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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Vikhyat Bebarta

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: The Geneva Foundation
Lakewood, WA 96499

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Characterization of the Human Proteomic Response to Hydrocodone: A Preliminary Study

Dr. Vikhyat Bebarta
E-Mail: vikhyat.bebarta@us.af.mil

The Geneva Foundation
Lakewood, WA  96499

U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
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Abstract on next page.
14. ABSTRACT
Non-medical use and abuse of prescription opioids is a growing problem in both the civilian and military communities. Current technologies for detecting hydrocodone use are limited. Standard drug screens do not detect hydrocodone. In order to detect the use of hydrocodone and prescription opioids for nontherapeutic purposes, it is vital to establish the excretion profile of these drugs. Currently there is no data available describing blood, urine and oral fluid profiles following administration of a 10 mg dose of hydrocodone. We will measure proteomes and metabolites in blood, oral fluid, and urine at defined intervals up to 7 days. We will include 2 subjects for control in the study giving a total of 32 participants.

15. SUBJECT TERMS
Proteomic, drug abuse, opioids, metabolites, and pharmacokinetic
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INTRODUCTION:
The purpose of the overall protocol is to study the metabolism and protein expression in the urine and blood of human subjects administered hydrocodone. An opioid is prescribed as a pain medication to the patient to minimize pain. Hydrocodone will be administered to healthy volunteers. Urine and blood will be collected prior to and following administration of the drug. The three separate biofluids will be analyzed for drug and metabolites and for changes in protein expression. Changes in protein expression will provide a general understanding of opioid exposure in future studies relating to opioid abuse.

BODY:
Phase 1 – Single Dose Administration
1. Institutional Review Board (IRB) application
   o IRB approved protocol, ICD, and HIPAA received in Q1. Annual Review submitted to IRB and study approved for another year, expires May 2013.
   o We have received IRB approval to increase enrollment from 32 to forty (40) Subjects.
     ▪ We are replacing four (4) Subjects who vomited on Day 1, two (2) Subjects we could not obtain blood from on Day 1, and two (2) subjects that signed the ICD but were excluded because they did not meet Inclusion/Exclusion criteria. See Table 1

2. Research Nurse coordinator
   o Research Nurse was hired in Q1, employed via the Geneva Foundation.

3. Lab technician
   o Lab technician was hired in Q1, employed via the Geneva Foundation.

Phase 2 – Patient recruitment
4. Drug Administration, biofluid sampling and PK Analysis
   o Thirty-five (35) Subjects have been enrolled. See Table 1 below
   o Recruitment and enrollment is on target.
   o We have received IRB approval to replace the four (4) Subjects who vomited on Day 1 after receiving study drug (Subjects 9, 10, 19, and 26).
   o We have received IRB approval to replace Subjects 29 and 31. These individuals were withdrawn from the study on Day 1 because we were unable to withdraw blood from them.
   o Last Subject should be completed in the 1st Quarter of 2012.
     ▪ Urine is being collected for up to 5 days following administration of hydrocodone.
     ▪ Blood is collected at specified time points throughout the first day then at 24, 48, 96, and 168 hour post dose.
     ▪ Samples are being stored refrigerated or frozen until analysis.
     ▪ Liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) method validations for analysis of hydrocodone and metabolites in urine and plasma using UCT Excel I solid phase extraction columns have been completed.
     ▪ Analysis of hydrocodone and metabolites in Subject plasma samples by LC/MS/MS has been completed for Subjects 1-34.
     ▪ Subject urine samples are stored frozen and will be analyzed following analysis of plasma samples.
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5. Proteomic analyses

- Analysis for drug and metabolites in plasma is underway. Sample sets 1-12 have been completed.
- 0.5 mL of selected time points for Subjects 1-12 plasma samples have been shipped and received by PNNL.
  - Preliminary metabolic analysis of the kinetics of hydrocodone and hydromorphone levels in the plasma post-treatment guided time point selection for proteomic LC-MS/MS analysis. Selected time points (pre-treatment, 1, 2, 4, 8, and 48 hours post-treatment) captured each subject’s baseline protein levels, the peak of drug levels (usually between the 2-8 hour time points), and a return to baseline levels upon metabolism of the drug.
- Pre-MS plasma sample processing at PNNL included depletion of high to moderately abundant plasma proteins using human IgY14 and IgY supermix immunoaffinity columns along with tryptic digestion and isolation of the subsequent peptides for LC-MS/MS analysis. Immunoaffinity depletion allows an increase in the dynamic range of detection and identification of less abundant proteins and potentially more subtle changes in the plasma proteome.
- All LC-MS analyses are complete. Total instrument analyses included: 12 subjects x 6 time points per subject x 2 technical duplicates = 144 datasets. Samples were analyzed on a hybrid high resolution and high mass accuracy LC-MS/MS platform (ThermoScientific LTQ Orbitrap Velos) which couples peptide identification (tandem MS data) with high resolution peak intensity data for quantification. The data has been processed via the AMT tag approach for label-free quantification of peptide abundance.
Currently, the 144 datasets are being analyzed to identify peptides/proteins which show statistically significant similarities and/or differences across the plasma proteome, within individuals and across time points, in response to hydrocodone administration.

6. Interpretation – results of PK and proteomic analyses will be evaluated to determine a signature of hydrocodone use and to validate LC-MS/MS approach.
   - Mass spectrometric analyses results:
     - Total combined number of unique peptides identified (in all datasets): 12,907 peptides.
     - Total combined number of unique proteins identified (in all datasets): 1,074 proteins.
     - Number of unique proteins identified per subject (in at least one sample): range 570-867 proteins, average 688 proteins.
   - Preliminary data analysis:
     - Initial review of the data demonstrates a subset of plasma proteins which potentially appear to respond temporally following hydrocodone administration, through either increased or decreased abundance at specific time points (see Figure 1 for example). The first priority of data analysis will be to identify such proteins of interest. Similarities and differences in protein responses of interest between subjects will then be determined.

Figure 1. Heat map of protein abundance data (651 proteins) from Subject 7 representing duplicate mass spectral analyses of 6 time points. Preliminary analyses revealed temporal responses to hydrocodone treatment at specific time points (see proteins in the cluster marked with an asterisk showing marked increase at 1 hour post-treatment). Such protein trends which correlate temporally with hydrocodone metabolism are of primary interest.
7. **PNNL-Proteomics:** Data products will include all protein identifications produced during the project for each sample, a list of putative markers for opioid use through time, and preliminary biological interpretation through the form of a manuscript.

8. **WHMC-Pharmacokinetic evaluation:** Data products will include metabolism, excretion, and pharmacokinetic profiles for each subject set, and interpretation through the form of a manuscript.

9. **Manuscript preparation and results dissemination**
   No publications to date.

**KEY RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**
- Enrollment is on target.
- Preliminary data analysis is ongoing.
- Mass spectrometric analyses.
- Analysis for drug and metabolites in plasma is underway.

**REPORTABLE OUTCOMES:**
There have been no manuscripts, abstracts, presentations, patents and licenses applied for and/or issued.

**CONCLUSION:**
In conclusion, we plan to complete enrollment in the first quarter of 2012 and continue analysis.

**REFERENCES:**


APPENDICES:
No appendices