Biosciences division of GE healthcare, Piscataway, NJ) or HISTOPAQUE®-1077 solution, Sigma-Aldrich Biotechnology LP and Sigma-Aldrich Co., St. Louis, MO)) and/or positive selection by binding cells to a selection agent (e.g., a reagent which binds to a B-cell marker, such as CD19 or CD20, a myeloid progenitor marker, such as CD34, CD38, 20 CD117, CD138, CD133, or ZAP70, or to a T-cell marker, such as CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5 or CD8 for direct isolation (e.g., the application of a magnetic field to solutions of cells comprising magnetic beads (e.g., from Miltenyi Biotec, Auburn, CA) or other beads, e.g., in a column (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN) which bind to the cell markers) or 25 fluorescent-activated cell sorting). In one embodiment, the differential centrifugation concentrates a cell layer comprising leukocytes.

30 In some embodiments, the patient is suffering from a disease, such as cancer or a non-malignant disease. In some embodiments, the patient has leukemia, for example, acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) or acute myeloid leukemia (AML). In some embodiments, the patient has a myelodysplastic or myeloproliferative disease. In some embodiments, the patient has lymphoma, such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or Hodgkin's lymphoma. In some embodiments, the patient has a nonmalignant hematological disorder, such as a hemoglobinopathy, e.g., sickle cell disease or thalassemia, bone marrow failure syndrome, e.g., aplastic anemia, Fanconi's anemia, or other marrow failure syndromes, an immune disease, such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) or autoimmune

disease, such as diabetes. In some embodiments, the patient has a disorder treatable with an organ transplant, such as sclerosing cholangitis, cirrhosis, or hemochromatosis (e.g., for a liver transplant); congestive heart disease, dilated coronary myopathy, or severe coronary artery disease (e.g., for a heart transplant); cystic fibrosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or pulmonary fibrosis (e.g., for a lung transplant); or diabetes, polycystic kidney disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, or focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (e.g., for a kidney transplant). In some embodiments, the patient is receiving two transplants, for example a hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., for the purpose of tolerance induction, and a solid organ transplant, e.g., transplant of a liver, a heart, a lung or a kidney. In another example, the patient is receiving two transplants, first an allo-HSCT and second, allogeneic T cells via donor leukocyte infusion (DLI). In this example, there is potential for development of acute GvHD in both transplant procedures and thus administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, to a patient may be useful for both transplants.

Acute graft-versus-host-disease is characterized by damage to tissues such as the liver, skin (rash), gastrointestinal tract, and other mucosa caused by alloreactive immune cells such as T-cells. In some embodiments, autoreactive immune cells, may cause acute graft-versus-host disease. Immune cells may become reactive from the hematopoietic cell infusion, or activated upon recognition of signals in tissues of the patient, e.g., the transplant patient. Signals recognized by alloreactive hematopoietic cells or autoreactive immune cells may be induced from the conditioning regimen or from tumor lysis syndrome, e.g., as a result of GVT activity. Prevention of GvHD may result from sustained $\alpha 4\beta 7$ blockade beginning at the time of hematopoietic cell, e.g., hematopoietic stem cell infusion. Prophylactic administration of vedolizumab to patients undergoing allo-HSCT may prevent trafficking of alloreactive T-cells to GALT, (e.g., Peyer's patches) or mesenteric lymph nodes, and GI mucosa, thereby preventing the development of acute GvHD. Sustained $\alpha 4\beta 7$ blockade may further prevent GvHD during hematopoietic cell engraftment, e.g., to block autoreactive immune cells. The anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is provided at a dose sufficient to achieve sustained receptor saturation throughout the first 100 days following allo-HSCT, the time period in which the vast majority of acute GvHD occurs. Grade III-IV or index C-D acute GvHD is a risk factor for the development of chronic GvHD, so therapies that can prevent acute GvHD may reduce the risk of the development of chronic GvHD (Flowers M.E.D. et al. Blood 2011 Mar 17 117(11):3214-19).

One aspect of the invention comprises an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin antagonist (e.g., vedolizumab) for use in the prevention of GvHD. Unlike healthy subjects, patients undergoing a conditioning regimen, e.g., myeloablative or reduced intensity conditioning, followed by hematopoietic cell transplant, such as allo-HSCT are expected to have

5 markedly changing T-cell populations with variable $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin expression during the post-transplant period. For example, engraftment of HSCs comprises homing of the engrafting HSCs to the bone marrow and maturation and homing of donor lymphocytes to secondary lymphoid organs and other tissues causing high susceptibility of the patient to infection while the engraftment occurs. Systemic treatments, e.g., administration of

10 immunosuppressive agents (such as corticosteroids, cyclosporine, methotrexate and mycophenolate mofetil, and antibody therapies like alemtuzumab, anti-thymocyte globulin, or rituximab, and anti-TNF therapies) used to control aberrant activation of lymphocytes may affect the engraftment and the response to the graft or disease, e.g., cancer or nonmalignant hematological disorder. Gut selective therapies (such as anti-

15 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody) offer the potential to decrease the generation and homing of allo-reactive gut specific lymphocytes in this setting while potentially preserving the GVT effect of the graft.

Definitions

The term “pharmaceutical formulation” refers to a preparation that contains an

20 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, in such form as to permit the biological activity of the antibody to be effective, and which contains no additional components which are unacceptably toxic to a subject to which the formulation would be administered.

The cell surface molecule, “ $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin,” or “ $\alpha 4\beta 7$,” is a heterodimer of an α_4 chain (CD49D, ITGA4) and a β_7 chain (ITGB7). Each chain can form a heterodimer with

25 an alternative integrin chain, to form $\alpha_4\beta_1$ or $\alpha_E\beta_7$. Human α_4 and β_7 genes (GenBank (National Center for Biotechnology Information, Bethesda, MD) RefSeq Accession numbers NM_000885 and NM_000889, respectively) are expressed by B and T lymphocytes, particularly memory CD4+ lymphocytes. Typical of many integrins, $\alpha 4\beta 7$ can exist in either a resting or activated state. Ligands for $\alpha 4\beta 7$ include vascular cell

30 adhesion molecule (VCAM), fibronectin and mucosal addressin (MAdCAM (e.g., MAdCAM-1)).

An “ $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist” is a molecule which antagonizes, reduces or inhibits the function of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin. Such antagonist may antagonize the interaction of $\alpha 4\beta 7$

integrin with one or more of its ligands. An $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist may bind either chain of the heterodimer or a complex requiring both chains of the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, or it may bind a ligand, such as MAdCAM. An $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist may be an antibody which performs such binding function, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ -integrin antibody or “anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody”. In some 5 embodiments, an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, has “binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex” and binds to $\alpha 4\beta 7$, but not to $\alpha 4\beta 1$ or $\alpha E\beta 7$.

The term “antibody” or “antibodies” herein is used in the broadest sense and specifically covers full length antibody, antibody peptide(s) or immunoglobulin(s), monoclonal antibodies, chimeric antibodies (including primatized antibodies), polyclonal 10 antibodies, human antibodies, humanized antibodies and antibodies from non-human species, including human antibodies derived from a human germline immunoglobulin sequence transduced into the non-human species, e.g., mouse, sheep, chicken or goat, recombinant antigen binding forms such as monobodies and diabodies, multispecific antibodies (e.g. bispecific antibodies) formed from at least two full length antibodies (e.g., 15 each portion comprising the antigen binding region of an antibody to a different antigen or epitope), and individual antigen binding fragments of any of the foregoing, e.g., of an antibody or the antibody from which it is derived, including dAbs, Fv, scFv, Fab, F(ab')₂, Fab'.

The term “monoclonal antibody” as used herein refers to an antibody obtained 20 from a population of substantially homogeneous antibodies, i.e., the individual antibodies comprising the population are identical and/or bind the same epitope. The modifier “monoclonal” indicates the character of the antibody as being obtained from a substantially homogeneous population of antibodies, and is not to be construed as requiring production of the antibody by any particular method.

25 “Antigen binding fragments” of an antibody preferably comprise at least the variable regions of the heavy and/or light chains of an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody. For example, an antigen binding fragment of vedolizumab can comprise amino acid residues 20-131 of the humanized light chain sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acid residues 20-140 of the humanized heavy chain sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. Examples of such antigen binding 30 fragments include Fab fragments, Fab' fragments, Fv fragments, scFv and F(ab')₂ fragments. Antigen binding fragments of an antibody can be produced by enzymatic cleavage or by recombinant techniques. For instance, papain or pepsin cleavage can be used to generate Fab or F(ab')₂ fragments, respectively. Antibodies can also be produced

in a variety of truncated forms using antibody genes in which one or more stop codons have been introduced upstream of the natural stop site. For example, a recombinant construct encoding the heavy chain of an F(ab')₂ fragment can be designed to include DNA sequences encoding the CH_I domain and hinge region of the heavy chain. In one 5 aspect, antigen binding fragments inhibit binding of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin to one or more of its ligands (e.g. the mucosal addressin MAdCAM (e.g., MAdCAM-1), fibronectin).

A “therapeutic monoclonal antibody” is an antibody used for therapy of a human subject. Therapeutic monoclonal antibodies disclosed herein include anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibodies.

Antibody “effector functions” refer to those biological activities attributable to the 10 Fc region (a native sequence Fc region or amino acid sequence variant Fc region) of an antibody. Examples of antibody effector functions include C1q binding; complement dependent cytotoxicity; Fc receptor binding; antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC); phagocytosis; down regulation of cell surface receptors (e.g. B cell receptor; BCR), and the like. To assess ADCC activity of a molecule of interest, an *in* 15 *vitro* ADCC assay, such as those described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,500,362 or 5,821,337 may be performed.

Depending on the amino acid sequence of the constant domain of their heavy 20 chains, full length antibodies can be assigned to different “classes”. There are five major classes of full length antibodies: IgA, IgD, IgE, IgG, and IgM, and several of these may be further divided into “subclasses” (isotypes), e.g., IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4, IgA, and IgA2. The heavy-chain constant domains that correspond to the different classes of antibodies are called α , δ , ϵ , γ , and μ , respectively. The subunit structures and three-dimensional configurations of different classes of antibodies are well known.

The “light chains” of antibodies from any vertebrate species can be assigned to one 25 of two clearly distinct types, called kappa (κ) and lambda (λ), based on the amino acid sequences of their constant domains.

The term “hypervariable region” when used herein refers to the amino acid 30 residues of an antibody which are responsible for antigen binding. The hypervariable region generally comprises amino acid residues from a “complementarity determining region” or “CDR” (e.g. residues 24-34 (L1), 50-56 (L2) and 89-97 (L3) in the light chain variable domain and 31-35 (H1), 50-65 (H2) and 95-102 (H3) in the heavy chain variable domain; Kabat *et al.*, *Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest*, 5th Ed. Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991)) and/or those residues from a “hypervariable loop” (e.g. residues 26-32 (L1), 50-52 (L2) and 91-96 (L3) in the

light chain variable domain and 26-32 (H1), 53-55 (H2) and 96-101 (H3) in the heavy chain variable domain; Chothia and Lesk *J. Mol. Biol.* 196:901-917 (1987)). “Framework Region” or “FR” residues are those variable domain residues other than the hypervariable region residues as herein defined. The hypervariable region or the CDRs thereof can be 5 transferred from one antibody chain to another or to another protein to confer antigen binding specificity to the resulting (composite) antibody or binding protein.

“Humanized” forms of non-human (e.g., rodent) antibodies are chimeric antibodies that contain minimal sequence derived from the non-human antibody. For the most part, humanized antibodies are human immunoglobulins (recipient antibody) in which residues 10 from a hypervariable region of the recipient are replaced by residues from a hypervariable region of a non-human species (donor antibody) such as mouse, rat, rabbit or nonhuman primate having the desired specificity, affinity, and capacity. In some instances, framework region (FR) residues of the human antibody are replaced by corresponding non-human residues. Furthermore, humanized antibodies may comprise residues that are 15 not found in the recipient antibody or in the donor antibody. These modifications are made to further refine antibody performance. For further details, see Jones *et al.*, *Nature* 321:522-525 (1986); Riechmann *et al.*, *Nature* 332:323-329 (1988); and Presta, *Curr. Op. Struct. Biol.* 2:593-596 (1992).

An “affinity matured” antibody has one or more alterations in one or more 20 hypervariable regions thereof which result an improvement in the affinity of the antibody for antigen, compared to a parent antibody which does not possess those alteration(s). In one aspect, affinity matured antibodies will have nanomolar or even picomolar affinities for the target antigen. Affinity matured antibodies are produced by procedures known in the art. Marks *et al.* *Bio/Technology* 10:779-783 (1992) describes affinity maturation by 25 VH and VL domain shuffling. Random mutagenesis of CDR and/or framework residues is described by: Barbas *et al.* *Proc Nat. Acad. Sci., USA* 91:3809-3813 (1994); Schier *et al.* *Gene* 169:147-155 (1995); Yelton *et al.* *J. Immunol.* 155:1994-2004 (1995); Jackson *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* 154(7):3310-9 (1995); and Hawkins *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 226:889-896 (1992).

An “isolated” antibody is one which has been identified and separated and/or 30 recovered from a component of its natural environment. In certain embodiments, the antibody will be purified (1) to greater than 95% by weight of protein as determined by the Lowry method, and alternatively, more than 99% by weight, (2) to a degree sufficient to obtain at least 15 residues of N-terminal or internal amino acid sequence by use of a spinning cup sequenator, or (3) to homogeneity by SDS-PAGE under reducing or non-

reducing conditions using Coomassie blue or silver stain. Isolated antibody includes the antibody *in situ* within recombinant cells since at least one component of the antibody's natural environment will not be present. Ordinarily, however, isolated antibody will be prepared by at least one purification step.

5 "Cancer" or "tumor" is intended to include any malignant or neoplastic growth in a patient, including an initial tumor and any metastases. The cancer can be of the hematological or solid tumor type. Hematological tumors include tumors of hematological origin, including, *e.g.*, myelomas (*e.g.*, multiple myeloma), leukemias (*e.g.*, Waldenstrom's syndrome, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute myelogenous leukemia, 10 chronic myelogenous leukemia, granulocytic leukemia, monocytic leukemia, acute lymphocytic leukemia, other leukemias), lymphomas (*e.g.*, B-cell lymphomas, such as diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, Hodgkin's lymphoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, plasmacytoma, or reticulum cell sarcoma), and myeloproliferative neoplasms, such as myelodysplastic syndrome, thrombocythemia, 15 polycythemia vera, or myelofibrosis. Solid tumors can originate in organs, and include cancers such as in skin, lung, brain, breast, prostate, ovary, colon, kidney, pancreas, liver, esophagus, stomach, intestine, bladder, uterus, cervix, testis, adrenal gland, etc. As used herein, cancer cells, including tumor cells, refer to cells that divide at an abnormal (increased) rate or whose control of growth or survival is different than for cells in the 20 same tissue where the cancer cell arises or lives. Cancer cells include, but are not limited to, cells in carcinomas, sarcomas, myelomas, leukemias, lymphomas, and tumors of the nervous system including glioma, meningoma, medulloblastoma, schwannoma or epidymoma.

"Treatment" refers to therapeutic treatment. Those in need of treatment include 25 those already with disease. Hence, the patient, *e.g.*, human, to be treated herein may have been diagnosed as suffering from a disease, such as cancer or a nonmalignant hematological disease or suffering from the conditioning regimen. Alternatively, the patient may not have GvHD, but is a transplant patient, *e.g.*, a patient undergoing conditioning for an allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, a candidate for or patient who 30 is undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, *e.g.*, allo-HSCT, or who underwent allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, *e.g.*, allo-HSCT, recently, *e.g.*, within the previous five months. Further, or alternatively, the patient may be planned to receive allogeneic T cells via donor leukocyte infusion (DLI) *e.g.*, following allo-HSCT. The terms "patient" and "subject" are used interchangeably herein.

“Prevention” refers to a treatment that results in the absence or reduction in the severity of an adverse event. In a population of patients, when treatment typically results in a certain percentage of adverse events, or a certain percentage of adverse events that are severe, but a treatment administered for prevention purposes instead results in a lower 5 percentage of adverse events (i.e., a lower or reduced risk of adverse events) or a lower percentage of adverse events that are severe (i.e., a lower or reduced risk that the adverse event is severe).

In the context of allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients, such as patients who undergo myeloablative or reduced-intensity conditioning and receive 10 allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplants, the adverse event of graft-versus-host disease has at least a 25% risk, a 30% to 60% risk, a 35% to 55% risk, a 40% to 50% risk, or a 45% to 65% risk, and may result in 30% to 50% of the severe treatment related mortality that results from all adverse events. Prevention of the adverse GVHD, or prevention of high grade, e.g. grade III or IV or index C or D, GVHD may reduce the 15 percent risk of the adverse event or may reduce the percent risk that GVHD leads to treatment related mortality of transplant patients. In some embodiments, the administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, prevents GVHD in a patient. In other embodiments, the administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, prevents the intestinal manifestation of GVHD in a patient. In some 20 embodiments, the administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, prevents the intestinal manifestation of GVHD in a patient, but does not prevent one or more manifestations of GVHD in skin or liver. In some embodiments, the administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, reduces the use of immunosuppressive therapy in the patient. In some embodiments, the administration of an 25 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, to a patient undergoing allo-HSCT results in engraftment of the stem cells. In some embodiments, the administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, to a patient undergoing allo-HSCT results in engraftment of the stem cells and a graft-versus-tumor (GVT) effect.

The anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is substantially pure and desirably substantially 30 homogeneous (i.e. free from contaminating proteins etc.). “Substantially pure” antibody means a composition comprising at least about 90% antibody by weight, based on total weight of the protein in the composition, at least about 95% or 97% by weight. “Substantially homogeneous” antibody means a composition comprising protein wherein

at least about 99% by weight of protein is specific antibody, e.g., anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, based on total weight of the protein.

An anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, vedolizumab, a humanized monoclonal antibody that has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, is already indicated for the treatment of patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn's disease (CD).

Vedolizumab may also be used in the prevention of GvHD. Vedolizumab has a novel gut-selective mechanism of action. By binding to cell surface-expressed $\alpha 4\beta 7$, vedolizumab is an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist and blocks a subset of memory gut-homing T lymphocytes from interacting with mucosal addressin cell adhesion molecule-1 (MAdCAM-1) expressed on endothelial cells.

Several factors are associated with accelerated clearance of antibodies including the presence of anti-drug antibodies, sex, body size, concomitant immunosuppressant use, disease type, albumin concentration, and degree of systemic inflammation. Furthermore, a consistent relationship between efficacy and exposure, in distinction to drug dose, has been observed for many of these agents, such that higher trough drug concentrations are associated with greater efficacy. Differences in drug clearance may be an important explanation for this observation. For example, cancer patients undergo immunosuppressive treatment of the tumor and treatment for infection. Therefore, an understanding of the determinants of clearance for therapeutic antibodies in transplant patients may result in optimization of drug regimens.

In previous studies, single-dose pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics ($\alpha 4\beta 7$ receptor saturation), safety, and tolerability of vedolizumab were investigated over a dose range of 0.2 to 10 mg/kg in healthy volunteers (intravenous [IV] infusion) (unpublished data). After reaching peak concentrations, vedolizumab serum concentrations fell in a generally biexponential fashion until concentrations reached approximately 1 to 10 ng/mL. Thereafter, concentrations appeared to fall in a nonlinear fashion. The multiple-dose pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of vedolizumab have been investigated following IV infusions of 0.5 and 2 mg/kg in patients with CD and infusion of 2, 6, and 10 mg/kg in patients with UC. Vedolizumab pharmacokinetics was generally linear following an IV infusion over the dose range of 2 to 10 mg/kg in patients with UC. After multiple-dose administration, rapid and near complete $\alpha 4\beta 7$ receptor saturation was achieved following the initial dose of vedolizumab.

The efficacy and safety of vedolizumab induction and maintenance therapy were demonstrated in patients with CD in the GEMINI 2 (ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00783692) and GEMINI 3 (ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT01224171) trials. The exposure-response (efficacy) relationships of vedolizumab in patients with CD for induction and maintenance therapy have been presented elsewhere.

Prevention of Graft-Versus-Host Disease (GvHD) with an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist

The invention relates to a method of treating disease in a patient by preventing GvHD, or a GvHD-related adverse event, in a allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant patient, e.g., human patient, e.g., undergoing allo-HSCT. The human patient may be an adult (e.g., 18 years or older), an adolescent, or a child. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody can be used as described herein for treating a transplant patient, a cancer patient, a nonmalignant hematological disease patient or preventing GvHD in a subject suffering therefrom.

The severity of acute GvHD is measured according to the modified Glucksberg criteria (Table 2) and Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN)-modified International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry Database (IBMTR) index Table 3). The clinical stages and grades of GvHD are divided as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Acute Graft-versus-Host Disease Clinical Stage

Stage	Skin	Liver	Intestinal tract
		Bilirubin: SI units (standard units)	Diarrhea/day
1	Maculopapular rash <25% of body surface (a)	34-50 μ mol/L (2-3 mg/dL)	>500 mL diarrhea/day
2	Maculopapular rash 25%-50% of body surface	51-102 μ mol/L (3.1-6 mg/dL)	>1000 mL diarrhea/day
3	Rash >50% of body surface	103-225 μ mol/L (6.1-15 mg/dL)	>1500 mL diarrhea/day
4	Generalized erythroderma with bullous formation	>255 μ mol/L (>15 mg/dL)	Severe abdominal pain, with or without ileus

Table 2: Acute Graft-versus-Host Disease Grade (modified Glucksberg)

Grade	Skin	Liver	Intestinal tract
I	Stage 1-2	None	None
II	Stage 3 or →	Stage 1 or →	Stage 1
III	-	Stage 2-3 or →	Stage 2-4
IV	Stage 4 or →	Stage 4	-

Table 3: Criteria for International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry Database (IBMTR) Severity Index for Acute Graft-versus-Host Disease

Index	Skin		Liver		Intestinal tract		
	Stage (max)	Extent of Rash	Total				
			Stage (max)	Bilirubin (μ mol/L)	Stage (max)	Volume of Diarrhea (mL/day)	
A	1	<25%	0	<34	0	<500	
B	2	25-50%	or 1-2	34-102	or 1-2	550-1500	
C	3	>50%	or 3	103-255	or 3	>1500	
D	4	Bullae	or 4	>255	or 4	Severe pain and ileus	

5

The allogeneic hematopoietic cells, e.g., allo-HSC, may engraft with no GvHD, only skin GvHD, only liver GvHD, only skin and liver GvHD, no intestinal GvHD and only skin or liver GvHD, no grade IV GvHD, no grade III or IV GvHD, only stage 1 or stage 2 intestinal GvHD and only stage 2-3 skin and/or liver GvHD, only Grade I to II GvHD, or no or only skin GvHD, only index A GvHD, only index A or B GvHD, no index C or D GvHD, or any of the foregoing together with GVT, after administration of the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, e.g., an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody.

10 The allogeneic hematopoietic cells, e.g., allo-HSC, may engraft with no GvHD, only skin GvHD, only liver GvHD, only skin and liver GvHD, no intestinal GvHD and only skin or liver GvHD, no grade IV GvHD, no grade III or IV GvHD, only stage 1 or stage 2 intestinal GvHD and only stage 2-3 skin and/or liver GvHD, only Grade I to II GvHD, or no or only skin GvHD, only index A GvHD, only index A or B GvHD, no index C or D GvHD, or any of the foregoing together with GVT, after administration of the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, e.g., an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody.

15 Preventing the development of acute GvHD may be the result of decreasing or blocking trafficking of alloreactive T-cells to GALT, mesenteric lymph nodes and/or GI mucosa. Prevention of GvHD, e.g., acute GVHD, may be considered successful if at about 50 days, about 75 days, about 90 days, about 100 days, about 110 days, about 120 days, about 150 days, or about 180 days, after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT, the patient shows no signs of acute GvHD. In some embodiments, the patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT is treated 20 with a regimen that comprises no further administration of immunosuppressive therapy,

e.g., no administration of immunosuppressive therapy after the conditioning treatment or after the initial transplant period, e.g., immediately before and/or immediately after, e.g., 0 to 1 weeks, 0 to 2 weeks, 0 to 3 weeks or 0 to 4 weeks, after the allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant.

5 Remission is defined by conventional World Health Organization (WHO) criteria: <5% blast cells, count recovery, and no evidence of extramedullary disease. Remission of acute and/or chronic GvHD may last for about 4, about 5, about 6, about 9, or about 12 months after allo-HSCT.

10 GvHD relapse or progression-free survival (GRFS) is defined as Grade 3-4 acute GvHD, chronic GvHD requiring systemic immunosuppression, disease relapse or progression, or death due to any cause.

15 Engraftment is a process whereby the transplanted hematopoietic cells populate in the patient or adjust to the patient tissue environment, e.g., proliferate, differentiate, begin performing the function characteristic of the hematologic cell from which it is derived or is programmed to become with the maturation signals. Engraftment of allo-HSCT is measured by quantifying blood components, such as neutrophils and platelets. The timing of engraftment depends on the source of the hematopoietic stem cells, e.g., longer for cord blood stem cells than for peripheral blood stem cells. Neutrophil engraftment (recovery of 20 absolute neutrophil count [ANC]) is defined by an ANC>500/mm³ for 3 consecutive days or >2000/mm³ for 1 day. The first day of the 3-day period is considered the day of neutrophil engraftment.

25 The mean expression of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ on peripheral blood lymphocytes may be measured by the MadCAM-1-Fc binding inhibition assay before and after dosing with an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody (e.g., vedolizumab) in the allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant patient, e.g., myeloablative allo-HSCT population.

Changes in blood or serum biomarkers, including, but not limited to, interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-17 (IL-17), and suppressor of tumorigenicity 2 (ST2) and/or cellular biomarkers, including, but not limited to CD8+, CD38+, CD8+ bright effector memory T cells, and CD4+ memory T cells, may be predictive of the onset or severity of acute 30 GvHD. Detection of an increase one or more of such markers after allo-HSCT may indicate the onset of acute GVHD. Detection of the biomarkers may be accomplished from immunodetection of the biomarker, e.g., by antibody binding to cells, e.g., blood cells, expressing the biomarker and measurement of the amount of antibody binding, e.g., by flow cytometry or by antibody binding to soluble biomarkers in serum and

measurement of the amount of antibody binding, e.g., by ELISA. Comparison of the amount of the biomarker with a control or a sample obtained early in the transplant process or prior to transplant, or to a predetermined standard, e.g., the amount of the biomarker in a population of non-transplant subjects, may provide an indication of 5 whether the amount of the biomarker is changed, e.g., increased. In some embodiments, administration of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, to a patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT, prevents a change or an increase in one or more of these biomarkers.

Patients may be tested to see if they are positive for antibodies directed against the 10 $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, for example, positive for anti-vedolizumab antibody at various time points, for example, at baseline, day 20, and day 100 after allo-HSCT.

Patients may be tested for development of GvHD requiring systemic 15 immunosuppression.

An $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, is administered in an effective amount which inhibits binding of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin to a ligand thereof. For therapy, an effective amount will be sufficient to achieve the desired prophylactic effect (e.g., decreasing or eliminating trafficking of alloreactive T-cells to GALT, mesenteric lymph nodes and or GI mucosa and reducing the incidence or severity of GvHD). An effective 20 amount of an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, e.g., an effective titer sufficient to maintain saturation, e.g., neutralization, of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, can result in sustained $\alpha 4\beta 7$ blockade at the time of hematopoietic stem cell infusion. An $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody may be administered in a unit dose or multiple doses. The dosage can be determined by methods known in the art and can be dependent, for example, upon the individual's age, 25 sensitivity, tolerance and overall well-being. Examples of modes of administration include topical routes such as nasal or inhalational or transdermal administration, enteral routes, such as through a feeding tube or suppository, and parenteral routes, such as intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intraarterial, intraperitoneal, or intravitreal administration. Suitable dosages for antibodies can be from about 0.1 mg/kg body weight 30 to about 10.0 mg/kg body weight per treatment, for example about 2 mg/kg to about 7 mg/kg, about 3 mg/kg to about 6 mg/kg, or about 3.5 to about 5 mg/kg. In particular embodiments, the dose administered is about 0.3 mg/kg, about 0.5 mg/kg, about 1 mg/kg, about 2 mg/kg, about 3 mg/kg, about 4 mg/kg, about 5 mg/kg, about 6 mg/kg, about 7 mg/kg, about 8 mg/kg, about 9 mg/kg, or about 10 mg/kg. In some embodiments,

vedolizumab is administered at a dose of 50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg, 300 mg, 450 mg, 500 mg or 600 mg. In some embodiments, vedolizumab is administered at a dose of 108 mg, 90 to 120 mg, 216 mg, 160 mg, 165 mg, 155 to 180 mg, 170 mg or 180 mg. In some embodiments, vedolizumab is administered at a dose of 180 to 250 mg, 300 to 350 mg, or 5 300 to 500 mg.

In the case of an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody which is stored as a lyophilized solid, the antibody is reconstituted in a solution such as water for injection prior to administration. If prepared for infusion, the final dosage form, e.g., after dilution of the reconstituted antibody (e.g., in a saline, Ringer's or 5% dextrose infusion system) of 10 the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody can be about 0.5 mg/ml to about 5 mg/ml for administration. The final dosage form may be at a concentration of between about 0.3 mg/ml to about 3.0 mg/ml, about 1.0 mg/ml to about 1.4 mg/ml, about 1.0 mg/ml to about 1.3 mg/ml, about 1.0 mg/ml to about 1.2 mg/ml, about 1.0 to about 1.1 mg/ml, about 1.1 mg/ml to about 1.4 mg/ml, about 1.1 mg/ml to about 1.3 mg/ml, about 1.1 mg/ml to about 1.2 mg/ml, about 15 1.2 mg/ml to about 1.4 mg/ml, about 1.2 mg/ml to about 1.3 mg/ml, or about 1.3 mg/ml to about 1.4 mg/ml. The final dosage form may be at a concentration of about 0.6 mg/ml, 0.8 mg/ml, 1.0 mg/ml, 1.1 mg/ml, about 1.2 mg/ml, about 1.3 mg/ml, about 1.4 mg/ml, about 1.5 mg/ml, about 1.6 mg/ml, about 1.8 mg/ml or about 2.0 mg/ml. In one embodiment, the total dose is 75 mg. In one embodiment, the total dose is 150 mg, 225 mg, 375 mg or 20 525 mg. In another embodiment, the total dose is 300 mg. In one embodiment, the total dose is 450 mg. In one embodiment, the total dose is 600 mg. An anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody dose may be diluted into 250 ml saline, Ringer's or 5% dextrose solution for administration.

25 The dose can be administered to the patient over about 20 minutes, about 25 minutes, about 30 minutes, about 35 minutes, or about 40 minutes.

The dosing regimen can be optimized to result in the prevention of GvHD or the reduction of the risk of severe Grade or index level, e.g., Grade III or IV, index C or index D of GvHD suffered by the patient. In some embodiments, the dosing regimen does not alter the ratio of CD4 to CD8 in cerebrospinal fluid of patients receiving treatment. For 30 example, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist does not impair immune surveillance of the nervous system, e.g., the brain or spinal cord.

In one embodiment, the dosing regimen comprises an initial dose the day before an allogeneic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT), a subsequent dose approximately two weeks after the initial dose, and a second subsequent dose approximately six weeks after

the initial dose. In an embodiment, the initial dose of the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is at least 12 hours before the allogeneic stem cell infusion. Although this anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody dosing regimen is useful for the induction dose and schedule of vedolizumab approved for the treatment of Crohn's Disease or ulcerative colitis, subjects undergoing an allogeneic 5 hematopoietic cell transplant, such as being treated with a conditioning regimen followed by the transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT, are expected to have markedly changing T-cell populations with variable $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin expression during the post-transplant period. Furthermore, if the patient contracts infections or GVHD or has other adverse effects from the transplant procedure, clearance of the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody may be affected. For 10 example, if kidney damage results from the agents used for conditioning, treatment with dialysis could increase the clearance of antibodies from the bloodstream. Alternatively, after myeloablative therapy, there may be other physiological conditions that may result in unexpectedly high clearance of the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody during initial therapy.

In some embodiments, an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is administered prior to allogeneic 15 hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT. In some embodiments, an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, is administered to a patient prior to and after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT. In some embodiments, an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, is administered to a patient after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT, e.g., within 1 day after, 1 to 2 days after, 1 to 3 days after, 20 2 to 3 days after or 2 to 4 days after, 2 days after, 3 days after, 4 days after, 5 days after, 6 days after or 7 days after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT. For example, an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, e.g., vedolizumab, may be administered by intravenous infusion as an initial dose the day before allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT, and then again at two, and six weeks after the initial dose.

25 The $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody may be administered to an individual (e.g., a human) alone or in conjunction with another agent. The $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody can be administered before, along with or subsequent to administration of the additional agent. In one embodiment, more than one $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist which inhibits the binding of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin to its ligands is administered. 30 In such an embodiment, an agent, e.g., a monoclonal antibody, such as an anti-MAdCAM (e.g., anti-MAdCAM-1) or an anti-VCAM-1 monoclonal antibody can be administered. In another embodiment, the additional agent inhibits the binding of leukocytes to an endothelial ligand in a pathway different from the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ pathway. Such an agent can inhibit the binding, e.g. of chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 9 (CCR9)-expressing

lymphocytes to thymus expressed chemokine (TECK or CCL25) or an agent which prevents the binding of LFA-1 to intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM). For example, an anti-TECK or anti-CCR9 antibody or a small molecule CCR9 inhibitor, such as inhibitors disclosed in PCT publication WO03/099773 or WO04/046092, or anti-ICAM-1 5 antibody or an oligonucleotide which prevents expression of ICAM, is administered in addition to a formulation of the present invention. In yet another embodiment, one or more additional active ingredients (e.g., methotrexate or a calcineurin inhibitor, e.g., tacrolimus or cyclosporin) commonly administered for GvHD prophylaxis therapy, may be administered in conjunction with an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody in a 10 method of the present invention. In an embodiment, the dose of the co-administered medication can be decreased over time during the period of treatment by the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, such as an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody.

In some embodiments, the co-administered medication is a calcineurin inhibitor, such as tacrolimus. In some embodiments, the calcineurin inhibitor treatment is started 15 before allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT and continued until at least day 100. In one embodiment, tacrolimus treatment may start during conditioning for the allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT. The tacrolimus treatment may achieve a trough concentration of about 1 ng/dL, about 2 ng/dL, about 3 ng/dL, about 4 ng/dL, about 5 ng/dL, about 6 ng/dL, about 7 ng/dL, about 8 ng/dL, about 9 ng/dL, about 20 10 ng/dL, or about 5-10 ng/dL. Tacrolimus treatment may be kept at therapeutic levels for about 2 weeks, about 6 weeks, about 2 months, about 3 months, about 100 days after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT if no signs of GvHD are observed. Tacrolimus treatment may be discontinued by about 5 months, about 6 months, about 7 months after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT.

25 In some embodiments, the co-administered medication is methotrexate. In an embodiment, methotrexate is administered to the patient at about 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, or 12 mg/m² IV after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT (e.g., on days 1, 3, 6, and 11). The amount of methotrexate administered to the patient may be modified, or held, based on toxicity.

30 In one embodiment, the method comprises administering an effective amount of an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody to a patient. If the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is in a formulation which is in a solid, e.g., dry state, the process of administration can comprise a step of converting the formulation to a liquid state. In one aspect, a dry formulation can be reconstituted, e.g., by a liquid as described above, for use in injection, e.g. intravenous, intramuscular or

subcutaneous injection. In another aspect, a solid or dry formulation can be administered topically, e.g., in a patch, cream, aerosol or suppository.

The $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist, which is an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody, can bind to an epitope on the $\alpha 4$ chain (e.g., humanized MAb 21.6 (Bendig *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,840,299), on the $\beta 7$ chain (e.g., FIB504 or a humanized derivative (e.g., Fong *et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 7,528,236)), or to a combinatorial epitope formed by the association of the $\alpha 4$ chain with the $\beta 7$ chain. AMG-181 or other antibodies described in US 2010/0254975 are anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibodies. In one aspect, the antibody binds a combinatorial epitope on the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex, but does not bind an epitope on the $\alpha 4$ chain or the $\beta 7$ chain unless the chains are in association with each other. The association of $\alpha 4$ integrin with $\beta 7$ integrin can create a combinatorial epitope for example, by bringing into proximity residues present on both chains which together comprise the epitope or by conformationally exposing on one chain, e.g., the $\alpha 4$ integrin chain or the $\beta 7$ integrin chain, an epitopic binding site that is inaccessible to antibody binding in the absence of the proper integrin partner or in the absence of integrin activation. In another aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody binds both the $\alpha 4$ integrin chain and the $\beta 7$ integrin chain, and thus, is specific for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin complex. The anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody can bind $\alpha 4\beta 7$ but not bind $\alpha 4\beta 1$, and/or not bind $\alpha 5\beta 7$, for example. In another aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody binds to the same or substantially the same epitope as the Act-1 antibody (Lazarovits, A. I. *et al.*, *J. Immunol.*, 133(4): 1857-1862 (1984), 15 Schweighoffer *et al.*, *J. Immunol.*, 151(2): 717-729, 1993; Bednarczyk *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 269(11): 8348-8354, 1994). Murine ACT-1 Hybridoma cell line, which produces the murine Act-1 monoclonal antibody, was deposited under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty on Aug. 22, 2001, on behalf Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 40 Landsdowne Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02139, U.S.A., at the American Type Culture 20 Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Va. 20110-2209, U.S.A., under Accession No. PTA-3663. In another aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is a human antibody 25 or an $\alpha 4\beta 7$ binding protein using the CDRs provided in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2010/0254975.

In one aspect, the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antagonist is an anti-MAdCAM antibody (see e.g., US 30 Patent No. 8,277,808, PF-00547659 or antibodies described in WO2005/067620), or an engineered form of a ligand, such as a MAdCAM-Fc chimera such as described in US Patent No. 7,803,904.

In one aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody inhibits binding of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ to one or more of its ligands (e.g. the mucosal addressin, e.g., MAdCAM (e.g., MAdCAM-1), fibronectin, and/or vascular addressin (VCAM)). Primate MAdCAMs are described in the PCT publication WO 96/24673, the entire teachings of which are incorporated herein by this reference. In another aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody inhibits binding of $\alpha 4\beta 7$ to MAdCAM (e.g., MAdCAM-1) and/or fibronectin without inhibiting the binding of VCAM.

In one aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibodies for use in the treatments are humanized versions of the mouse Act-1 antibody. Suitable methods for preparing humanized antibodies are well-known in the art. Generally, the humanized anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody will contain a heavy chain that contains the 3 heavy chain complementarity determining regions (CDRs, CDR1, SEQ ID NO:4, CDR2, SEQ ID NO:5 and CDR3, SEQ ID NO:6) of the mouse Act-1 antibody and suitable human heavy chain framework regions; and also contain a light chain that contains the 3 light chain CDRs (CDR1, SEQ ID NO:7, CDR2, SEQ ID NO:8 and CDR3, SEQ ID NO:9) of the mouse Act-1 antibody and suitable human light chain framework regions. The humanized Act-1 antibody can contain any suitable human framework regions, including consensus framework regions, with or without amino acid substitutions. For example, one or more of the framework amino acids can be replaced with another amino acid, such as the amino acid at the corresponding position in the mouse Act-1 antibody. The human constant region or portion thereof, if present, can be derived from the κ or λ light chains, and/or the γ (e.g., $\gamma 1, \gamma 2, \gamma 3, \gamma 4$), μ , α (e.g., $\alpha 1, \alpha 2$), δ or ϵ heavy chains of human antibodies, including allelic variants. A particular constant region (e.g., IgG1), variant or portions thereof can be selected in order to tailor effector function. For example, a mutated constant region (variant) can be incorporated into a fusion protein to minimize binding to Fc receptors and/or ability to fix complement (see e.g., Winter *et al.*, GB 2,209,757 B; Morrison *et al.*, WO 89/07142; Morgan *et al.*, WO 94/29351, Dec. 22, 1994). Humanized versions of Act-1 antibody were described in PCT publications nos. WO98/06248 and WO07/61679, the entire teachings of each of which are incorporated herein by this reference. Treatment methods using anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin antibodies are described in publication nos. U.S. 2005/0095238, U.S. 2005/0095238, WO2012151248 and WO 2012/151247.

In one aspect, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is vedolizumab. Vedolizumab IV (also called MLN0002, ENTYVIOTM or KYNTELESTTM) is a humanized antibody (Ig) G1 mAb directed against the human lymphocyte integrin $\alpha 4\beta 7$. The $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin mediates

lymphocyte trafficking to GI mucosa, gut-associated lymphoid tissue (GALT) and mesenteric lymph nodes through adhesive interaction with mucosal addressin cell adhesion molecule-1 (MAdCAM-1), which is expressed on the endothelium of mesenteric lymph nodes and GI mucosa. Vedolizumab binds the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin, antagonizes its 5 adherence to MAdCAM-1 and as such, impairs the migration of naïve T cells to the GALT and mesenteric lymph nodes and gut homing leukocytes into GI mucosa.

In another aspect, the humanized anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody for use in the treatment comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising amino acids 20 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:1, and a light chain variable region comprising amino acids 20 to 131 of SEQ ID 10 NO:2 or amino acids 1 to 112 of SEQ ID NO:3. If desired, a suitable human constant region(s) can be present. For example, the humanized anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody can comprise a heavy chain that comprises amino acids 20 to 470 of SEQ ID NO:1 and a light chain comprising amino acids 1 to 219 of SEQ ID NO:3. In another example, the humanized anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody can comprise a heavy chain that comprises amino acids 20 to 470 of 15 SEQ ID NO:1 and a light chain comprising amino acids 20 to 238 of SEQ ID NO:2. Vedolizumab is cataloged under Chemical Abstract Service (CAS, American Chemical Society) Registry number 943609-66-3).

Substitutions to the humanized anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody sequence can be, for example, mutations to the heavy and light chain framework regions, such as a mutation of isoleucine 20 to valine on residue 2 of SEQ ID NO:10; a mutation of methionine to valine on residue 4 of SEQ ID NO:10; a mutation of alanine to glycine on residue 24 of SEQ ID NO:11; a mutation of arginine to lysine at residue 38 of SEQ ID NO:11; a mutation of alanine to arginine at residue 40 of SEQ ID NO:11; a mutation of methionine to isoleucine on residue 48 of SEQ ID NO:11; a mutation of isoleucine to leucine on residue 69 of SEQ ID 25 NO:11; a mutation of arginine to valine on residue 71 of SEQ ID NO:11; a mutation of threonine to isoleucine on residue 73 of SEQ ID NO:11; or any combination thereof; and replacement of the heavy chain CDRs with the CDRs (CDR1, SEQ ID NO:4, CDR2, SEQ ID NO:5 and CDR3, SEQ ID NO:6) of the mouse Act-1 antibody; and replacement of the light chain CDRs with the light chain CDRs (CDR1, SEQ ID NO:7, CDR2, SEQ ID NO:8 30 and CDR3, SEQ ID NO:9) of the mouse Act-1 antibody.

The present invention provides a method for preventing GvHD in an allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant patient with vedolizumab. The method comprises the steps of administering an initial 300 mg dose of an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody to a hematologic cancer patient, such as a person suffering

from leukemia, performing an allo-HSCT one day after the initial dose of vedolizumab, administering a subsequent 300 mg dose two weeks after the initial dose, and a second subsequent 300 mg dose six weeks after the initial dose. Alternatively, in some embodiments, the dose of the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is lower, e.g., 75 mg or 150 mg, or 5 higher, e.g., 450 mg or 600 mg, than 300 mg.

The invention provides an anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody for use in preventing GVHD in a patient having an allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant, e.g., allo-HSCT, the use comprising administering an initial dose of the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody the day before the allo-HSCT, two weeks after the initial dose, and six weeks after the initial dose. The use in 10 preventing may further comprise administration of tacrolimus and/or methotrexate. In some embodiments, the anti- $\alpha 4\beta 7$ antibody is vedolizumab.

The invention will be more fully understood by reference to the following examples. They should not, however, be construed as limiting the scope of the invention. All literature and patent citations are incorporated herein by reference.

15

EXEMPLIFICATION

Example 1

A phase 1b, open-label, dose-finding study is designed to evaluate the safety, tolerability, and clinical activity of adding vedolizumab to standard graft-versus-host 20 disease (GvHD) prophylaxis (tacrolimus plus short-term methotrexate) in adult patients undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT). Vedolizumab dose finding is cohort based and follows a rule-based dose-finding study design with pharmacokinetic (PK) guidance. After a tolerated dose with acceptable PK is identified, the cohort at that dose level may be expanded to further assess the tolerability and 25 effectiveness of vedolizumab.

Eligibility is determined during the Screening period, which may last for up to 28 days before Day -1 (designation of the day of the first IV infusion of vedolizumab). Patients who meet all eligibility criteria and provide written informed consent are enrolled in this study. Study drug is administered initially on Day -1 before allo-HSCT and then on 30 Days +13 and +42 after allo-HSCT. Patients who are undergoing unrelated-donor myeloablative transplant for the treatment of hematologic malignancies and who are less than or equal to 60 years of age are eligible for enrollment. After a recommended phase 2 dose is identified, the cohort at that dose level can be expanded to include additional patients receiving myeloablative conditioning or reduced-intensity conditioning “RIC”

(less than or equal to 75 years of age) who are undergoing either related or unrelated allogeneic HSCT for the treatment of hematologic malignancies or myeloproliferative neoplasms.

Patients are excluded from the study if they have received prior allogeneic

5 transplants or if they planned to undergo umbilical cord blood transplant, receive ex vivo T-cell-depleted hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs), receive any in vivo T-cell depleting antibodies, or RIC (in the dose-finding portion only). Patients with active cerebral/meningeal disease, active cytomegalovirus (CMV) colitis, or signs and symptoms of progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) or any history of PML are also

10 excluded. In addition, patients with nonmalignant hematological disorders (e.g., aplastic anemia, sickle cell anemia, thalassemias, Fanconi anemia) are excluded in both portions of the study.

For PK endpoints, an evaluable patient is one who receives vedolizumab and has at least 1 PK sample collected.

15 Patients who remain in remission are followed for safety and development of acute and chronic GvHD for 1 year after allo-HSCT or until the patient's death or withdrawal of consent or termination of the study by the sponsor. All patients are followed for overall survival (OS) until death, withdrawal of consent, termination of the study by the sponsor, or for a maximum of 1 year after the last patient is enrolled in the study. Patients attend a

20 Day +100 visit (\pm 7 days) at which time they will enter posttreatment follow-up.

Dose escalation starts with a low-dose cohort receiving vedolizumab at 75 mg IV on Day -1 and on Days +13 and +42 after allo-HSCT. HSC infusion occurs on Day 0 (no sooner than 12 hours after completion of IV infusion of vedolizumab on Day -1). The first patient in each dosing cohort is monitored for dose-limiting toxicities (DLTs) from the

25 start of the first IV infusion of vedolizumab on Day -1 to Day +28 after allo-HSCT (the DLT observation period) including assessment for neutrophil recovery by Day +28. If the first patient in the first cohort tolerates vedolizumab IV at 75 mg and engraftment occurs, then 2 more patients will be enrolled in the first cohort. If none of the first 3 patients experience DLTs, the next cohort receives vedolizumab 300 mg IV on Day -1 and on

30 Days +13 and +42 after allo-HSCT. If the first patient in this cohort tolerates vedolizumab IV at 300 mg and engraftment occurs, then 2 more patients are enrolled in the second cohort. If the first 3 patients at 300 mg tolerate the treatment without experiencing DLTs, then the decision on whether to increase the vedolizumab IV dose in the next cohort is guided by the PK results. If 1 of the first 3 patients in the cohort experiences a DLT, then

3 additional patients are enrolled at the same dose level and monitored for DLTs from Day -1 until Day +28. If none of the additional patients experiences a DLT, then the decision on whether to increase the vedolizumab IV dose in the next cohort is guided by the PK results. If 2 or more patients in a cohort of either 3 or 6 patients experience a DLT, then 5 the dose of vedolizumab IV for the next cohort of 3 patients is reduced. These patients will be monitored for DLTs in the same manner that patients in the previous cohort were monitored.

After a tolerated dose level with acceptable PK is identified in patients who are undergoing unrelated-donor myeloablative transplant for the treatment of hematologic 10 malignancies, the cohort at that dose level may be expanded to include approximately 18 additional patients undergoing myeloablative conditioning or reduced-intensity conditioning (RIC) and are receiving either related or unrelated allo-HSCT for the treatment of hematologic malignancies or myeloproliferative neoplasms. This group of patients allows for the further assessment of the tolerability and clinical activity of 15 vedolizumab IV.

Vital signs, physical and neurological examinations, adverse event (AE) assessments, and laboratory values (chemistry, hematology, and urinalysis) are obtained to evaluate the safety and tolerability of vedolizumab IV. To exclude patients with progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), a Risk Assessment and Minimization 20 for PML (RAMP) questionnaire is administered at Screening and before vedolizumab IV administration on Days -1 before allo-HSCT, and on Days +13 and +42 after allo-HSCT.

Serial blood samples for the evaluation of PK of vedolizumab are obtained at prespecified time points. PK of vedolizumab is analyzed for each of the first 3 patients at each dose level. It is expected that the concentration-time profile of vedolizumab will be 25 influenced by the level of $\alpha_4\beta_7$ target saturation. If $\alpha_4\beta_7$ is saturated, then vedolizumab clearance would be linear; if $\alpha_4\beta_7$ is not saturated, then clearance would be nonlinear indicating rapid elimination. If the clearance of vedolizumab is nonlinear at the 300 mg dose, then subsequent dosing for all patients is increased in approximately 150 mg increments (up to a maximum of 600 mg) until linear PK clearance is achieved.

30 Serial blood samples for determination of the serum concentration of vedolizumab and anti-vedolizumab antibodies and serum biomarkers (including, but not limited to, interleukin-6 [IL-6], interleukin-17 [IL-17], and suppressor of tumorigenicity 2 [ST2]) are obtained at pre-specified time points. In addition, blood samples will be collected to perform flow cytometry for cell immunophenotyping to measure cell populations as

determined by levels of various cellular biomarkers (such as CD8+, CD38+, CD8+ effector memory T cells, and CD4+ memory T cells), and to perform MadCAM-1-FC binding inhibition assays at pre-specified time points.

Toxicity is evaluated according to National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI CTCAE), Version 4.03, effective date 14 June 2010.

Example 2

Monte Carlo simulations were run with a population pharmacokinetic model of vedolizumab serum concentration in clinical studies. Simulations included interindividual and residual variability in addition to weight and albumin effects. All other covariates were set to their reference values. One thousand adult patients were simulated in this study. Albumin and weight were randomly sampled from a normal distribution. The simulated dosing regimen was 75 mg of vedolizumab via a 30 minute IV infusion on days -1, +13, +42 (i.e., days 0, 14 and 43 relative to first dose).

Observed data from three patients enrolled in the phase 1b, open-label, dose-finding study (Example 1) was overlaid with the simulation data (see FIG. 3). The “fuzziness” of the area between the jagged lines is due to residual variability. FIG. 3 illustrates the measured and simulated vedolizumab serum concentration over time. In this figure, the vedolizumab concentration in one patient did not reach 10 µg/ ml except immediately after dosing. Another patient retained more than 10 µg/ml vedolizumab for several days after the second dose, but not the first dose. A third patient retained more than 10 µg/ml vedolizumab for several days after the first dose.

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word “comprise”, and variations such as “comprises” and “comprising”, will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

SEQUENCE LISTING

SEQ ID NO:1

Met Gly Trp Ser Cys Ile Ile Leu Phe Leu Val Ala Thr Ala Thr Gly
1 5 10 15

5 Val His Ser Gln Val Gln Leu Val Gln Ser Gly Ala Glu Val Lys Lys
20 25 30

Pro Gly Ala Ser Val Lys Val Ser Cys Lys Gly Ser Gly Tyr Thr Phe
35 40 45

Thr Ser Tyr Trp Met His Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Gln Arg Leu
10 50 55 60

Glu Trp Ile Gly Glu Ile Asp Pro Ser Glu Ser Asn Thr Asn Tyr Asn
65 70 75 80

Gln Lys Phe Lys Gly Arg Val Thr Leu Thr Val Asp Ile Ser Ala Ser
85 90 95

15 Thr Ala Tyr Met Glu Leu Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val
100 105 110

Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg Gly Gly Tyr Asp Gly Trp Asp Tyr Ala Ile Asp
115 120 125

Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Leu Val Thr Val Ser Ser Ala Ser Thr Lys
20 130 135 140

Gly Pro Ser Val Phe Pro Leu Ala Pro Ser Ser Lys Ser Thr Ser Gly
145 150 155 160

Gly Thr Ala Ala Leu Gly Cys Leu Val Lys Asp Tyr Phe Pro Glu Pro
165 170 175

25 Val Thr Val Ser Trp Asn Ser Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Gly Val His Thr
180 185 190

Phe Pro Ala Val Leu Gln Ser Ser Gly Leu Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Val

	195	200	205	
	Val Thr Val Pro Ser Ser Ser Leu Gly Thr Gln Thr Tyr Ile Cys Asn			
	210	215	220	
	Val Asn His Lys Pro Ser Asn Thr Lys Val Asp Lys Lys Val Glu Pro			
5	225	230	235	240
	Lys Ser Cys Asp Lys Thr His Thr Cys Pro Pro Cys Pro Ala Pro Glu			
	245	250	255	
	Leu Ala Gly Ala Pro Ser Val Phe Leu Phe Pro Pro Lys Pro Lys Asp			
	260	265	270	
10	Thr Leu Met Ile Ser Arg Thr Pro Glu Val Thr Cys Val Val Val Asp			
	275	280	285	
	Val Ser His Glu Asp Pro Glu Val Lys Phe Asn Trp Tyr Val Asp Gly			
	290	295	300	
	Val Glu Val His Asn Ala Lys Thr Lys Pro Arg Glu Glu Gln Tyr Asn			
15	305	310	315	320
	Ser Thr Tyr Arg Val Val Ser Val Leu Thr Val Leu His Gln Asp Trp			
	325	330	335	
	Leu Asn Gly Lys Glu Tyr Lys Cys Lys Val Ser Asn Lys Ala Leu Pro			
	340	345	350	
20	Ala Pro Ile Glu Lys Thr Ile Ser Lys Ala Lys Gly Gln Pro Arg Glu			
	355	360	365	
	Pro Gln Val Tyr Thr Leu Pro Pro Ser Arg Asp Glu Leu Thr Lys Asn			
	370	375	380	
	Gln Val Ser Leu Thr Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Ser Asp Ile			
25	385	390	395	400
	Ala Val Glu Trp Glu Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr			
	405	410	415	

Thr Pro Pro Val Leu Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Lys

420 425 430

Leu Thr Val Asp Lys Ser Arg Trp Gln Gln Gly Asn Val Phe Ser Cys

435 440 445

5 Ser Val Met His Glu Ala Leu His Asn His Tyr Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu

450 455 460

Ser Leu Ser Pro Gly Lys

465 470

10 SEQ ID NO:2

Met Gly Trp Ser Cys Ile Ile Leu Phe Leu Val Ala Thr Ala Thr Gly

1 5 10 15

Val His Ser Asp Val Val Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Val

20 25 30

15 Thr Pro Gly Glu Pro Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu

35 40 45

Ala Lys Ser Tyr Gly Asn Thr Tyr Leu Ser Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro

50 55 60

Gly Gln Ser Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Gly Ile Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser

20 65 70 75 80

Gly Val Pro Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr

85 90 95

Leu Lys Ile Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys

25 100 105 110

Leu Gln Gly Thr His Gln Pro Tyr Thr Phe Gly Gln Gly Thr Lys Val

115 120 125

Glu Ile Lys Arg Thr Val Ala Ala Pro Ser Val Phe Ile Phe Pro Pro
130 135 140

Ser Asp Glu Gln Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Ala Ser Val Val Cys Leu Leu
145 150 155 160

5 Asn Asn Phe Tyr Pro Arg Glu Ala Lys Val Gln Trp Lys Val Asp Asn
165 170 175

Ala Leu Gln Ser Gly Asn Ser Gln Glu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Asp Ser
180 185 190

Lys Asp Ser Thr Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Leu Ser Lys Ala
10 195 200 205

Asp Tyr Glu Lys His Lys Val Tyr Ala Cys Glu Val Thr His Gln Gly
210 215 220

Leu Ser Ser Pro Val Thr Lys Ser Phe Asn Arg Gly Glu Cys
225 230 235

15

SEQ ID NO:3

Asp Val Val Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Val Thr Pro Gly
1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Ala Lys Ser
20 20 25 30

Tyr Gly Asn Thr Tyr Leu Ser Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro Gly Gln Ser
35 40 45

Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Gly Ile Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser Gly Val Pro
50 55 60

25 Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr Leu Lys Ile
65 70 75 80

Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys Leu Gln Gly

	85	90	95
	Thr His Gln Pro Tyr Thr Phe Gly Gln Gly Thr Lys Val Glu Ile Lys		
	100	105	110
	Arg Ala Asp Ala Ala Pro Ser Val Phe Ile Phe Pro Pro Ser Asp Glu		
5	115	120	125
	Gln Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Ala Ser Val Val Cys Leu Leu Asn Asn Phe		
	130	135	140
	Tyr Pro Arg Glu Ala Lys Val Gln Trp Lys Val Asp Asn Ala Leu Gln		
	145	150	155
10	160		
	Ser Gly Asn Ser Gln Glu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Asp Ser Lys Asp Ser		
	165	170	175
	Thr Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Leu Ser Lys Ala Asp Tyr Glu		
	180	185	190
	Lys His Lys Val Tyr Ala Cys Glu Val Thr His Gln Gly Leu Ser Ser		
15	195	200	205
	Pro Val Thr Lys Ser Phe Asn Arg Gly Glu Cys		
	210	215	

SEQ ID NO:4

20 Ser Tyr Trp Met His

1 5

SEQ ID NO:5

Glu Ile Asp Pro Ser Glu Ser Asn Thr Asn Tyr Asn Gln Lys Phe Lys

25 1 5 10 15
Gly

SEQ ID NO:6

Gly Gly Tyr Asp Gly Trp Asp Tyr Ala Ile Asp Tyr

1 5 10

5 SEQ ID NO:7

Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Ala Lys Ser Tyr Gly Asn Thr Tyr Leu Ser

1 5 10 15

SEQ ID NO:8

10 Gly Ile Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser

1 5

SEQ ID NO:9

Leu Gln Gly Thr His Gln Pro Tyr Thr

15 1 5

SEQ ID NO:10

Asp Ile Val Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Val Thr Pro Gly

1 5 10 15

20

Glu Pro Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Leu His Ser

20 25 30

Asn Gly Tyr Asn Tyr Leu Asp Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro Gly Gln Ser

35 40 45

25 Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Leu Gly Ser Asn Arg Ala Ser Gly Val Pro

50 55 60

Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr Leu Lys Ile

65	70	75	80
Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys Met Gln Ala			
85	90	95	
Leu Gln Thr Pro Gln Thr Phe Gly Gln Gly Lys Val Glu Ile Lys			
5	100	105	110

SEQ ID NO:11

Gln Val Gln Leu Val Gln Ser Gly Ala Glu Val Lys Lys Pro Gly Ala			
1	5	10	15
10	Ser Val Lys Val Ser Cys Lys Ala Ser Gly Tyr Thr Phe Thr Ser Tyr		
	20	25	30
Ala Met His Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Gln Arg Leu Glu Trp Met			
	35	40	45
Gly Trp Ile Asn Ala Gly Asn Gly Asn Thr Lys Tyr Ser Gln Lys Phe			
15	50	55	60
Gln Gly Arg Val Thr Ile Thr Arg Asp Thr Ser Ala Ser Thr Ala Tyr			
	65	70	75
Met Glu Leu Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys			
	85	90	95
20	Ala Arg Gly Gly Tyr Tyr Gly Ser Gly Ser Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly		
	100	105	110
Thr Leu Val Thr Val Ser Ser			
	115		

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of preventing Grade III or IV acute graft versus host disease (GvHD), wherein the method comprises the step of:

administering to a human patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT), a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin,

wherein the humanized antibody is administered to the patient according to the following dosing regimen:
 - a. an initial dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion the day before allo-HSCT;
 - b. followed by a second subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about two weeks after the initial dose; and
 - c. followed by a third subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about six weeks after the initial dose;

further wherein the human patient is co-administered a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate,

wherein the humanized antibody comprises an antigen binding region of nonhuman origin and at least a portion of an antibody of human origin, wherein the humanized antibody has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex, wherein the antigen-binding region comprises the CDRs:

Light chain: CDR1 SEQ ID NO:7
CDR2 SEQ ID NO:8 and
CDR3 SEQ ID NO:9; and

Heavy chain: CDR1 SEQ ID NO:4
CDR2 SEQ ID NO:5 and
CDR3 SEQ ID NO:6, and

wherein said preventing results in sustained $\alpha 4\beta 7$ -blockade at the time of hematopoietic stem cell infusion, such that Grade III or IV acute GvHD is prevented.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the dosing regimen results in Grade II GvHD, Grade I GvHD or no GvHD.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the calcineurin inhibitor is tacrolimus.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the methotrexate is short-term.
5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the humanized antibody is administered to the patient over about 30 minutes.
6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the humanized antibody is reconstituted from a lyophilized formulation.
7. The method of claim 6, further wherein the humanized antibody is reconstituted to comprise a stable liquid formulation.
8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the humanized antibody has a heavy chain variable region sequence of amino acids 20 to 140 of SEQ ID NO:1.
9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the humanized antibody has a light chain variable region sequence of amino acids 20 to 131 of SEQ ID NO:2.
10. The method of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the humanized antibody has a heavy chain comprising amino acids 20 to 470 of SEQ ID NO:1 and a light chain comprising amino acids 20 to 238 of SEQ ID NO:2.
11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the humanized antibody is vedolizumab.
12. A method reducing the occurrence of acute graft versus host disease (GvHD), wherein the method comprises the step of:
administering to a human patient undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT), a humanized antibody having binding specificity for human $\alpha 4\beta 7$ integrin,
wherein the humanized antibody is administered to the patient according to the following dosing regimen:

a. an initial dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion the day before allo-HSCT;

b. followed by a second subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about two weeks after the initial dose; and

c. followed by a third subsequent dose of 300 mg of the humanized antibody as an intravenous infusion at about six weeks after the initial dose;

further wherein the human patient is co-administered a calcineurin inhibitor and methotrexate,

wherein the humanized antibody comprises an antigen binding region of nonhuman origin and at least a portion of an antibody of human origin, wherein the humanized antibody has binding specificity for the $\alpha 4\beta 7$ complex, wherein the antigen-binding region comprises the CDRs:

Light chain: CDR1 SEQ ID NO:7
CDR2 SEQ ID NO:8 and
CDR3 SEQ ID NO:9; and

Heavy chain: CDR1 SEQ ID NO:4
CDR2 SEQ ID NO:5 and
CDR3 SEQ ID NO:6,

wherein a reduction in cumulative incidence and severity of acute graft versus host disease (aGvHD) following allo-HSCT is achieved at 100 days, wherein the aGvHD is Grade III or IV (modified Glucksberg criteria) aGvHD, thereby reducing the occurrence of GvHD.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein reducing the occurrence of acute graft versus host disease (GvHD) results in Grade I or Grade II GvHD, per modified Glucksberg criteria, or similar severity of GvHD per other scoring system, or no GvHD.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein reducing the occurrence of acute GvHD is a 50% reduction in cumulative incidence and severity of Grade II-IV or Grade III-IV acute GvHD at Day 100 as compared to treatment with methotrexate and calcineurin inhibitor alone.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein reducing the occurrence of acute graft versus host disease (GvHD) is a reduction in 1 year mortality as compared to treatment with

methotrexate and calcineurin inhibitor alone.

16. The method of any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the calcineurin inhibitor is tacrolimus.
17. The method of any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the methotrexate is short-term.

OVERVIEW OF STUDY DESIGN FROM DAYS -1 TO +50
 STUDY DRUG ADMINISTRATION, PHARMACODYNAMIC, AND PHARMACOKINETIC, AND PHARMACODYNAMIC COLLECTION: DAYS -1 TO +50
 • ALLO-HSCT ON DAY 0
 • VEDOLIZUMAB ADMINISTERED ON DAY -1 BEFORE ALLO-HSCT AND ON DAYS +13 AND +42 AFTER ALLO-HSCT

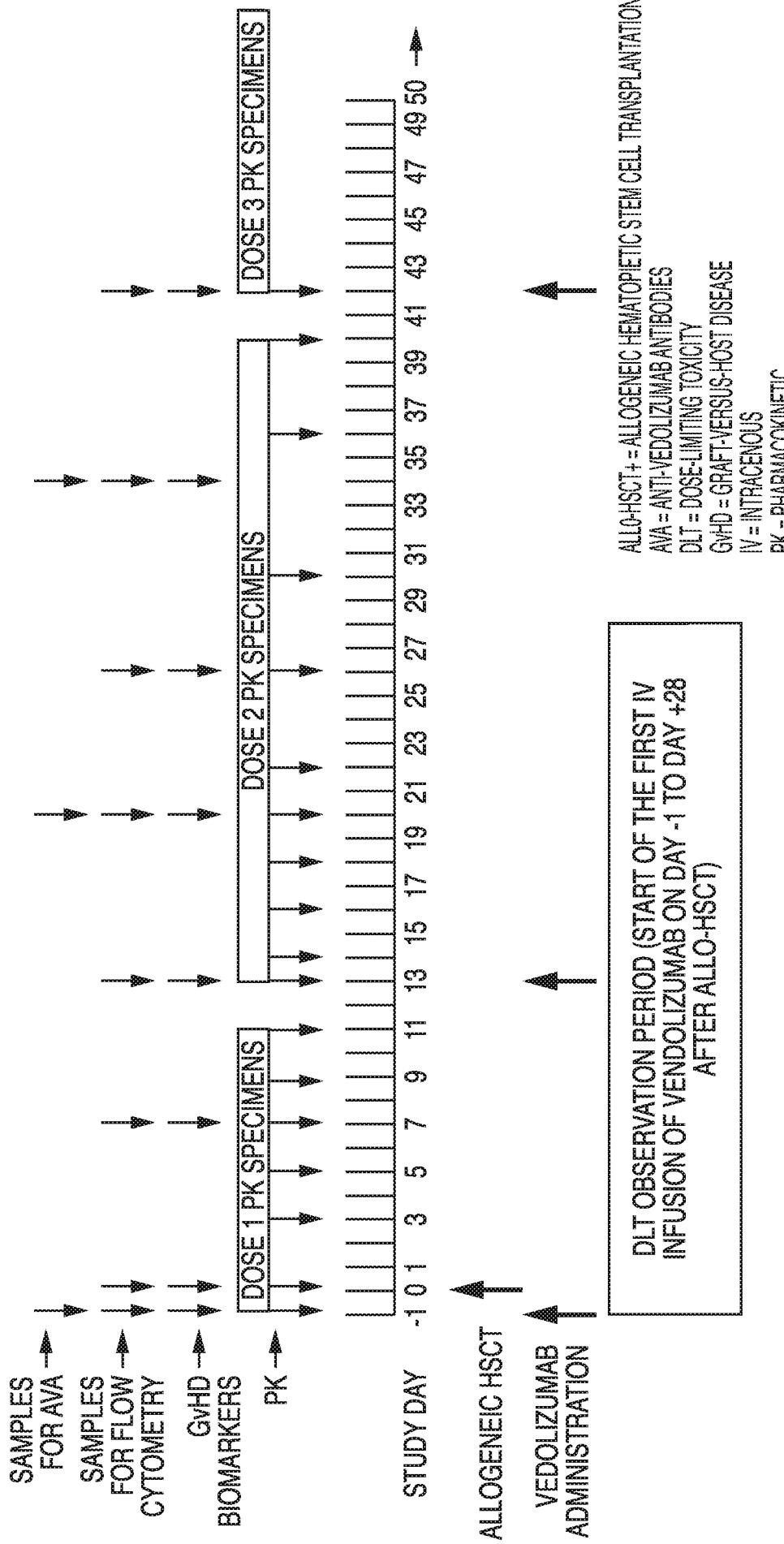
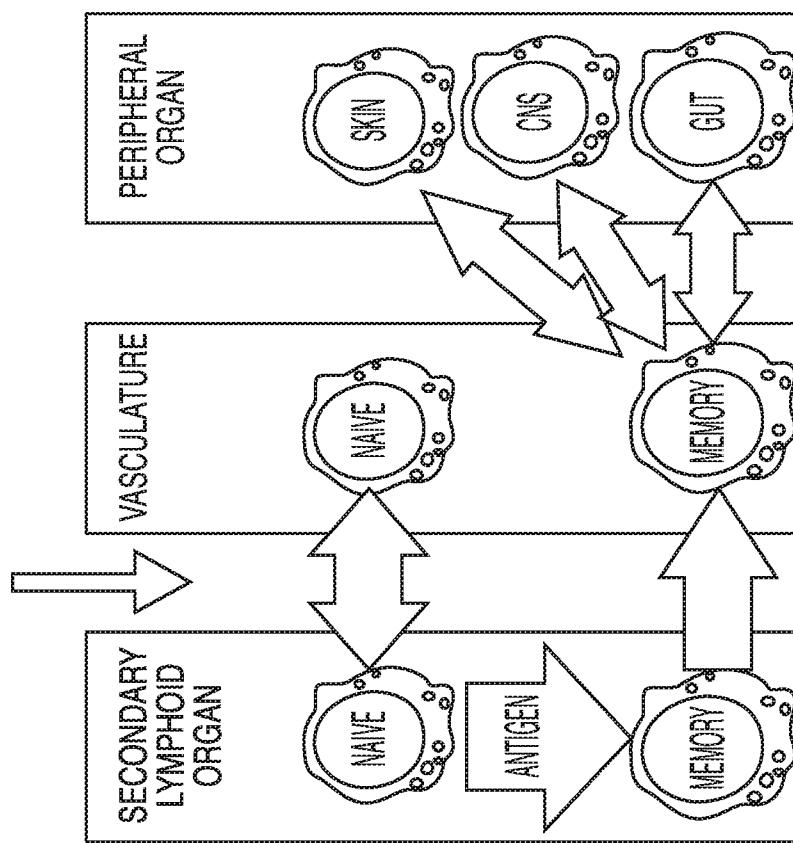


FIG. 1

PK SAMPLING FOR PATIENTS WHO HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL
 WILL BE ALIGNED TO CLINIC VISITS AND THEREFORE MAY NOT BE AS FREQUENT AS REPRESENTED IN THIS FIGURE.

BLOCKING THE $\alpha 4\beta 7$ /MADCAM-1 INTERACTION IN GALT AND MLNs MAY REDUCE THE GENERATION OF THE ALLO-REACTIVE MEMORY T CELLS THEREBY REDUCING THE OCCURRENCE OF GVHD



BLOCKING THE $\alpha 4\beta 7$ /MADCAM-1 INTERACTION MAY REDUCE THE OCCURRENCE OF GVHD BY BLOCKING ALLO-REACTIVE T CELLS AND OTHER LEUKOCYTES FROM HOMING TO THE GUT

FIG. 2

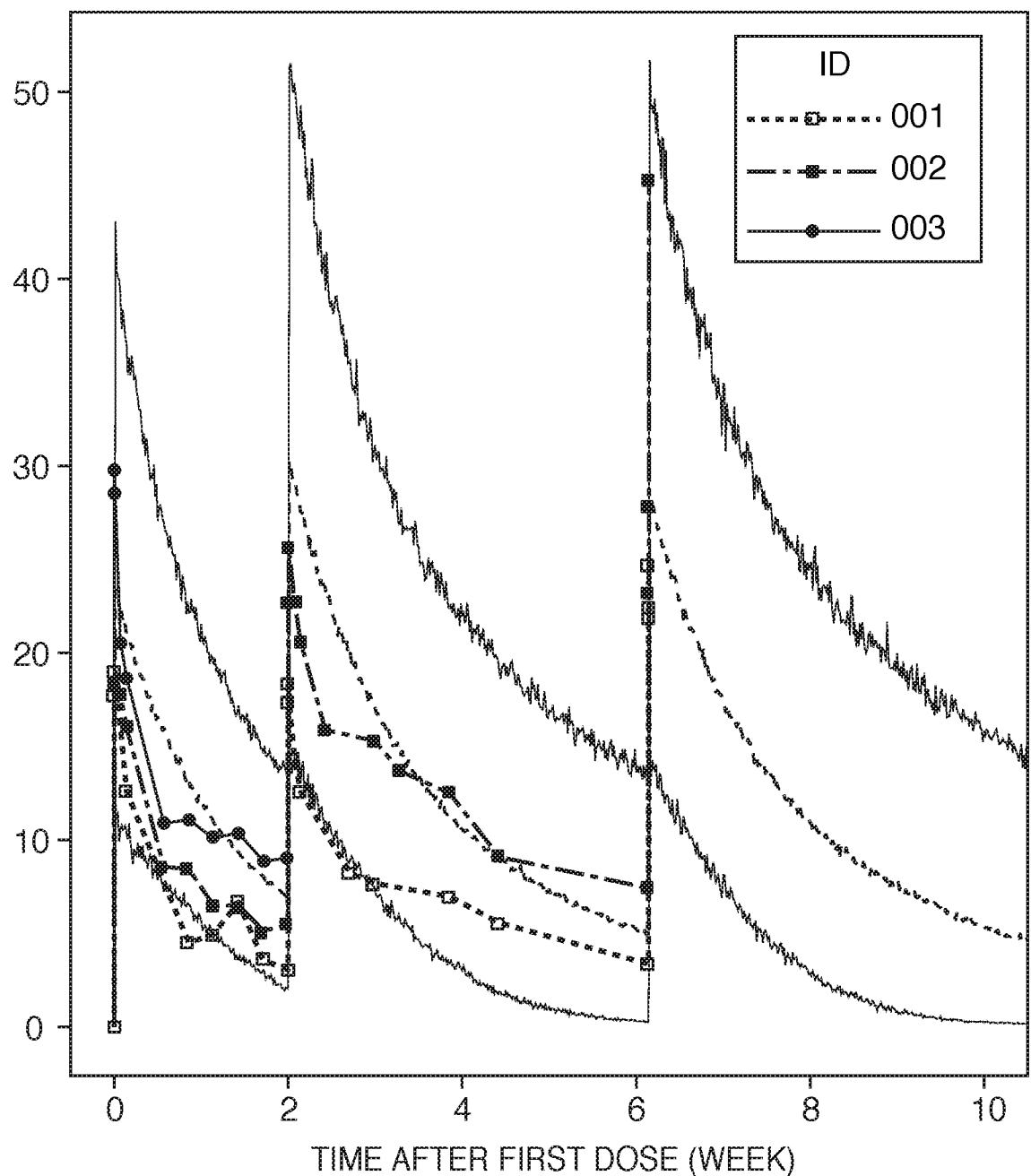
VEDOLIZUMAB SERUM
CONCENTRATION (μ g/mL)

FIG. 3

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

<120> METHOD OF PREVENTING GRAFT VERSUS HOST DISEASE

<130> 079259-0803

<140>

<141>

<150> 62/307,896

<151> 2016-03-14

<160> 11

<170> PatentIn version 3.5

<210> 1

<211> 470

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<221> source

<223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic polypeptide"

<400> 1

Met Gly Trp Ser Cys Ile Ile Leu Phe Leu Val Ala Thr Ala Thr Gly
1 5 10 15

Val His Ser Gln Val Gln Leu Val Gln Ser Gly Ala Glu Val Lys Lys
20 25 30

Pro Gly Ala Ser Val Lys Val Ser Cys Lys Gly Ser Gly Tyr Thr Phe
35 40 45

Thr Ser Tyr Trp Met His Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Gln Arg Leu
50 55 60

Glu Trp Ile Gly Glu Ile Asp Pro Ser Glu Ser Asn Thr Asn Tyr Asn
65 70 75 80

Gln Lys Phe Lys Gly Arg Val Thr Leu Thr Val Asp Ile Ser Ala Ser
85 90 95

Thr Ala Tyr Met Glu Leu Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val
100 105 110

Tyr Tyr Cys Ala Arg Gly Gly Tyr Asp Gly Trp Asp Tyr Ala Ile Asp
 115 120 125

Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly Thr Leu Val Thr Val Ser Ser Ala Ser Thr Lys
 130 135 140

Gly Pro Ser Val Phe Pro Leu Ala Pro Ser Ser Lys Ser Thr Ser Gly
 145 150 155 160

Gly Thr Ala Ala Leu Gly Cys Leu Val Lys Asp Tyr Phe Pro Glu Pro
 165 170 175

Val Thr Val Ser Trp Asn Ser Gly Ala Leu Thr Ser Gly Val His Thr
 180 185 190

Phe Pro Ala Val Leu Gln Ser Ser Gly Leu Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Val
 195 200 205

Val Thr Val Pro Ser Ser Ser Leu Gly Thr Gln Thr Tyr Ile Cys Asn
 210 215 220

Val Asn His Lys Pro Ser Asn Thr Lys Val Asp Lys Lys Val Glu Pro
 225 230 235 240

Lys Ser Cys Asp Lys Thr His Thr Cys Pro Pro Cys Pro Ala Pro Glu
 245 250 255

Leu Ala Gly Ala Pro Ser Val Phe Leu Phe Pro Pro Lys Pro Lys Asp
 260 265 270

Thr Leu Met Ile Ser Arg Thr Pro Glu Val Thr Cys Val Val Val Asp
 275 280 285

Val Ser His Glu Asp Pro Glu Val Lys Phe Asn Trp Tyr Val Asp Gly
 290 295 300

Val Glu Val His Asn Ala Lys Thr Lys Pro Arg Glu Glu Gln Tyr Asn
 305 310 315 320

Ser Thr Tyr Arg Val Val Ser Val Leu Thr Val Leu His Gln Asp Trp
 325 330 335

Leu Asn Gly Lys Glu Tyr Lys Cys Lys Val Ser Asn Lys Ala Leu Pro
 340 345 350

Ala Pro Ile Glu Lys Thr Ile Ser Lys Ala Lys Gly Gln Pro Arg Glu
 355 360 365

Pro Gln Val Tyr Thr Leu Pro Pro Ser Arg Asp Glu Leu Thr Lys Asn
 370 375 380

Gln Val Ser Leu Thr Cys Leu Val Lys Gly Phe Tyr Pro Ser Asp Ile
 385 390 395 400

Ala Val Glu Trp Glu Ser Asn Gly Gln Pro Glu Asn Asn Tyr Lys Thr
 405 410 415

Thr Pro Pro Val Leu Asp Ser Asp Gly Ser Phe Phe Leu Tyr Ser Lys
 420 425 430

Leu Thr Val Asp Lys Ser Arg Trp Gln Gln Gly Asn Val Phe Ser Cys
 435 440 445

Ser Val Met His Glu Ala Leu His Asn His Tyr Thr Gln Lys Ser Leu
 450 455 460

Ser Leu Ser Pro Gly Lys
 465 470

<210> 2
 <211> 238
 <212> PRT
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <221> source
 <223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
 polypeptide"

<400> 2
 Met Gly Trp Ser Cys Ile Ile Leu Phe Leu Val Ala Thr Ala Thr Gly
 1 5 10 15

Val His Ser Asp Val Val Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Val
 20 25 30

Thr Pro Gly Glu Pro Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu
 35 40 45

Ala Lys Ser Tyr Gly Asn Thr Tyr Leu Ser Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro
 50 55 60

Gly Gln Ser Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Gly Ile Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser
 65 70 75 80

Gly Val Pro Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr
 85 90 95

Leu Lys Ile Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys
 100 105 110

Leu Gln Gly Thr His Gln Pro Tyr Thr Phe Gly Gln Gly Thr Lys Val
 115 120 125

Glu Ile Lys Arg Thr Val Ala Ala Pro Ser Val Phe Ile Phe Pro Pro
 130 135 140

Ser Asp Glu Gln Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Ala Ser Val Val Cys Leu Leu
 145 150 155 160

Asn Asn Phe Tyr Pro Arg Glu Ala Lys Val Gln Trp Lys Val Asp Asn
 165 170 175

Ala Leu Gln Ser Gly Asn Ser Gln Glu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Asp Ser
 180 185 190

Lys Asp Ser Thr Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Leu Ser Lys Ala
 195 200 205

Asp Tyr Glu Lys His Lys Val Tyr Ala Cys Glu Val Thr His Gln Gly
 210 215 220

Leu Ser Ser Pro Val Thr Lys Ser Phe Asn Arg Gly Glu Cys
 225 230 235

<210> 3

<211> 219

<212> PRT

<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>

<221> source

<223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic polypeptide"

<400> 3
 Asp Val Val Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Val Thr Pro Gly
 1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Ala Lys Ser
 20 25 30

Tyr Gly Asn Thr Tyr Leu Ser Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro Gly Gln Ser
 35 40 45

Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Gly Ile Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser Gly Val Pro
 50 55 60

Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr Leu Lys Ile
 65 70 75 80

Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys Leu Gln Gly
 85 90 95

Thr His Gln Pro Tyr Thr Phe Gly Gln Gly Thr Lys Val Glu Ile Lys
 100 105 110

Arg Ala Asp Ala Ala Pro Ser Val Phe Ile Phe Pro Pro Ser Asp Glu
 115 120 125

Gln Leu Lys Ser Gly Thr Ala Ser Val Val Cys Leu Leu Asn Asn Phe
 130 135 140

Tyr Pro Arg Glu Ala Lys Val Gln Trp Lys Val Asp Asn Ala Leu Gln
 145 150 155 160

Ser Gly Asn Ser Gln Glu Ser Val Thr Glu Gln Asp Ser Lys Asp Ser
 165 170 175

Thr Tyr Ser Leu Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Leu Ser Lys Ala Asp Tyr Glu
 180 185 190

Lys His Lys Val Tyr Ala Cys Glu Val Thr His Gln Gly Leu Ser Ser
 195 200 205

Pro Val Thr Lys Ser Phe Asn Arg Gly Glu Cys
 210 215

```

<210> 4
<211> 5
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<221> source
<223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
peptide"

<400> 4
Ser Tyr Trp Met His
1 5

<210> 5
<211> 17
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<221> source
<223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
peptide"

<400> 5
Glu Ile Asp Pro Ser Glu Ser Asn Thr Asn Tyr Asn Gln Lys Phe Lys
1 5 10 15

Gly

<210> 6
<211> 12
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<221> source
<223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
peptide"

<400> 6
Gly Gly Tyr Asp Gly Trp Asp Tyr Ala Ile Asp Tyr
1 5 10

<210> 7
<211> 16
<212> PRT
<213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
<221> source
<223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
peptide"

```

<400> 7
 Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Ala Lys Ser Tyr Gly Asn Thr Tyr Leu Ser
 1 5 10 15

<210> 8
 <211> 7
 <212> PRT
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <221> source
 <223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic peptide"

<400> 8
 Gly Ile Ser Asn Arg Phe Ser
 1 5

<210> 9
 <211> 9
 <212> PRT
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <221> source
 <223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic peptide"

<400> 9
 Leu Gln Gly Thr His Gln Pro Tyr Thr
 1 5

<210> 10
 <211> 111
 <212> PRT
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <221> source
 <223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic polypeptide"

<400> 10
 Asp Ile Val Met Thr Gln Ser Pro Leu Ser Leu Pro Val Thr Pro Gly
 1 5 10 15

Glu Pro Ala Ser Ile Ser Cys Arg Ser Ser Gln Ser Leu Leu His Ser
 20 25 30

Asn Gly Tyr Asn Tyr Leu Asp Trp Tyr Leu Gln Lys Pro Gly Gln Ser
 35 40 45

Pro Gln Leu Leu Ile Tyr Leu Gly Ser Asn Arg Ala Ser Gly Val Pro
 50 55 60

Asp Arg Phe Ser Gly Ser Gly Thr Asp Phe Thr Leu Lys Ile
 65 70 75 80

Ser Arg Val Glu Ala Glu Asp Val Gly Val Tyr Tyr Cys Met Gln Ala
 85 90 95

Leu Gln Thr Pro Gln Thr Phe Gly Gln Gly Lys Val Glu Ile Lys
 100 105 110

<210> 11
 <211> 119
 <212> PRT
 <213> Artificial Sequence

<220>
 <221> source
 <223> /note="Description of Artificial Sequence: Synthetic
 polypeptide"

<400> 11
 Gln Val Gln Leu Val Gln Ser Gly Ala Glu Val Lys Lys Pro Gly Ala
 1 5 10 15

Ser Val Lys Val Ser Cys Lys Ala Ser Gly Tyr Thr Phe Thr Ser Tyr
 20 25 30

Ala Met His Trp Val Arg Gln Ala Pro Gly Gln Arg Leu Glu Trp Met
 35 40 45

Gly Trp Ile Asn Ala Gly Asn Gly Asn Thr Lys Tyr Ser Gln Lys Phe
 50 55 60

Gln Gly Arg Val Thr Ile Thr Arg Asp Thr Ser Ala Ser Thr Ala Tyr
 65 70 75 80

Met Glu Leu Ser Ser Leu Arg Ser Glu Asp Thr Ala Val Tyr Tyr Cys
 85 90 95

Ala Arg Gly Gly Tyr Tyr Gly Ser Gly Ser Asn Tyr Trp Gly Gln Gly
 100 105 110

Thr Leu Val Thr Val Ser Ser
 115