

# Effect of Bamlanivimab Virus-Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibody on Hospitalization Rate and Mortality in Long Term Care Facility Residents with Recently Diagnosed Pre-Symptomatic, Mild-To-Moderate SARS-Cov2 Infection

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# ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To measure the association between intravenous administration of monoclonal antibody bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) to Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) residents recently diagnosed with pre-symptomatic, mild-to-moderate COVID-19 and are considered high risk for disease progression with mortality, hospitalization, and adverse effects.

**Design:** A retrospective analysis of LTCF residents with confirmed COVID-19, pre-symptomatic, mild to moderate disease, who were treated with bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) were compared to similar LTCF residents who did not receive monoclonal antibody treatment. Dependent variables investigated included mortality and hospitalization as primary outcomes with adverse effects as the secondary outcome.

**Results:** A total of 107 residents from three LTCFs were diagnosed with pre-symptomatic, mild-to-moderate COVID-19 between November 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Of the 107 study participants, 44 residents provided consent to treatment, of which 39 received a single intravenous infusion of neutralizing monoclonal antibody, bamlanivimab 700 mg, early in the disease, and 5 received an incomplete dose. Of the 39 residents who received the full dose of bamlanivimab, 5 (12.8%) were admitted to the hospital and 4 (10.3%) died. Conversely, of the 63 residents who did not receive the monoclonal antibody, 26 (41.3%) were admitted to the hospital and 18 (28.6%) died. Relative risk for hospitalization and death were statistically significantly lower for those residents who received the full bamlanivimab treatment. No serious adverse effects were documented on any patient.

**Conclusions:** Intravenous administration of monoclonal antibody bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) to LTCF residents recently diagnosed with pre-symptomatic, mild to moderate COVID-19 was significantly associated with reduced mortality and hospitalization. The monoclonal antibody was well-tolerated.

Keywords: Bamlanivimab; SARS-Cov2; Monoclonal antibody; COVID-19

# INTRODUCTION

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, due to the novel Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), caused a worldwide, sudden, and substantial increase in hospitalizations for and death from pneumonia with multi-organ disease [1]. Long-Term Care Facility (LTCF) residents were, and continue to be, at particularly high risk for morbidity and mortality associated with infection with SARS-CoV-2, given their age and high prevalence of chronic medical conditions, combined with functional impairment that often requires frequent and close contact with health care providers, who may inadvertently spread the virus to residents [2,3]. Prior to the advent of COVID-19 vaccinations, healthcare providers applied their best knowledge of treatments to mitigate the spread of disease, hospitalization, and death among vulnerable elderly residents in LTCFs.

Preclinical studies of neutralizing antibody treatments for SARS-CoV-2 infection in several animal models were associated with promising results, including marked reductions in viral loads in the upper and lower respiratory tracts. On November 9, 2020,

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the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a single infusion of 700 mg bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults [4,5]. Bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) binds to the receptor binding domain of the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, blocking the spike protein's attachment to the human ACE2 receptor. Monoclonal antibodies that target the spike protein have been shown to have a clinical benefit in treating SARS-CoV-2 infection. Preliminary data suggest that monoclonal antibodies may play a role in preventing SARS-CoV-2 infection in household contacts of infected patients [6] and during skilled nursing and assisted living facility outbreaks [7]. The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of the virus-neutralizing monoclonal antibody bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) on hospitalization rate, all-cause mortality, and clinical outcomes of LTCF residents with pre-symptomatic, mild-to-moderate COVID-19.

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Setting and population

This study included residents from three Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) within the same United States health network, LECOM Health, in Erie, Pennsylvania, USA, including the LECOM Senior Living Center (SLC), LECOM at Village Square (LVS), and LECOM Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (LNR). Medical records of residents identified as SARS-CoV-2 positive between 1 November 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020 were included in this study.

#### Measures

COVID-19 was diagnosed by the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in respiratory swabs. RNA was detected via the Abbott ID Now SARS-CoV-2 reverse-transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) high-throughput assay or the Cepheid Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 assay, conducted at the LECOM Health Senior Living Center Laboratory, supported by the Regional Response Health Collaborative (RRHC) Program of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and additional health systems.

# Data collection

Data was extracted from the electronic medical record BlueStep Platform (BlueStep, Farmington, UT, USA), and a spreadsheet was electronically created using a licensed version of Microsoft Excel, V.2016 (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington, USA). Data collected included demographic information (age, gender, race, and ethnicity), date of SARS-CoV-2 positive test, Emergency Department (ED) visit(s), hospital admission(s), adverse effect(s), and mortality. Data collection from medical records of LTCF residents who tested positive for COVID-19 occurred between December 2020 and March 2021.

# Definitions

Asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic disease was defined as the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in respiratory swabs with absence of symptoms. Early illness was defined as the presence of two or more of the following features: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, diarrhea, sore throat, rhinorrhea. Mild-tomoderate COVID-19 was defined as illness with temperature of >100.4°F (>38°C) and/or one or more clinical findings of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing).

#### Inclusion and exclusion criteria

In this retrospective analysis, all study participants were LTCF residents who tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Participants were included if asymptomatic or with mild to moderate symptoms for COVID-19. The investigators reviewed the symptoms of disease and inclusion and exclusion criteria (Appendix A). Each patient who qualified and provided consent received a single intravenous infusion of LY-CoV555 over approximately 1 hour at a dose of 700 mg early in the disease at the long term care facility. No additional inclusion criteria were created.

#### Outcomes

Major clinical outcomes were defined as COVID-19 related inpatient hospitalization, a visit to the emergency department, and death. Since most emergency department visits resulted in hospital admissions, the authors refer to a composite of emergency department visits and in-patient hospitalizations as hospitalizations. Key secondary outcomes include safety assessments and adverse events.

#### Statistical analyses

Microsoft Excel V.2016 (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington, USA) was used to calculate relative risk of hospitalization or death among residents who received or did not receive bamlanivimab organized in  $2 \times 2$  contingency tables. Statistical significance of comparisons between relative risk values was calculated using Fisher's exact test in Excel. Statistical significance was set at P<0.05. Descriptive statistics in Excel was used to analyze the demographic data.

#### **Ethical considerations:**

This study was determined by the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) Health Institutional Review Board (IRB) to be secondary research using identifiable private information, regulated under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and, therefore, was exempt from the requirement for full IRB review. No financial compensation or incentive was provided to residents.

# RESULTS

# Study participants

A total of 107 LTCF residents diagnosed with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 were evaluated from November 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 at the LECOM Senior Living Center (SLC), LECOM at Village Square (LVS), and LECOM Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (LNR). The mean age of the residents was 76.8 ( $\pm$ 13) years, 46 (43.0%) were male, 61 (57%) were female. With regard to race, 91 (85.0%) residents identified as white, 15 (14.3%) identified as Black or African American, and 1 (0.9%) identified as other. Detailed demographic data and clinical outcomes of all study participants are displayed in Table 1.

Of the 107 LTCF residents diagnosed with mild-to-moderate COVID-19, 61 were offered a single intravenous infusion of neutralizing antibody LY-CoV555 (bamlanivimab) treatment in one dose of 700 mg (Table 2). Of these, 44 (72.1%) residents consented to treatment, of whom 39 (88.6%) received the full dose and 5 (11.4%) received an incomplete dose because the infusion was interrupted from intravenous line complications (Table 2). Although 61 COVID-19 positive LTCF residents were offered bamlamivimab treatment, refusal to consent occurred among 17 (27.9%) of the LTCF residents (Table 2). Of the

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107 LTCF residents diagnosed with COVID-19, 46 (42.9%) residents were included in this study to which the treatment was not offered due to unavailability of treatment (Table 3). Therefore, a total number of 63 study participants did not receive bamlamivimab treatment and served as the statistical control. These 63 participants either refused treatment (17) (Table 2) or were not offered treatment (46) (Table 3). Table 4 summarizes the clinical outcomes of all study participants.

#### Primary outcomes

LTCF residents diagnosed with COVID-19 and treated with a 700 mg dose of bamlanivimab demonstrated a lower relative risk of hospitalization and death among COVID-19 LTCF residents. Concerning hospitalization rate, among the 107 LTCF residents diagnosed with COVID-19, residents who received a 700 mg dose of bamlanivimab experienced a

 Table 1: Female spouse socio-demographic characteristics.

lower relative risk for hospitalization, including visits to the emergency room, compared to residents who did not receive bamlanivimab treatment (RR=0.31, P=0.0035). Of the 39 LTCF residents who received a full dose, only 5 (13%) were subsequently admitted to the hospital. Conversely, for the 63 LTCF residents who did not receive bamlanivimab, 26 (41.3%) were subsequently hospitalized (Table 4). Five additional residents received an incomplete dose because the infusion was interrupted from intravenous line complications. These five residents, nonetheless, received a partial dose. Collectively, of the 44 LTCF residents who received either a full or partial dose of bamlanivimab, 8 (18%) were admitted to the hospital compared to 41.3% hospitalization rate for residents (26 out of 63) who did not receive bamlanivimab treatment (RR=0.44, P=0.0124) (Table 4 and Figure 1).

			All participants			
Characteristic —	All par	rticipants	Hospit	alizations	De	eaths
Characteristic	n	=107	n	=34	n	=23
Sex	n	%	n	%	n	%
Male	46	42.99	18	52.94	13	56.52
Female	61	57.01	16	47.06	10	43.48
Age						
Mean	7	6.83	80	0.74	80	0.26
Median		76	7	9.5		79
<65	21	19.63	3	8.82	2	8.7
6 -74	29	27.1	8	23.53	7	30.43
75-84	24	22.43	9	26.47	6	26.09
85-94	22	20.56	8	23.53	5	21.74
≥ 95	11	10.28	3	8.82	3	13.04
Ethnicity						
White	91	85.05	29	85.29	20	86.96
African American	15	14.02	5	14.71	3	13.04
Other	1	0.93	0	0	0	0

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Characteristic	Off Treat n=	Offered Treatment n=61	Hospi	Hospitalizations n=13	Ď 1	Deaths n=9	Consent+full treatment n=39		Hospit	Hospitalizations n=5	Deaths n=4		Consent + incomplete treatment n=5		Hospit	Hospitalizations n=3	Deaths n = 1		Did not consent à no treatment n = 17		Hospitalizations n = 5	ations	Deaths n = 4	4 th
Sex	ц	%	ц	%	ц	%	=	%	ц	%	ц	%	ц	%	ц	%	с	%	a a	%	с -	%	с	%
Male	21	34.43	4	30.77	ε	33.33	11	28.21	0	0		25	2	64	1	33.33	1	100	8	47.06	ŝ	60	-	25
Female	40	65.57	6	69.23	9	66.67	28	71.79	ۍ	100	ς	75	ε	09	5	66.67	0	0	9 52	52.94	5	40	ŝ	75
Age																								
Mean	77.45	84	81.22	76	86.8	83.25	86.6	94.67	93	74.35	74.8	76.25	1	-	1	1	-		1	-	1	1	1	-
Median	92	86	80	76	86	80	92	93	93	72	80	76.5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<65	10	16.39	-	7.69	0	0	2	17.95	0	0	0	0	-	20	0	0	0	0	2 1]	11.76	-	20	0	0
65-74	19	31.15	5	15.38	4	44.44	11	28.21	1	20	5	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	47.06		20	7	50
75-84	13	21.31	3	23.08	2	22.22	10	25.64	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3 17	17.65	2	40	2	50
85-94	14	22.95	4	30.77	2	22.22	7	17.95	1	20	1	25	3	60	2	66.67	1	100	4 23	23.53	1	20	0	0
≥ 95	ŗŲ	8.2	3	23.08	1	11.11	4	10.26	2	40	1	25	1	20	1	33.33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethnicity																								
White	52	85.25	11	84.62	6	100	35	89.74	5	100	4	100	2	100	3	100	1	100	12 70	70.59	3	60	4	100
African American	6	14.75	7	15.38	0	0	4	10.26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 29	29.41	2	40	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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Table 3: Demographic characteristics and patient outcomes of participants not offered treatment with bamlanivimab compared with hospitalization and mortality.

		Partici	oants not offered tre	eatment		
Characteristic		ed treatment =46		alizations =21		eaths =14
Sex	n	%	n	%	n	%
Male	25	54.35	14	66.67	10	71.43
Female	21	45.65	7	33.33	4	28.57
Age						
Mean	76	5.44	78	3.71	79	9.64
Median		74		77		78
<65	11	23.91	2	9.52	2	14.29
65-74	10	21.74	6	28.57	3	21.43
75-84	11	23.91	6	28.57	4	28.57
85-94	8	17.39	4	19.05	3	21.43
≥ 95	6	13.04	3	14.29	2	14.29
Ethnicity						
White	39	84.78	18	85.71	11	78.57
African American	6	13.04	3	14.29	3	21.43
Other	1	2.17	0	0	0	0

Table 4: COVID-19 positive participants compared with bamlanivimab dosage, hospitalization and mortality.

	Total	Hospitalizations	Deaths	75-84	75-84
	n	n	%	n	%
COVID-19 positive patients	107	34	31.78	23	21.50
Offered treatment	61	13	21.31	9	14.75
Consent to treatment	44	8	18.18	5	11.36
Full dose	39	5	12.82	4	10.26
Incomplete dose	5	3	60.00	1	20.00
Refused treatment	17	5	29.41	4	23.53
Not offered treatment	46	21	45.65	14	30.43

Concerning mortality among LTCF residents diagnosed with COVID-19, those residents treated with a 700 mg dose of bamlanivimab also demonstrated a lower relative risk of death compared to those residents who were not treated with bamlanivimab (RR=0.36, P=0.0458). Of the 39 residents who received a full dose, 4 (10%) died. Conversely, of the 63 residents who did not receive bamlanivimab, 18 (29%) died. As previously described, five additional patients received a partial dose. Collectively, of the 44 patients who received either a full or partial dose, 5 (11%) died compared with 18 out of 63 who died and did not receive bamlanivimab treatment (no full or partial dose) (RR=0.39, P=0.0541) (Figure 1). Therefore, although administration of bamlanivimab to LTCF residents who tested positive for COVID-19 positively impacted hospitalization and death, its greatest impact was on reducing hospitalization, but lost statistical significance for reducing mortality if a partial dose was utilized.

#### Secondary outcome

Of the 44 LTCF residents who tested positive for COVID-19 and received bamlanivimab infusion treatment, 5 residents (11.36%) experienced adverse effects. The mean age of residents experiencing adverse effects was 76.6 years and all were female. Of the 5 LTCF residents who experienced adverse effects, four (4) had received the full dose, and one (1) had received an incomplete dose. Three (3) residents reported only one adverse effect while two (2) residents reported two adverse effects. The most common adverse effect was nausea, which was reported by 4 of the 5 (80%) residents. Other adverse effects reported by three different residents included vomiting, diarrhea, and dizziness, each only reported once. Only one of the residents who reported an adverse effect was hospitalized. None of the residents who reported an adverse effect died (Table 5).

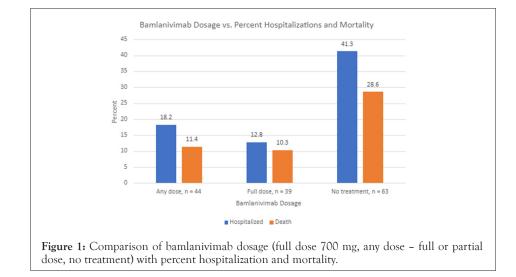


Table 5: Adverse effects following bamlanivimab infusion.

Participant co dosag		Adverse effects, n (%)	Nausea	Vomiting	Diarrhea	Dizziness	Hospitalizations	Death	Age, mean
Consented and received treatment	44	5 (11.36%)	4	1	1	1	1	0	76.6
Full dose	39	4 (10.26%)	3	1	1	1	0	0	71
Incomplete dose	5	1 (20.00%)	1	0	0	0	1	0	99

# DISCUSSION

In this retrospective study, investigators examined the efficacy of bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) in the treatment of presymptomatic, mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in long term care facility residents. The aim of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of early intervention neutralizing monoclonal antibody therapy on hospitalization, death, and adverse side effects. Data analysis revealed greater benefit to LTCF residents with the use of bamlanivimab across primary and secondary clinical outcomes.

LTCF residents with or without underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease. Among LTCF residents who received treatment with the complete 700 mg dose infusion of bamlanivimab, the percentages of hospitalization and death were significantly lower than in those who did not receive the infusion of bamlanivimab. Since severity of illness is primarily driven by lung injury from SARS-CoV-2 infection in the lower respiratory tract, the effect of bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) therapy on clinical outcomes, specifically the frequency of hospitalization, is an important outcome given the association between hospitalization and subsequent mortality in patients with COVID-19 [8,9]. In addition, no serious adverse events were recorded. These results provide support for the potential of neutralizing monoclonal antibody therapy to reduce both the risk of progression to severe disease and the severity of disease among (LTCF) residents with symptomatic COVID-19 with an acceptable safety profile.

Unfortunately, the sustained increase of SARS-CoV-2 viral variants that are resistant to bamlanivimab alone has resulted in the increased risk for treatment failure. The FDA has determined that the known and potential benefits of bamlanivimab, when administered alone, no longer outweigh the known and

potential risks for its authorized use. Therefore, the agency determined that the criteria for issuance of an emergency use authorization was no longer met, and on April 16, 2021, revoked its emergency use authorization for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 [10]. This medication alone is currently not in use. The FDA emergency use authorization for the combination of bamlanivimab with etesevimab, as well as other monoclonal antibodies alone (sotrovimab) or in combination (casirivimab/imdevimab) [11].

This study has several limitations. The emergence of viral variants was not accounted for in the analyses. Additionally, no immunosuppressed residents were included in the study. While the date of hospital admission was objectively verifiable, the date of symptom onset was self-reported and may be subject to study participant recall bias. Also, the study group of 5 patients who received a partial dose of bamlanivimab treatment is relatively small. Although only 16 of 107 residents (15%) were identified as non-white and is relatively small, this proportion is representative of the general population of Erie, Pennsylvania, USA.

# CONCLUSION

The association between intravenous administration of monoclonal antibody bamlanivimab (LY-CoV555) to LTCF residents recently diagnosed with pre-symptomatic, mild-tomoderate COVID-19 and are considered high risk for disease progression was statistically significant with hospitalization and mortality. COVID-19 positive LTCF residents who received an intravenous administration of a full dose of bamlanivimab antibody treatment were associated with a statistically significant lower relative risk for hospitalization and death compared to those LTCF residents who did not receive a full dose. For those

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LTCF residents who received a partial dose bamlanivimab antibody treatment, the relative risk for hospitalization remained statistically lower than those residents who did not receive any treatment, while the relative risk for mortality became not statistically associated. Therefore, a full dose of bamlanivimab antibody treatment is recommended to reduce the relative risk of hospitalization and mortality among LTCF COVID-19 patients. Neutralizing monoclonal antibodies directed at the receptor-binding domain of SARS-CoV-2 spike protein are a potential therapeutic option for the COVID-19 positive, mildto-moderate disease, LTCF population. Monoclonal antibody treatment provides immediate, passive immunity and may limit disease progression and complications in these patients. The monoclonal antibody was well-tolerated.

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