

# Targeting CD22 for the Treatment of B-Cell Malignancies

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**Abstract:** Immunotherapeutic agents play an increasingly important role in the treatment of B-cell malignancies. CD19 and CD20 are common targets for lymphoid malignancies, though patients who relapse have few therapeutic options remaining. CD22 is a cell surface sialoglycoprotein uniquely present on B-cells and regulates B-cell function and proliferation. Thus, it is an appealing therapeutic target for autoimmune disorders and B-cell malignancies. A variety of therapies targeting CD22 have been developed, including monoclonal antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates, radioimmunoconjugates, chimeric antigen receptor T cells, and bispecific antibodies. Here, we review the biology of CD22 and key therapies targeting CD22 in lymphoid malignancies.

**Keywords:** CD22, epratuzumab, inotuzumab ozogamicin, bispecific antibody, chimeric antigen receptor, lymphoma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia

## Introduction

B-cell malignancies are the fourth leading subtype of cancer, with over 130,000 new estimated cases annually in the United States in 2016.<sup>1</sup> Among the lymphoid malignancies there is a wide spectrum of diseases ranging from precursor B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL) to more mature B-cell neoplasms such as marginal zone lymphoma. There is also significant heterogeneity of disease acuity, from indolent non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHLs) like chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and follicular lymphoma (FL), which may be observed for some time, to aggressive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) and B-ALL, which require prompt therapy.

Though cytotoxic chemotherapy remains the mainstay of treatment for aggressive lymphomas, the addition of immunotherapy and targeted therapies (notably, anti-CD20 therapies such as rituximab and obinutuzumab) have significantly improved outcomes.<sup>2,3</sup> Anti-CD19 therapies including chimeric antigen receptor T-cells (CAR-T) and the bispecific antibody, blinatumomab (anti CD3 and CD19), have shown recent promise in lymphoid malignancies as well. Unfortunately, for patients who relapse or progress after anti-CD19 or anti-CD20 therapy there are limited therapeutic options.

CD22 presents an attractive target in lymphoid neoplasms given its unique presence in B-lymphocytes. Due to its role in regulating B-cell function, CD22 has also been targeted in autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus and Sjogren syndrome. In this review, we will focus on the biology of CD22 and the therapeutic implications in lymphoid malignancies.

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## CD22 Biology

CD22 is a 135 kDa cell surface transmembrane sialoglycoprotein and is classified under the immunoglobulin superfamily. It consists of seven extracellular immunoglobulin domains and a 141-amino acid cytoplasmic tail. CD22 is uniquely expressed in B-lymphocytes, and it is expressed in higher concentrations on mature B-lymphocytes than precursor B-cells.<sup>4</sup> In particular, it is strongly expressed in marginal zone, mantle, and follicular B-cells.

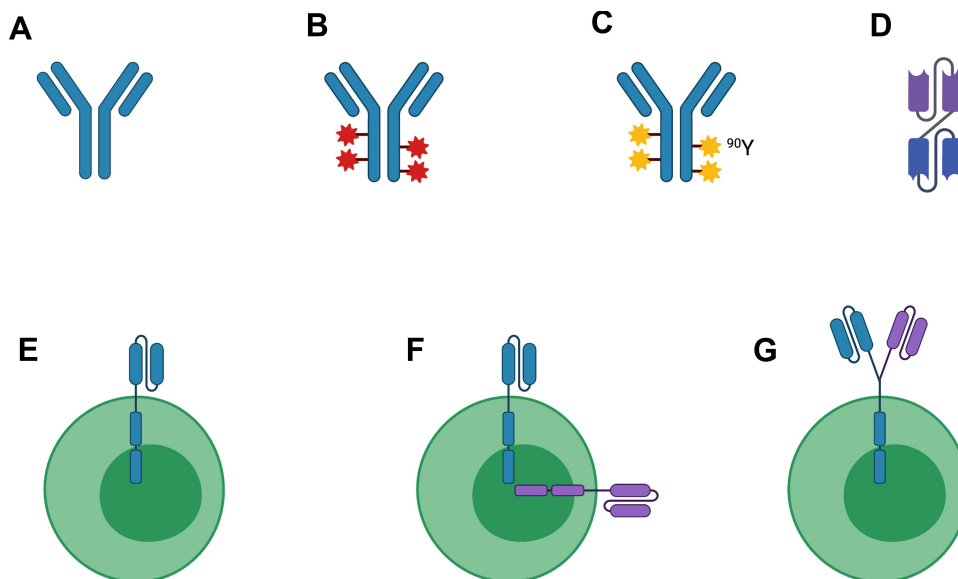
Functionally, CD22 has been implicated in regulating B-cell survival and function. It is involved in B-cell intercellular adhesion and binds to  $\alpha$ 2-6-linked sialic acid residues of glycoproteins on other leukocytes, erythrocytes, and endothelial cells.<sup>4</sup> CD22 also regulates B-cell receptor (BCR) signaling. In vitro studies have shown that CD22 can generate stimulatory signals promoting cell proliferation; conversely, CD22 can also promote apoptotic signals via the BCR, leading to B-cell death.<sup>5,6</sup> CD22-knockout mice have shorter survival and decreased circulating B-cells.<sup>4</sup> Over the past 15 years, several different classes of immunotherapeutic agents have been tested in patients with B-cell malignancies in clinical trials (Figure 1).

## Anti-CD22 Therapeutics Naked Antibodies

Epratuzumab is a humanized IgG antibody against CD22, derived from the murine IgG2 monoclonal antibody, LL2. It

phosphorylates CD22, affects BCR signaling by Ig cross-linking, and induces antibody-directed cellular cytotoxicity.<sup>4</sup> Epratuzumab has been investigated in combination with chemotherapy or rituximab in both NHLs and B-ALL.

Epratuzumab has been studied in early phase trials in adults and children with relapsed/refractory B-ALL and showed potential anti-leukemia activity. The Children's Oncology Group (COG) led Phase I and II trials evaluating epratuzumab in combination with re-induction chemotherapy in children with B-ALL.<sup>7,8</sup> In the Phase II trial, 114 children with relapsed B-ALL received re-induction chemotherapy as per COG AALL01P2 (vincristine, prednisone, peg-asparaginase, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, methotrexate, cytarabine, L-asparaginase) plus epratuzumab added weekly for four weeks or twice weekly for four weeks during the first re-induction cycle.<sup>9</sup> The addition of epratuzumab was well-tolerated, with no unexpected adverse events attributed to epratuzumab. The complete response (CR) rate was 66%, similar to historical cohorts. The rate of minimal residual disease (MRD)-negativity was up to 39%, which was a non-significant trend towards improvement compared with historical numbers. SWOG S0910 assessed the activity and safety of adding epratuzumab to clofarabine and cytarabine for 35 adults with relapsed/refractory B-ALL.<sup>10</sup> Compared with a prior SWOG study of clofarabine and cytarabine, the addition of epratuzumab showed an improved CR rate of 52% (compared with 17% for clofarabine/cytarabine alone), with one patient achieving MRD-negativity.<sup>11</sup> Median overall



**Figure 1** Legend: Simplified schema depicting current therapies targeting CD22 in B-cell malignancies. (A) Naked antibody; (B) Antibody-drug conjugate; (C) Radioimmunoconjugate; (D) Bispecific antibody/bispecific T-cell engager; (E) Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T cell; (F) Bispecific CAR-T cell; (G) Tandem bispecific CAR-T cell. Abbreviations: <sup>90</sup>Y, Yttrium-90. Figure created with BioRender.com.

survival (OS) was 5 months. Three patients died during treatment, one with pneumonia and two attributed to cardiac arrest. Another phase II trial evaluated the use of weekly epratuzumab in combination with vincristine and dexamethasone in 25 older patients with relapsed/refractory CD22+ B-ALL.<sup>12</sup> The overall response rate (ORR) was 40%, with 20% achieving CR and 20% achieving partial response (PR). Two patients were MRD-negative. Median OS was 4 months, and no patients went on to receive allogeneic stem cell transplant (alloSCT) due to early relapse. Pancytopenia was the most common grade 3–4 toxicity.

Epratuzumab has also been investigated in patients with NHLs, including DLBCL, FL, and small lymphocytic leukemia (SLL). Multiple early phase studies demonstrated a reasonable safety profile with addition of epratuzumab to rituximab for patients with relapsed/refractory NHL.<sup>13–16</sup> A phase II trial evaluated this dual antibody combination in 49 patients with indolent NHL (49 with FL, 7 with SLL).<sup>17</sup> Patients received epratuzumab plus rituximab weekly for 4 weeks. Fifty-four percent of patients with FL had an objective response (OR), 24% had CR, and median PFS was 10 months. Among FL patients achieving CR, median duration of response (DoR) was 29 months with some patients in CR over 4 years. Fifty-seven percent of the patients with SLL demonstrated an OR, 43% had CR, and median PFS was 20 months. Among SLL patients achieving CR, median duration of response (DoR) was 20 months. Epratuzumab and rituximab were well tolerated, with no patients discontinuing due to toxicity.

In an effort to improve frontline therapy in DLBCL, a phase II study evaluated the addition of epratuzumab to frontline rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, prednisone (RCHOP) in 107 patients with treatment naïve DLBCL.<sup>18,19</sup> Epratuzumab was given on day 1 with each cycle. RCHOP with epratuzumab was well-tolerated, with toxicities as expected with RCHOP, notably, myelosuppression. Eighty-nine percent of patients completed all 6 cycles. The ORR was 96%, with 75% CR and 22% PR. Three-year OS was 80%, 3-year progression-free survival (PFS) was 76%, both trending towards improvement compared with historical cohorts.

At present, epratuzumab is not FDA-approved or recommended by the national comprehensive cancer network (NCCN) guidelines for use in B-ALL or NHLs, potentially due to limited efficacy, short duration of response in some patients, and alternative treatment agents as discussed below. The most significant toxicities of

epratuzumab include infusion reaction, myelosuppression, and febrile neutropenia, though the two latter may be attributed to other drugs given in combination.

## Antibody-Drug Conjugates

Multiple antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) have been developed using the CD22 epitope for targeted delivery of toxic payloads to B-cell lymphoma/leukemia cells. Most notable in this class is inotuzumab ozogamicin, an ADC comprised of a human anti-CD22 antibody attached to calicheamicin, a DNA-damaging agent that leads to apoptosis when intracellularly activated.<sup>20</sup> The INOVATE trial randomized 326 adults with relapsed/refractory B-ALL to inotuzumab ozogamicin monotherapy vs standard of care (SoC) intensive chemotherapy (eg, FLAG, high-dose cytarabine).<sup>21,22</sup> At final analysis, inotuzumab ozogamicin had superior OS and PFS than SoC chemotherapy. Median PFS was 5 months and median OS was 7.7 among patients receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin, while median PFS was 1.7 months and median OS was 6.2 months among patients receiving SoC. Patients receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin had higher CR rates (74% vs 35%), higher rates of MRD-negativity (78% vs 28%), and more patients receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin underwent subsequent alloSCT. Venous occlusive disease (VOD) occurred in 14% of patients receiving inotuzumab ozogamicin, with 5 patients dying from VOD after alloSCT and one patient dying from multiorgan failure (with grade 4 VOD). VOD is of particular concern since many B-ALL patients will be considered for alloSCT in CR, and pre-transplant myeloablative conditioning regimens increase risk of VOD as well. The FDA approved inotuzumab ozogamicin for patients with relapsed or refractory Philadelphia chromosome-negative or Philadelphia chromosome-positive ALL based on data from the INOVATE ALL study in 2017.

Inotuzumab ozogamicin has been combined with lower-intensity chemotherapy and blinatumomab in 48 patients with B-ALL in first relapse.<sup>23</sup> The lower-intensity chemotherapy, termed mini-CVD, included lower dose cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone, vincristine, and methotrexate. The majority (92%) of patients had an OR, with 73% achieving CR and 93% of those with CR achieving MRD-negativity. Fifty percent of patients proceeded to alloSCT in CR2. Median PFS was 11 months, and median OS was 25 months. Ten percent of patients developed VOD. In the trial, propensity score matching with historical cohorts showed improved

outcomes with the combination of mini-CVD with inotuzumab ozogamicin and blinatumomab versus inotuzumab ozogamicin monotherapy or intensive salvage chemotherapy.

Inotuzumab ozogamicin has been evaluated in the front-line setting combined with mini-CVD in older patients with newly diagnosed Philadelphia chromosome negative (Ph-) B-ALL, as these patients may be unable to undergo the rigor of intensive induction chemotherapy due to age, frailty, or comorbidities.<sup>24</sup> Fifty-two patients were enrolled to receive mini-CVD and inotuzumab ozogamicin. Two-year PFS was 59%. This PFS appears slightly lower than the 2-year PFS near 75% reported by Martell et al, in elderly patients who received the modified Dana Farber Cancer Institute protocol, though cross-trial comparisons must be interpreted with caution.<sup>25</sup> Mini-CVD plus inotuzumab ozogamicin was relatively well-tolerated, though 8% of patients developed VOD. Six patients (12%) died from treatment-related causes, five from sepsis and one from VOD. Inotuzumab ozogamicin plus mini-CVD remains an effective treatment option for elderly Ph- B-ALL patients with a manageable safety profile compared with intensive induction chemotherapy.

Multiple trials have evaluated inotuzumab ozogamicin in NHLs with less promising results than those seen among patients with B-ALL.<sup>26–28</sup> A Phase III trial randomized 338 patients with relapsed/refractory aggressive NHL to receive rituximab plus investigator's choice of chemotherapy (ie, bendamustine or gemcitabine) vs rituximab plus inotuzumab ozogamicin.<sup>29</sup> The trial was terminated for futility in the first interim analysis per pre-established criteria for OS. Final analysis of available data showed similar median OS in both groups of 9.5 months.

Moxetumomab pasudotox-tdfk is another ADC targeting CD22, and it is FDA approved for use in patients with relapsed or refractory hairy cell leukemia (HCL) after two lines of prior therapy. It is a recombinant immunotoxin consisting of a fragment variable (Fv) of murine anti-CD22 monoclonal antibody fused to a truncated 38kDa portion of *Pseudomonas* exotoxin A.<sup>30</sup> In the pivotal trial, 80 patients with relapsed/refractory HCL after two or more lines of prior therapy received moxetumomab pasudotox for up to 6 cycles.<sup>31</sup> CR rate was 41%, durable CR rate was 30%, and ORR was 75%. 80% achieved hematologic remission. Severe toxicities included hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) in 7.5% and capillary leak syndrome (CLS) in 5% of patients; both toxicities were reversible. Moxetumomab pasudotox has also been studied in

pediatric and adult relapsed/refractory B-ALL patients with less promising results.<sup>32,33</sup> The phase II trial in children was terminated at interim analysis due to low CR rate of 10%.<sup>32</sup> In adults, toxicities included grade 3 HUS in one patient and grade 4 CLS in one patient.<sup>33</sup> Of note, moxetumomab pasudotox is an improved form of a previously studied anti-CD22 ADC joined with the *Pseudomonas* exotoxin, known as BL22.<sup>30</sup> Moxetumomab pasudotox was found to be more active in pre-clinical models and in early phase trials as well.<sup>30,34–36</sup>

Two other anti-CD22 ADCs have been clinically evaluated but not currently FDA approved. The immunotoxin IgG-RFB4-SMPT-dgA has a deglycosylated ricin A chain joined to a CD22 antibody.<sup>37</sup> In an early-phase dose-finding study with 18 patients with B-cell lymphomas, 4 patients had best response of PR, no patients had a CR. Eleven of 18 patients developed CLS, with 7 patients experiencing grade 3–5 CLS. DT2219 is a bispecific ligand-directed toxin incorporating single-chain variable fragments targeting CD19 and CD22 fused to a portion of the diphtheria toxin.<sup>38</sup> A study with 18 patients with NHL showed only 3 patients with, “objective clinical benefit,” and one patient developed grade 4 CLS.

## Radioimmunoconjugates

Two radioimmunoconjugates targeting CD22 have been developed: epratuzumab tetraxetan and BAY1862864. <sup>90</sup>Y-epratuzumab tetraxetan is comprised of epratuzumab (anti-CD22 antibody as previously described) conjugated with a 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-N,N',N'',N'''-tetraacetic acid chelator and labeled with 90-yttrium (<sup>90</sup>Y), allowing for targeted delivery of the radioisotope to B-cells and causing cell death via beta decay.<sup>39</sup> Epratuzumab tetraxetan was studied in 64 patients with relapsed/refractory NHL with an ORR of 62%, CR rate of 48%, and median PFS of 9.5 months.<sup>40</sup> Two patients had grade 4 cytopenias attributed to the radioisotope. Epratuzumab tetraxetan was also evaluated in combination with the anti-CD20 antibody velutuzumab in 18 patients with relapsed/refractory aggressive NHL.<sup>41</sup> ORR was 53%, CR rate was 18%, and PR rate was 35%. Thirteen patients had grade 3–4 neutropenia or thrombocytopenia. More recently, epratuzumab tetraxetan was evaluated as consolidation following RCHOP in 71 elderly transplant-ineligible patients with DLBCL.<sup>42</sup> Eighty-three percent of enrolled patients received epratuzumab tetraxetan. The ADC improved PR to CR in 8 patients for a total 68%

CR rate. 2-year OS was 83%. Toxicity included 84% of patients with grade 3–4 thrombocytopenia, 79% with grade 3–4 neutropenia, and two patients with secondary myeloid neoplasms (one patient developed myelodysplastic syndrome 2 years after therapy, and one patient developed acute myeloid leukemia 5 months after therapy). This trial warrants comparison with  $^{90}\text{Y}$  ibritumomab tiuxetan, a radioimmunoconjugate targeting CD20 that was similarly used in consolidation after CHOP among elderly patients with DLBCL.<sup>43</sup> Ibritumomab tiuxetan appears to have higher efficacy, with CR rate of 100% and 2-year OS 95%. Though not FDA approved for use in DLBCL, ibritumomab tiuxetan is approved for use in low-grade NHL or FL as consolidation or in the relapsed/refractory setting.

BAY1862864 is an anti-CD22 antibody radiolabeled with 227-thorium. 227-thorium causes cell death and cell cycle arrest via DNA damage from alpha particle emission, also known as alpha particle therapy.<sup>44</sup> The first-in-human study evaluated its use in 21 patients with NHL. The ORR was 38%, with 19% of patients achieving PR and 5% achieving CR. Toxicities included myelosuppression. The follow-up period was terminated early due to patients with progression enrolling into other clinical trials.

## CAR-T Therapies

Anti-CD19 CARs have shown significant promise and are now FDA-approved for use in relapsed/refractory DLBCL, FL, and mantle cell lymphoma. Unfortunately, some patients relapse after CD19 CAR therapy, with few options available. B-ALL has seen less success with anti-CD19 CAR therapy than NHLs. CD22 is an appealing target for CARs and has shown promising efficacy and safety results in early phase trials, especially in B-ALL patients. A novel anti-CD22 CAR with 41BB and CD3 $\zeta$  costimulatory domains was developed and tested for safety in 21 pediatric and young adult patients with relapsed/refractory B-ALL, with 80% previously receiving CD19 targeted therapy.<sup>45</sup> Grade 1–2 cytokine release syndrome (CRS) occurred in 76% of patients. In a subsequent study, the same group incorporated CD4/CD8 selection of the apheresis product to improve the CAR manufacturing process.<sup>46</sup> Fifty-eight pediatric and young adult patients with relapsed/refractory B-ALL were treated with CD22-CAR after CD4/CD8 selection. Eighty-eight percent of patients had prior CD19 therapy and 67% had prior alloSCT. Seventy percent of patients achieved CR, with 88% of

those having MRD-negativity. The median OS was 13.4 months and leukemia-free survival was 6 months. The longest CR was over 3.5 years. Interestingly, response rates were not affected by receipt of prior CD19 therapy or alloSCT. The majority of patients who relapsed had CD22-negative or -dim disease at relapse, suggesting antigen escape as one possible mechanism for relapse. Eighty-six percent of patients had CRS, majority (90%) grade 1–2, with median onset 7 days and median duration of 5 days. Two patients had grade 5 toxicity: one with sepsis and multiorgan dysfunction and another with CLS during CRS leading to grade 5 acute respiratory distress syndrome. Thirty-three percent of patients had neurotoxicity, all but one with grade 1–2; the exception was a patient with grade 4 intracranial hemorrhage potentially attributed to *Bacillus cereus* bacteremia. Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis/macrophage activation syndrome (HLH/MAS) occurred in 5/7 patients at dose-level 2 and only in the setting of CRS. Thirty-eight percent of patients with CRS developed HLH/MAS-type symptoms, with median onset 14 days. CD4/CD8 selection was associated with increased rates of HLH/MAS. Fourteen patients required HLH-directed therapy with anakinra and/or corticosteroids, and HLH/MAS resolved in all patients. CD22-directed CARs show promising efficacy in this relapsed/refractory disease with limited therapeutic options and may provide a bridge to alloSCT.

There are many ongoing trials evaluating novel CD22-directed CARs. Bispecific CD20/CD22 CARs and CD19/CD22 CARs are in development, in an attempt to prevent relapse by minimizing antigen escape. A proof-of-concept study with a CD19/CD22 CAR in relapsed/refractory B-ALL enrolled 6 patients, with 100% achieving CR with MRD-negativity. No neurotoxicity was observed.<sup>47</sup> Other CARs under investigation include anti-CD22 CAR natural killer (NK) cells, anti-CD19/CD22 bispecific CAR NK cells, anti-programmed cell death ligand-1 “armored” CD22 CAR T cells and CAR tumor infiltrating lymphocytes.<sup>48</sup> There is also a trispecific CD19/CD20/CD22 CAR-T cell in preclinical development.<sup>49</sup>

## Bispecific Antibodies

In addition to CAR-T cells, bispecific antibodies and bispecific T-cell engagers have also shown significant promise in lymphoid malignancies via a different mechanism for T-cell engagement. Blinatumomab is an FDA-approved bispecific T-cell engager targeting CD19 and CD3, which is present on T-cells, activating the host’s endogenous

**Table 1** Selected Ongoing Studies Investigating CD22 Targeted Therapies in B-Cell Malignancies

Title	Trial Number	Status	Phases
S1312, Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Combination Chemotherapy in Treating Patients With Relapsed or Refractory Acute Leukemia	NCT01925131	Active, not recruiting	Phase 1
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin for Children With MRD Positive CD22+ Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT03913559	Recruiting	Phase 2
Study of Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Combined to Chemotherapy in Older Patients With Philadelphia Chromosome-negative CD22+ B-cell Precursor ALL	NCT03249870	Recruiting	Phase 2
Study of Anti-CD22 CAR-T Cells Treating Leukemia Children	NCT04340167	Recruiting	Phase 2
Study of Sequential CAR-T Cell Treating Leukemia Children	NCT04340154	Recruiting	Phase 2
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Chemotherapy in Treating Patients With Leukemia or Lymphoma Undergoing Stem Cell Transplantation	NCT03856216	Recruiting	Phase 2
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin in Treating Patients With B-cell Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia With Positive Minimal Residual Disease	NCT03441061	Recruiting	Phase 2
Targeting CD19 and CD22 CAR-T Cells Immunotherapy in Patients With Relapsed or Refractory Acute B Lymphocytic Leukemia	NCT04714593	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
CD19/CD22 Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cells in Children and Young Adults With Recurrent or Refractory CD19/CD22-expressing B Cell Malignancies	NCT03448393	Recruiting	Phase 1
Adult B-ALL Treated by CART Cell Bridging Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation	NCT04626726	Recruiting	Early Phase 1
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Vincristine Sulfate Liposome in Treating Patients With Relapsed or Refractory CD22+ B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT03851081	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Frontline Chemotherapy in Treating Young Adults With Newly Diagnosed B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT03150693	Recruiting	Phase 3
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Combination Chemotherapy in Treating Older Patients With Previously Untreated Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT01371630	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Phase I/II Study of Bosutinib in Combination With Inotuzumab Ozogamicin in CD22-positive PC Positive ALL and CML	NCT02311998	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Blinatumomab in Treating Patients With Newly Diagnosed, Recurrent, or Refractory CD22-Positive B-Lineage Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT03739814	Recruiting	Phase 2
Blinatumomab, Inotuzumab Ozogamicin, and Combination Chemotherapy as Frontline Therapy in Treating Patients With B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT02877303	Recruiting	Phase 2
CD19/CD22 Chimeric Antigen Receptor(CAR) T Cells in Adults With Recurrent/Refractory B Cell Malignancies	NCT03233854	Recruiting	Phase 1
Phase I Dose Escalation Study of CD19/CD22 Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cells in Children and Young Adults With Recurrent or Refractory B Cell Malignancies	NCT03241940	Recruiting	Phase 1
A Feasibility and Safety Study of Universal Dual Specificity CD19 and CD20 or CD22 CAR-T Cell Immunotherapy for Relapsed or Refractory Leukemia and Lymphoma	NCT03398967	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
CD22 Redirected Autologous T Cells for ALL	NCT02650414	Recruiting	Phase 1
A Clinical Research of CD19 and CD22 Targeted Prime CAR-T Cell in Relapsed/Refractory B Cell Lymphoma	NCT04782193	Active, not recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2

(Continued)

Table 1 (Continued).

Title	Trial Number	Status	Phases
Multi-CAR-T Cells Targeting B Cell Lymphomas	NCT04429438	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
Anti-CD22 Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR)-Modified T Cell Therapy for Relapsed Refractory B-cell Malignancies	NCT04007978	Recruiting	Phase 1
CD22-CAR T Cells in Children and Young Adults With B Cell Malignancies	NCT04088864	Recruiting	Phase 1
Safety and Efficacy of ThisCART22 in Patients With Refractory or Relapsed B Cell Malignancies	NCT04601181	Recruiting	Phase 1
Safety and Efficacy Study of CD22 CAR-T Cells for Relapsed or Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT04546906	Recruiting	Not Applicable
A Clinical Research of CD19 and CD22 Targeted Prime CAR-T Cell in Relapsed/Refractory B-ALL	NCT04781634	Active, not recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
Bispecific CD19/CD22 CAR-T for Treatment of Children and Young Adults With r/r B-ALL	NCT04499573	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
Autologous CD22 CAR T Cells in Adults w/ Recurrent or Refractory B Cell Malignancies	NCT04088890	Recruiting	Phase 1
Phase I Study of UCART22 in Patients With Relapsed or Refractory CD22+ B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (BALLI-01)	NCT04150497	Recruiting	Phase 1
A Study of GC022F CAR-T Cell Immunotherapy for Relapsed or Refractory B- ALL	NCT04129099	Recruiting	Early Phase 1
Sequential CD19 and CD22 CAR-T Therapy for Newly Diagnosed Ph+ B-ALL	NCT04788472	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
Sequential CD19 and CD22 CAR-T Therapy for Newly Diagnosed Ph- B-ALL	NCT04740203	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
CAR-T Immunotherapy Targeting CD19- ALL	NCT04016129	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
CD19 and CD22 Dual-targeted CAR-T Cells for Relapsed or Refractory B-NHL	NCT04303247	Not yet recruiting	Early Phase 1
Combination CAR-T Cell Therapy Targeting Hematological Malignancies	NCT03125577	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
A Study of GC022F CAR-T Cell Immunotherapy for Relapsed or Refractory B- NHL	NCT04412174	Not yet recruiting	Early Phase 1
ADCT-602 in Treating Patients With Recurrent or Refractory B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT03698552	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
4SCAR-T Therapy Post CD19-targeted Immunotherapy	NCT04430530	Recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
Modified Immune Cells (CD19-CD22 CAR T Cells) in Treating Patients With Recurrent or Refractory CD19 Positive, CD22 Positive Leukemia or Lymphoma	NCT04029038	Not yet recruiting	Phase 1  Phase 2
Anti-CD19/CD22 Bispecific CAR-T Cell Therapy for CD19-positive ALL	NCT04303520	Recruiting	Phase 1
CART22 Alone or in Combination With huCART19 for ALL	NCT03620058	Active, not recruiting	Phase 1

(Continued)

**Table I** (Continued).

Title	Trial Number	Status	Phases
CAR-T for Children With Relapsed and Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT04626765	Recruiting	Early Phase 1
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Post-Transplant For Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia	NCT03104491	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
A Clinical Research of CD22-Targeted CAR-T in B Cell Malignancies	NCT03999697	Recruiting	Phase 1
CD19/22 CAR T Cells (AUTO3) for the Treatment of Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma	NCT03287817	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Dual Target CAR-T Cells in B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT04723901	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Anti-CD22 Chimeric Receptor T Cells in Pediatric and Young Adults With Recurrent or Refractory CD22-expressing B Cell Malignancies	NCT02315612	Recruiting	Phase 1
Phase I Study of Anti-CD22 Chimeric Receptor T Cells in Patients With Relapsed/Refractory Hairy Cell Leukemia and Variant	NCT04815356	Not yet recruiting	Phase 1
CMC-544 and Allogeneic Transplantation for CD22 Positive-Lymphoid Malignancies	NCT01664910	Active, not recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
A Phase I Study of CD22-CAR TCell Immunotherapy for CD22+ Leukemia and Lymphoma	NCT03244306	Active, not recruiting	Phase 1
A Treatment Study Protocol for Participants 1-45 Years With Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia	NCT04307576	Recruiting	Phase 3
Safety and Efficacy of CD19 and CD22 Targeted CAR-T Therapy for Relapsed/Refractory B Cell Leukemia and Lymphoma	NCT04648475	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
CD19 and CD22 Targeted CAR-T Cell Therapy for Relapsed/Refractory B Cell Leukemia and Lymphoma	NCT04649983	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Anti-CD22 CAR-T Cell Therapy Targeting B Cell Malignancies	NCT03262298	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
A Clinical Research of CD22-Targeted CAR-T in B Cell Malignancies	NCT02935153	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Immunotherapy With CD22 CAR T-cells for B-Cell Lymphoma, ALL and CLL	NCT04163575	Not yet recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
A Feasibility and Safety Study of Dual Specificity CD19 and CD22 CAR-T Cell Immunotherapy for CD19+CD22+ Leukemia	NCT03330691	Recruiting	Phase 1
A Pediatric and Young Adult Trial of Genetically Modified T Cells Directed Against CD22 for Relapsed/Refractory Leukemia or Lymphoma	NCT04571138	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2
Leukapheresis for CAR or Adoptive Cell Therapy Manufacturing	NCT03226704	Recruiting	
A Study Of Two Inotuzumab Ozogamicin Doses in Relapsed/ Refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Transplant Eligible Patients	NCT03677596	Recruiting	Phase 4
Targeting CD19 and CD22 CAR-T Cells Immunotherapy in Patients With Relapsed or Refractory B Cell Lymphoma	NCT04715217	Recruiting	Phase 1   Phase 2

(Continued)

**Table I** (Continued).

Title	Trial Number	Status	Phases
A Single-center Clinical Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of LCAR-LI0D Cell Formulations Targeting CD19 and CD22 in Patients With CD19- and/or CD22-Positive Relapsed/Refractory B-cell Lymphoma	NCT03593109	Recruiting	Phase I
A Study of JNJ-75348780 in Participants With Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)	NCT04540796	Recruiting	Phase I
Study of TRPH-222 in Patients With Relapsed and/or Refractory B-Cell Lymphoma	NCT03682796	Recruiting	Phase I
Anti-CD19/CD22 Bispecific CAR-T Cell Therapy for MRD Positive ALL	NCT03919526	Recruiting	Phase I
Targeting CD19 and BCMA CAR-T Cells Immunotherapy in Patients With Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma	NCT04714827	Recruiting	Phase I   Phase 2
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin in Treating Younger Patients With B-Lymphoblastic Lymphoma or Relapsed or Refractory CD22 Positive B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT02981628	Recruiting	Phase 2
Inotuzumab Ozogamicin and Chemotherapy in Treating Patients With Recurrent or Refractory B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	NCT03991884	Recruiting	Phase I
CD19/CD22-Dual-STAR-T for Patients With B Cell Acute Leukemia(B-ALL)	NCT04508842	Not yet recruiting	Phase I
Study of Anti-CD22 CAR NK Cells in Relapsed and Refractory B Cell Lymphoma	NCT03692767	Not yet recruiting	Early Phase I
CAR-T Cells in Treating Patients With Relapsed or Refractory NHL	NCT04626739	Recruiting	Early Phase I
Anti-CD19 Allo-CAR-T Cells for Relapsed B Cell Malignancies After HSCT	NCT04516551	Recruiting	Phase I
A Study of CD20/CD22 Targeted CAR T-cell Therapy for Relapsed or Refractory Lymphoid Malignancies	NCT04283006	Recruiting	Early Phase I
Clinical Study of Targeting CD19 and CD22 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Lymphocytes in the Treatment of Recurrent or Refractory B Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	NCT04626908	Not yet recruiting	Phase I   Phase 2
A Clinical Study of CAR-T Cells Treatment for Children With CD19+/CD22+ R/R ALL and Lymphoma	NCT04204161	Recruiting	Phase I
CAR-T for R/R B-NHL	NCT03196830	Recruiting	Phase 2
CD19-CD22 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T (CAR-T) Cell for Treatment of B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL)	NCT04034446	Active, not recruiting	Early Phase I
An Early Access Programme for Moxetumomab Pasudotox in Relapsed/Refractory Hairy Cell Leukemia	NCT03501615	Approved for marketing	

**Notes:** Data from clinicaltrials.gov (Accessed May 11, 2021).

T-cells to target CD19-positive B-ALL blasts.<sup>50</sup> NCT04540796 is an ongoing phase I trial with JNJ-75348780, a bispecific antibody targeting CD3 and CD22 in patients with relapsed refractory NHL, including CLL. Preliminary results have not been published at this time.

## Conclusions

CD22 is an attractive target for B-cell malignancies given its strong expression in the majority of B-lymphoid cells. Mechanisms for CD22 targeting include monoclonal antibodies (epratuzumab), antibody-drug conjugates (inotuzumab)

ozogamicin, moxetumomab pasudotox), radioimmunoconjugates (epratuzumab tetraxetan), CAR-T cells, and bispecific antibodies. In current practice, the antibody-drug conjugate inotuzumab ozogamicin appears to be the most frequently used anti-CD22 therapy and is FDA approved for use in relapsed/refractory B-ALL. Anti-CD22 CAR-T therapies are currently in clinical trials, and early results appear promising. Future directions for CD22 targeted therapies include more prospective trials with CD22 CARs, bispecific antibodies, and combining CARs with anti-CD-19 CARs, either sequentially or in bispecific CARs. A list of selected currently ongoing clinical trials using anti-CD22 immunotherapeutic agents is included in Table 1.

## Consent for Publication

All authors consent to publication.

## Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

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