

1 **Mavacamten for Treatment of Symptomatic Obstructive Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: a**  
2 **Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo-controlled Phase 3 Trial**

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## 54 **RESEARCH IN CONTEXT**

### 55 **Evidence before this study**

56 The gaps in therapeutic options for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) are well recognized.  
57 Several agents, such as perhexiline, trimetazidine, ranolazine, eleclazine, spironolactone,  
58 valsartan, and losartan, have demonstrated no or limited efficacy in prospective trials. In  
59 patients with obstructive HCM (oHCM; also known as HOCM) guideline-recommended  
60 pharmacological therapy is administered on an empirical basis, in the absence of randomized  
61 controlled trials, and includes beta-blockers or non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blockers.  
62 Disopyramide represents an additional agent in individuals refractory to first-line therapy. While  
63 beneficial for some patients, use of these drugs is limited by side effects, and often fails to  
64 provide optimal control of left ventricular outflow gradients and symptoms, leaving an unmet  
65 burden of disease in many patients with oHCM.

66 Mavacamten, a first-in-class targeted inhibitor of cardiac myosin, has reduced hypercontractility,  
67 eliminated systolic anterior motion (SAM) of the mitral valve, and relieved left ventricular outflow  
68 tract (LVOT) obstruction in a mouse model of HCM. Moreover, mavacamten treatment  
69 appeared to suppress the development of ventricular hypertrophy, cardiomyocyte disarray, and  
70 myocardial fibrosis in mice. In the phase 2 PIONEER-HCM study, treatment of patients with  
71 oHCM led to improvements in post-exercise LVOT gradients, exercise capacity, and symptoms,  
72 and was generally well tolerated, with the majority of adverse effects being mild or moderate,  
73 self-limiting, and unrelated to the study drug.

### 74 **Added value of this study**

75 This pivotal phase 3 EXPLORER-HCM trial is the largest placebo-controlled randomized clinical  
76 trial conducted to date in HCM. The majority of patients in the active treatment and placebo  
77 arms continued to receive currently available background HCM therapy except disopyramide

78 (i.e., monotherapy with beta-blockers or non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blockers). The  
79 primary composite functional end point as well as sequential secondary end points were  
80 designed and discussed with HCM experts, patients, and regulatory authorities to  
81 comprehensively assess treatment benefits for oHCM. The end points comprise measures of  
82 symptoms and functional capacity as well as LVOT obstruction and health status. After 30  
83 weeks of treatment with mavacamten, there was a significant benefit across the composite  
84 primary end point, its components, and all secondary end points, as well as relevant  
85 improvements in patient-reported measures and reductions in biomarkers of cardiac wall stress  
86 and injury. Treatment with mavacamten was generally well tolerated and the safety profile was  
87 comparable to placebo. Seven patients on mavacamten (3 patients during the 30-week  
88 treatment and 4 patients at the end of treatment) and 2 on placebo experienced a transient  
89 decrease in LVEF to <50%. All completed the study.

#### 90 **Implications of all the available evidence**

91 Results from this phase 3 trial demonstrate significant efficacy of the first targeted  
92 pharmacologic therapy designed specifically to address the primary underlying pathophysiologic  
93 basis of oHCM. Treatment with mavacamten led to clinically meaningful improvements in  
94 hemodynamic status, functional capacity, and subjective well-being. An ongoing, long-term  
95 extension of the study will provide further evidence for clinical benefit and safety of mavacamten  
96 in the treatment of oHCM over 5 years.

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104 **SUMMARY**

105 **Background:** Cardiac muscle hypercontractility is a key pathophysiologic abnormality in  
106 hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), and a major determinant of dynamic left ventricular outflow  
107 tract (LVOT) obstruction. Available pharmacological options for HCM are limited and non-  
108 disease-specific. We assessed the efficacy and safety of mavacamten, a first-in-class cardiac  
109 myosin inhibitor, in symptomatic obstructive HCM (oHCM).

110 **Methods:** In this phase 3, randomized, double-blind trial, HCM patients with LVOT gradient  $\geq 50$   
111 mm Hg and New York Heart Association (NYHA) class II-III symptoms received mavacamten  
112 (starting at 5 mg) or placebo for 30 weeks. The primary end point was 1)  $\geq 1.5$  ml/kg/min  
113 increase in peak oxygen consumption ( $pVO_2$ ) and  $\geq 1$  NYHA class improvement **OR** 2)  $\geq 3.0$   
114 ml/kg/min  $pVO_2$  increase without NYHA class worsening. Secondary end points assessed  
115 changes in post-exercise LVOT gradient,  $pVO_2$ , NYHA class, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy  
116 Questionnaire-Clinical Summary Score (KCCQ-CSS), and HCM Symptom Questionnaire  
117 Shortness-of-Breath subscore (HCMSQ-SoB). This trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov,  
118 NCT03470545.

119 **Findings:** Forty-five of 123 (36.6%) patients on mavacamten versus 22 of 128 (17.2%) on  
120 placebo achieved the primary end point (difference, +19.4%; 95% confidence interval [CI], 8.7  
121 to 30.1;  $p=0.0005$ ). Patients on mavacamten achieved greater reduction versus placebo in post-  
122 exercise LVOT gradient ( $-36$  mm Hg [95% CI,  $-43.2$  to  $-28.1$ ];  $p<0.0001$ ), greater increase in  
123  $pVO_2$  ( $+1.4$  mL/kg/min [95% CI, 0.6 to 2.1];  $p=0.0006$ ), and improved symptom scores (KCCQ-  
124 CSS [ $+9.1$ ; 95% CI, 5.5 to 12.7], HCMSQ-SoB [ $-1.8$ ; 95% CI,  $-2.4$  to  $-1.2$ ];  $p<0.0001$ ). Thirty-  
125 four percent more mavacamten-treated patients improved  $\geq 1$  NYHA class (95% CI, 22.2 to  
126 45.4;  $p<0.0001$ ). Safety and tolerability were comparable to placebo.

127 **Interpretation:** Treatment with mavacamten improved exercise capacity, LVOT obstruction,  
128 symptoms, and health status in oHCM patients. The results of this pivotal trial support a role for  
129 disease-specific treatment in HCM.

130 **Funding:** MyoKardia

## 131 INTRODUCTION

132 Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is a myocardial disorder characterized by primary left  
133 ventricular (LV) hypertrophy.<sup>1,2</sup> This complex disease can be broadly defined by pathologically  
134 enhanced cardiac myosin-actin interactions, with core pathophysiologic features that include  
135 hypercontractility, diastolic abnormalities, and dynamic left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT)  
136 obstruction.<sup>2-4</sup> Patients with obstructive HCM (oHCM; also known as HOCM) are often  
137 symptomatic and may experience atrial fibrillation, heart failure, and malignant ventricular  
138 arrhythmias.<sup>2,5</sup> Current treatment for oHCM focuses on symptomatic relief using beta-blockers,  
139 non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blockers, and disopyramide.<sup>6-9</sup> However, these nonspecific  
140 agents are often inadequate or poorly tolerated,<sup>10</sup> fail to address the underlying molecular  
141 mechanisms of HCM, and do not modify natural history. Invasive septal reduction therapy  
142 (SRT), including surgical septal myectomy and alcohol septal ablation, can effectively help  
143 patients with drug-refractory symptoms,<sup>6,7</sup> but carries risks inherent to invasive procedures and  
144 requires expertise that is not universally available.<sup>11-13</sup> Thus, developing effective  
145 pharmacological therapy for oHCM is an important unmet need.

146 Mavacamten is a first-in-class, small molecule, selective allosteric inhibitor of cardiac myosin-  
147 ATPase specifically developed to target the underlying pathophysiology of HCM by reducing  
148 actin-myosin cross-bridge formation,<sup>14,15</sup> thereby reducing contractility and improving  
149 myocardial energetics.<sup>16</sup> In preclinical and early clinical studies, treatment with mavacamten  
150 successfully relieved LVOT gradients and improved parameters of LV filling.<sup>15,17-20</sup> In the phase  
151 2 open-label PIONEER-HCM study (NCT02842242), mavacamten was well tolerated and  
152 significantly reduced post-exercise LVOT gradients in oHCM.<sup>19</sup> Treatment was also associated  
153 with improvements in exercise capacity and New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional  
154 class. Based on these results, the pivotal EXPLORER-HCM trial (NCT03470545) was

155 conducted to assess the efficacy and safety of mavacamten for targeted medical treatment of  
156 oHCM.

## 157 **METHODS**

### 158 **Trial Design and Oversight**

159 EXPLORER-HCM was a phase 3, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled,  
160 parallel-group trial. The trial design was published previously,<sup>21</sup> and the protocol was approved  
161 by site institutional review boards at 68 sites in 13 countries and conducted in accordance with  
162 the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. All patients provided informed  
163 consent. The trial was overseen by a Steering Committee, independent data monitoring  
164 committee, and a clinical event adjudication committee. Data were collected, managed, and  
165 analyzed by the sponsor according to a predefined statistical analysis plan, and results were  
166 independently validated by the Duke Clinical Research Institute. Analysis outputs were provided  
167 to the investigators/authors who were involved in data interpretation. Both the authors and  
168 sponsor employees participated in data analysis and vouch for the accuracy and completeness  
169 of the data and fidelity of the trial to the final protocol. The first draft of the manuscript was  
170 written by the first author and members of the Steering Committee. All authors critically  
171 reviewed and approved the manuscript.

### 172 **Patients**

173 The inclusion and exclusion criteria were primarily developed to prioritize safety and include a  
174 patient population adequately representative of a real-world symptomatic oHCM. Eligible  
175 patients were at least 18 years old with a diagnosis of oHCM (unexplained LV hypertrophy with  
176 maximal LV wall thickness of  $\geq 15$  mm [or  $\geq 13$  mm if familial HCM]); peak LVOT gradient at least  
177 50 mm Hg at rest, after Valsalva maneuver, or post-exercise; LV ejection fraction (LVEF) at



178 least 55%; and NYHA class II or III symptoms. Patients must have been able to safely perform  
179 upright cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPET). Key exclusion criteria included a history of  
180 syncope or sustained ventricular tachyarrhythmia with exercise  $\leq 6$  months prior to screening,  
181 QT interval corrected using Fridericia's formula (QTcF)  $> 500$  ms, paroxysmal or intermittent  
182 atrial fibrillation present on screening electrocardiogram, and persistent or permanent atrial  
183 fibrillation not on anticoagulation for  $\geq 4$  weeks and/or not adequately rate-controlled within 6  
184 months prior to screening. Patients who underwent SRT more than 6 months prior to screening  
185 were enrolled if otherwise eligible.<sup>21</sup> Patients were allowed to continue standard HCM medical  
186 therapy except disopyramide (for safety reasons), including monotherapy with beta-blockers or  
187 calcium channel blockers, if dosing remained stable for at least 2 weeks prior to screening and  
188 no changes were anticipated during the study.

## 189 **Procedures**

190 Patients were randomized 1:1 to receive once-daily treatment with mavacamten (starting dose 5  
191 mg) or placebo for 30 weeks (end of treatment). Randomization was stratified by NYHA class (II  
192 or III), current beta-blocker use (yes/no), ergometer type (treadmill or bicycle), and consent for  
193 cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging substudy (yes/no). Mavacamten dose adjustments  
194 occurred per a blinded dose titration scheme at weeks 8 and 14. Individualized doses of 2.5, 5,  
195 10, or 15 mg were ultimately administered to achieve target reduction in LVOT gradient less  
196 than 30 mm Hg and a mavacamten plasma concentration between 350 and 700 ng per mL.<sup>21</sup>  
197 Prespecified criteria for temporary discontinuation of study drug, including LVEF less than 50%,  
198 are described in the Supplementary Appendix.

199 Patients were evaluated every 2 or 4 weeks during the 30-week treatment period. CPET and  
200 post-exercise transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) were performed at screening and week 30.  
201 Resting TTE, electrocardiograms, safety laboratory testing, and determination of mavacamten

202 plasma concentration were performed serially throughout the study. Results were determined by  
203 central core laboratories blinded to treatment assignment.<sup>21</sup> Genetic testing for a 60-gene HCM  
204 genetic testing panel (if consent provided) was also performed.

## 205 **End points**

206 The primary end point was a composite to assess clinical response at week 30 compared with  
207 baseline, defined as achieving 1) at least 1.5 ml per kg per minute improvement in pVO<sub>2</sub> and at  
208 least one NYHA class reduction **OR** 2) at least 3.0 ml per kg per minute improvement in pVO<sub>2</sub>  
209 and no worsening of NYHA class.

210 Secondary end points included change from baseline to week 30 in post-exercise LVOT  
211 gradient, pVO<sub>2</sub>, proportion of patients with at least one NYHA class improvement, and measures  
212 of patient-reported outcomes (PROs), including Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire-  
213 Clinical Summary Score (KCCQ-CSS) and HCM Symptom Questionnaire Shortness-of-Breath  
214 (HCMSQ-SoB) subscore.<sup>21</sup> These were tested and Type-I error controlled in hierarchical order  
215 (sequence as indicated above) upon achieving significance in the primary end point (with two-  
216 tailed p<0.05 required to proceed). Additional prespecified exploratory end points assessed  
217 complete response (all LVOT gradients less than 30 mm Hg and NYHA class I), proportion of  
218 patients with improvement in LVOT gradients, and serum concentrations of N-terminal pro B-  
219 type natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) and high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I (hs-cTnI).  
220 Prespecified safety end points included frequency and severity of treatment-emergent adverse  
221 events and serious adverse events.

## 222 **Statistical Analysis**

223 The study was designed to randomize a minimum of 220 patients. The sample size was  
224 estimated to provide 96% power to detect a 25% difference between treatment arms in the  
225 primary end point, at a two-sided  $p < 0.05$ .<sup>21</sup>

226 All randomized patients received at least one dose of study drug. Efficacy and safety analyses  
227 were based on this population, and efficacy analyses followed intention-to-treat principle.

228 Missing data were not imputed unless prespecified in the statistical analysis plan. The missing  
229 NYHA class at week 30 were imputed with week 26 value, if available, in the case of primary  
230 end point and NYHA response. Patients with non-evaluable primary end point and NYHA  
231 secondary end point were considered as nonresponders, whereas LVOT gradient and  $pVO_2$   
232 were analyzed with all available data without imputation performed, and PROs were analyzed  
233 with all available data using mixed-effects model repeated measures, which implicitly handles  
234 the missing data in the patients that have baseline and  $\geq 1$  post-baseline value in the analysis  
235 (additional details provided in Supplementary Appendix). The primary efficacy end point and  
236 improvement in NYHA class were analyzed using the Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel test for  
237 stratified categorical data. Continuous variables in secondary efficacy end points were  
238 compared between treatment groups by analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) or by mixed model  
239 for repeated measurements. Efficacy was also assessed in prespecified subgroups based on  
240 baseline demographic and disease characteristics. Safety data were analyzed using descriptive  
241 statistics without statistical inference. SAS version 9.4 was used for statistical analyses. Details  
242 are provided in the Supplementary Appendix and Statistical Analysis Plan.

243 This trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT03470545.

#### 244 **Role of funding source**

245 The study was funded by MyoKardia. MyoKardia co-authors were involved in trial design,  
246 statistical analysis, data interpretation, and were involved in reviewing the manuscript, in

247 collaboration with academic co-authors. All authors had access to the study data and had final  
248 responsibility for the decision to submit for publication.

## 249 **RESULTS**

### 250 **Patient Characteristics**

251 From May 2018 to August 2019, 429 adults with oHCM were screened, of which 251 (59%)  
252 were enrolled and randomized to mavacamten (123 patients) or placebo (128 patients) (figure  
253 S1, Supplementary Appendix). Enrolled patients showed the expected features of oHCM  
254 cohorts in terms of mean LV wall thickness, rates of positive HCM family history, and rate of ICD  
255 implantation (table 1). Mean age was 58.5 years in both treatment arms, and the study included  
256 a broad age range, with 21% of patients aged <50 years, 45% aged 50-64 years, and 34% aged  
257 ≥65 years. Baseline characteristics were balanced between groups, except for a smaller  
258 proportion of males and patients with a history of atrial fibrillation, and higher baseline NT-  
259 proBNP level in the mavacamten arm (table 1). Most patients (73%) had NYHA class II  
260 symptoms at baseline, and almost all (92%) were on background beta-blocker or calcium  
261 channel blocker therapy – only 4 patients in the mavacamten group and 16 in the placebo group  
262 were not on background HCM therapy. Almost all patients were compliant and maintained their  
263 background HCM therapy unchanged throughout the study or required minor adjustments (16  
264 patients in the mavacamten arm and 10 patients in the placebo arm adjusted dose of beta-  
265 blocker therapy). Nineteen patients had prior SRT.

266 Overall, 244 (97.2%) patients completed treatment. Five patients discontinued treatment  
267 prematurely (figure S1, Supplementary Appendix); three due to adverse events (two on  
268 mavacamten [atrial fibrillation and syncope], one on placebo [sudden death]); two patients  
269 withdrew (one on mavacamten, one on placebo). No patients were lost to follow-up.

270 **Efficacy**

271 *Primary End Point*

272 At end of treatment, 36.6% (45 of 123) of patients on mavacamten achieved the primary end  
273 point, compared with 17.2% (22 of 128) on placebo (+19.4%, 95% confidence interval [CI] 8.7  
274 to 30.1;  $p=0.0005$ ) (table 2). Furthermore, 20.3% of patients on mavacamten had both at least  
275 3.0 ml per kg per minute increase in  $pVO_2$  and at least one class improvement in NYHA class,  
276 versus 7.8% on placebo (difference, +12.5% [95% CI, 4.0 to 21.0]).

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278 *Secondary End Points*

279 Mavacamten treatment was associated with significant improvement in all secondary end points  
280 compared with placebo (table 2), with patients showing reduced LVOT gradient, increased  
281  $pVO_2$ , and improved symptoms as assessed by physicians (NYHA class) or by themselves  
282 (PROs). Peak post-exercise LVOT gradient decreased from 86 mm Hg (95% CI, 79.5 to 91.8)  
283 to 38 mm Hg (95% CI, 32.3 to 44.0) with mavacamten, while for placebo the change was from  
284 84 mm Hg (95% CI, 78.4 to 91.0) to 73 mm Hg (95% CI, 67.2 to 79.6) (figure 1A),  
285 demonstrating a greater reduction by 36 mm Hg with mavacamten (95% CI, -43.2 to -28.1;  
286  $p<0.0001$ ) (table 2).

287 In parallel, patients on mavacamten showed a greater increase in  $pVO_2$  by 1.4 ml per kilogram  
288 per minute on average compared with placebo (95% CI, 0.58 to 2.12;  $p=0.0006$ ). Also, 65.0%  
289 (80 of 123) of mavacamten-treated patients had at least one NYHA class improvement versus  
290 31.3% (40 of 128) on placebo (difference, 33.8% [95% CI, 22.2 to 45.4];  $p<0.0001$ ). The  
291 proportion of patients who achieved NYHA class I status was 50% (61 of 123) with mavacamten  
292 and 21% (27 of 128) with placebo (figure 2). Mavacamten treatment was also associated with  
293 improved PROs. Both KCCQ-CCS (positive change better) and HCMSQ-SoB (negative change

294 better) scores improved more with mavacamten than with placebo (+9.1 [95% CI, 5.5 to 12.7],  
295 -1.8 [95% CI, -2.4 to -1.2], respectively;  $p < 0.0001$  for both comparisons).

### 296 *Exploratory End Points*

297 Patients treated with mavacamten showed rapid and sustained improvement in resting and  
298 Valsalva LVOT gradients compared with placebo (figure 1C-D). Complete response (defined as  
299 reduction in all LVOT gradients to less than 30 mm Hg and NYHA class I) was achieved by  
300 27.4% (32 of 117) of patients on mavacamten versus 0.8% (1 of 126) on placebo (+26.6%; 95%  
301 CI, 18.3 to 34.8) (table 3). Mavacamten treatment relieved LVOT obstruction (post-exercise  
302 gradient less than 30 mm Hg) in 50% more patients (64 of 113 [57%] vs 8 of 114 [7%]; 95% CI,  
303 39.3 to 59.9), and reduced it below the standard threshold for invasive SRT (<50 mm Hg) in  
304 54% more patients (75 of 101 [74%] vs 22 of 106 [21%]; 95% CI, 42.0 to 65.0) compared with  
305 placebo (table 3). In contrast to the sharp decline in LVOT gradients, changes in baseline  
306 systolic function associated with mavacamten were small: mean reduction in LVEF was -3.9%,  
307 versus -0.01% with placebo (difference, -4.0%; 95% CI, -5.5 to -2.5) (figure 1B). Decreases in  
308 cardiac biomarkers were similarly rapid and sustained, parallel to the hemodynamic changes  
309 observed (figure 1E-F). At week 30 compared with baseline, the reduction in NT-proBNP after  
310 mavacamten treatment was 80% greater than for placebo (proportion of geometric mean ratio  
311 between the two arms, 0.202 [95% CI, 0.169 to 0.241]); reduction in hs-cTnI was 41% greater  
312 (0.589 [95% CI, 0.500 to 0.693]).

### 313 *Subgroup Analyses*

314 Patients treated with mavacamten showed consistent benefit for the primary end point across  
315 prespecified subgroups. We further examined the subgroups of patients receiving versus not  
316 receiving background beta-blockade therapy. Importantly, the majority of patients not using  
317 beta-blockers were prescribed non-dihydropyridine calcium channel blockers, with very few

318 patients in each treatment arm taking neither (4 of 123 in the mavacamten group and 16 of 128  
319 in the placebo were not on any background HCM therapy). In patients without concomitant beta-  
320 blockade, the effect was greater (29 on mavacamten, 33 on placebo; difference 52.6% [95% CI,  
321 32.9 to 72.2]) versus those on beta-blockers (94 on mavacamten, 95 on placebo; difference  
322 8.7% [95% CI, -3.6 to 21.1]), and this observation remained in a multivariable model after  
323 adjusting for baseline covariates (figure 3A). As expected, the mean peak heart rate with  
324 exercise tended to be lower for the subgroup of patients using beta-blockers compared with  
325 those not using beta-blockers (119 bpm vs 138 bpm, respectively at baseline). Similarly, mean  
326 pVO<sub>2</sub>, a component of the primary end point, was lower for the beta-blocker subgroup at  
327 baseline, and the mean (SD) change at week 30 in pVO<sub>2</sub> was also observed to be lower (1.1  
328 [3.1] ml/kg/min) for patients using beta-blockers compared with (2.2 [3.0] mL/kg/min) for those  
329 who were not using beta-blockers. Heart rate independent parameters of CPET, including  
330 VE/VCO<sub>2</sub> slope, showed improvements with mavacamten treatment compared to placebo  
331 irrespective of beta-blocker use. The VE/VCO<sub>2</sub> slope change from baseline at week 30 was  
332 -2.5 (95% CI, -3.7 to -1.4) in the beta-blocker subgroup, -2.5 (95% CI -4.8 to -0.2) in the  
333 non-beta-blocker subgroup, and -2.6 (95% CI, -3.6 to -1.5) in the overall cohort. Rates of  
334 improvement by at least one NYHA class with mavacamten treatment were also similar among  
335 patients receiving beta-blockers or not (65%). Furthermore, all secondary end points, including  
336 change in LVOT gradient (figure 3B), showed consistent benefit for mavacamten across  
337 prespecified subgroups, irrespective of beta-blocker use.

### 338 **Safety**

339 Treatment-emergent adverse events were largely mild (table 4 and table S1, Supplementary  
340 Appendix). Eleven serious adverse events were reported by 8.1% of patients on mavacamten  
341 versus 20 events reported by 8.6% on placebo (table 4). Serious cardiac adverse events  
342 occurred in four patients in the mavacamten group (two atrial fibrillation, two stress

343 cardiomyopathy; one of these presented at time of a study visit and simultaneously triggered a  
344 temporary discontinuation for LVEF less than 50% (table S2, Supplementary Appendix) and four  
345 in the placebo group (three with atrial fibrillation, one with atrial fibrillation and congestive heart  
346 failure). One patient in the placebo group experienced sudden death. Overall, nine patients  
347 (seven on mavacamten and two on placebo) had a transient decrease in LVEF to less than  
348 50%. Five patients (three on mavacamten, two on placebo) had protocol-driven temporary  
349 treatment discontinuation for LVEF less than 50% during the 30-week treatment (median LVEF  
350 48%, range 35 to 49%; table S2, Supplementary Appendix). LVEF normalized in all patients,  
351 and they resumed treatment and completed the study. Four additional patients on mavacamten  
352 had LVEF less than 50% (range 48 to 49%) at week 30 (end-of-treatment visit). LVEF was  
353 confirmed to recover to baseline after the 8-week washout period in three patients. The fourth  
354 patient experienced a procedural complication and severe LVEF drop following atrial fibrillation  
355 ablation during the washout period, followed by partial recovery (to LVEF 50%). Six patients  
356 (three on mavacamten, three on placebo) met predefined criteria for changes in QT interval  
357 corrected using Fridericia's formula and underwent temporary discontinuation followed by  
358 resumption and completion of treatment. There were no temporary discontinuations for  
359 mavacamten plasma concentration greater than 1000 ng per ml.

360 There were no treatment differences noted on laboratory values, ECGs, or vital signs at rest,  
361 including no significant changes in heart rate and blood pressure from baseline to week 30 with  
362 mavacamten. Continuous cardiac monitoring with 48-hour Holter was conducted at baseline,  
363 week 12, and week 26. There were no significant differences during treatment between groups  
364 in the number (%) of patients with any atrial fibrillation detected (eg, in each group there were 2  
365 [2%] at week 12 and 4 [3.5%] at week 26). There were similar numbers of patients with  
366 episodes of non-sustained ventricular tachycardia (NSVT) detected in each group and at each  
367 timepoint (eg, n [%] at baseline: 35 [31%] in the mavacamten group and 35 [30%] in the placebo



368 group; week 12: 26 [26%] with mavacamten vs 33 [34%] with placebo, and week 26: 24 [21%]  
369 with mavacamten vs 23 [20%] with placebo). The summary of episodes per subject at each time  
370 point showed 1.5-2 times more episodes in patients on placebo compared to those on  
371 mavacamten.

372

## 373 **DISCUSSION**

374 In this phase 3 trial in symptomatic oHCM, treatment with mavacamten, a first-in-class cardiac  
375 myosin inhibitor, was well tolerated and superior to placebo across the primary and all  
376 secondary end points. Mavacamten treatment was effective in reducing LVOT gradients and  
377 improving symptoms, exercise performance, and health status in a representative population of  
378 patients with oHCM. Significantly more patients treated with mavacamten achieved the primary  
379 end point that leveraged both objective (pVO<sub>2</sub>) and subjective (NYHA class) assessments of  
380 functional capacity and symptoms. Specifically, the proportion improving at least one NYHA  
381 class or achieving both primary end point components (at least 3.0 ml per kg per minute pVO<sub>2</sub>  
382 increase and at least one NYHA class improvement) was 34% and 13% greater, respectively,  
383 than placebo. Findings were consistent across all secondary efficacy end points. Furthermore,  
384 complete response, defined as reduction in all LVOT gradients below 30 mm Hg and reaching  
385 NYHA class I, was achieved in 27% of patients treated with mavacamten and <1% of patients  
386 on placebo, demonstrating that mavacamten may be capable of achieving marked relief of  
387 symptoms and LVOT obstruction. Assessing severely symptomatic oHCM patients eligible for  
388 SRT, the VALOR-HCM study (NCT04349072) will investigate the ability of mavacamten to  
389 provide a non-invasive treatment option reducing the need for surgical or percutaneous  
390 procedures.

391 PRO assessments, using KCCQ-CSS and the novel HCMSQ-SoB specifically designed to  
392 evaluate symptomatic burden in HCM patients, showed a favorable impact of mavacamten on  
393 subjective well-being. Notably, the improvement seen in KCCQ-CSS scores is several-fold  
394 higher than that observed in recent heart failure drug trials and is nearly half of that achieved  
395 with placement of a left ventricular assist device for end-stage heart failure.<sup>22,23</sup> Clinical benefit  
396 was sustained, achieved in addition to treatment with beta-blockers or calcium antagonists and  
397 accompanied by a reduction in serum NT-proBNP and hs-cTnI levels, two predictors of long-  
398 term outcome in HCM.<sup>24-26</sup> Similar decreases in cardiac biomarkers were recently reported in  
399 the MAVERICK-HCM study in nonobstructive patients, suggesting that gradient reduction may  
400 only partially explain the benefit observed in EXPLORER-HCM.<sup>20</sup> These effects require further  
401 investigation in a translational setting.<sup>16,18</sup>

402 Benefit from mavacamten extended across most prespecified subgroups. Not unexpectedly,  
403 patients receiving concomitant beta-blockers showed an attenuated effect on the composite  
404 primary end point, which includes pVO<sub>2</sub>, compared with those not on beta-blockers. We do not  
405 believe that the use of beta-blockers attenuates the primary mechanism by which mavacamten  
406 works, as is evident by the extent of gradient reduction and other improvements observed.  
407 Rather, the observed effect on the primary end point is related to the well-established heart rate  
408 limitations on CPET performance.<sup>27,28</sup> Indeed, the mean peak heart rate with exercise tended to  
409 be lower for the subgroup of patients using beta-blockers compared with those not using beta-  
410 blockers. Improvements in mean pVO<sub>2</sub>, were smaller for patients receiving versus not receiving  
411 background beta-blockers. However, the change in VE/VCO<sub>2</sub> slope, a heart-rate independent  
412 CPET parameter associated with cardiac output,<sup>29</sup> showed similar improvements with  
413 mavacamten versus placebo regardless of beta-blocker use, and where the starting mean  
414 VE/VCO<sub>2</sub> slope for each was at levels associated with elevated risk for mortality in patients with  
415 chronic heart failure (e.g., 33 to 35). In terms of hemodynamic status, symptoms and general

416 well-being as well as reductions in biomarkers of cardiac wall stress and injury (outcomes and  
417 assessments not captured by CPET performance), patients on background beta-blockers  
418 benefitted the same as those not on beta-blockers. Further detailed analyses of this finding will  
419 be pursued in a future study.

420 Mavacamten was generally well tolerated, whether used with beta-blockers or calcium channel  
421 blockers, and/or in those with prior, unsuccessful SRT or as monotherapy in a small number of  
422 patients. Only modest reductions in mean global LV systolic function were observed, with seven  
423 patients on mavacamten (four patients at the end of treatment) developing LVEF less than 50%,  
424 which normalized after temporary interruption of therapy in all patients and did not impact study  
425 completion. Otherwise, the safety profile of mavacamten was comparable to that of placebo.  
426 Studies are ongoing to assess the long-term efficacy and safety of mavacamten over 5 years  
427 (MAVA-LTE; NCT03723655).

428 Study limitations include the exclusion of patients on disopyramide and patients with severe  
429 (NYHA class IV) symptoms. Both populations will be examined in the VALOR-HCM study.  
430 Furthermore, younger patients and non-Caucasians had low representation in this study.

431 In conclusion, in this first positive randomized phase 3 trial in patients with oHCM, mavacamten  
432 treatment improved functional capacity, LVOT gradient, symptoms, and key aspects of health  
433 status. The results of this pivotal trial support a role for disease-specific treatment in HCM.

#### 434 **Contributors**

435 IO, AJS, JME, CBW, SJL, AW, DZ, CYH, and DJ designed the trial and study protocol and  
436 contributed to data analysis. IO, DJ, and CYH drafted the manuscript. DZ and WL were  
437 responsible for statistical analysis. IO, A Oreziak, RB-V, TPA, AM, PG-P, SS, NKL, MTW, A  
438 Owens, MK, WW, MKJ, JG-B, KA, JM, SMH, SDS, SJL, AW, CYH, and DJ participated in data

439 collection. All authors contributed to data interpretation and the critical review and revision of the  
440 manuscript, had access to the study data, and had final responsibility for the decision to submit  
441 for publication.

#### 442 **Declaration of interests**

443 IO has received grants from MyoKardia, Sanofi-Genzyme, Shire, and Bayer; personal fees from  
444 Sanofi-Genzyme, Shire, and Bayer; payments as a consultant from MyoKardia. AM has  
445 received grants from Pfizer and Akcea. SS, NKL, A Owens, and SMH report personal fees from  
446 MyoKardia, during the conduct of the study. SDS has received grants from MyoKardia, Alnylam,  
447 Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bellerophon, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Celladon, Cytokinetics, Eidos,  
448 Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Ionis, Lone Star Heart, Mesoblast, National Institutes of  
449 Health/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Novartis, Sanofi Pasteur, Theracos; and  
450 personal fees from MyoKardia, Alnylam, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb,  
451 Cytokinetics, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, Novartis, Theracos, Akros, Arena, Cardior, Corvia,  
452 Daiichi-Sankyo, Ironwood, Merck, Roche, Takeda, Quantum Genetics Cardurion, AoBiome,  
453 Janssen, Tenaya, and Cardiac Dimensions. AJS, DZ, WL, MB, JME, and CBW are employees  
454 of MyoKardia and report stocks or stock options from MyoKardia. SJL has received payments  
455 as a consultant from MyoKardia. AW has received grants from MyoKardia; personal fees from  
456 Cytokinetics; and payments as a consultant from MyoKardia. CYH has received payments as a  
457 consultant from MyoKardia and Ambry Genetics Corp. DJ has received personal fees from  
458 MyoKardia. All other authors declare no competing interests.

#### 459 **Data sharing**

460 Data request may be submitted to MyoKardia via [medinfo@myokardia.com](mailto:medinfo@myokardia.com) and must include a  
461 description of the research protocol.

462 **Acknowledgments**

463 The authors would like to thank study coordinators, cardiac sonographers, exercise  
464 physiologists, the MyoKardia study team, and especially the patients and their families. Medical  
465 writing and editorial support were provided by Kim Fuller, PhD, of SciFluent Communications  
466 and were financially supported by MyoKardia.

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548 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

549 **Figure 1: LVOT gradients, LVEF, and cardiac biomarkers over time**

550 Mean (95% CI) post-exercise LVOT gradient over time (panel A), LVEF (panel B), resting LVOT  
551 gradient (panel C), and Valsalva LVOT gradient (panel D). Geometric mean (95% CI) over time  
552 is shown for NT-proBNP (panel E) and hs-cTnI (panel F). The dashed lines represent the  
553 threshold for guideline-based invasive intervention (LVOT gradient >50 mm Hg) in panels A and  
554 D, the threshold for guideline-based diagnosis of obstruction (LVOT gradient <30 mm Hg) in  
555 panel C, and the protocol threshold for temporary discontinuation (LVEF<50%) in panel B. hs-  
556 cTnI=high-sensitivity cardiac troponin I. LVEF=left ventricular ejection fraction. LVOT=left  
557 ventricular outflow tract. NT-proBNP=N-terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide.

558

559 **Figure 2. Change in NYHA Functional Class over Time.**

560 Percentage of patients who had NYHA class I, II, or III at baseline, after 14 and 30 weeks of  
561 treatment, reported for mavacamten and placebo groups. NYHA=New York Heart Association.

562

563 **Figure 3: Forest plot of treatment effect on primary end point and post-exercise LVOT**  
564 **gradient by subgroups**

565 Panel A shows the mean difference in patients meeting the primary end point. The dashed  
566 vertical line (overall effect) represents the between-treatment group difference in the overall  
567 study cohort (19.4), and the solid vertical line (no effect) indicates no difference between  
568 treatment groups. Panel B shows the mean difference in LVOT gradient reduction between  
569 mavacamten and placebo. The dashed vertical line (overall effect) represents the between-  
570 treatment group difference in the overall study cohort (-36 mm Hg). The solid vertical line  
571 indicates findings if there was no difference between treatment groups. Patients with non-  
572 evaluable primary end point were considered as nonresponders. BMI=body mass index.  
573 HCM=hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. LVEF=left ventricular ejection fraction. LVOT=left

574 ventricular outflow tract. NT-proBNP=N-terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide. NYHA=New  
575 York Heart Association. VUS=variant of uncertain significance.

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## 600 TABLES

601 **Table 1: Baseline demographics and patient characteristics\***

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Mavacamten (N = 123)</b>	<b>Placebo (N = 128)</b>
Age — yr	58.5±12.2	58.5±11.8
Female sex — no. (%)	57 (46.3)	45 (35.2)
White race — no. (%)	115 (93.5)	114 (89.1)
Region — no. (%)		
United States	53 (43.1)	55 (43.0)
Non-United States	70 (56.9)	73 (57.0)
HCM genetic testing performed — no. (%)	90 (73.2)	100 (78.1)
Pathogenic/likely pathogenic HCM gene variant — no./ no. tested (%)	28/90 (31.1)	22/100 (22.0)
Family history of HCM — no. (%)	33 (26.8)	36 (28.1)
History of atrial fibrillation — no. (%)	12 (9.8)	23 (18.0)
History of septal reduction therapy — no. (%)	11 (8.9)	8 (6.3)
History of hypertension — no. (%)	57 (46.3)	53 (41.4)
History of hyperlipidaemia — no. (%)	27 (22.0)	39 (30.5)
History of coronary artery disease — no. (%)	12 (9.8)	6 (4.7)
History of obesity — no. (%)	15 (12.2)	14 (10.9)
History of type 2 diabetes mellitus — no. (%)	6 (4.9)	7 (5.5)
History of asthma — no. (%)	17 (13.8)	11 (8.6)
History of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease — no. (%)	2 (1.6)	3 (2.3)
Background HCM therapy — no. (%)		
Beta-blocker	94 (76.4)	95 (74.2)
Calcium channel blocker	25 (20.3)	17 (13.3)
ICD — no. (%)	27 (22.0)	29 (22.7)

Body-mass index — kg/m <sup>2</sup>	29.7±4.9	29.2±5.6
Heart rate — beats/min	63±10.1	62±10.6
Blood pressure — mm Hg		
Systolic	128±16.2	128±14.6
Diastolic	75±10.8	76±9.9
NYHA functional class — no. (%)		
II	88 (71.5)	95 (74.2)
III	35 (28.5)	33 (25.8)
pVO <sub>2</sub> — ml/kg/min	18.9±4.9	19.9±4.9
NT-proBNP, geometric mean (CV%) — ng/L†	777 (136)	616 (108)
hs-cTnI, geometric mean (CV%) — ng/L‡	12.5 (208)	12.5 (373)
Echocardiographic parameters		
LVEF — %	74±6	74±6
Maximum LV wall thickness — mm	20±4	20±3
LVOT gradient, rest — mm Hg	52±29	51±32
LVOT gradient, Valsalva — mm Hg	72±32	74±32
LVOT gradient, post-exercise — mm Hg§	86±34	84±36
LA volume index — ml/m <sup>2</sup>	40±12	41±14
LA diameter — mm¶	42±5.3	42±6.0

602 \*Plus-minus values are means ±SD, unless otherwise shown.

603 †Data on NT-proBNP were missing in three patients in the mavacamten group and two patients  
604 in the placebo group. The variation numbers (CV%) are coefficient of variation, which is defined  
605 as the ratio of the standard deviation to the mean.

606 ‡Data on hs-cTnI were missing in three patients in the mavacamten group and nine patients in  
607 the placebo group.

608 §Data on post-exercise LVOT gradient were missing in one patient in the mavacamten group  
609 and one patient in the placebo group.

610 ||Data on LA volume index were missing in one patient in the mavacamten group.

611 ¶¶Data on LA diameter were missing in five patients each in the mavacamten and placebo  
612 groups.

613 HCM=hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. hs-cTnl=high sensitivity-cardiac troponin I.

614 ICD=implantable cardioverter-defibrillator. LA=left atrial, LVEF=left ventricular ejection fraction.

615 LVOT=left ventricular outflow tract. NYHA=New York Heart Association. NT-proBNP=N-terminal

616 pro B-type natriuretic peptide. pVO<sub>2</sub>=peak oxygen consumption.

**Table 2: Primary and secondary end points\***

	<b>Mavacamten (N = 123)</b>	<b>Placebo (N = 128)</b>	<b>Difference† (95% CI) p value</b>
<b>Primary End Point§</b>			
<b>EITHER</b> ≥1.5 ml/kg/min increase in pVO <sub>2</sub> with ≥1 NYHA class improvement <b>OR</b> ≥3.0 ml/kg/min increase in pVO <sub>2</sub> with no worsening of NYHA class — no. (%)	45 (36.6)	22 (17.2)	19.4 (8.7 to 30.1) 0.0005
≥1.5 ml/kg/min increase in pVO <sub>2</sub> with ≥1 NYHA class improvement — no. (%)	41 (33.3)	18 (14.1)	19.3 (9.0 to 29.6)
≥3.0 ml/kg/min increase in pVO <sub>2</sub> with no worsening of NYHA class — no. (%)	29 (23.6)	14 (10.9)	12.6 (3.4 to 21.9)
<b>BOTH</b> ≥3.0 ml/kg/min increase in pVO <sub>2</sub> <b>AND</b> ≥1 NYHA class improvement — no. (%)	25 (20.3)	10 (7.8)	12.5 (4.0 to 21.0)
<b>Secondary End Points‡</b>			
Post-exercise LVOT gradient			
Change from baseline to week 30 — mm Hg	-47±40 (n = 117)	-10±30 (n = 122)	-36 (-43.2 to -28.1) <0.0001
pVO <sub>2</sub>			
Change from baseline to week 30 — ml/kg/min	1.40±3.1 (n = 120)	-0.05±3.0 (n = 125)	1.35 (0.58 to 2.12) 0.0006
≥1 NYHA class improvement§			
Improvement from baseline to week 30 — no. (%)	80 (65.0) (n = 123)	40 (31.3) (n = 128)	34 (22.2 to 45.4) <0.0001
KCCQ-CSS			
Change from baseline to week 30 in KCCQ-CSS	13.6±14.4 (n = 92)	4.2±13.7 (n = 88)	9.1 (5.5 to 12.7) <0.0001
HCMSQ-SoB			

Change from baseline to week 30 in HCMSQ-SoB	-2.8±2.7 (n = 85)	-0.9±2.4 (n = 86)	-1.8 (-2.4 to -1.2) <0.0001
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\*Plus-minus values are means ±SD.

†Model estimated least-square mean differences were reported for continuous variables.

‡N = number analyzable for secondary end point based on availability of both baseline and week 30 values.

§Patients with non-evaluable primary end point and NYHA secondary end point were considered as nonresponders. The response rates were calculated with N value as the denominator.

||Due to the smaller numbers evaluable for PRO end points, additional post-hoc analyses comparing the reasons for missing data were performed. Baseline demographic and disease characteristics, and key efficacy and safety parameters for patients with or without missing data in KCCQ-CSS or HCMSQ-SoB revealed no consistent pattern of differences between those groups. Furthermore, worst case scenario analyses showed that, even after imputing the missing data with unfavorable results toward the mavacamten group, the estimated treatment effects on KCCQ-CSS or HCMSQ-SoB remained statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ). These analyses supported the notion that missingness-at-random assumption was not violated. Data in the Table reflect the pre-specified analyses.

HCMSQ-SoB=Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Symptom Questionnaire Shortness-of-Breath Score. KCCQ-CSS=Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire-Clinical Symptom Score. LVOT=left ventricular outflow tract. NYHA=New York Heart Association.  $pVO_2$ =peak oxygen consumption.



**Table 3: Key exploratory efficacy end points**

	<b>Mavacamten</b>	<b>Placebo</b>	<b>Difference (95% CI)</b>
Complete response — no./total no. (%)*	32/117 (27.4)	1/126 (0.8)	26.6 (18.3, 34.8)
Post-exercise LVOT peak gradient <50 mm Hg — no./total no. (%)†	75/101 (74.3)	22/106 (20.8)	53.5 (42.0, 65.0)
Post-exercise LVOT peak gradient <30 mm Hg — no./total no. (%)‡	64/113 (56.6)	8/114 (7.0)	49.6 (39.3, 59.9)

\*Defined as New York Heart Association class I and all LVOT peak gradients less than 30 mm Hg (post-exercise, resting, and Valsalva).

†Threshold for guideline-based invasive intervention. Only patients with baseline post-exercise LVOT peak gradient at least 50 mm Hg were assessed.

‡Threshold for guideline-based diagnosis of obstruction. Only patients with baseline post-exercise LVOT peak gradient at least 30 mm Hg were assessed.

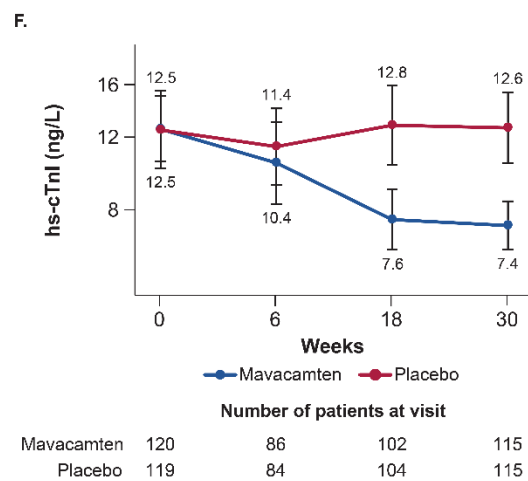
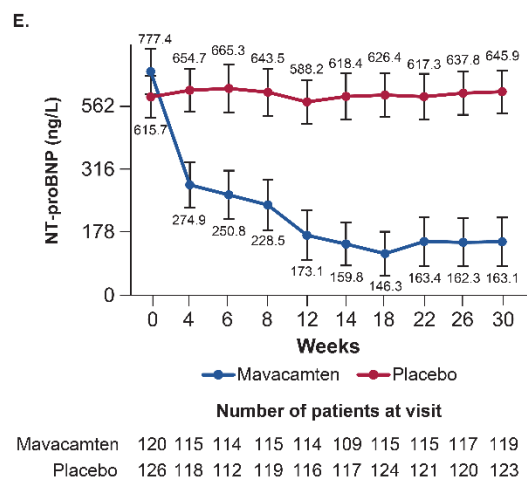
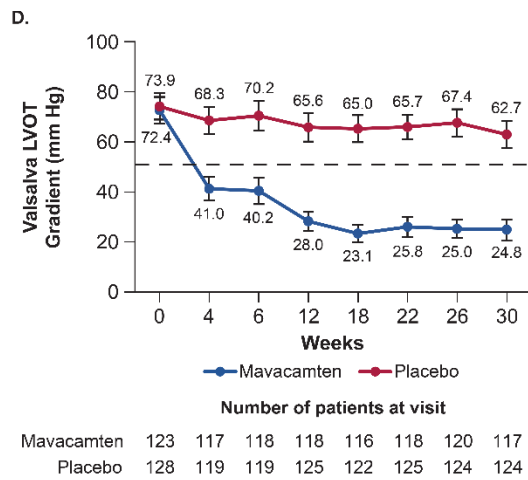
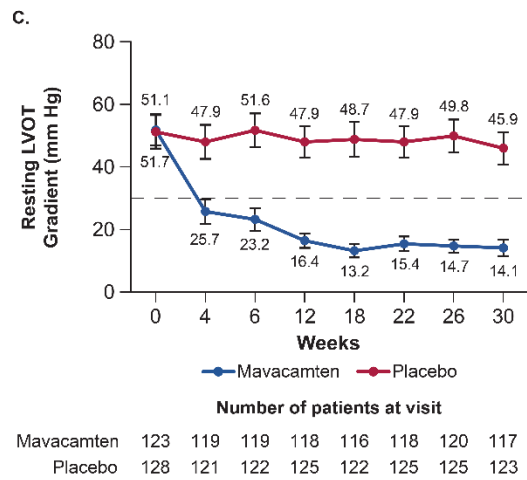
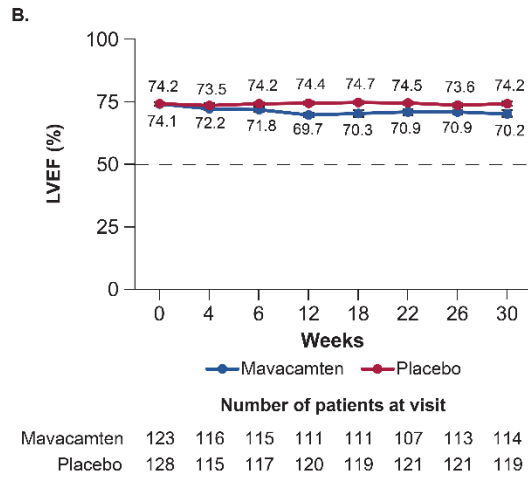
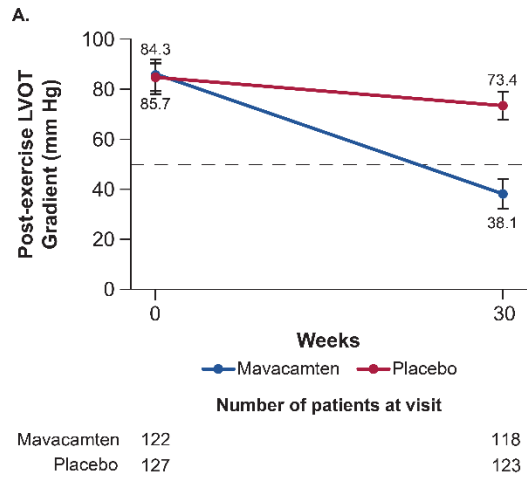
LVOT=left ventricular outflow tract.

**Table 4: Summary of treatment-emergent adverse events and serious adverse events**

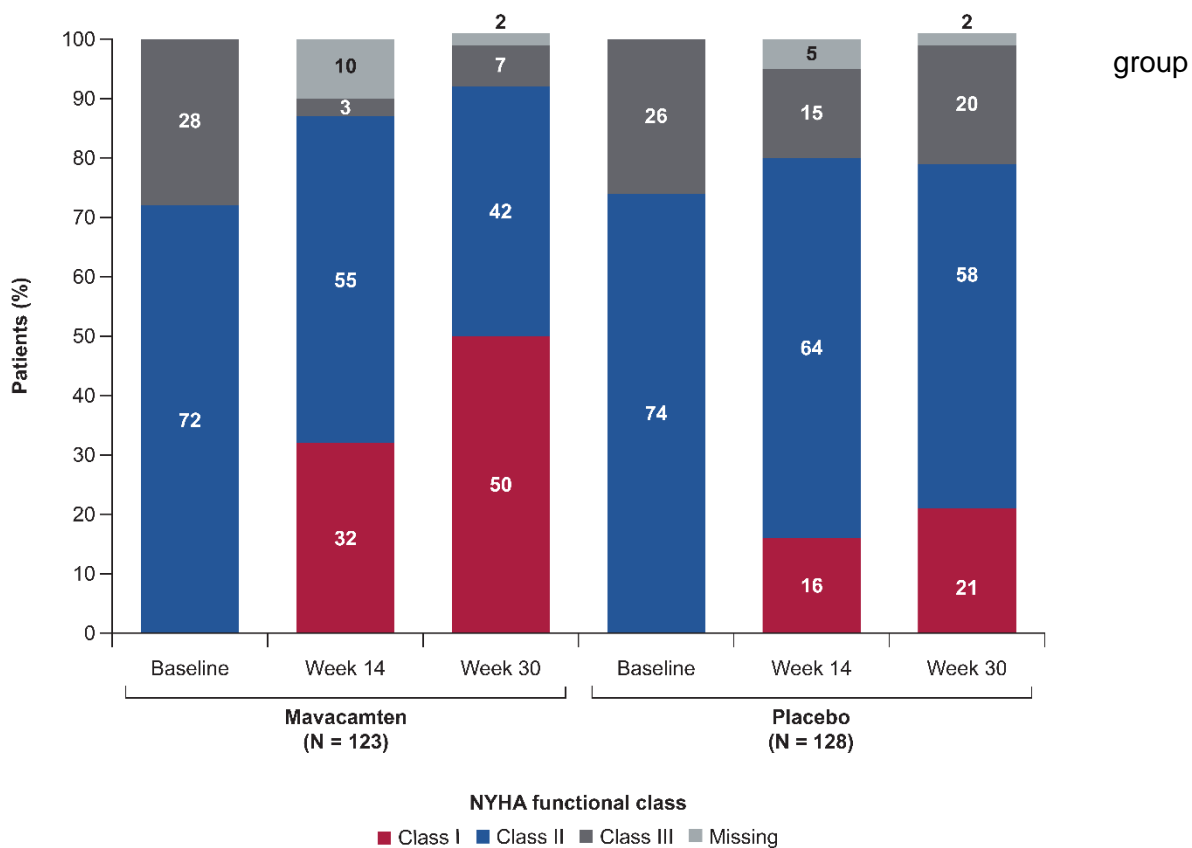
<b>Adverse Events Preferred Term</b>	<b>Mavacamten N = 123</b>	<b>Placebo N = 128</b>
Patients with ≥1 treatment-emergent adverse event — no. (%)	108 (87·8)	101 (78·9)
Total number of serious adverse events	11	20
Patients with ≥1 serious adverse event — no. (%)	10 (8·1)	11 (8·6)
Atrial fibrillation	2 (1·6)	4 (3·1)
Syncope	2 (1·6)	1 (0·8)
Stress cardiomyopathy	2 (1·6)	0
Sudden death	0	1 (0·8)
Transient ischemic attack	0	1 (0·8)
Cardiac failure congestive	0	1 (0·8)
Diverticulitis	1 (0·8)	0
Viral gastroenteritis	0	1 (0·8)
Urinary tract infection	0	2 (1·6)
Infection	1 (0·8)	0
Rheumatoid arthritis	0	1 (0·8)
Contusion	1 (0·8)	0
Forearm fracture	1 (0·8)	0
Dehydration	0	1 (0·8)
Vocal cord polyp	0	1 (0·8)
Cholesteatoma	0	1 (0·8)
Prostate cancer	0	1 (0·8)

# FIGURES

**Figure 1: Changes in LVOT gradient, LVEF, and cardiac biomarkers over time**

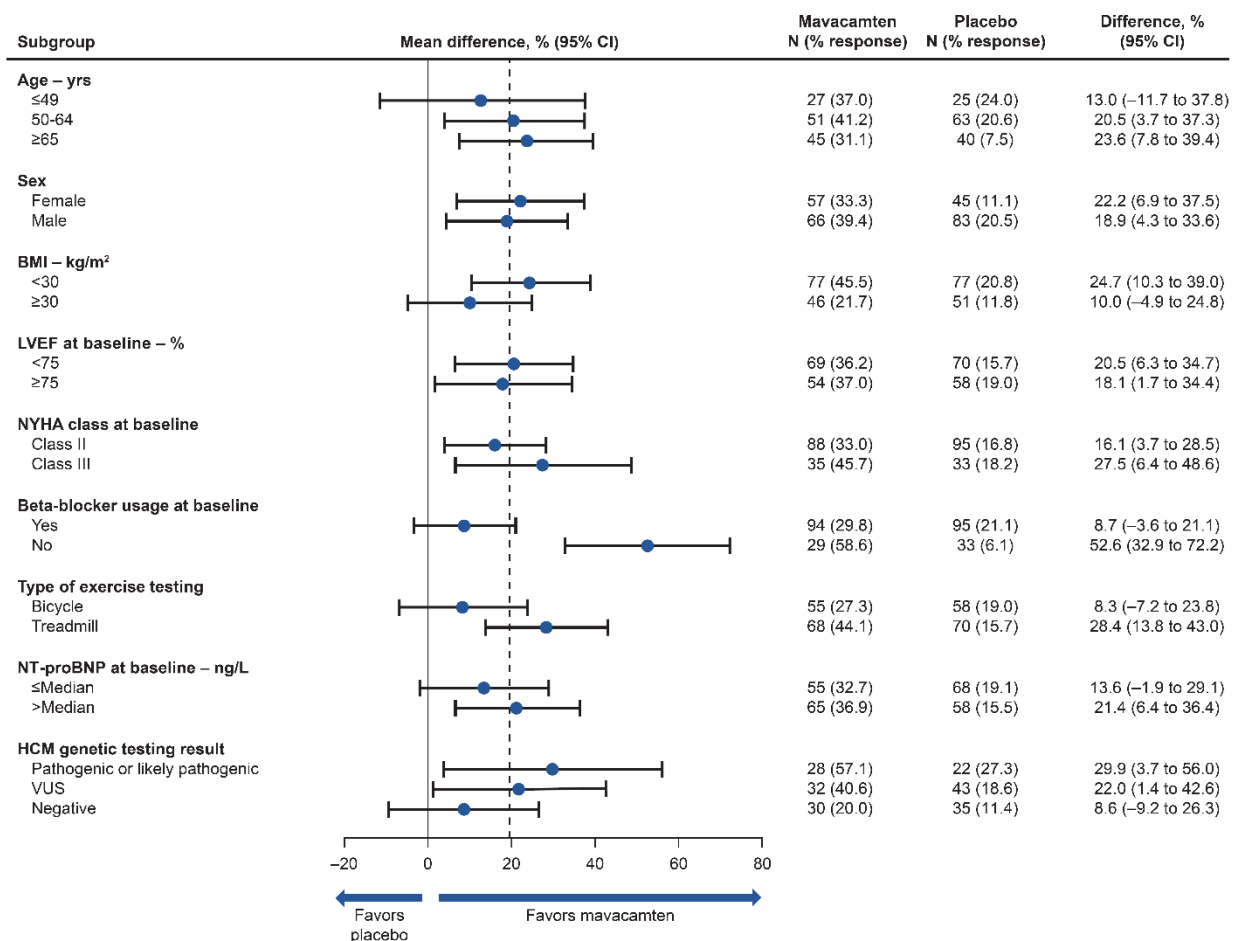


**Figure 2: Change in NYHA functional class over time.**



**Figure 3: Forest plot of treatment effect on primary end point and post-exercise LVOT gradient by subgroups**

**A.**



**B.**

