

# What's different in PK of biologics?

**Stephan Glund**

*Clinical PK/PD, Boehringer Ingelheim, Biberach*

# Disclosure

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Full-time employee of Boehringer Ingelheim

# Agenda

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- General introduction
- Bioanalytical aspects
- Immunogenicity
- ADME of mABs
- Drug-drug interaction
- Other aspects
- Considerations for clinical development / study design
- Comparability

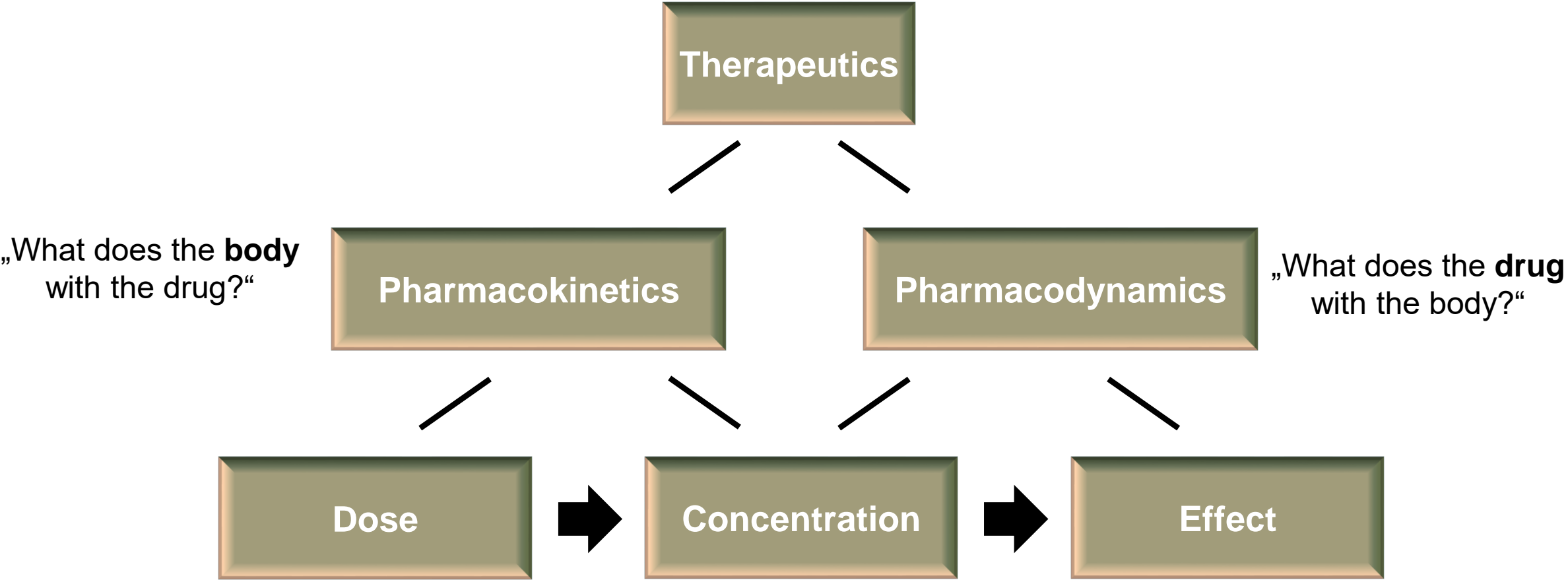
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# What's Pharmacokinetics/ Pharmacodynamics?



# *Biological*

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*Biopharmaceutical; NBE = New Biological Entity; Biologic(al) Medicinal Product; Therapeutic Protein*

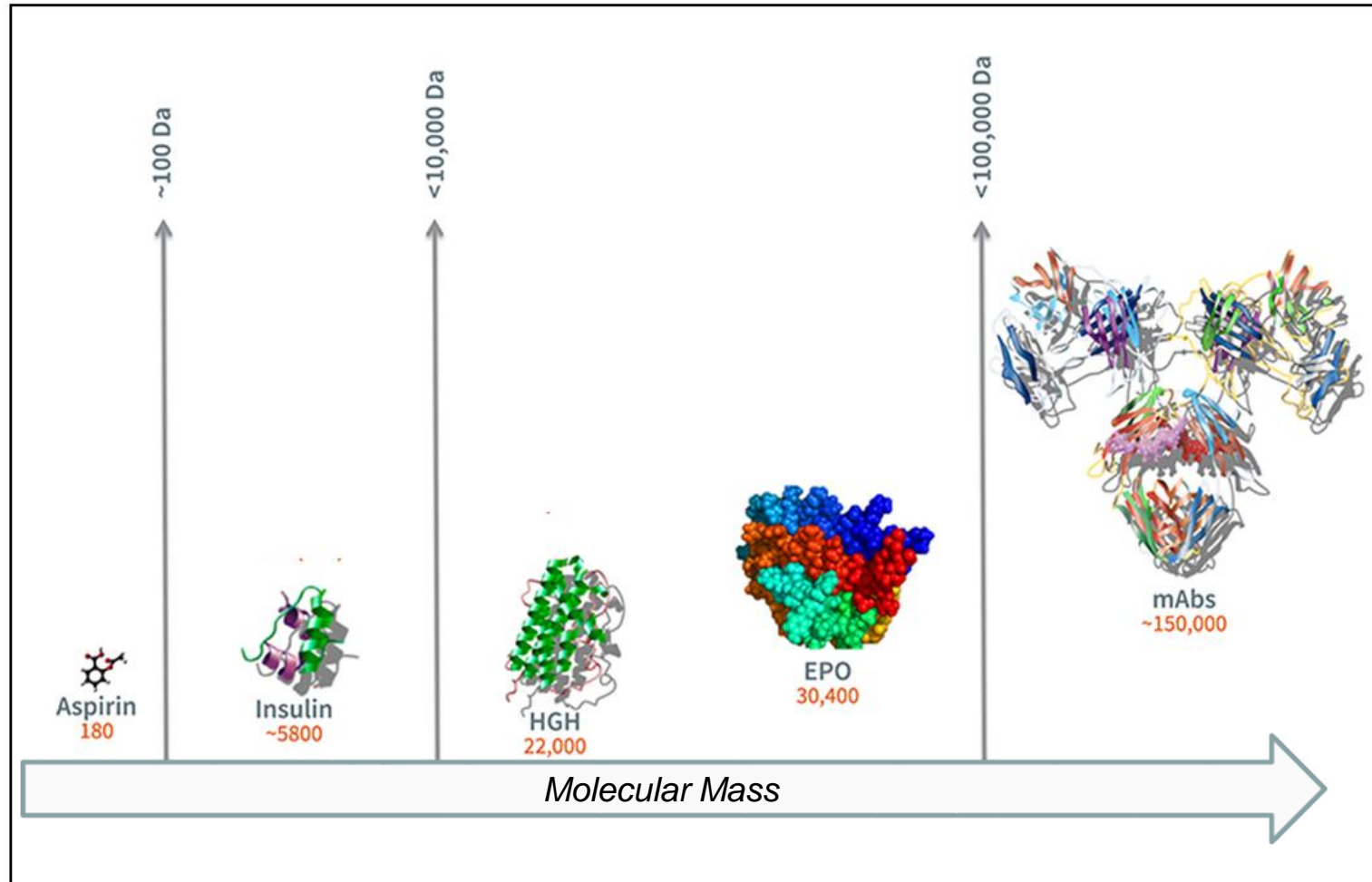
Any pharmaceutical drug product manufactured in, extracted from, or semisynthesized from biological sources.

Biologicals can be composed of sugars, proteins, or nucleic acids or complex combinations of these substances, or may be living cells or tissues.

## **Focus in this presentation:**

monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs) & Antibody fragments (Fabs)

# Biologics: size & complexity



# Comparison of Biologics and Small Molecules



|                         | <b>Small molecule drugs</b>   | <b>Biologics</b>  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Structure</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (relatively) simple and well-defined</li></ul>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complex (heterogeneous)</li></ul>   |
| <b>Manufacturing</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Defined chemical synthesis</li><li>• Identical copy can be made</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Produced in living cells</li><li>• Control of process challenging</li><li>• Identical copy not possible</li></ul> |
| <b>Characterization</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Product easy to characterize</li></ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete characterization not possible</li></ul>  |
| <b>Stability</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stable</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sensitive to external conditions (heat, light, agitation, ...)</li></ul>  |
| <b>Immunogenicity</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (Usually) not immunogenic</li></ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immunogenic</li></ul>   |

**Biologics are not just „big chemicals“!**



# Top 5 drugs by sales in 2018

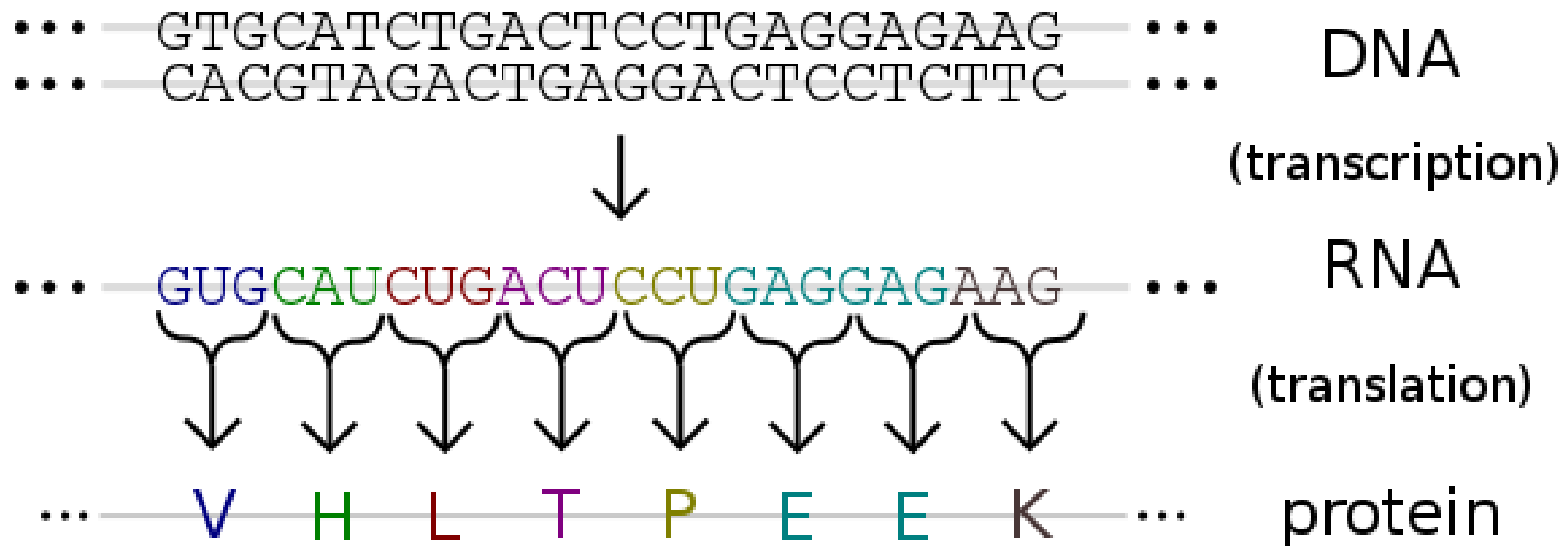
| Rank | Drug          | Trade name | Type           | Main indications     | Company     | Sales (B\$/year) |
|------|---------------|------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1    | Adalimumab    | Humira     | Biologic       | Rheumatoid arthritis | AbbVie Inc. | 19.9             |
| 2    | Lenalidomid   | Revlimid   | Small molecule | Multiple myeloma     | Celgene     | 9.7              |
| 3    | Pembrolizumab | Keytruda   | Biologic       | NSCLC                | Merck & Co. | 7.2              |
| 4    | Trastuzumab   | Herceptin  | Biologic       | Breast cancer        | Roche       | 7.1              |
| 5    | Bevacizumab   | Avastin    | Biologic       | Colorectal cancer    | Roche       | 7.0              |

Major kinds of biopharmaceuticals include:

*Blood factors, thrombolytic agents, hormones, haematopoietic growth factors, interferons, interleukins, vaccines, mAbs*

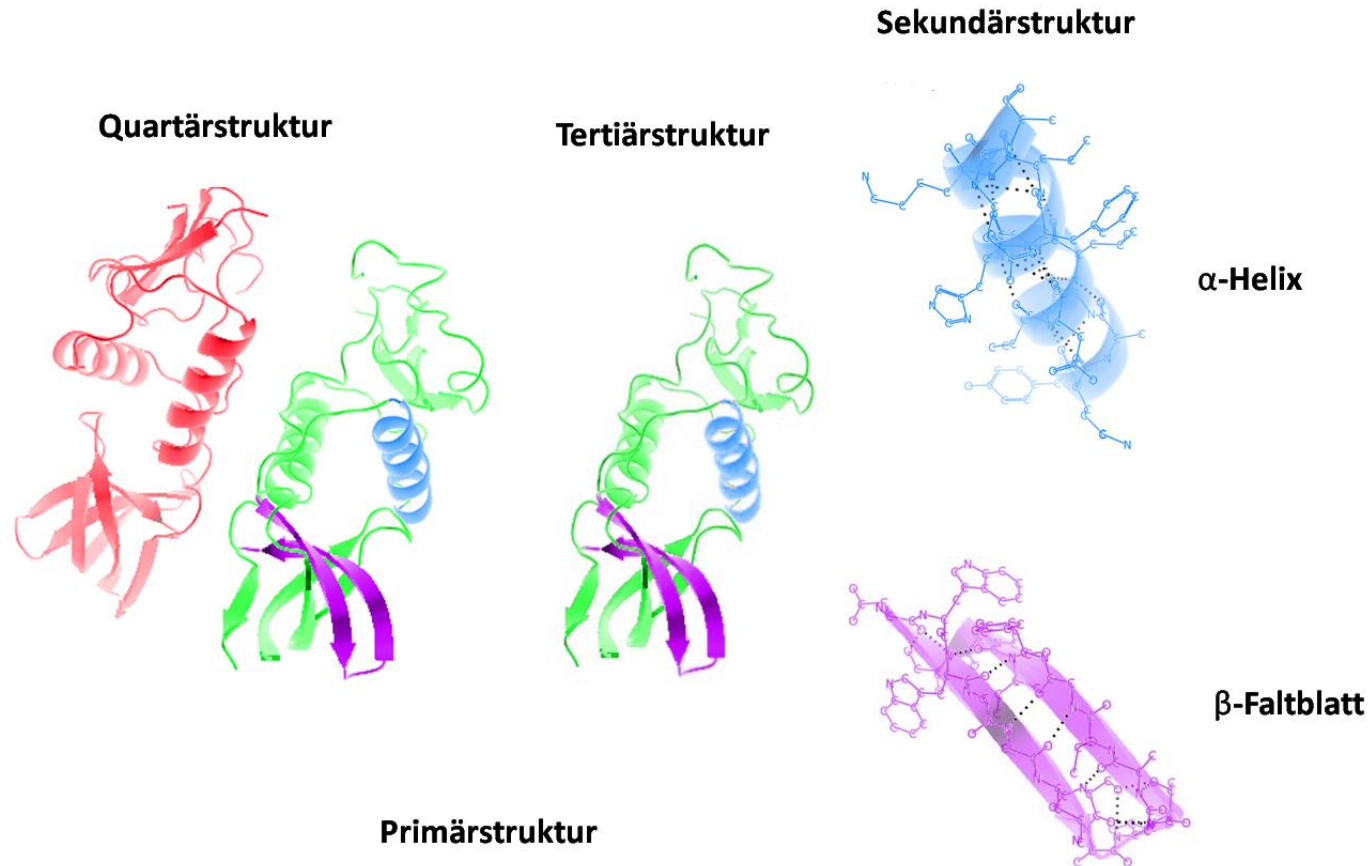
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41573-019-00049-0>

# Protein biosynthesis



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protein#/media/File:Genetic\\_code.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protein#/media/File:Genetic_code.svg)

# Protein structure



Tyr-Lys- Ala-Ala-Val-Asp-Leu-Ser-His-Phe-Leu-Lys-Glu-Lys  
Asp-Trp-Trp-Glu-Ala-Arg-Ser-Leu-Thr-Thr-Gly-Glu-Thr-Gly-Tyr-Pro-Ser

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/20/Protein-Struktur.png>

# Posttranslational modification



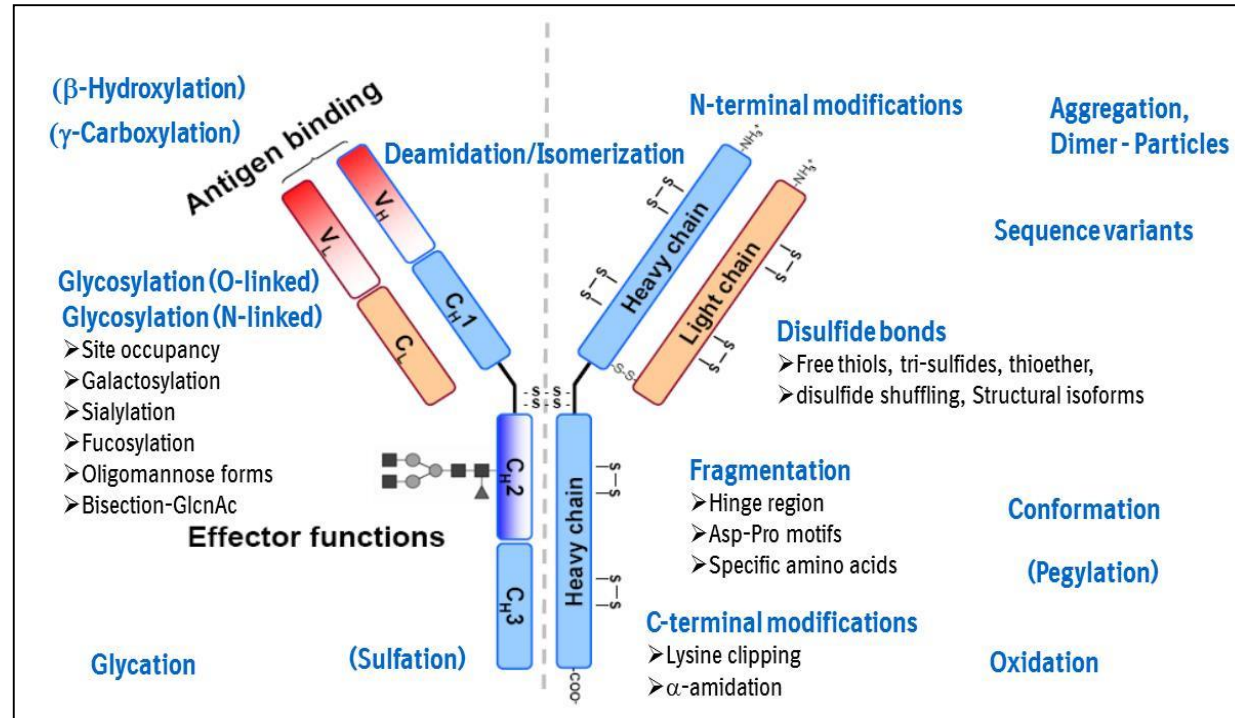
- Refers to the covalent and generally enzymatic modification of proteins following protein biosynthesis
- These modifications are important components, e.g., in cell signaling

Most common modifications include:

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Phosphorylation             |
| Acetylation                 |
| N-linked glycosylation      |
| Amidation                   |
| Hydroxylation               |
| Methylation                 |
| O-linked glycosylation      |
| Ubiquitylation              |
| Pyrrolidone Carboxylic Acid |

Khoury, G. A., et al. Proteome-wide post-translational modification statistics: frequency analysis and curation of the swiss-prot database. *Sci. Rep.* 1, 90; DOI:10.1038/srep00090 (2011).

# Micro-Heterogeneity

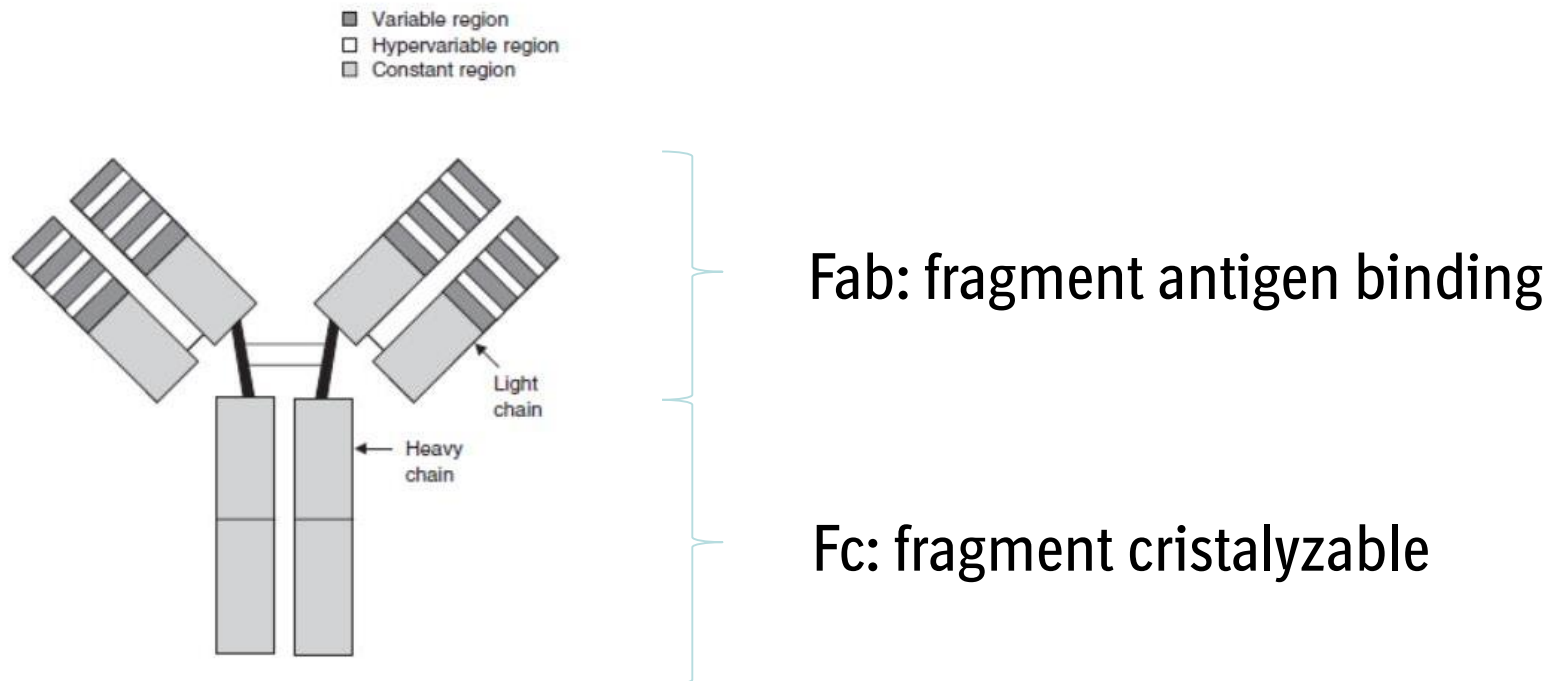


**Micro-heterogeneity of mAbs: >10<sup>8</sup> potential molecular variants**

**The process determines the product**

# Antibody / Fab - structure

- Antibodies (=Immunoglobulins; Ig), are large proteins (~150kDa)
- Important role in immune response
- There are 5 Ig isotypes (IgG, IgM, IgD, IgE, IgA) differentiated by types of Ig heavy chains. **All approved antibody drugs so far are IgGs.**



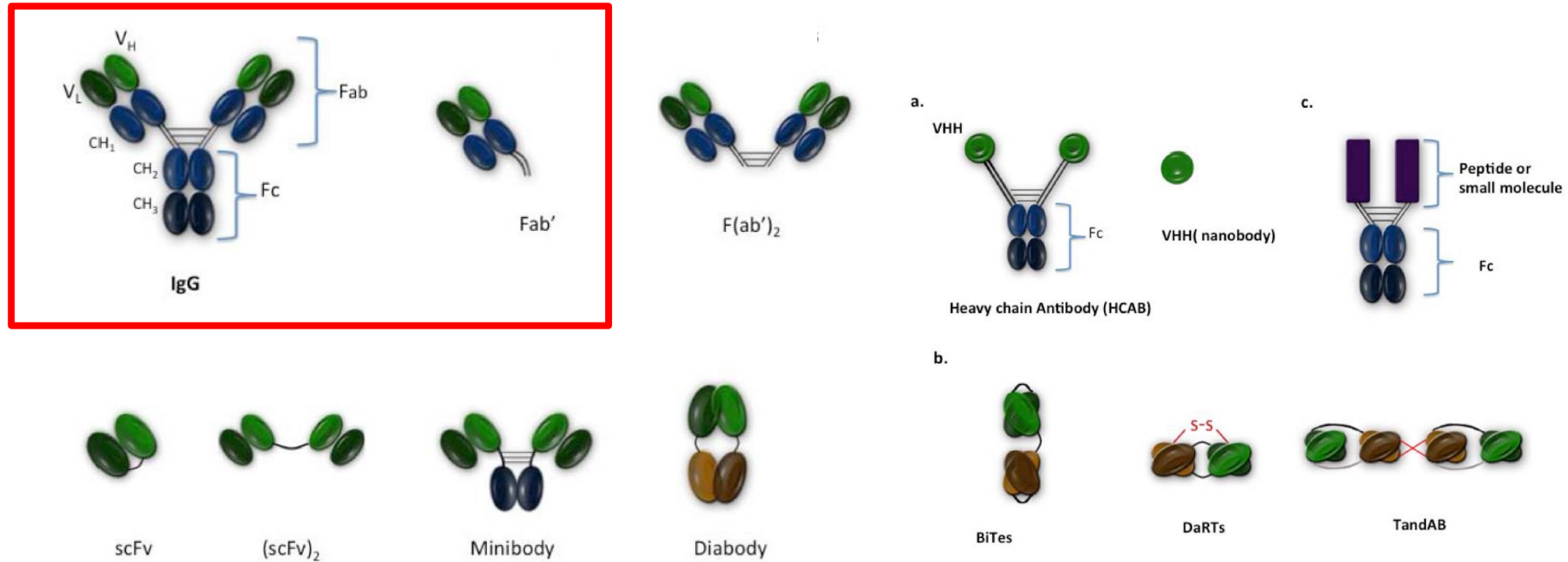
# Properties of Ig classes

**TABLE 2.** *Physical, chemical, and biological properties of human heavy chain immunoglobulin classes*

| Property                               | IgM  | IgD                                | IgG                                    | IgA                           | IgE                                  |
|--|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Molecular form                         | Pentamer, hexamer                              | Monomer                            | Monomer                                | Monomer, dimer                | Monomer                              |
| Number of C region domains             | 4  | 3                                  | 3                                      | 3                             | 4                                    |
| Tailpiece                              | +  | -                                  | -                                      | +                             | -                                    |
| Accessory chains                       | J chain, SC                                    | None                               | None                                   | J chain, SC                   | None                                 |
| Subclasses                             | None   | None                               | G1,G2,G3,G4                            | A1,A2                         | None                                 |
| Molecular weight                       | 950 kD, 1150 kD                                | 175 kD                             | 150 kD                                 | 160 kD, 400 kD                | 190 kD                               |
| Carbohydrate content (%)               | 10   | 9                                  | 3                                      | 7                             | 13                                   |
| Percentage of total serum Ig           | 5–10%  | 0.3%                               | 75–85%                                 | 7–15%                         | 0.02%                                |
| Average adult free serum level (mg/ml) | 0.7–1.7  | 0.04                               | 9.5–12.5                               | 1.5–2.6                       | 0.0003                               |
| Synthesis rate (mg/kg/d)               | 7  | 0.4                                | 33                                     | 65                            | 0.016                                |
| Serum half-life (d)                    | 5  | 3                                  | 23                                     | 6                             | 2.5                                  |
| Antibody valence                       | 10, 12   | 2                                  | 2                                      | 2, 4                          | 2                                    |
| Bacterial lysis                        | +  | ?                                  | +                                      | +++                           | ?                                    |
| Placental transfer                     | -  | -                                  | +                                      | -                             | -                                    |
| Mast cell/basophil binding             | -  | -                                  | -                                      | -                             | +                                    |
| Macrophage binding                     | -  | -                                  | +                                      | +                             | -                                    |
| Classical complement activation        | ++   | -                                  | +                                      | -                             | -                                    |
| Alternate complement activation        | -  | +                                  | +                                      | A1+,A2-                       | -                                    |
| Other biological properties            | Primary Ab responses; Secretory immunoglobulin | Unknown; Useful as a B cell marker | Hallmark of secondary immune responses | Main secretory immunoglobulin | Allergic and anti-parasite responses |

*Frazer and Capra: Fundamental Immunology, 1999  
Chapter 3: Immunology: Structure and Function*

# NBE complexity – protein/peptide constructs



- Large variety of new concepts/constructs
- Each construct is associated with specific PK/PD properties
- *Focus on mAb and Fab*



# Modes of Action

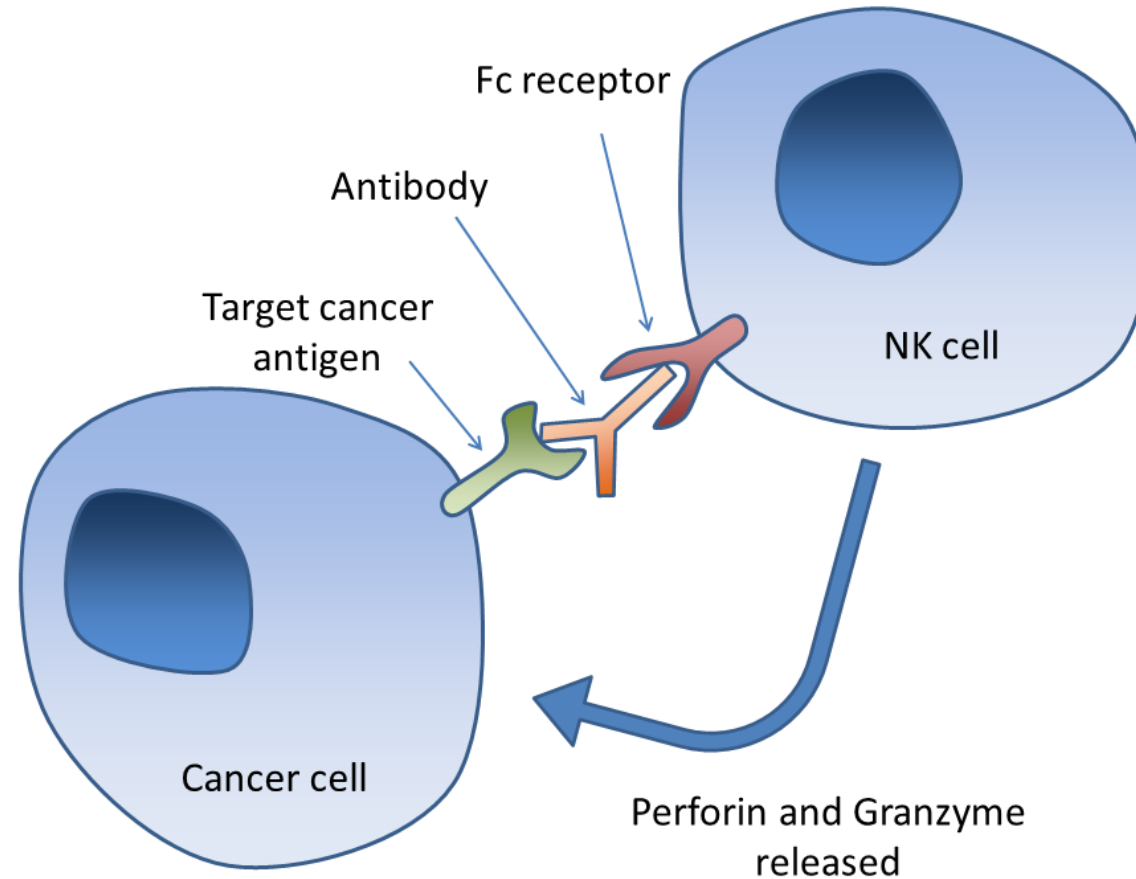
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Due to their high selectivity and affinity for the drug target, therapeutic mAbs are considered to be very close to the concept of a „magic bullet“ postulated by Paul Ehrlich in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

- Blockage of interaction by binding to ligand or receptor
- Antibody-Dependent Cellular Cytotoxicity (ADCC)
- Complement-Dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC)
- Conjugated mAbs
- T-cell engagers

# Antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC)



# Modes of Action

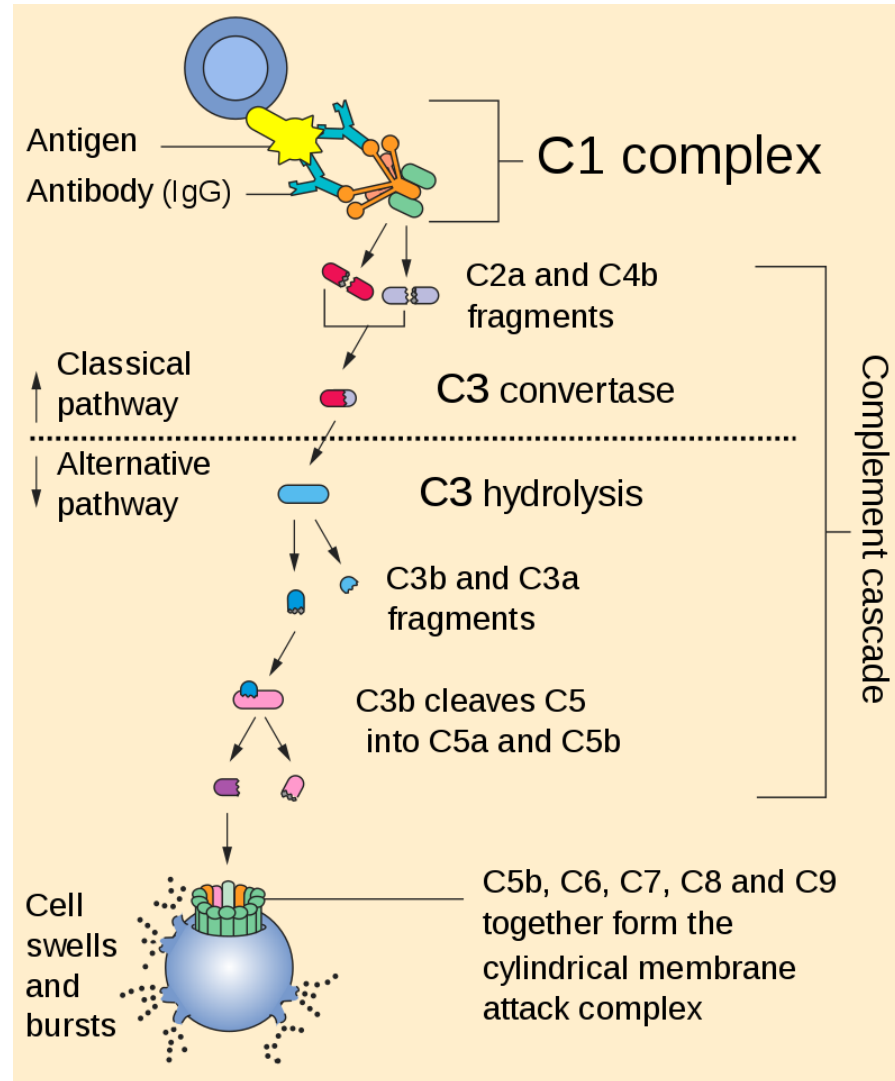
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# Complement-Dependent Cytotoxicity (CDC)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical\\_complement\\_pathway#/media/File:Complement\\_pathway.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_complement_pathway#/media/File:Complement_pathway.svg)

# Modes of Action

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# Agenda

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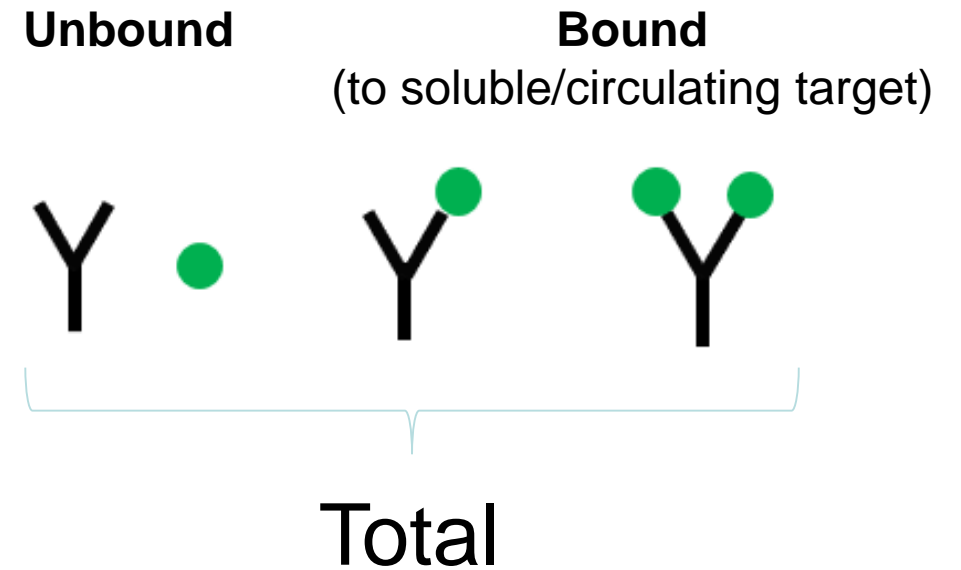


- General introduction
- **Bioanalytical aspects**
- **Immunogenicity**
- ADME of mABs
- Drug-drug interaction
- Other aspects (e.g. thorough QT)
- Considerations for clinical development / study design
- Comparability

# Bioanalytical Aspects



- Which analyte/species is/should be detected?
- What is the influence of target concentration?
  - Healthy vs. patient
  - In patients with different diseases
  - Bispecific antibodies?



● Target

# Bioanalytical Aspects (cont'ed)

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- What assay format should be used (e.g., ELISA, Bioassay, LC-MS)
- Determination in complex matrices (e.g., plasma, whole blood, urine)
  - Stability of analyte in matrix, specificity, accuracy, precision, lower and upper limit of quantification, limit of detection, concentration-response relationship, dilution linearity ...*
- Interference by anti-drug antibodies (ADA)?
- Interference by endogenous protein?
- Other interferences (e.g. degradation products)?

Sound bioanalytics are basis for successful pharmacokinetic analysis



# Immunogenicity

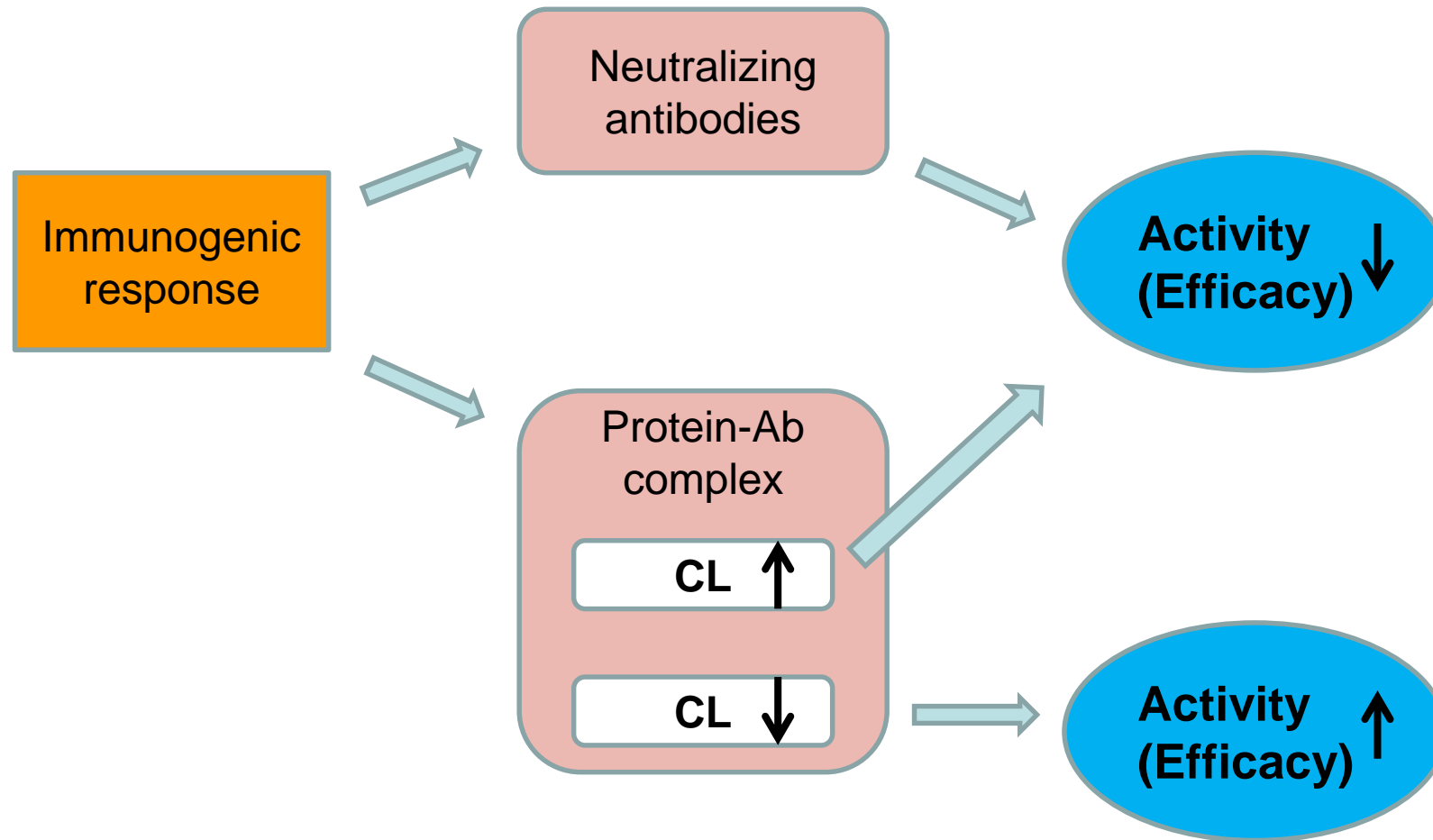
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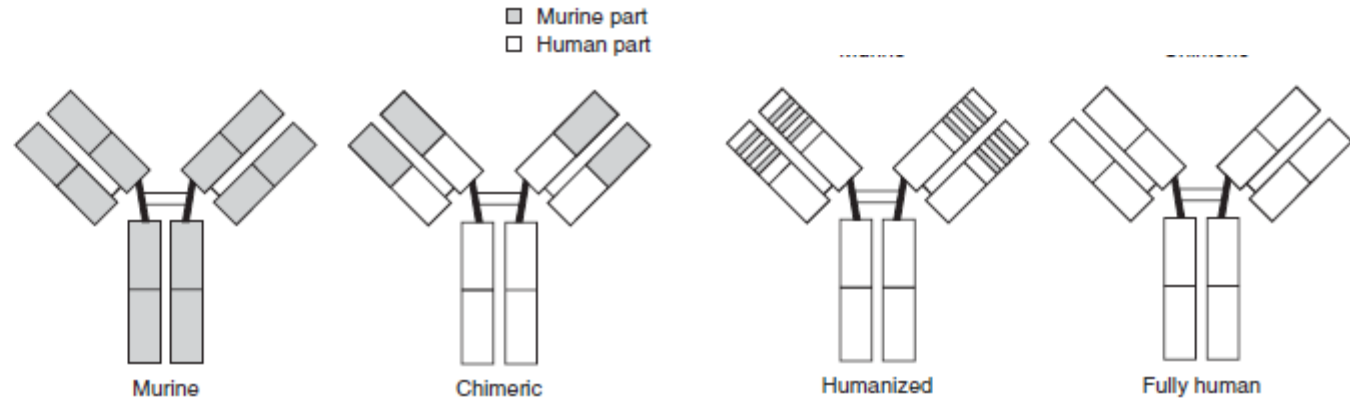
- A biologic can be an antigen itself and induce anti-drug antibody (ADA) in treated patients
  - All biological agents are (potentially) immunogenic
  - 25% out of 33 approved products by FDA in 2010 developed ADA<sup>1</sup>
  - Results are assay-dependent, not directly comparable between products
    - With method improvements, assay sensitivities improve -> *apparent* overall increase in prevalence of ADAs
- ADA might cause
  - Altered PK/PD with impact on efficacy (next slide)
  - Safety issues, incl.:
    - Infusion reaction
    - Anaphylaxis
    - Life threatening auto-immunity
  - “Nothing” (= no clinical impact detectable)

<sup>1</sup>Baker, M.P., *Self Nonself*, 1 (4), 314-322 (2010)

# Possible effects of ADAs on PK/PD



# Immunogenicity



„-momab“

Ibritumomab  
Muromomab

„-ximab“

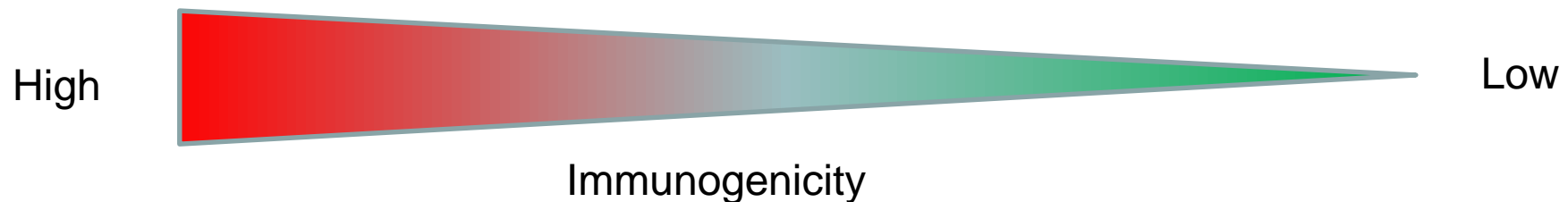
Rituximab  
Infliximab

„-zumab“

Bevacizumab  
Trastuzumab

„-mumab“

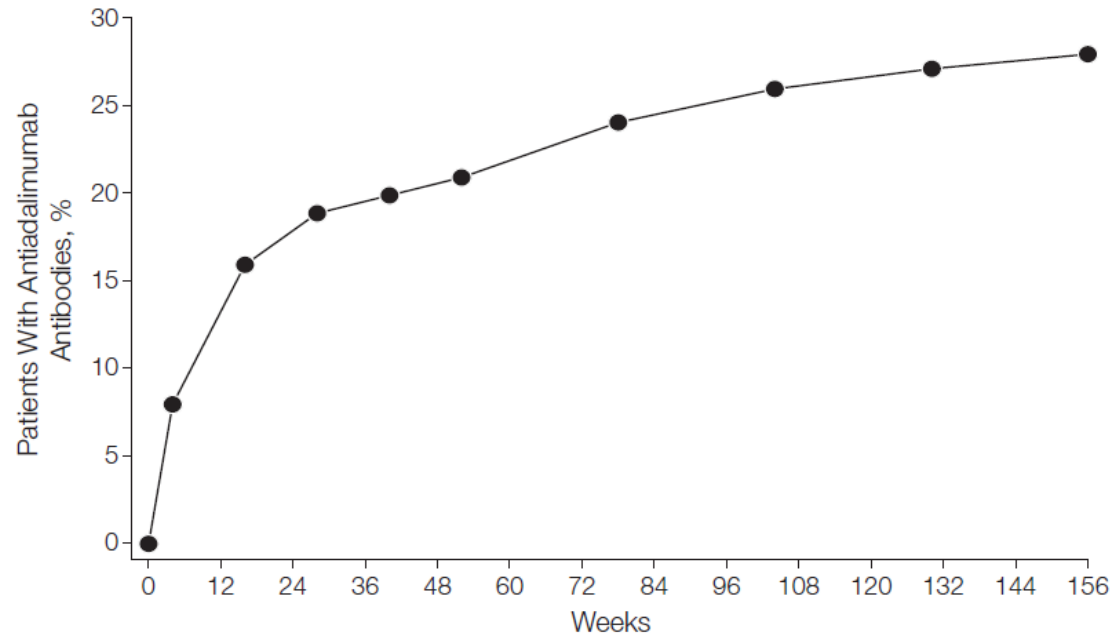
Adalimumab  
Panitumomab



# Example Adalimumab



**Figure 1.** Percentage of Antiadalimumab Development Over Time



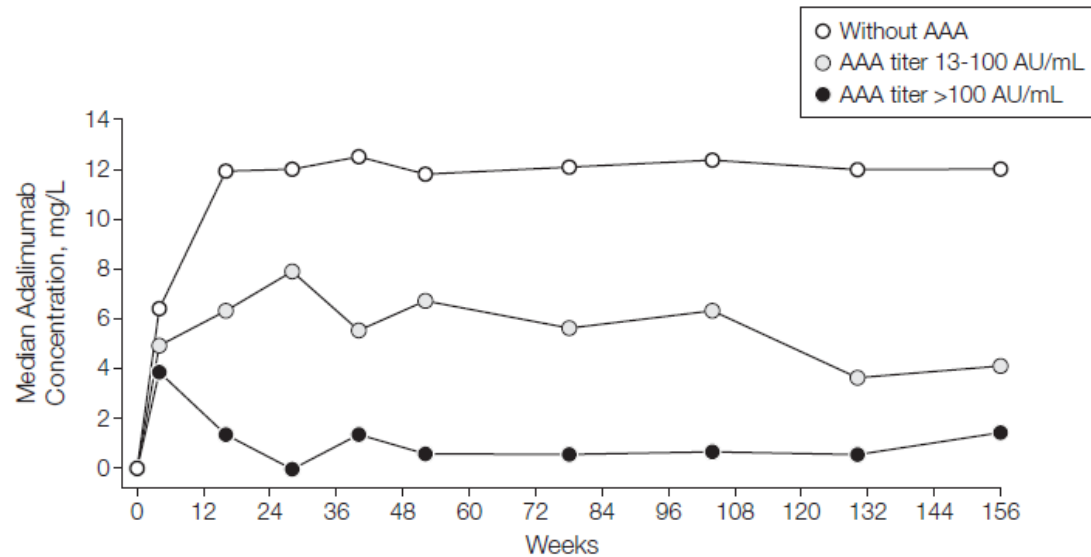
| Week            | 0   | 4   | 16  | 28  | 40  | 52  | 78  | 104 | 130 | 156 |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of patients | 272 | 261 | 247 | 228 | 201 | 192 | 175 | 156 | 137 | 118 |

Number of patients with available serum samples are shown.

# Example Adalimumab

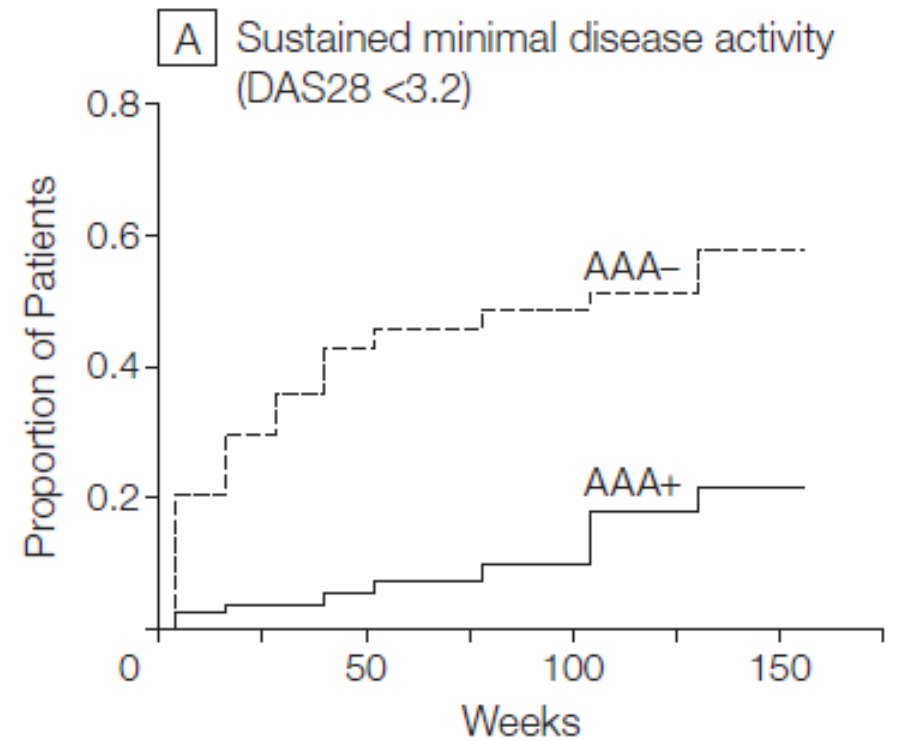


**Figure 2.** Median Adalimumab Concentrations Over Time



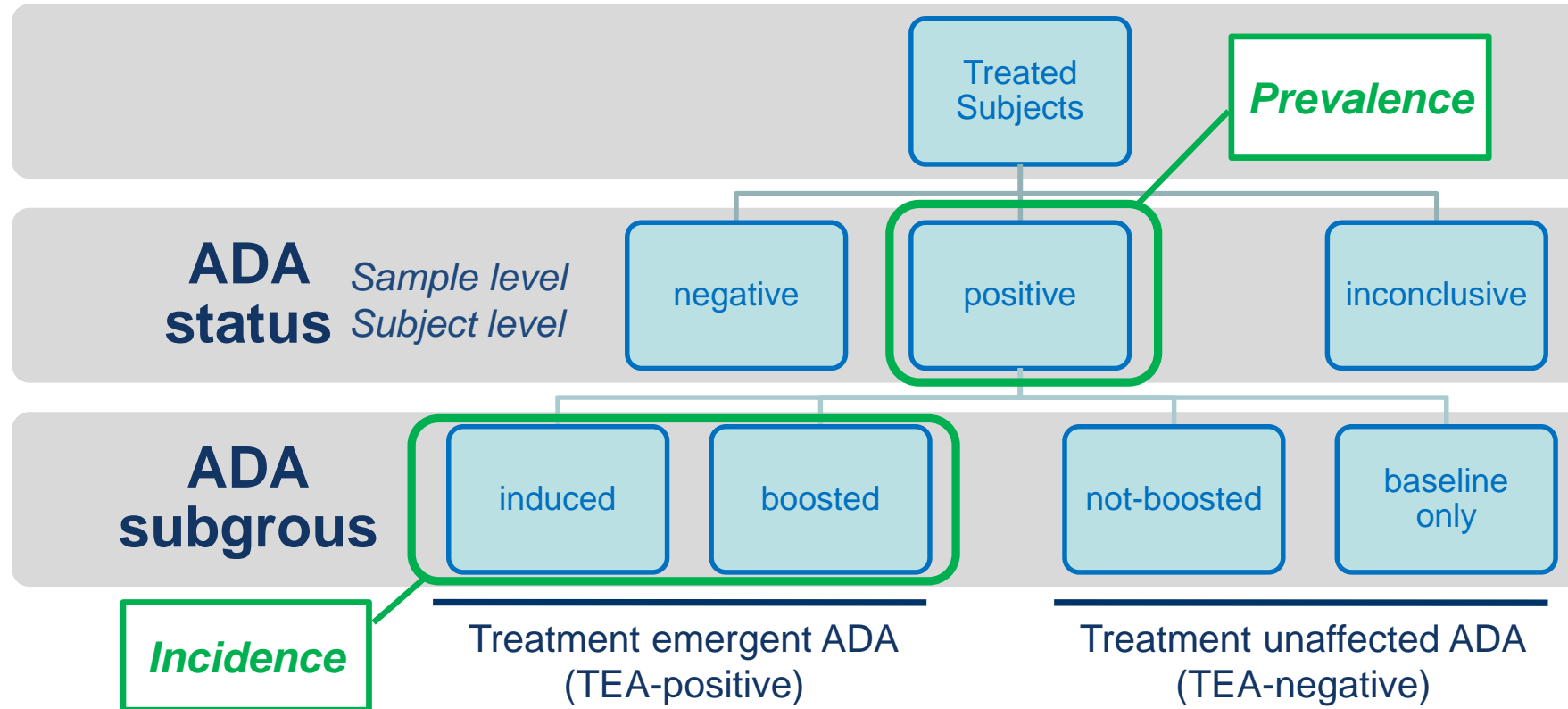
| Week             | 0   | 4   | 16  | 28  | 40  | 52  | 78  | 104 | 130 | 156 |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of patients  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Without AAA      | 196 | 187 | 177 | 164 | 145 | 139 | 131 | 118 | 107 | 93  |
| AAA 13-100 AU/ml | 45  | 43  | 42  | 37  | 34  | 34  | 28  | 24  | 19  | 17  |
| AAA >100 AU/ml   | 31  | 31  | 28  | 27  | 22  | 19  | 16  | 14  | 11  | 8   |

## Sustained Minimal Disease Activity in patients with and without ADAs



JAMA. 2011 Apr 13;305(14):1460-8

# Determination of ADA response



*Titer distribution, neutralization potential, time course, persistence ...*

## Clinical Impact

Based on:  
The AAPS Journal  
Vol. 16, No. 4, July 2014

# Agenda

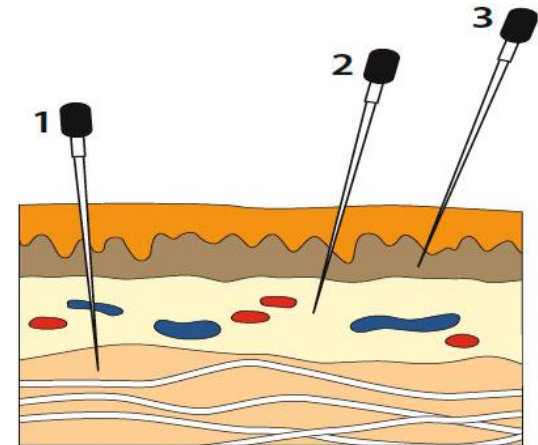
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## Absorption

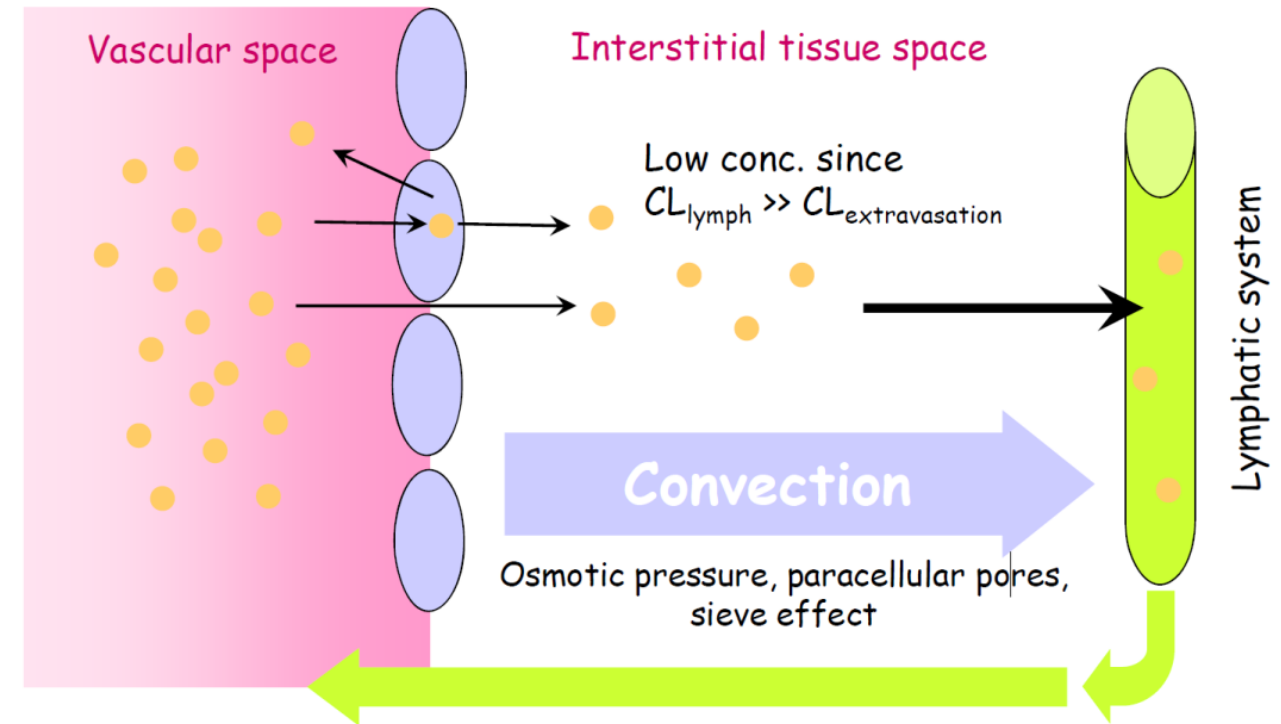
- Administered usually i.v., s.c. or i.m.  
Low-to-no bioavailability when administered orally
- Bioavailability (s.c./i.m.) is generally high (40-100%); limited volume
- Absorbed via lymphatic system
- Absorption is a slow process;  
Tmax: 1-8 days after s.c. or i.m.





## Distribution

- Limited due to usually large Molecular Weight; low volume of distribution
- Distribution mainly driven by convection (compared to diffusion for small molecules)
- Endocytosis (large surface of endothelial cells of blood vessels!)



Meibohm, B.: *Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of peptides and protein therapeutics; Pharmaceutical Biotechnology: Fundamentals and Applications; Springer-Verlag New York Inc. 2013*

# Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion

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## Typical elimination for mABs:

- Non-specific elimination pathway
- Specific elimination pathway

# Elimination (1): Non-Specific Pathway

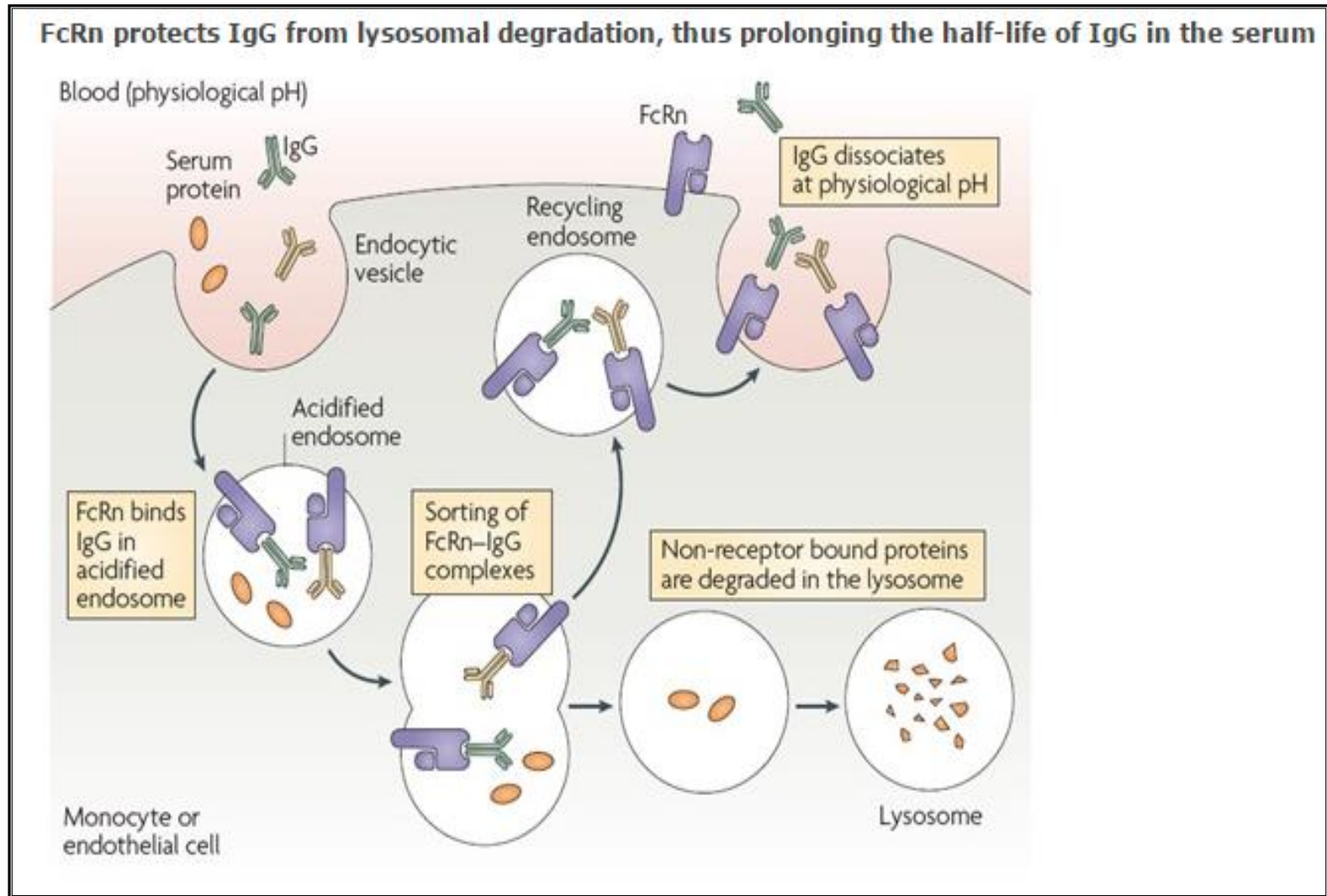
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The primary route of elimination for larger proteins (e.g. mAbs) is cellular uptake followed by proteolytic degradation

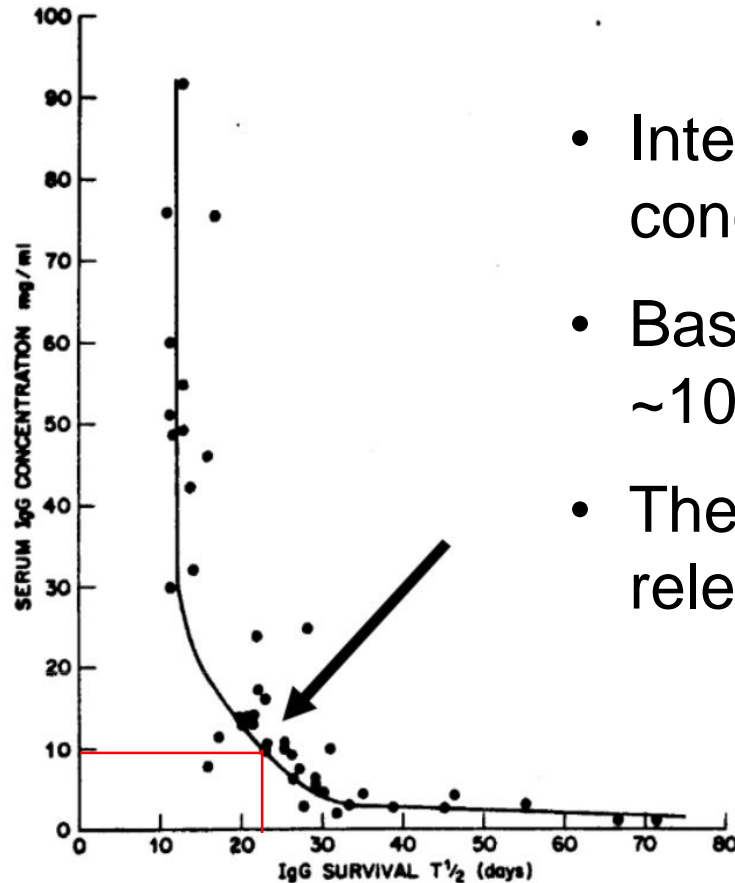
- Interaction with FcRn (neonatal Fc receptor) **protects** IgG from lysosomal degradation
- Usually linear (FcRn not saturated)

# FcRn Protection



Roopenian and Akilesh. *Nature Reviews Immunology* 2007; 7: 715

# FcRn and PK variability

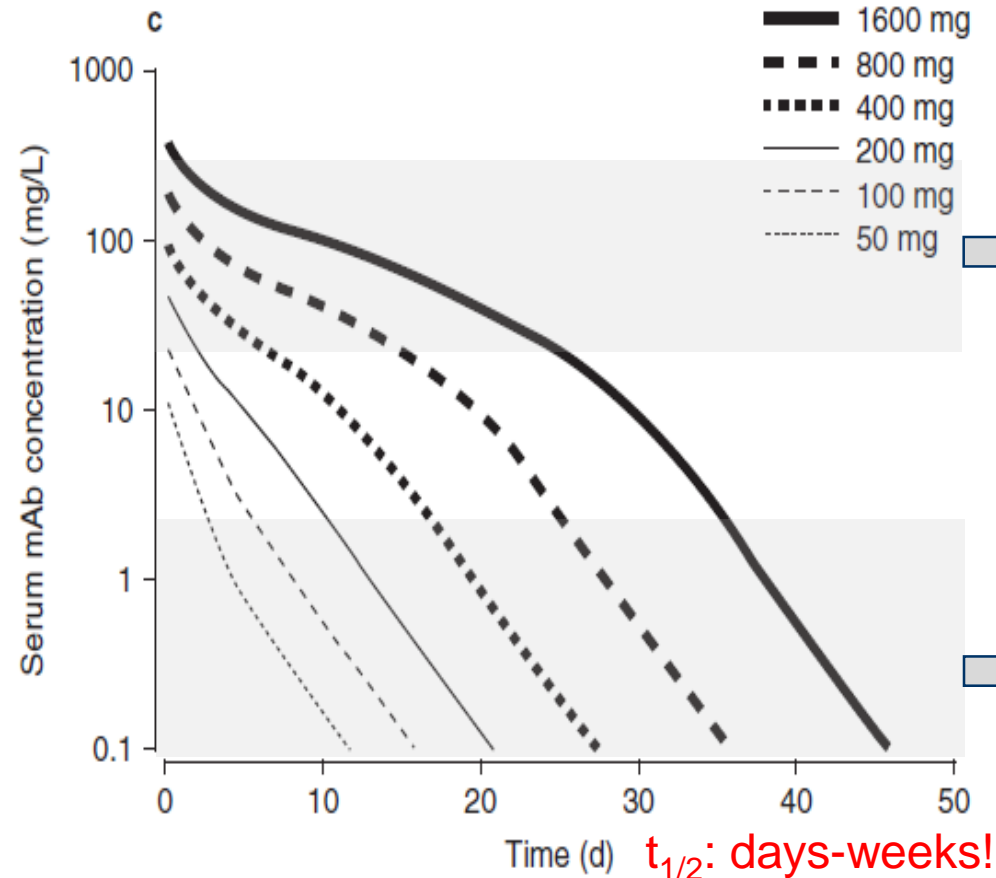


- Interpatient variability in baseline concentration may lead to variability in PK
- Baseline IgG concentration ~10 mg/mL
- Therapeutic doses of mAb usually do not relevantly affect IgG concentration

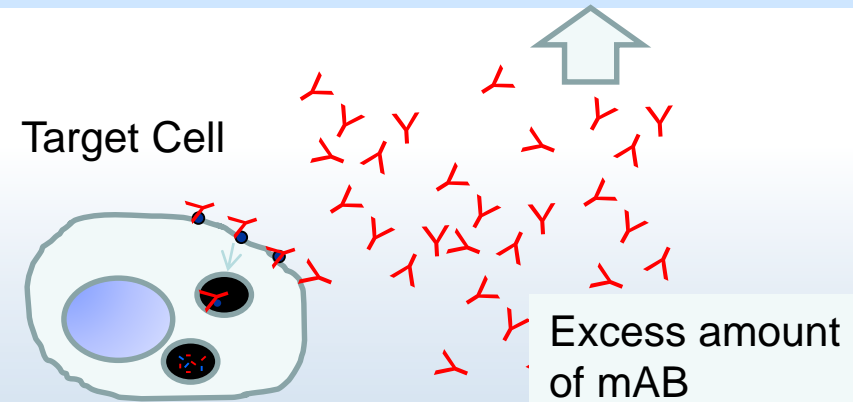
Fig. 8. The relationship between the survival T<sub>1/2</sub> of IgG and the serum IgG concentration obtained from turnover studies performed in patients with a wide range of IgG concentrations.

# Elimination (2): Specific pathway: Target-mediated drug disposition

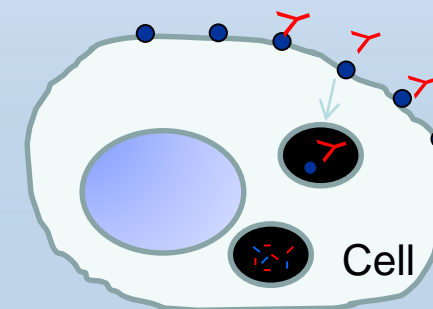
PK highly dependent on amount of target and dose



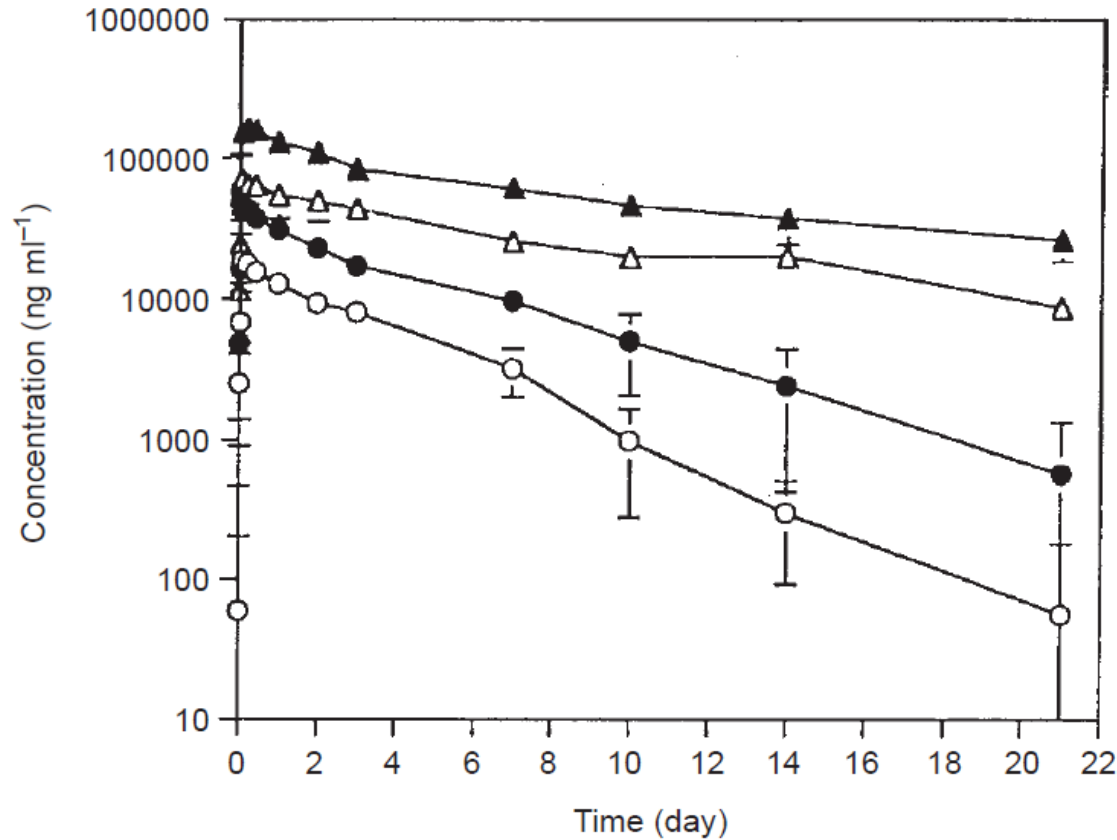
Non-specific (linear) elimination



Target mediated (specific) elimination



# Example: anti-HER2 mAb



**Figure 1** Serum concentration-time profiles of MKC-454 after first administration. The values of serum concentration at a dose level of 1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (open circle), 2 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (closed circle), 4 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (open triangle), or 8 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (closed triangle) represent mean ± s.d.

| Dose [mg/kg] | CL [ml/day/kg] |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1            | 14.1           |
| 2            | 11.1           |
| 4            | 6.4            |
| 8            | 5.6            |

$$CL = \frac{\text{Dose}}{\text{AUC}}$$

**Dose escalation and pharmacokinetic study of a humanized anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody in patients with HER2/neu-overexpressing metastatic breast cancer**

*British Journal of Cancer (1999) 81(8), 1419–1425*

# Elimination: Impact of target location

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## Target on cell membrane

- Receptor-mediated endocytosis followed by degradation
- Variable target expression
- Both linear and non-linear pathway involved

## Soluble target

- Generally low target expression
- Often unspecific (linear) pathway dominant
- Antibody:target complex may be cleared via elimination pathway of target
- Example: FG-3019, a mAb against connective tissue growth factor



# Biologicals vs. Small Molecules

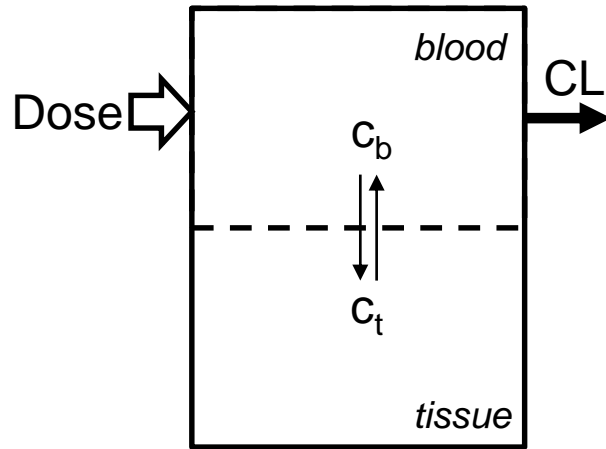
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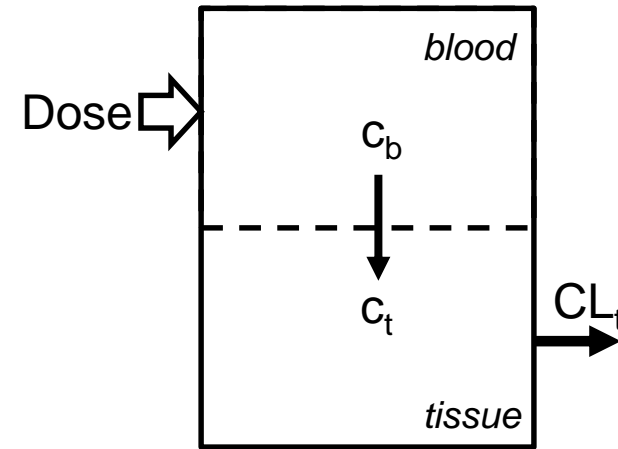
- Due to the significant target-mediated clearance at the site of action, concentrations of biologics at the site of action are not simply related to plasma concentrations of unbound drug
  - The drug concentration at the site of action often are dependent on access to tissue (blood perfusion, vascular porosity) as well as target expression and turnover
- > These often show high variability
- Between species (i.e. animal vs. humans)
  - Between patients
  - Within patients (e.g. targets expressed in different sites)

# Effect of tissue metabolism on $V_{ss}$

(Most) small molecule drugs



(Many) mAbs

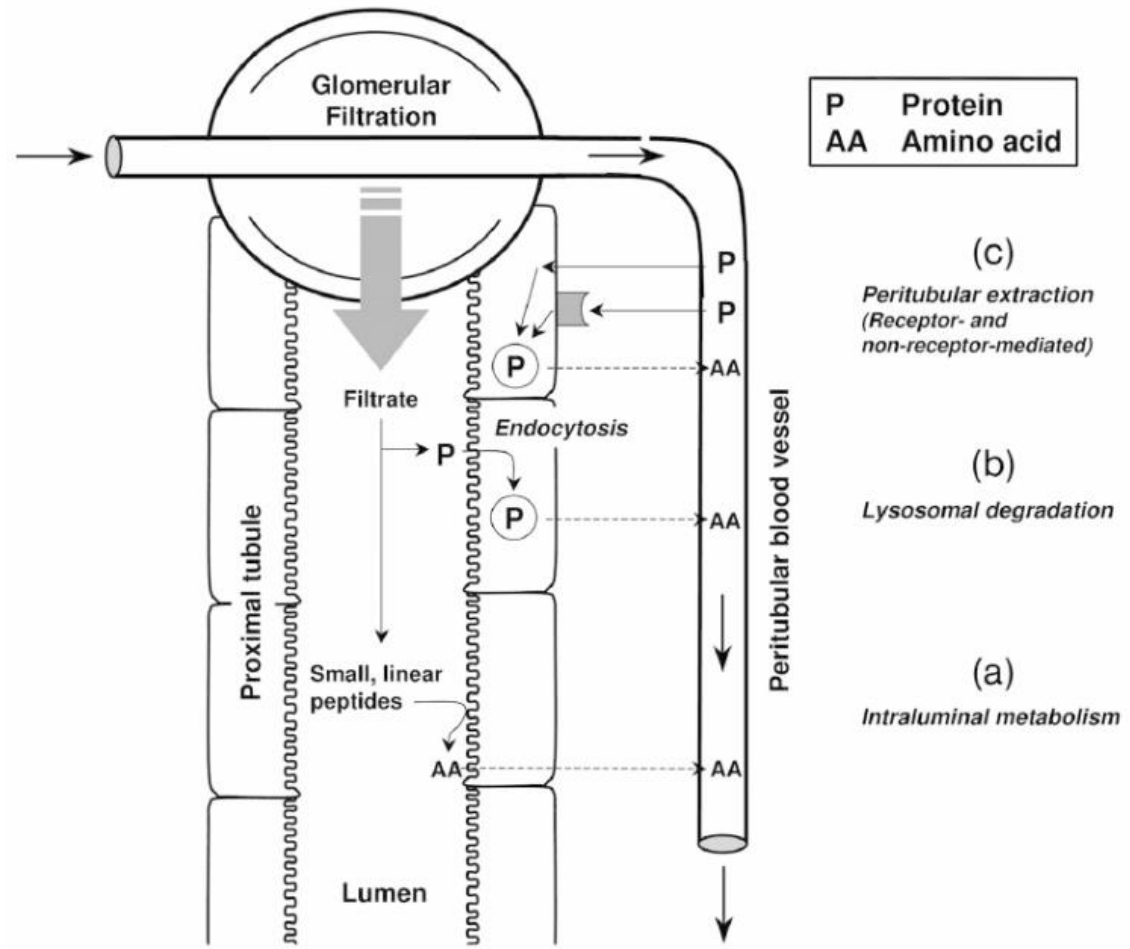


- Assumptions for non-compartmental analysis:  
Linear PK & rapid equilibrium between blood and tissues
- This is not true for many mAbs
- NCA calculations for  $V_{ss}$  may underestimate the drug's true distribution
- Consider modelling approaches

# Absorption, Distribution, Metabolism, Excretion

## Renal elimination/ excretion:

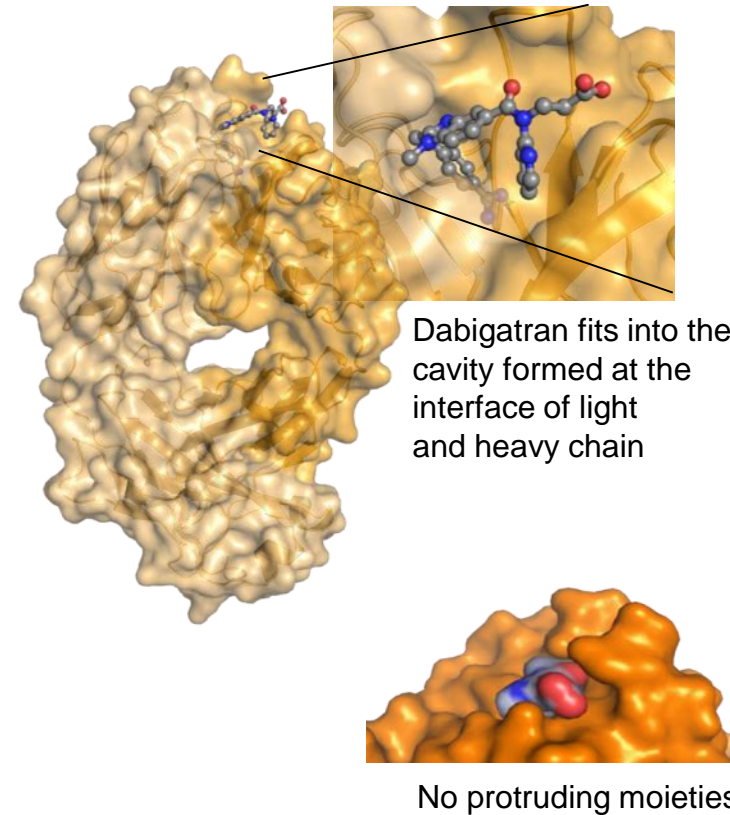
- Only relevant for proteins with MW <~60kDa  
-> NOT for mAb
- Usually glomerular filtration rate-limiting step
- Examples
  - a) angiotensin I and II; glucagon
  - b) growth hormone, insulin, **idarucizumab**
  - c) insulin



Meibohm, PK/PD of Biotech Drugs, Wiley 2012

# Rationale for Anti-Dabigatran Fab Approach

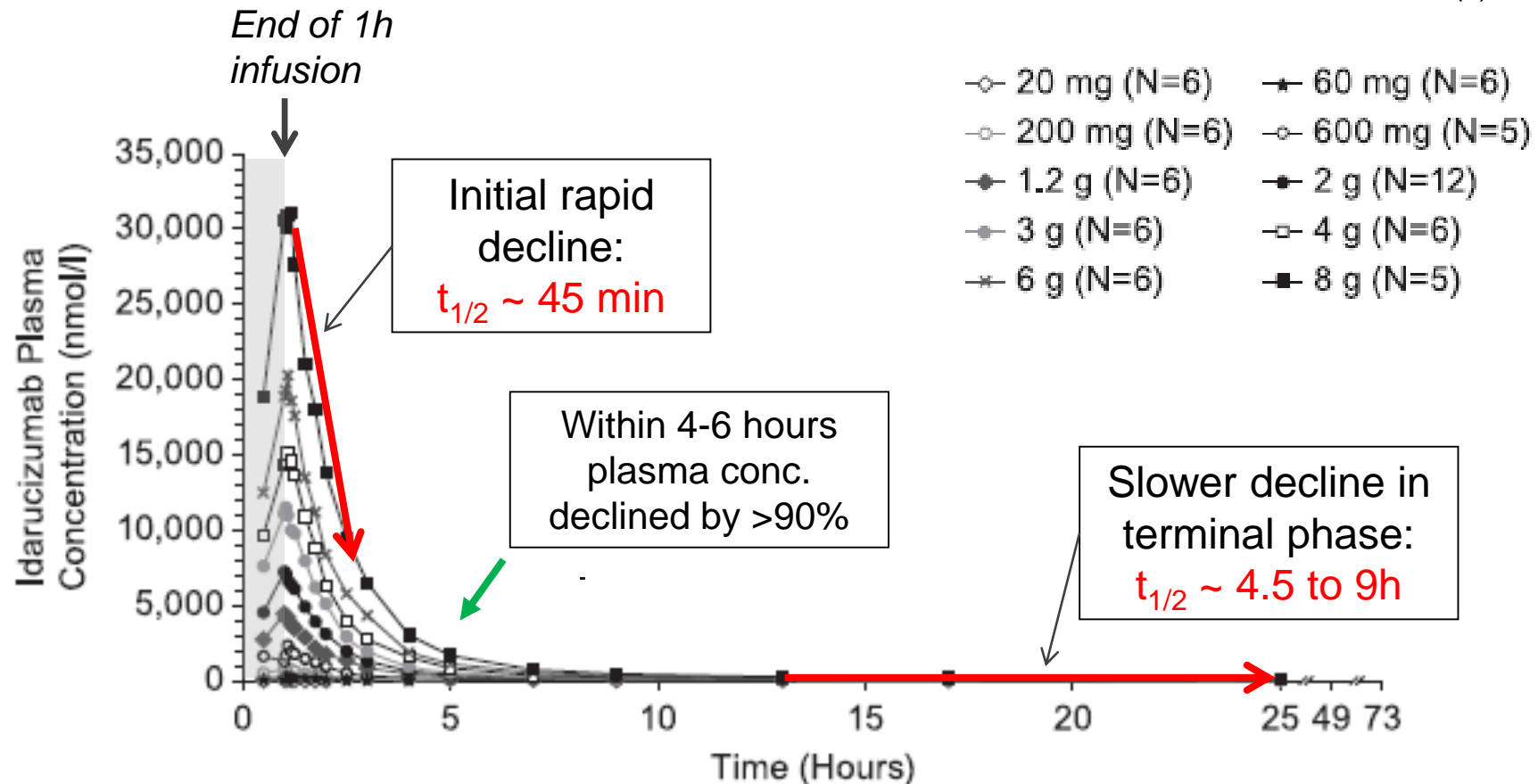
- Safe restoration of coagulation:
  - High binding affinity
  - High specificity
    - Off-target binding is not expected
    - No activated coagulation expected
  - Shorter half life than full mAb
- Easy and rapid administration:
  - Intravenous, immediate onset of action
- Low risk of adverse reactions:
  - Humanized
  - No Fc receptor binding



Blood 121:3554-3562, 2013

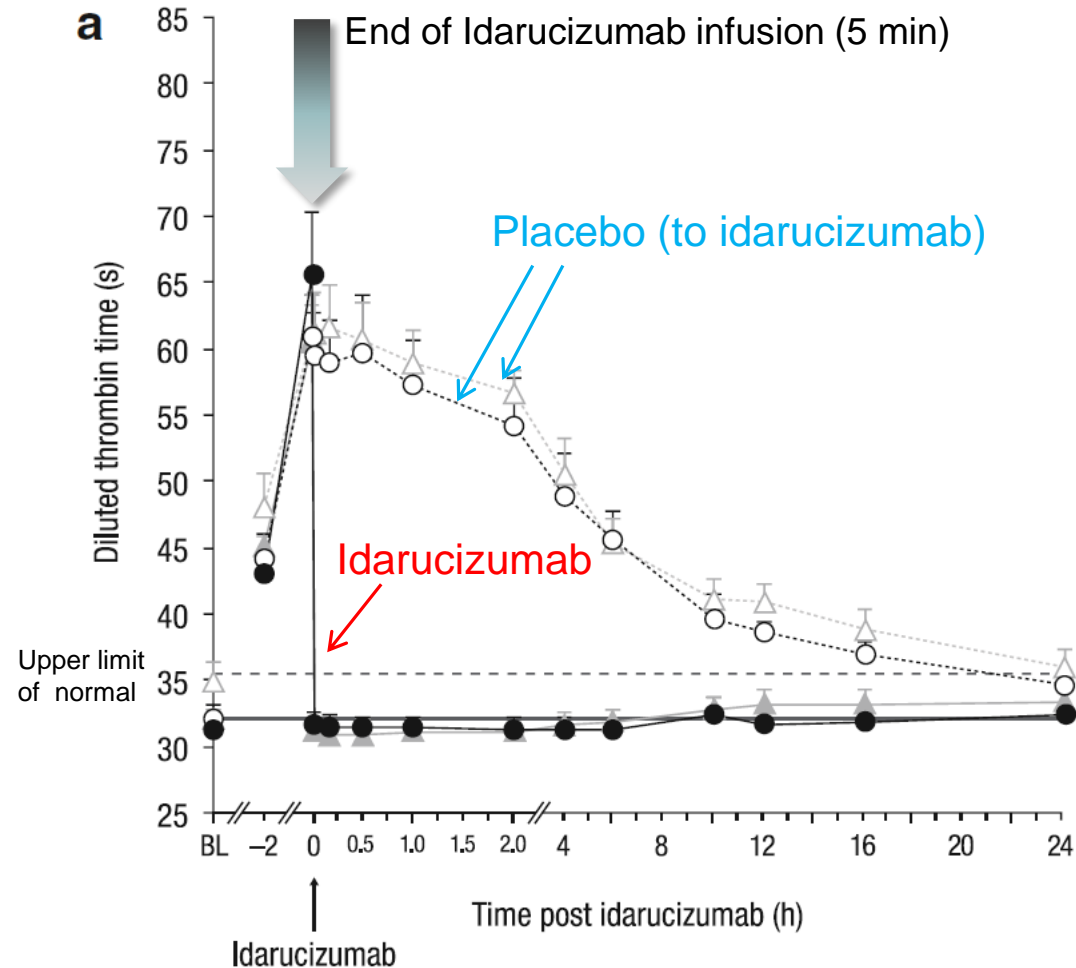
# Example Fab: Idarucizumab

*Thromb Haemost. 2015; 113(5):943-51*



- Low volume of distribution ( $V_{ss} = 6-8 \text{ L}$ )
- Elimination: substantial contribution of renal excretion and catabolism

# Example Fab: Idarucizumab



- Dabigatran dosed to steady state (last dose 2h prior to idarucizumab)
- Immediate efficacy due to i.v. administration of idarucizumab
- Re-administration of dabigatran possible after 24 h due to short  $t_{1/2}$  of idarucizumab

*Clin Pharmacokinet.* 2017 Jan;56(1):41-54  
*J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2016 Apr 5;67(13):1654-1656

# PK parameter comparison: Fab vs IgG



|                | Idarucizumab<br>5000 mg<br>i.v. | Adalimumab<br>40 mg<br>s.c. |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $t_{\max}$ [h] | End of infusion                 | 5.5 d                       |
| $t_{1/2}$ [h]  | 0.75                            | 14.7-19.3 d                 |
| fe [%]         | 32.1                            | n.d.                        |
| CL [mL/min]    | 47.0                            | 0.15-0.20 *                 |
| $V_z$ [L]      | 8.9 §                           | 5.1-5.8 *                   |

\*For s.c. administration,  $V_z/F$  and  $CL/F$

§ $V_{ss}$  for idarucizumab

# Monoclonal IgG Antibodies



| Name        | Binding target | Apparent volume of distribution | Clearance   | Half-life   |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adalimumab  | TNF $\alpha$   | 5.1-5.8 L                       | 9-12 mL/h   | 14.7-19.3 d |
| Bevacizumab | VEGF           | 3.0 L                           | 8-11 mL/h   | 20 d        |
| Cetuximab   | EGFR           | 3.5-5.2 L                       | 35-140 mL/h | 4.8 d       |
| Gemtuzumab  | CD33           | NA                              | 265 mL/h    | 1.9-2.5 d   |
| Infliximab  | TNF $\alpha$   | NA                              | NA          | 9.5 d       |
| Rituximab   | CD20           | NA                              | NA          | 9.4 d       |
| Trastuzumab | HER2           | 3.6-5.2 L                       | 16-41 mL/h  | 2.7-10 d    |



# Agenda

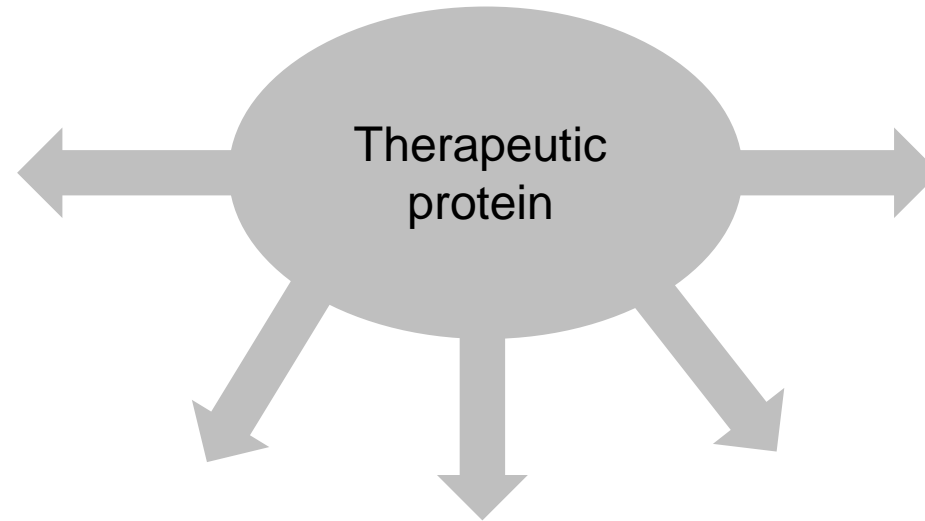
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- General introduction
- Bioanalytical aspects
- Immunogenicity
- ADME of mABs
- **Drug-drug interaction**
- Other aspects (e.g. thorough QT)
- Considerations for clinical development / study design
- Comparability

# Considerations for Drug-Drug Interactions (DDI)

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Can co-administered drugs impact the PK and/or PD of therapeutic proteins (or vice versa)?

## Overall: uncommon

- TP with SMD:  
*No overlapping clearance pathways*
  - SMDs:  
*renal, hepatic, biliary clearance*
  - TPs:  
*nonspecific proteolysis, immunogenicity, TMDD  
(no CYPs and uptake/efflux transporters involved)*
- TP with other TP  
*Nonspecific proteolytic clearance pathways usually unsaturable at therapeutic concentrations*

|            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| <i>TP</i>  | <i>Therapeutic protein</i> |
| <i>SMD</i> | <i>Small molecule drug</i> |

## Overall: possible

- TP is perpetrator
  - SMD: If TP has immunomodulatory function (cytokine/cytokine modulator) and thereby affects CYP/transporter expression  
Example: IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6 and TNF are potent inhibitors of P450 enzymes
  - TP: immunomodulation can theoretically also affect other TP via ADA formation
- TP is victim
  - SMD: - If SMD (by its MoA) modulates the expression of the TP's target (...and TMDD contributes significantly to the clearance of the TP)  
- If SMD has immunosuppressive function (... and immunogenicity (ADA) contributes significantly to clearance of the TP)  
Example: Methotrexat effect on adalimumab
- If TP and SMD/other TP bind the same target
- Due to overlapping/cumulative PD effects (not necessarily with associated changes in exposure)

**Limited clinical relevance in most cases**

- Caution should be taken with respect to narrow therapeutic index drugs

|            |                            |
|------------|----------------------------|
| <i>TP</i>  | <i>Therapeutic protein</i> |
| <i>SMD</i> | <i>Small molecule drug</i> |

# Agenda

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# Thorough QT studies

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- Usually not done
- Cardiac channels (e.g., hERG) need interaction on intra-cellular domain, not reached by larger biologics
- Indirect effects may be possible (e.g. target on cardiomyocytes)
  
- Intense safety pharmacology on CV-system
- Extended ECG measurements in early clinical studies
  - Intensify QT assessment in case signal is picked up
  
- tQT recommended per ICH E14 for smaller peptides or ADC drugs

# Covariates (1): Renal/hepatic impairment

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## Renal impairment studies?

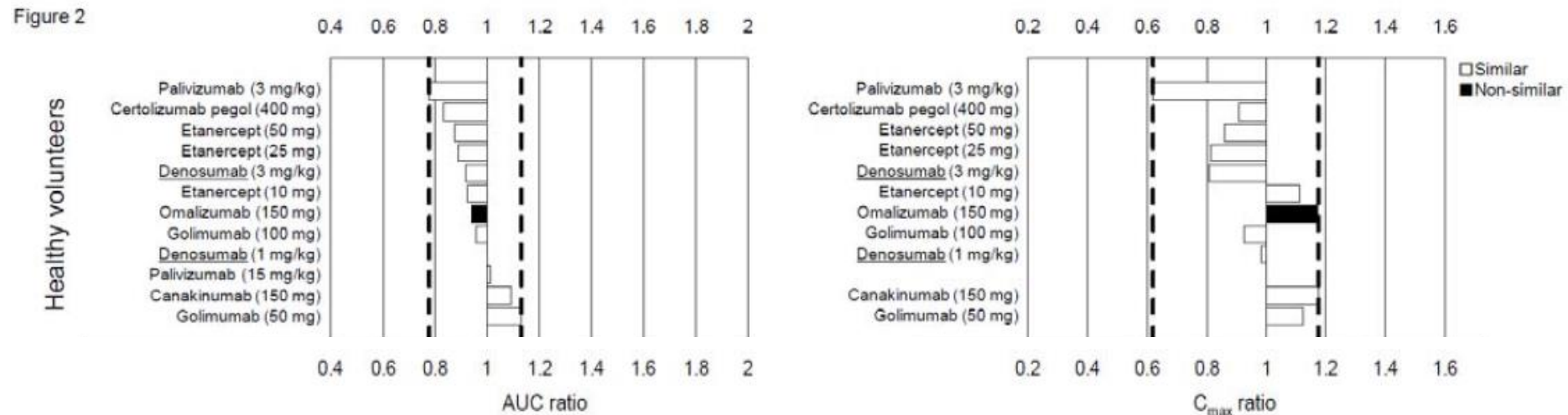
- Cutoff for glomerular filtration ~60 kDa -> larger proteins not impacted
- Dedicated studies for proteins that undergo glomerular filtration

## Hepatic impairment studies?

- Limited direct elimination of biologics through hepatic pathway
- Dedicated studies usually not done

# Covariates (2): Ethnic differences

## AUC and C<sub>max</sub> ratio between Japanese and Caucasian (Data from 8 mAb)



J. Clin. Pharmacol 2013  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jcph.231/pdf>

- No apparent PK ethnic difference observed in healthy volunteers
  - Observed differences could mostly be attributed to body weight and target expression levels
- The target expression in HV is usually not different between populations
- Proposal in manuscript: consider waiver for Phase I studies with mAbs that look at ethnic differences in PK



# Covariates affecting PK of mAb

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Covariates often reported as significant:

- ***Target expression***
- ***Body size***
- ***Immunogenicity***
- ***Renal function (for smaller proteins)***

Covariates often reported as NOT significant:

- ***Hepatic impairment***
- ***Age***
- ***Gender***
- ***Ethnicity***

# Agenda

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# ClinPharm studies NCEs vs. NBEs



| Type of study                        | Small Molecule | mAbs  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Single-dose PK/PD (HV or patients)   | ✓              | ✓     |
| Multiple-dose PK/PD (HV or patients) | ✓              | ✓     |
| Absolute bioavailability             | ✓              | ✓     |
| Bioequivalence / Comparability       | ✓              | ✓     |
| ADME                                 | ✓              | X     |
| CYP450 mediated DDI                  | ✓              | X / ✓ |
| PK in hepatic or renal impairment    | ✓              | X     |
| PK in geriatric patients             | ✓              | ✓     |
| Thorough QTc study                   | ✓              | X     |
| Immunogenicity investigation         | X              | ✓     |
| Population PK investigation          | ✓              | ✓     |

# General considerations for ClinPharm studies



| Small molecule drugs                              | Biologics   |
|---|---|
| Often healthy volunteer                           | Healthy volunteer or patients   |
| Usually oral dosing                               | Usually parenteral dosing (i.v., s.c.)  |
| No ADA assessment                                 | ADA assessment  |
| Cross-over design possible                        | Long half-life limits cross-over design   |
| Short duration                                    | Longer study duration   |
| Limited drug storage and preparation requirements | Often specific storage and preparation requirements (e.g. refrigerated or frozen) |
| May need extensive ClinPharm characterization     | Usually requires less studies   |

# Agenda

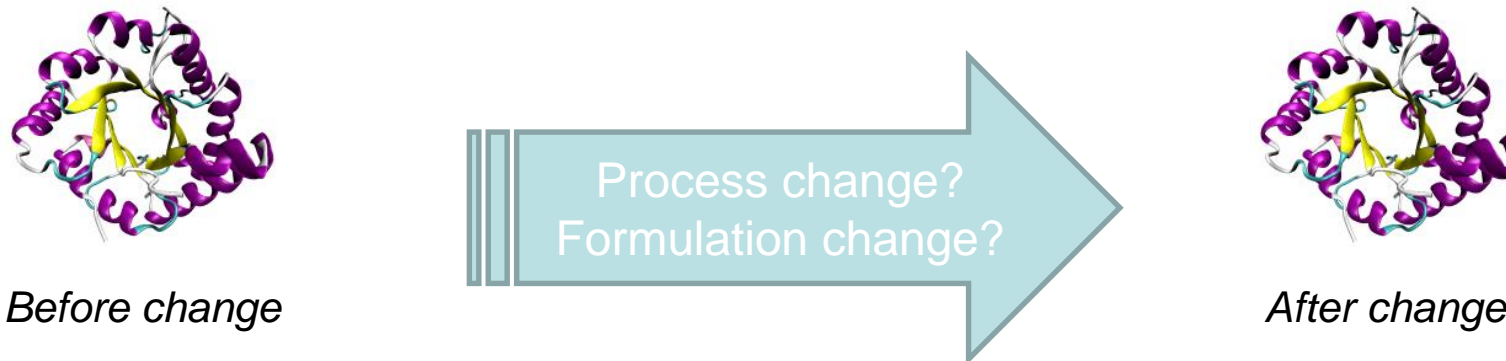
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# What is comparability?

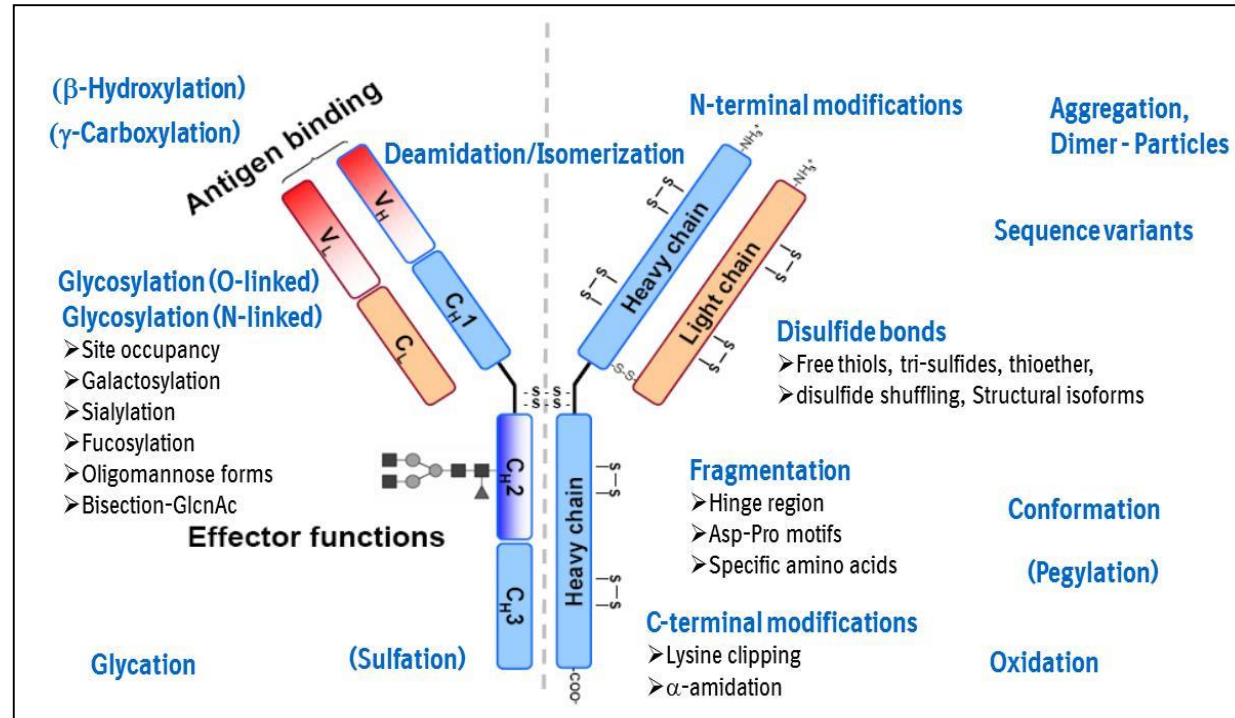
## What triggers comparability ?



The **goal of the comparability exercise is to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of drug product produced by a changed manufacturing process**, through collection and evaluation of the relevant data to determine whether there might be any adverse impact on the drug product due to the manufacturing process changes.

The demonstration of comparability **does not necessarily mean that the quality attributes of the pre-change and post-change product are identical, but that they are highly similar** and that the existing knowledge is sufficiently predictive to ensure that any differences in quality attributes have no adverse impact upon safety or efficacy of the drug product.

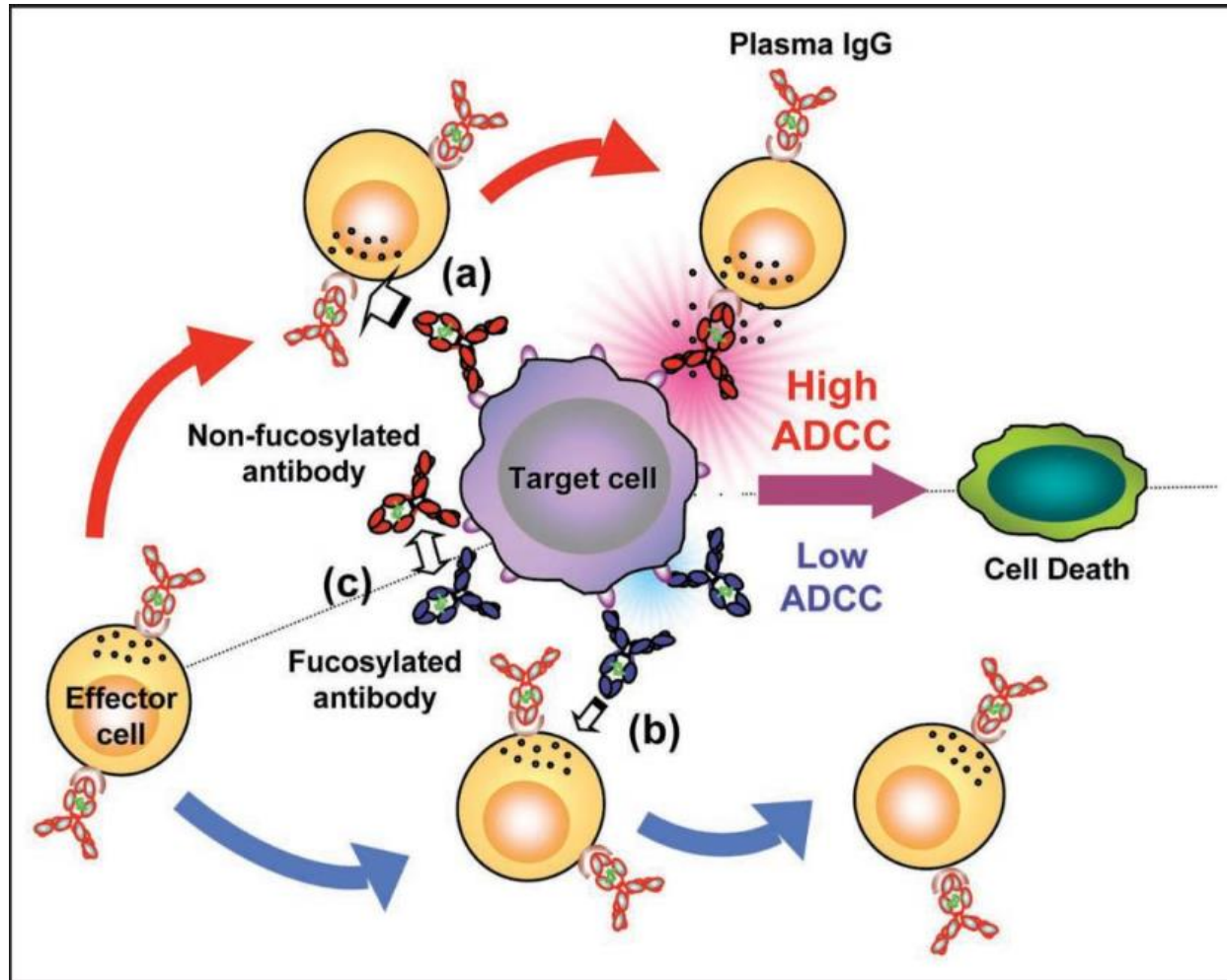
# Micro-Heterogeneity



**Micro-Heterogeneity of mAb: >10<sup>8</sup> potential molecular variants**

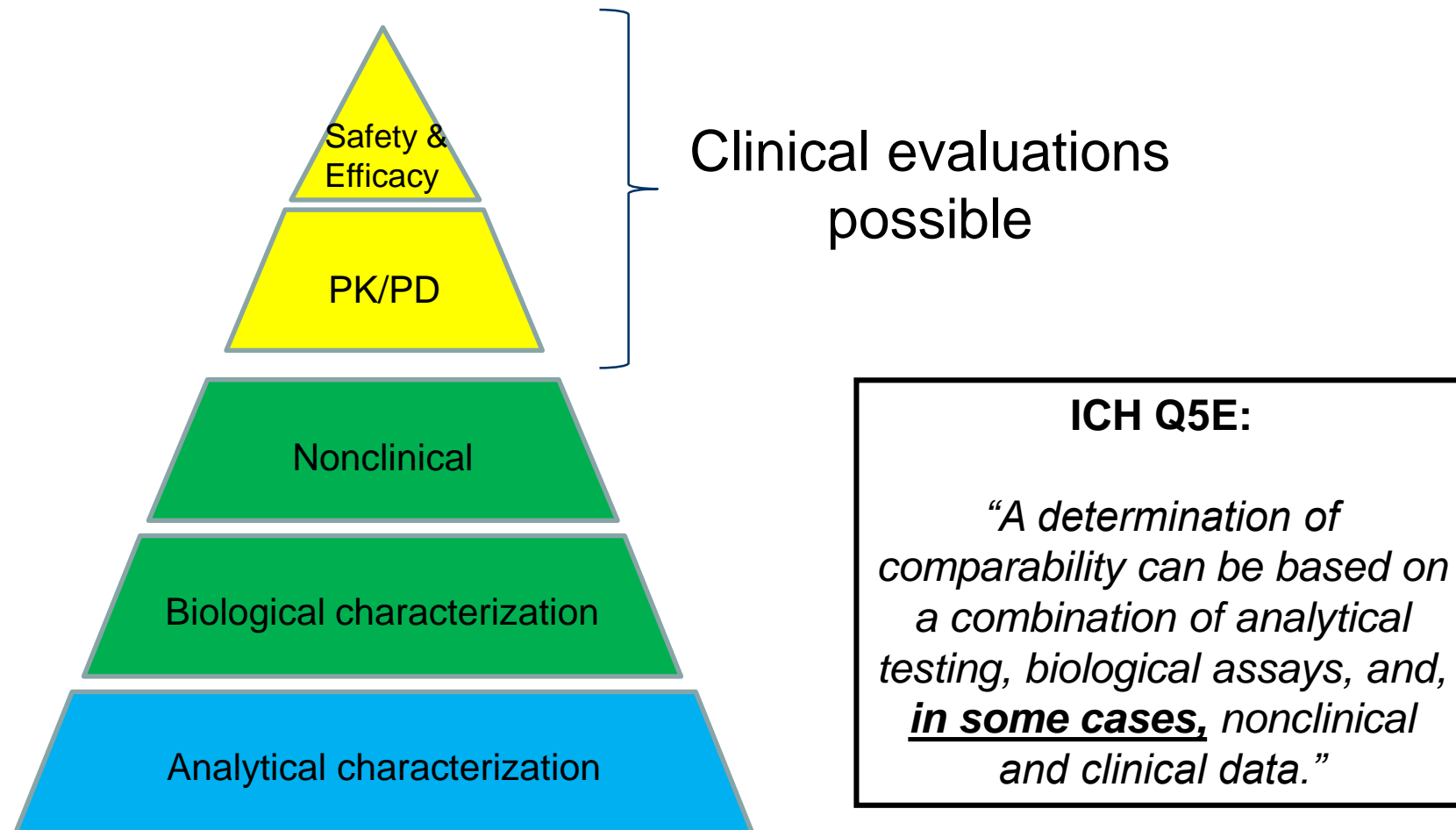
**The process determines the product**

# Effect of fucosylation on ADCC



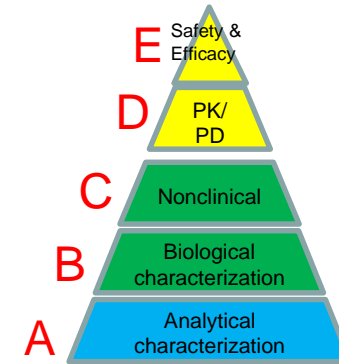


# Comparability exercise



# Comparability exercise

Extent of characterization depends on development stage of drug and severity of change  
*e.g. pre-clinical vs. late stage change*



**Table 3. Categories of proposed comparability assessments for process changes occurring late in development (during and after pivotal trials) of mAbs**

| Process change   | Category <sup>a</sup>  |
|--|--|
| Cell culture changes, no changes in characteristics                                  | A+B <sup>b</sup> if mAb with no cell killing<br>A+B if mAb depletes cells  |
| Recovery changes, no changes in characteristics                                      | A+B <sup>b</sup> if mAb with no cell killing<br>A+B if mAb depletes cells  |
| Cell culture or recovery changes, with changes in charge distribution                | A+B+C  |
| Cell culture changes, with changes in Fc glycan distribution                         | A+B <sup>b</sup> if mAb with no cell killing<br>A+B if mAb depletes cells<br>A + B + C for both cases if magnitude of change is high |
| Switch from lyophilized to liquid form, new excipients                               | A+B+C+D  |
| Switch from lyophilized to liquid form, increased minor forms, specification changes | A+B+C+E  |
| Formulation changes in concentration of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API)      | A+B+C+D  |
| New cell line, derived from original master cell bank                                | A+B+C+D  |
| New cell line, derived from new transfection or host                                 | A+B+C+E  |

# Summary

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## Biologics ...

- are not just „big chemicals“
- have favourable PK/PD attributes, including slow clearance, highly selective target binding with low risk for off-target toxicity

## Challenges for clinical pharmacology include:

- TMDD
- Effect of disease on PK/PD
- Translation animal to human
- ADA effects on PK/PD
- Risk for DDI

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# Thank you!