Development of New Intra-articular Therapy for Osteoarthritis

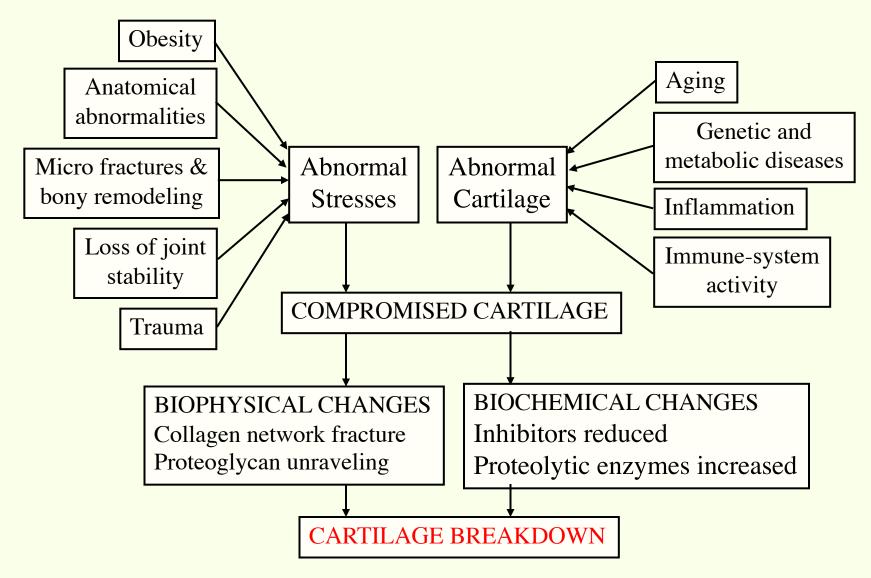
Andrew Marino, Ph.D. David D. Waddell, M.D.

Orthopedic Specialist Research Shreveport, Louisiana





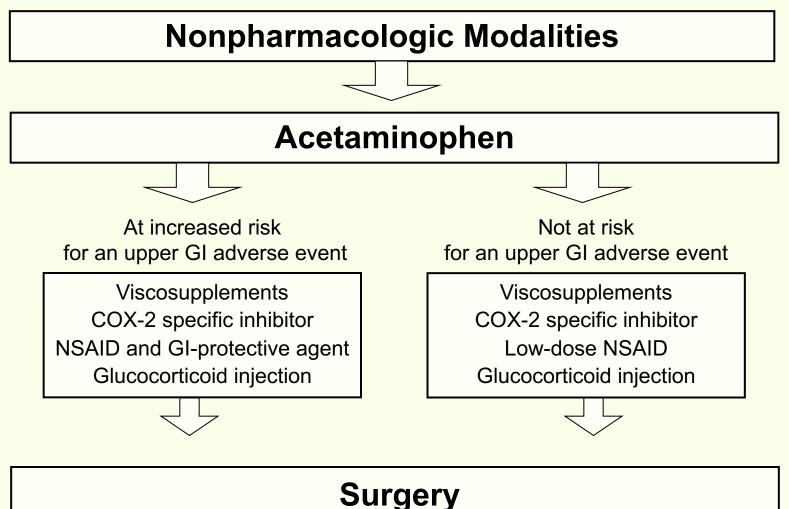
Factors Involved in Osteoarthritis



Osteoarthritis Treatment

- OA is often a locally manifest disease
- Local therapy for local disease
- Avoids systemic adverse events (COX II side effects)
- Lower doses of therapeutic agents achievable.

American College of Rheumatology 2000 Guidelines



Osteoarthritis Local Therapies

- Intra-articular steroids
- Hyaluronan agents
- Transdermal non-steroidal agents
- New agents?

Orthopedic Specialists of La.: Synvisc Experience Nov. 1, 1997 – Sept. 9, 2004

> 3524 Knees 10,572 Injections

Osteoarthritis Radiographic Grade

- OA Grade 1 1%
- OA Grade 2 7%
- OA Grade 3 13%
- OA Grade 4 79%

Gap Junctions and Osteoarthritis

- Journal of Physiology 1997
- Journal of Physiology 2001
- Clinical Orthopedics and Related Research 2004

Marino, Kolomytkin and Waddell LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport, Louisiana

Electron Microscopy Number of Gap Junctions

PATIENT]	No. GAP JUNC	TIONS
No.	DIAGNOSIS	per 100 C	ELLS MEAN ± SD
1	Normal	1.43	
2	66	0.40	
3	"	1.11	
4	66	0.00	
5	"	0.62	0.71 ± 0.57
1	Osteoarthritis	3.72	
2	"	1.26	
3	"	3.61	
4	66	3.65	
5	66	7.52	
6	66	6.35	$*4.35 \pm 2.24$
			* P < 0.05

Summary

- Background of work
- In vitro study
- Animal study
- Clinical study
- Future plans

Present Support

Genzyme Biosurgical (HA studies) OSR Department of Orthopaedic Surgery (LSU) *Center for Excellence in Arthritis (LSU)

*Ended in 2004

Personnel

LSU (Marino)	OSL (Waddell)
Electrophysiologist (Ph.D.)	Administrator
Graduate Student	PA
2 Technicians	Nurse
Bioengineer (Ph.D.)	Research Assistant

Approach to Osteoarthritis

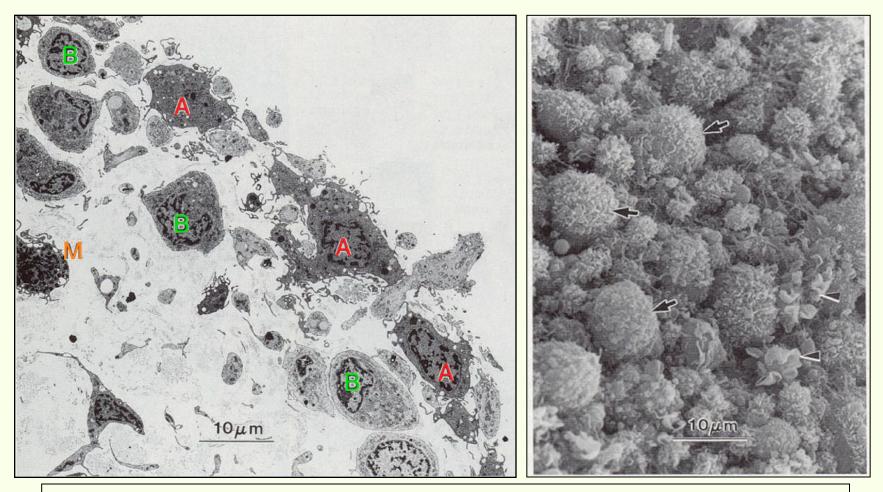
- Emphasis on synovium
- Importance of electrophysiology
- Focus on signal transduction

Experimental Approach *Hypothesis* Cell Electrical Changes → Function

MethodologyElectrophysiology
&
Enzyme Activity→ FunctionMolecular Biology
Microscopy→ Composition

Objects of Study HIG-82 Synovial Cells Synovial Biopsies

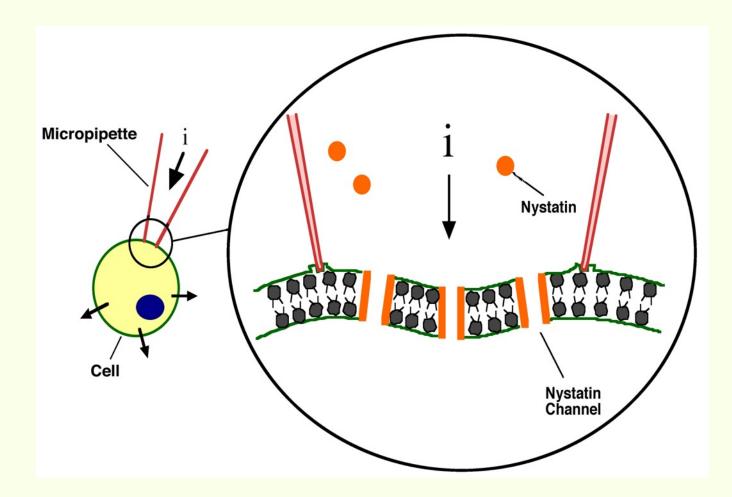
Importance of Synovium



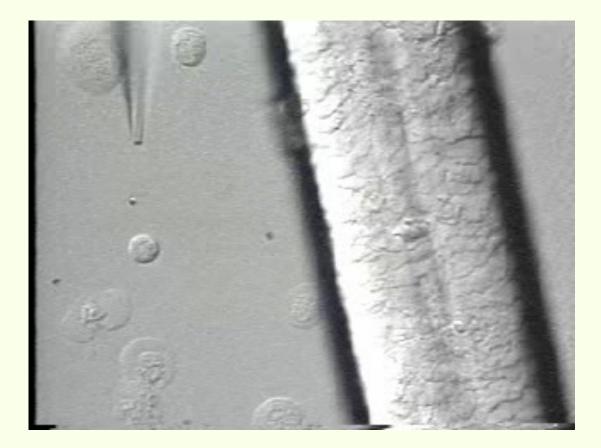
Type A: MacrophageType B: Secretory

M: Mast cell

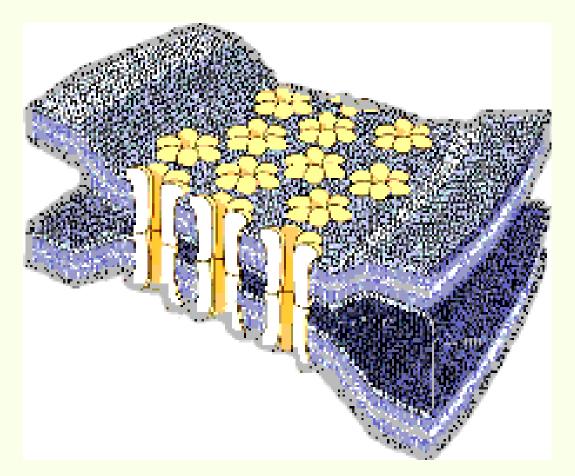
Electrophysiology Methods



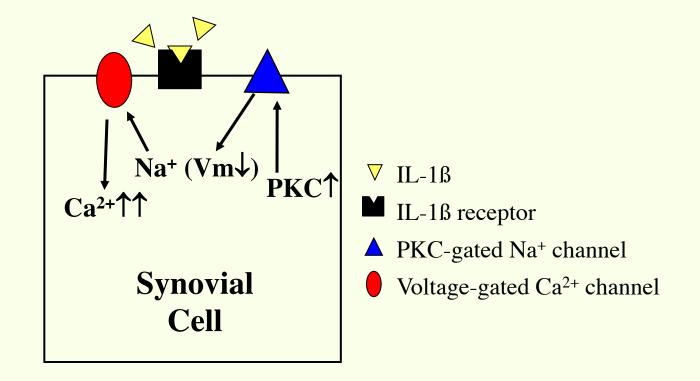
Nystatin Patch Clamp



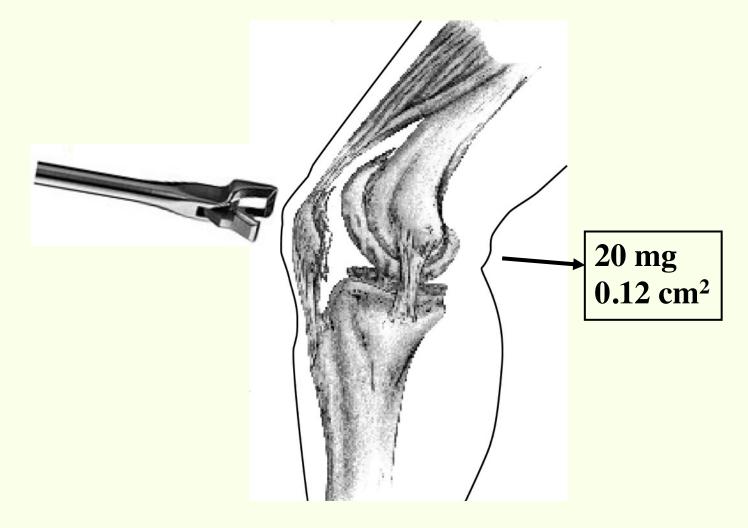
Important Discovery Gap Junctions



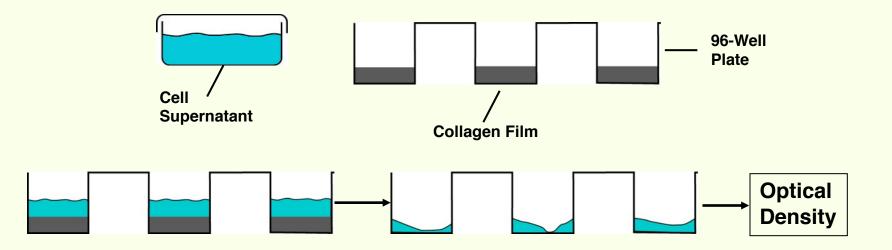
Important Discovery Signal Transduction in Synovial Cells Early Events (15 minutes)



Surgical Biopsy Procedure



Metalloproteinase (MMP) Assay

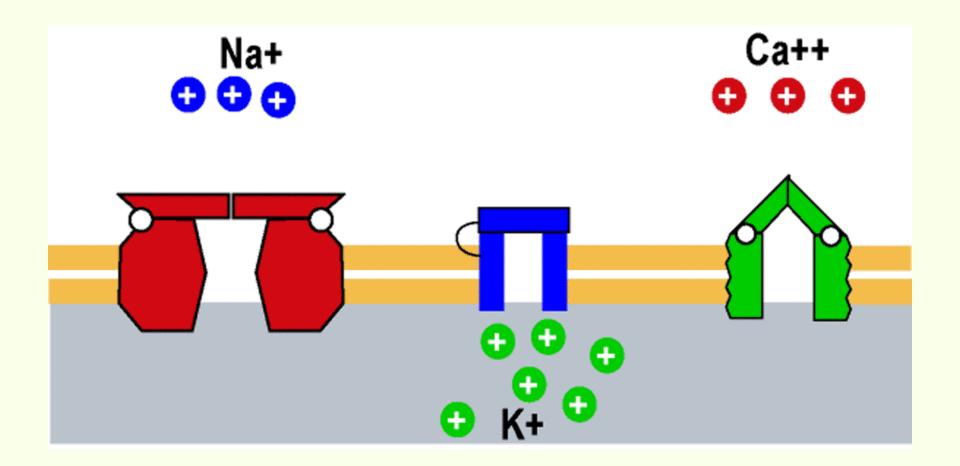


Important Discovery Signal Transduction in Synovial Cells

Early Events (15 minutes)

Superiodic Synovial Cell V IL-1β V IL-1β V IL-1β V IL-1β Voltage-gated Na⁺ channel Voltage-gated Ca²⁺ channel

Late Events(2-48 hrs)MMPs \rightarrow OA



Proposed Membrane-Channel Research

Basic Idea \longrightarrow Pathological changes in specific ion channels mediate progression of OA

Identify the channels functionally by
 Proposal

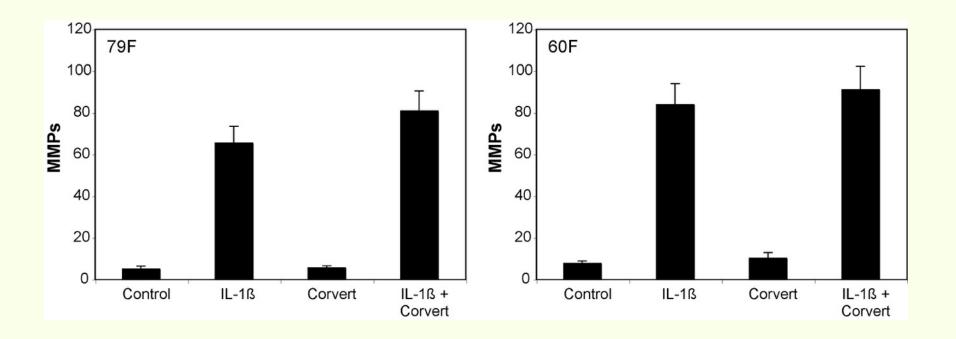
 Comparing OA and normal synovial cells

2) Design chemical agents to block the altered channels

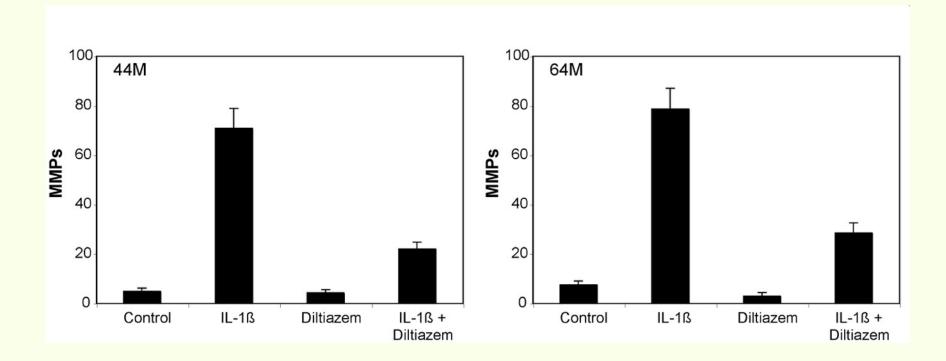
Dr. Waddell:

"What if we injected the blockers that are already on the market for heart problems."

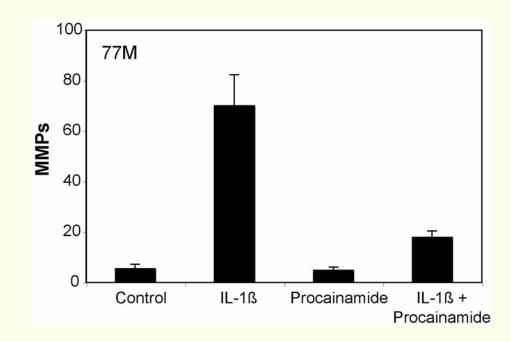
Effect of Potassium-Channel Blocker Corvert (13 µg/mL) on MMP Production



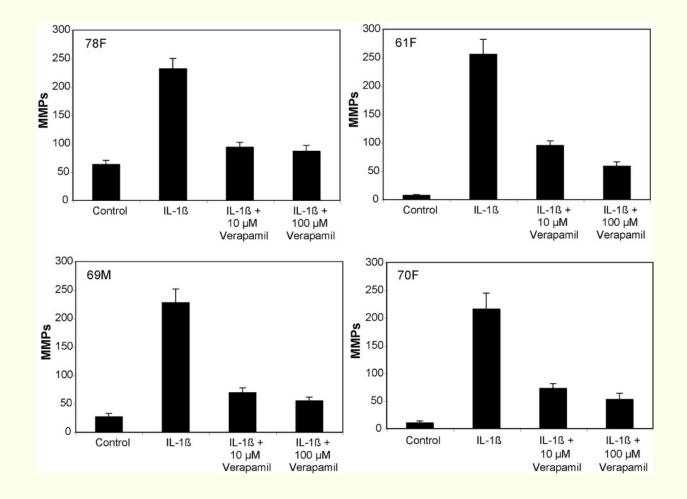
Effect of Calcium-Channel Blocker Diltiazem (3 µg/mL) on MMP Production



Effect of Sodium-Channel Blocker Procainamide ($10 \mu g/mL$) on MMP Production



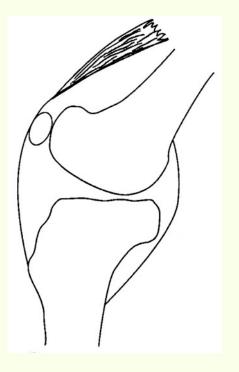
Effect of Calcium-Channel Blocker Verapamil on MMP Production



Mouse Verapamil Study				
Animals:	BALB/c 🗗, 6 months old			
Dose:	0.4-2.5 μg/10 μL (≤100 μM)			
Injection Site:	Knee (intra-articular)			
Recovery Times:	4 hrs, 24 hrs, 4 days			
Endpoint:	Inflammation			

Zeuner, Arthritis Rheum. 46: 2219, 2002

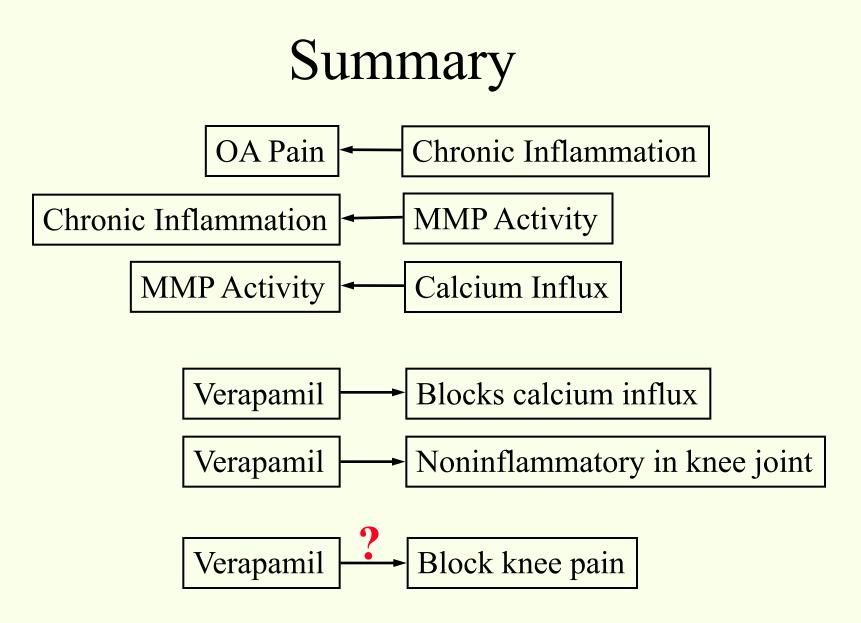
Histological Evaluation



- Mid-saggital plane used for evaluation
- Inflammation scale 0-3
- Scoring by blinded observer (pathologist)

Mouse Study Results

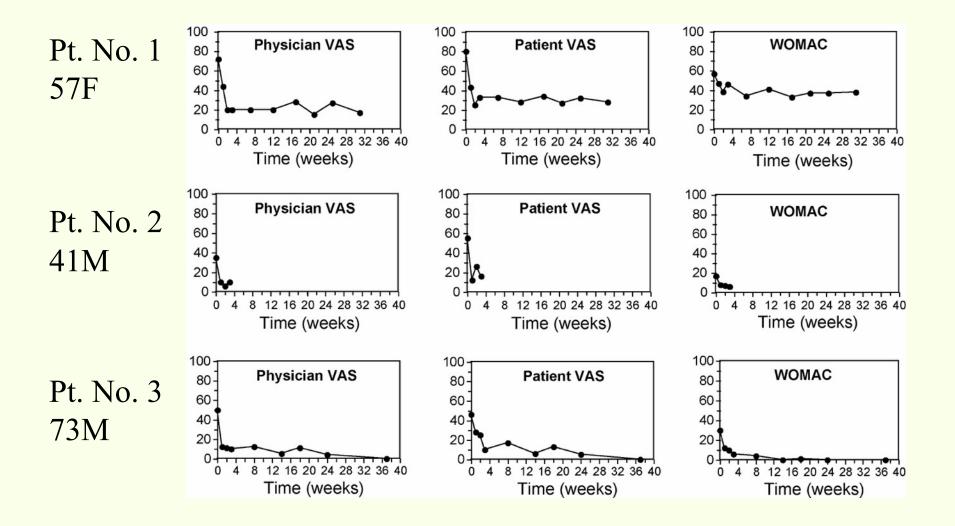
	IN	NFLAMMA'	TION SCAL	LE		
	(Untreated)					
	0	1	2	3	Untreated	
	7	1	0	0	Control 0.25±0	.5
	IN IN	NFLAMMA		LE		
		(4 H	ours)			
	0	1	2	3	4 Hours	
Control	0	1	3	0	Control 1.75±0	.5
Verapamil	0	5	1	0	Verapamil 1.25±0	.5
	IN	NFLAMMA	TION SCAL	LE		
	(1 Day)					
	0	1	2	3	1 Day	
Control	1	0	3	0	Control 1.5±1	.0
Verapamil	3	2	0	1	Verapamil 1.0±1.4	41
	IN	NFLAMMA	TION SCAL			
	(4 Days)					
	0	1	2	3	4 Days	
Control	1	2	1	0	Control 1.0±0.8	82
Verapamil	3	0	1	0	Verapamil 0.5±1	.0

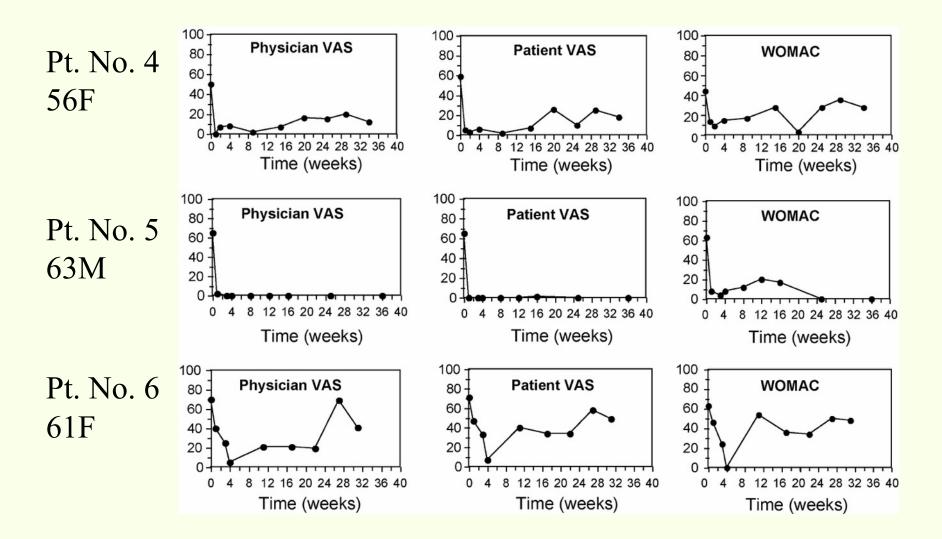


Open Study Evaluating Verapamil in Osteoarthritis of the Knee

IRB	LSUHSC-S
Study Design	Open study (no contemporaneous control)
Principal Investigator	David Waddell, M.D.
Other Investigators	None
Study Location	OSL
Dose	0.2 mg & 0.5 mg
Inclusion Criteria	OA-IV
Study Hypothesis	Symptomatic treatment of OA pain
Study Endpoints	WOMAC
	Physician VAS
	Patient VAS
Duration of Study	6 months
Follow-up Schedule	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 20, 24 weeks

Verapamil Study No. 1 (0.2 mg)





Patient VAS

100

80

100

80

WOMAC

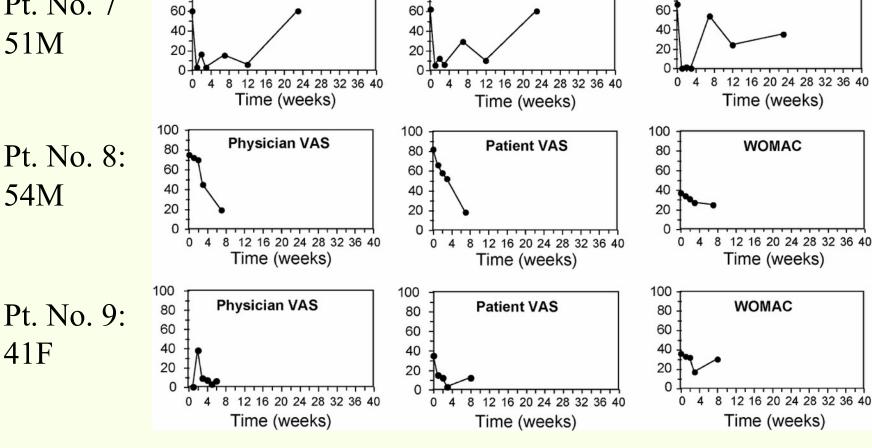
Pt. No. 7 51M

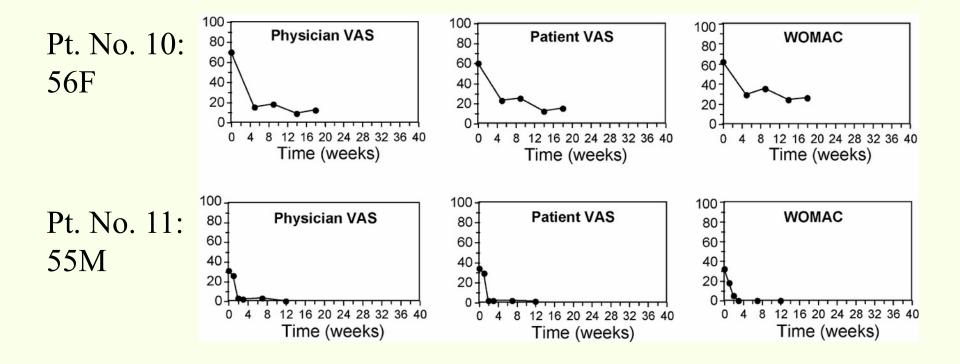
100.

80.

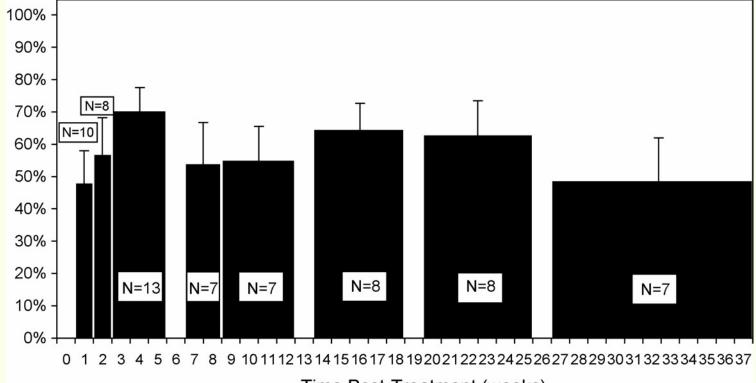
Physician VAS

Pt. No. 8: 54M





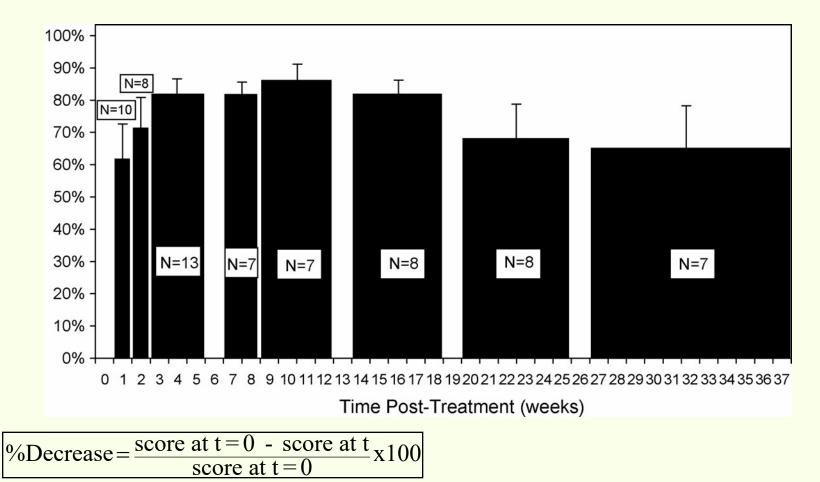
Verapamil Study No. 1 (0.2 mg) % Decrease in WOMAC



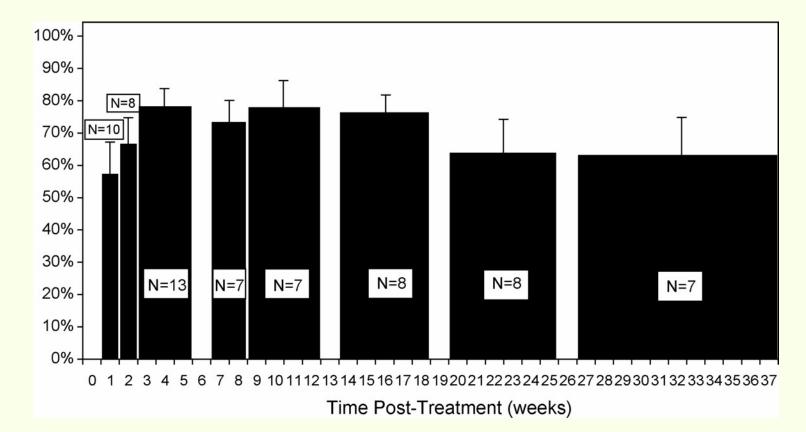
Time Post-Treatment (weeks)

 $\frac{\text{\%Decrease} = \frac{\text{score at } t = 0 - \text{score at } t}{\text{score at } t = 0} \times 100}{\text{score at } t = 0}$

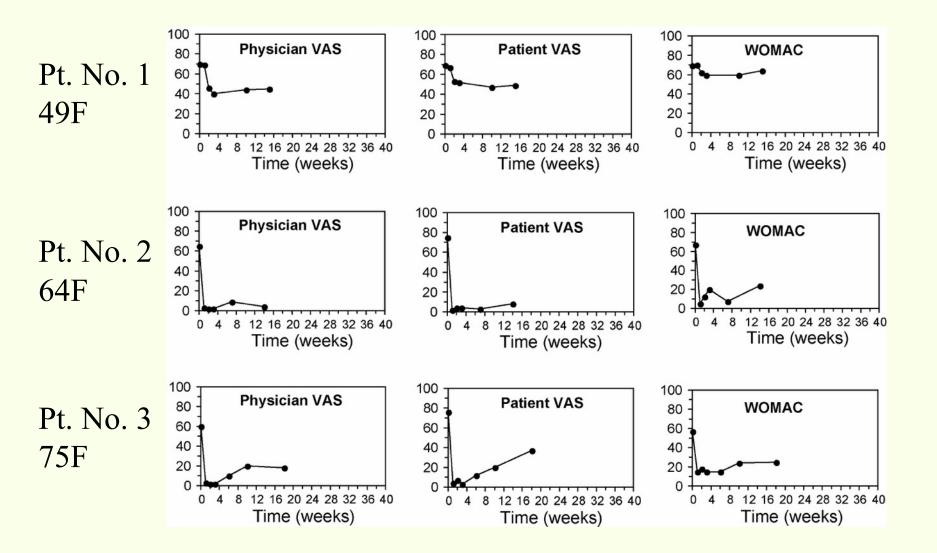
Verapamil Study No. 1 (0.2 mg) % Decrease in Physician VAS

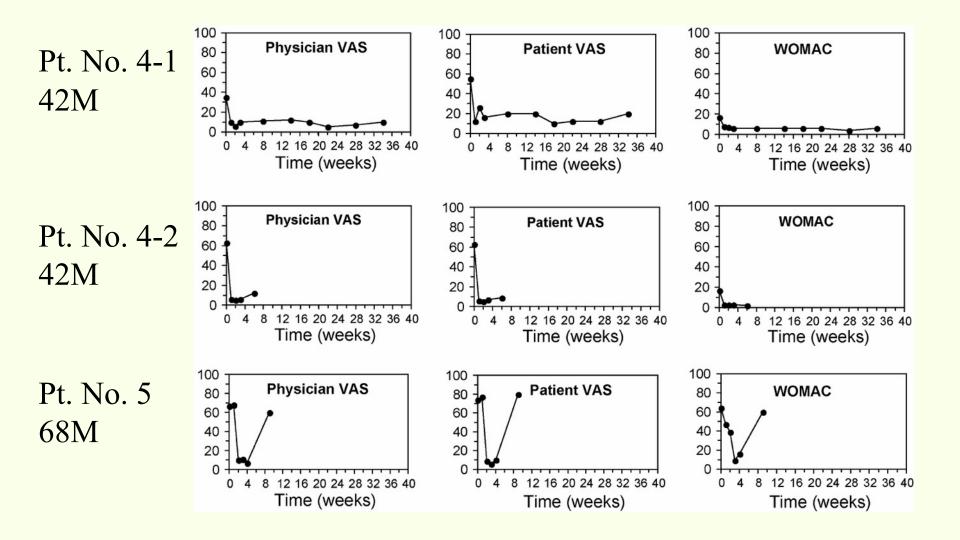


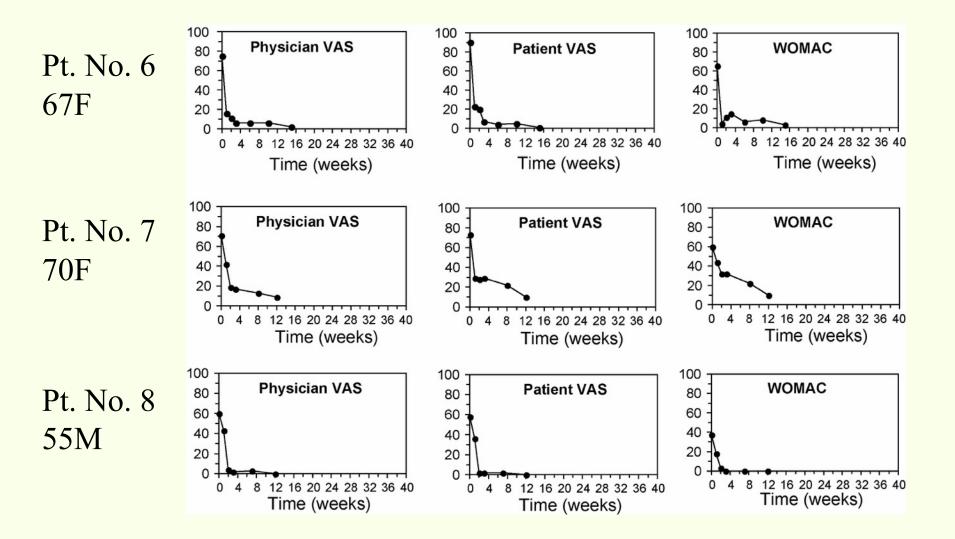
Verapamil Study No. 1 (0.2 mg) % Decrease in Patient VAS

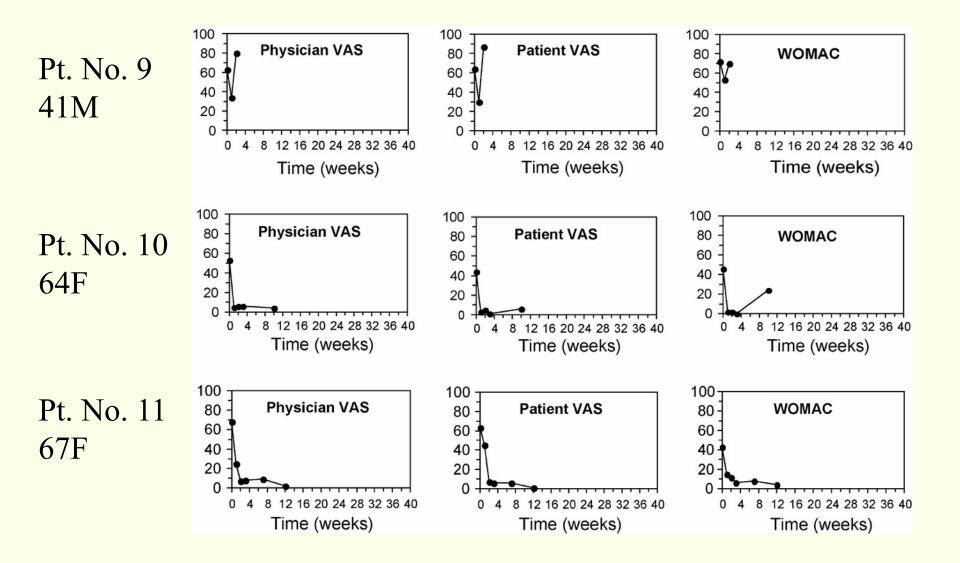


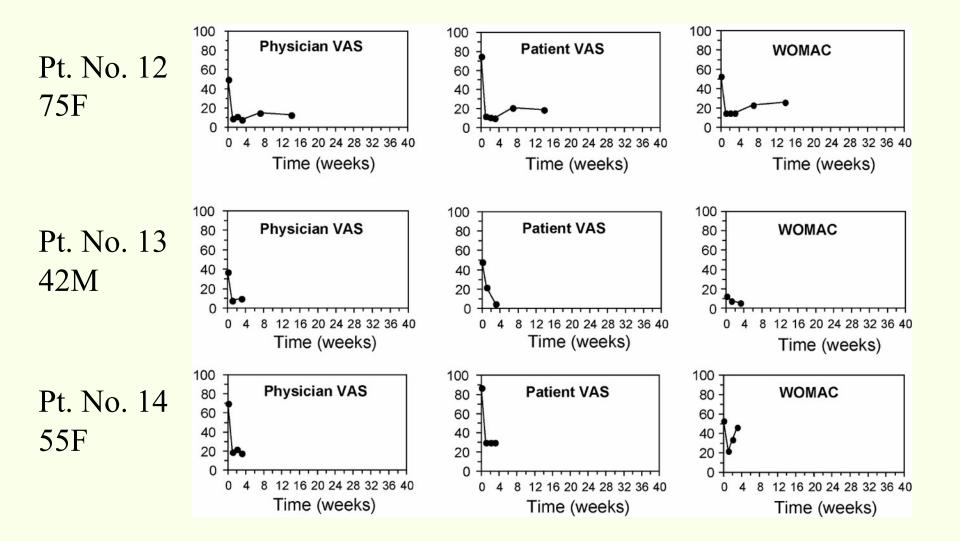
%Decrease = $\frac{\text{score at } t = 0 - \text{score at } t}{\text{score at } t = 0} \times 100$



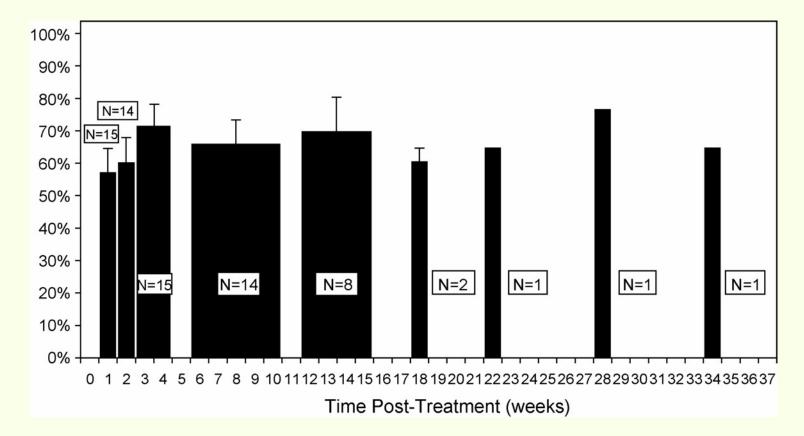






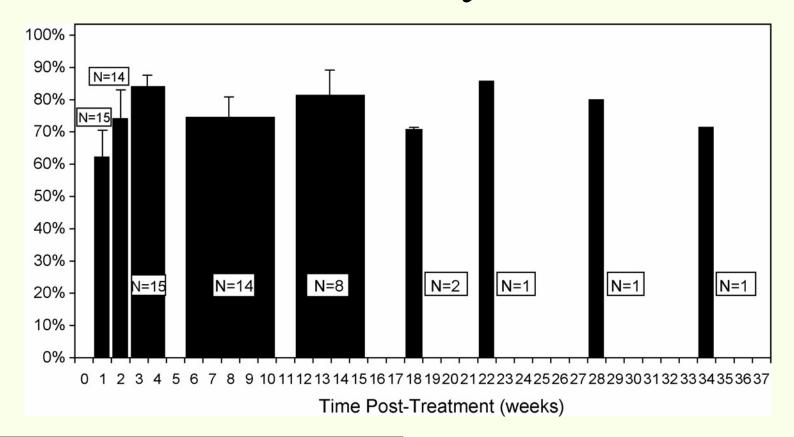


Verapamil Study No. 2 (0.5 mg) % Decrease in WOMAC



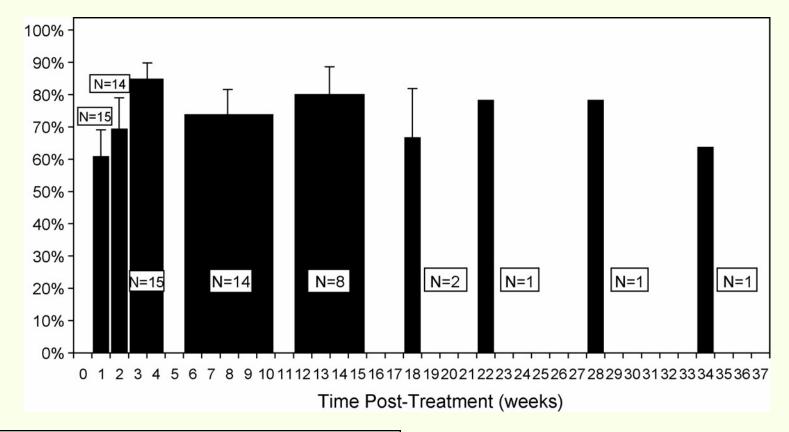
 $\% Decrease = \frac{score at t = 0 - score at t}{score at t = 0} x100$

Verapamil Study No. 2 (0.5 mg) % Decrease in Physician VAS



$$\% Decrease = \frac{score at t = 0 - score at t}{score at t = 0} x100$$

Verapamil Study No. 2 (0.5 mg) % Decrease in Patient VAS



 $\% Decrease = \frac{score at t = 0 - score at t}{score at t = 0} x100$

Single Injection Verapamil Pilot Study for the Treatment of Osteoarthritis

- 25 patients
- Experienced physician injection
- ALL data points included in slides
- Initially planned as pilot study to see if there was sufficient clinical efficacy to warrant more expansive study.
- Very positive results noted on 3 efficacy tools.

Important Clinical Fact:

- Clinical pilot study that showed efficacy of Verapamil in knees which were mostly Kellgren-Lawrence Grade IV.
- Most hyaluronans are tested in patients with Kellgren-Lawrence Grade II and III disease.

What is the Market Looking For?

- A single injection therapy for osteoarthritis has many benefits.
- Physicians and patients prefer simplified therapies.
- One injection q 3-6 months

Single Injection Verapamil for Osteoarthritis

- Single injection local therapy for a local disease.
- No adverse events noted in the 25-patient pilot study. No blood pressure changes.
- Basic science infers possible disease modifying capability with MMP inhibition.

Single Injection of Verapamil for the Treatment of Osteoarthritis

- Local therapy for local symptoms
- Local therapy avoids systemic adverse events.
- Verapamil is technically easier to inject than ANY hyaluronan.

Patient Testimonial

- Previously had 3 courses of Synvisc.
- Received single injection of 0.5 mg Verapamil
- Injection of Verapamil more comfortable than Synvisc.
- More relief with Verapamil than any course of Synvisc.

U.S. Patents Pending

- U.S. Patent Application No. 11/138,738 COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING OSTEOARTHRITIS
- U.S. Patent Application No. 11/138,744 METHODS FOR TREATING OSTEOARTHRITIS

Future Plans:

Current pilot study shows strong positive evidence that a single injection of Verapamil is therapeutic in the treatment of osteoarthritis.

Single Injection Verapamil for the Treatment of Osteoarthritis

- Recommend IND multiple site study for efficacy.
- Verapamil already has a proven safety record in humans.