

Disease Progression Modelling for an Ultra-Rare Disease: Lysosomal Acid Lipase Deficiency (LAL-D)

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

- Lysosomal acid lipase deficiency (LAL-D) is an **ultra-rare, progressive, autosomal recessive disorder** caused by pathogenic variant in the LIPA gene that leads to a lack of the lysosomal acid lipase (LAL) enzyme activity [1-3].
- LAL activity deficiency or absence results in **disruption of intralysosomal degradation of cholesteryl esters and triglycerides and accumulation of relevant substrates** in organs like the liver and spleen, leading to liver disease, high cholesterol, and eventually cardiovascular issues [1,3,4].
- LAL-D has both severe, infantile-onset forms (formerly Wolman disease) that are often fatal, and less severe, progressive forms, **cholesteryl ester storage disease (CESD)**, often heralded by an

abnormal lipid profile, liver function abnormalities or gallstones as incidental findings. **CESD can manifest in childhood or later years as an adult** [3].

- LAL-D guidelines focus on **enzyme replacement therapy (ERT)** with sebelipase alfa (Kanuma®) for patients with LAL-D, emphasizing **early and continuous treatment**, as well as the need for a low-fat diet, regular physical activity, and alcohol avoidance [4-6].
- The objective of this project was **to develop a disease progression model, specific for LAL-D, focused on the progressive form of the disease (excluding infantile onset disease)**, capturing clinical heterogeneity and the link between earlier onset and greater severity.

METHODS

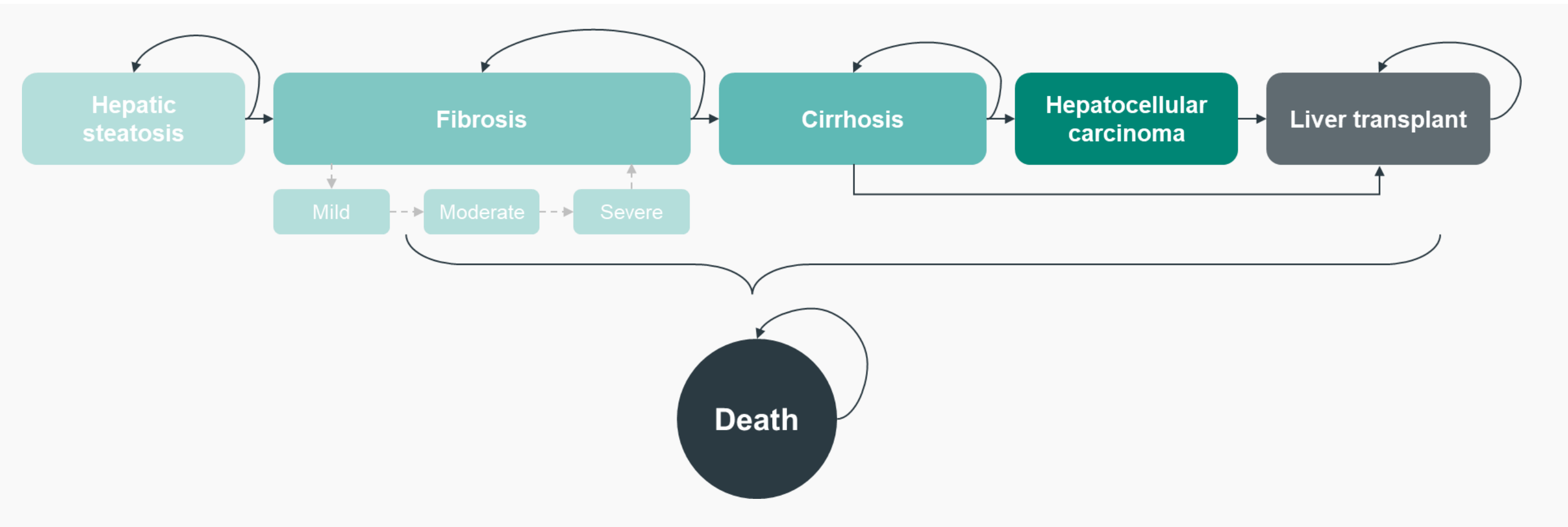
Model structure

- The disease progression model was developed in Excel to **characterize three scenarios of LAL-D progression (excluding infantile onset disease)**:
 - Untreated** patients with CESD (natural history),
 - Early initiation** of treatment with sebelipase alfa at diagnosis in patients with CESD,
 - Late initiation** of sebelipase alfa after diagnosis in patients with CESD, once organ damage is evidenced.

Hepatic progression

- A **six-state Markov model** was constructed to simulate progression from hepatic steatosis through fibrosis, advanced cirrhosis, and death (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Model structure for the hepatic profile



Data Sources

- Efficacy inputs for SA were sourced from **clinical trials** (LAL-CL02 [7] and LAL-CL06 [8]), incorporating its effects on both **hepatic fibrosis stages** and **LDL-C levels**.
- Natural history** of the disease and **epidemiological data** were sourced from the **literature** [9-13].

Base Case

- The base case was set at **baseline age** from the LAL-D international registry [9], and **severe organ damage**, e.g. liver failure, assumed to occur 27 years afterdiagnosis.

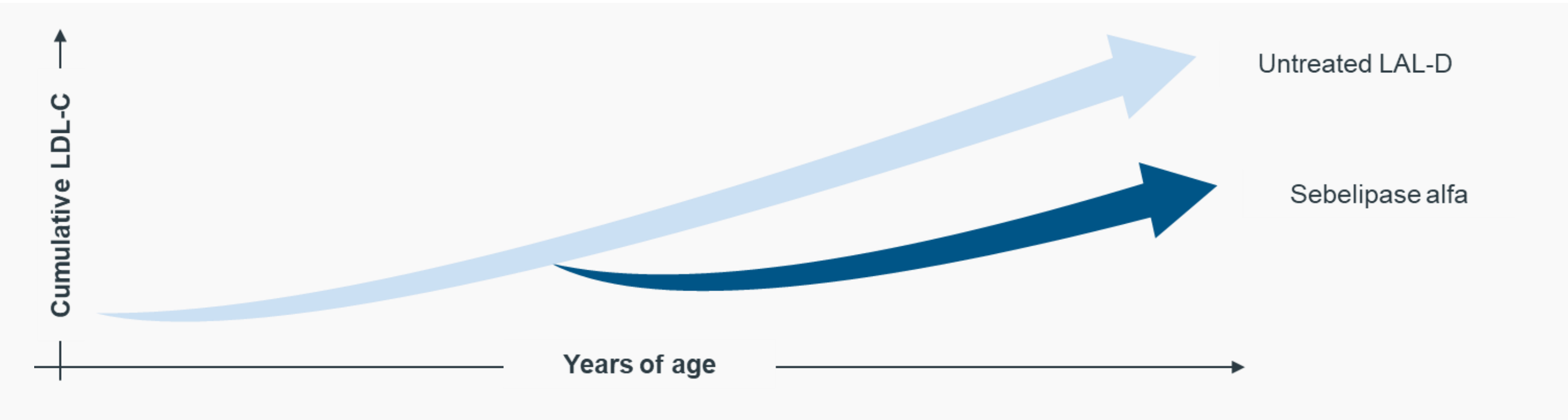
RESULTS & CONCLUSION

- Hepatic profile:** in the base case, 70 years after disease onset, **early SA treatment resulted in a 31.6% reduction in the probability of death** compared to untreated patients and an 8.0% reduction compared to late SA treatment.
- Lipidic profile:** in the base case, 70 years after disease onset, **patients treated with SA upon diagnosis had a 0.8% annual risk of MI due to lipid accumulation**, compared to 9.7% with delayed treatment and 30.3% without treatment.

Lipidic/cardiovascular progression

- An LDL-C accumulation model was designed to capture the progressive increase in cardiovascular risk (Figure 2).
- After reaching a **predefined LDL-C threshold**, the risk of myocardial infarction (MI) rose with continued lipid buildup.
- In the model, treatment effect was represented by **lowering LDL-C concentrations**, which in turn reduced the **rate of lipid accumulation** and consequential **cardiovascular risk**.

Figure 2. Model structure for the lipidic profile



Model Validation

- Model assumptions, structure, and data sources were **validated by a panel of international lipidologists and hepatologists** with extensive experience in managing LAL-D*.
- The model was **not intended to predict individual patient outcomes** but to provide a **structured framework for exploring disease trajectories and supporting multidisciplinary clinical discussions**.

Early diagnosis and treatment with sebelipase alfa improve survival and reduce cardiovascular events, highlighting the need for timely intervention in LAL-D.

LAL-D progression is heterogeneous, often involving both hepatic and cardiovascular complications, requiring a holistic, multidisciplinary approach to patient care.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The authors wish to thank the various clinical reviewers of the model for their valuable feedback.
DISCLOSURE: This study was funded by Alexion Pharmaceuticals and conducted by IQVIA. The members of the Steering Committee participated voluntarily and received funding as applicable according to their role during the model development. N. Malé and S. Merino-Montero are staff of Alexion. J. Aguirre and M. Pinel are staff of IQVIA.

*NOTE: Model assumptions, structure, data sources and panel of experts has shaped the outcomes of the study, any difference on the data analysis could derive on a variation of outcomes.