



# *In vivo* CRISPR base editing of ANGPTL3 in a non-human primate model of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia

**Verve Company Update**

**November 9, 2021**



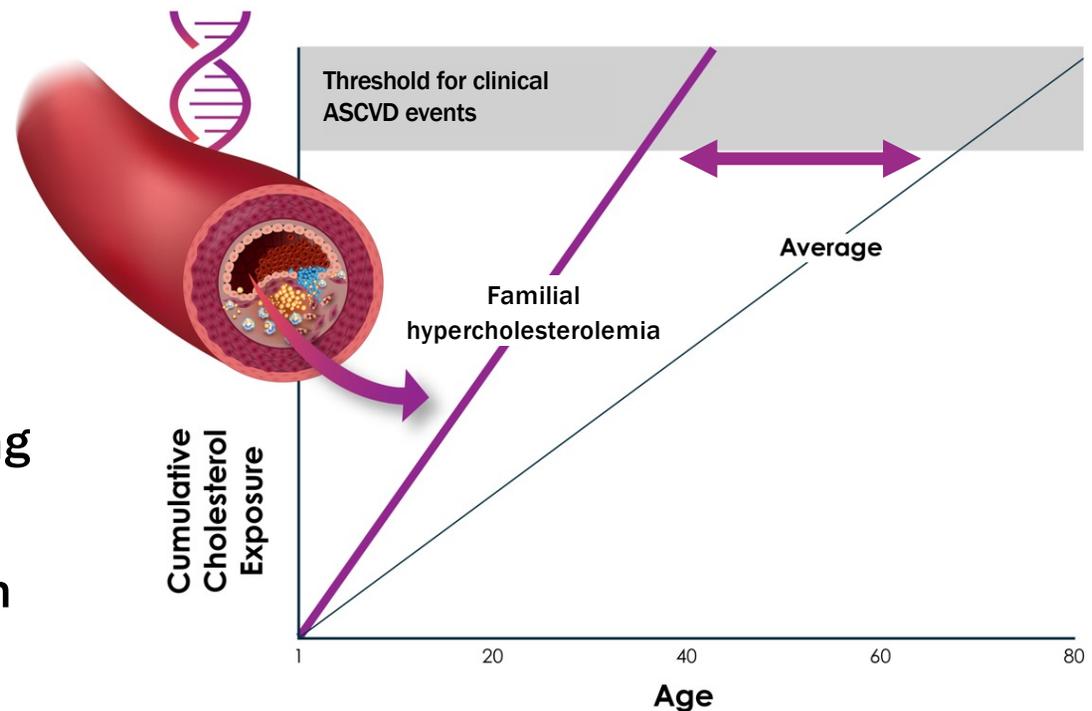
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# Homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia (HoFH): a life-threatening genetic disease with very high cumulative exposure to LDL-C



- Usually caused by mutations in both copies of the LDLR gene, ~ **1,300 people** in U.S.
- Lack of LDLR on hepatocytes leads to poor clearance of LDL-C from the blood
- LDL-C levels **>500 mg/dL** starting early in life
- Myocardial infarction common in 20s and 30s



Adapted from Horton et al. J Lipid Res., 2009

# Inactivation of ANGPTL3 gene is a compelling target for the treatment of HoFH: human genetics and human pharmacology



## validated by human genetics

**Heterozygous deficiency:**  
Low lipids in population  
Resistant to heart attack

**Human knockout:**  
Triglycerides: **19 mg/dL**  
LDL-C: **37 mg/dL**

### Rare Gene Mutations Inspire New Heart Drugs

By Gina Kolata

May 24, 2017

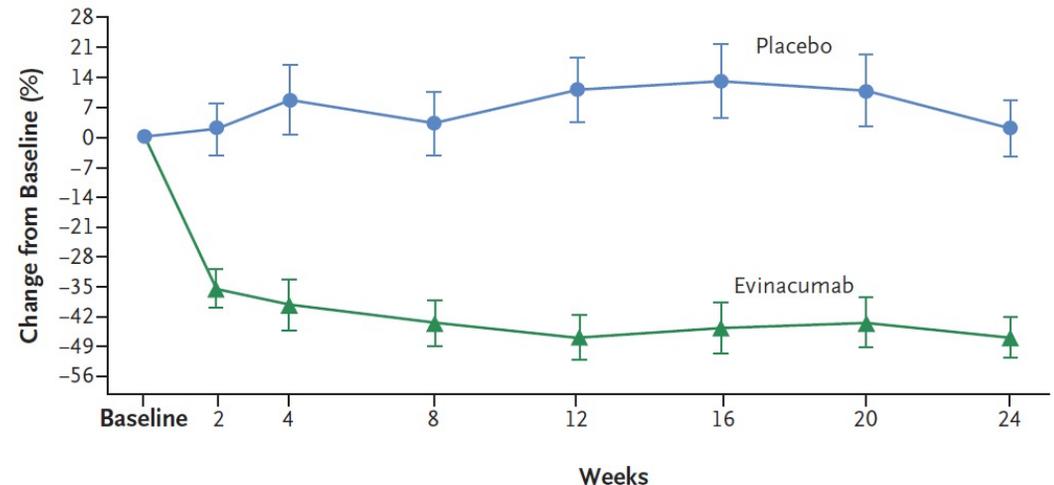
Anna Feurer learned she had unusually **low triglyceride levels** after having bloodwork at a corporate health fair. The discovery prompted researchers to recruit her and her family for a research study of their genetic makeup.



*Credit: Jess T. Dugan for The New York Times*

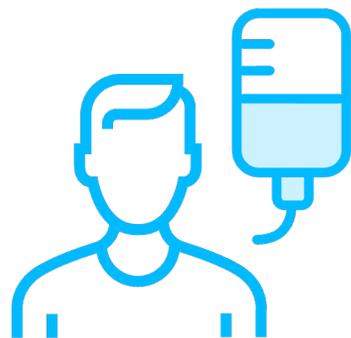
## validated by human pharmacology

- ANGPTL3 inhibition with evinacumab lowered LDL-C by about 47% in a pivotal phase 3 trial in patients with HoFH
- Evinacumab now approved for HoFH



## At Verve, we are developing...

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**a single-course  
gene editing treatment  
that would...**

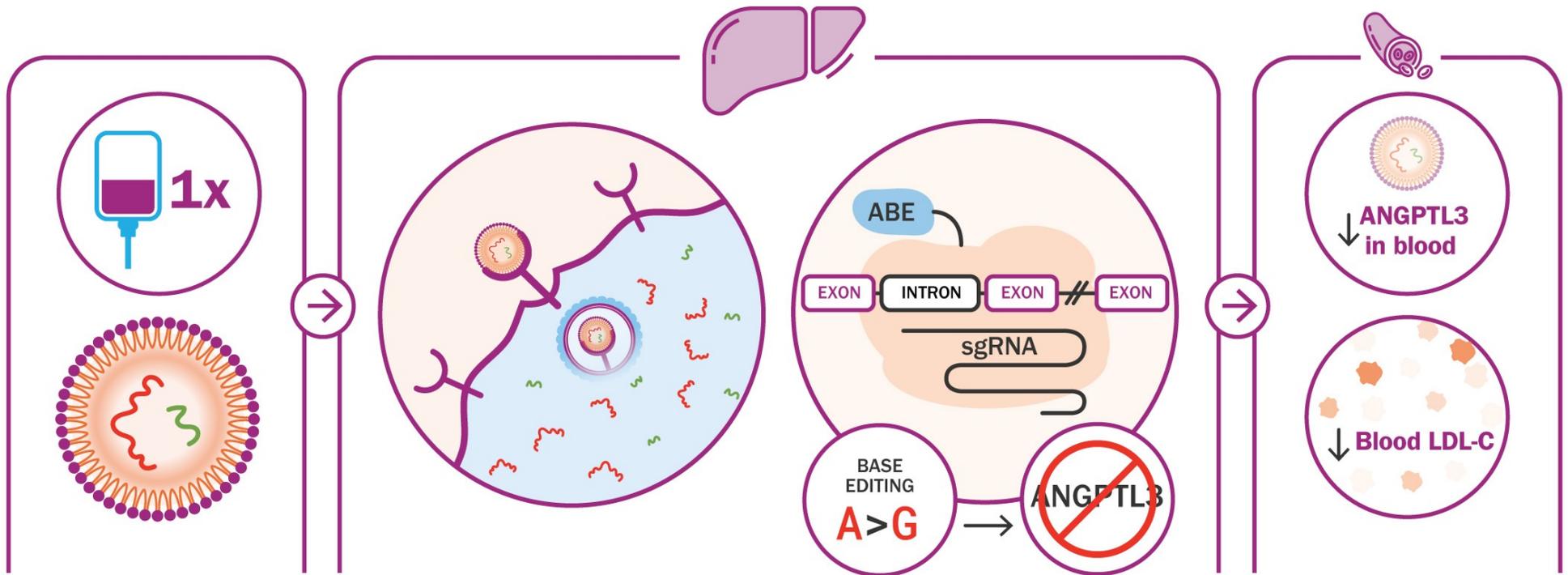


**... durably and safely  
lowered blood LDL cholesterol...**



**to treat FH and ASCVD**

# Our approach: in vivo liver base editing to permanently turn off disease-causing ANGPTL3 gene in the liver



mRNA gRNA

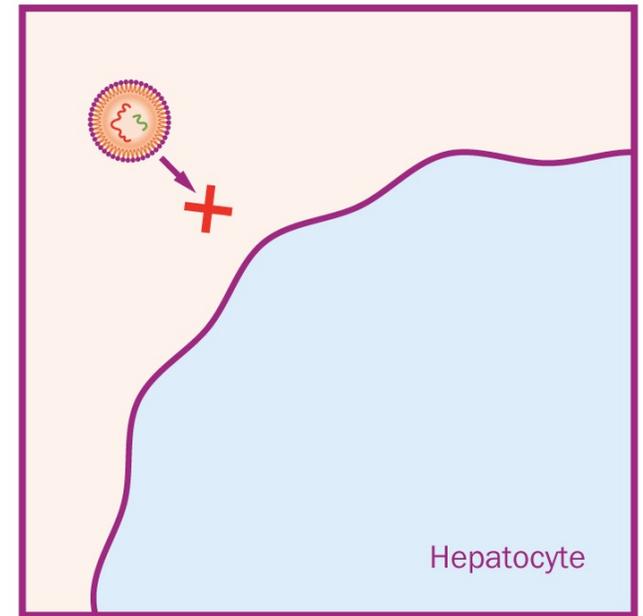
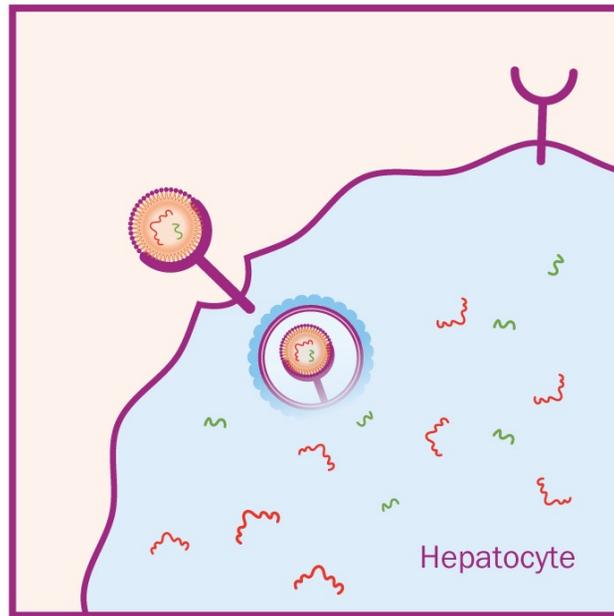
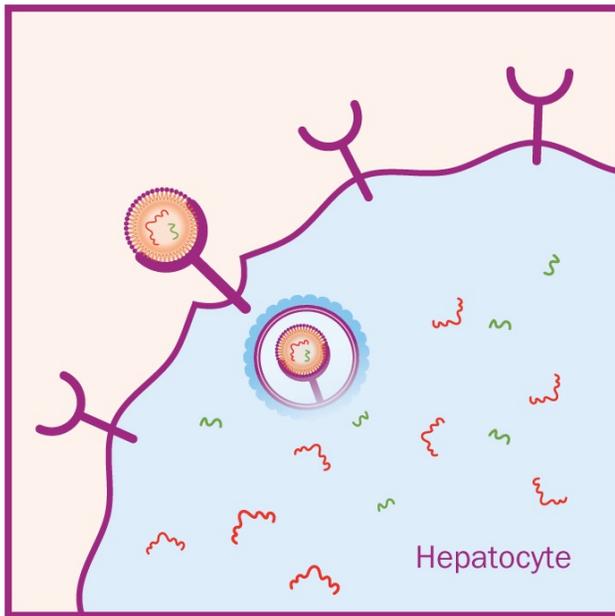
# Challenge: HoFH patients completely lack LDL Receptor; in this setting, delivery with standard LNPs doesn't work



### Normal liver

### Heterozygous FH (HeFH)

### Homozygous FH (HoFH)



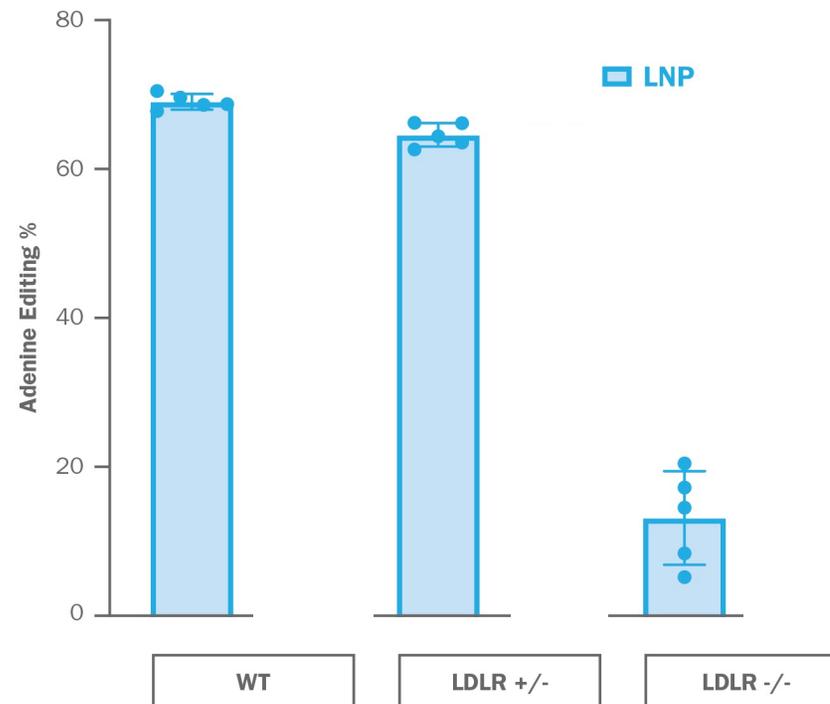
Y LDL Receptor

⊙ Lipid nanoparticle (LNP)

~ mRNA

~ gRNA

# In mouse models of FH, standard LNPs deliver fine to HeFH mice but fail to deliver to HoFH (*Ldlr* $-/-$ ) mice

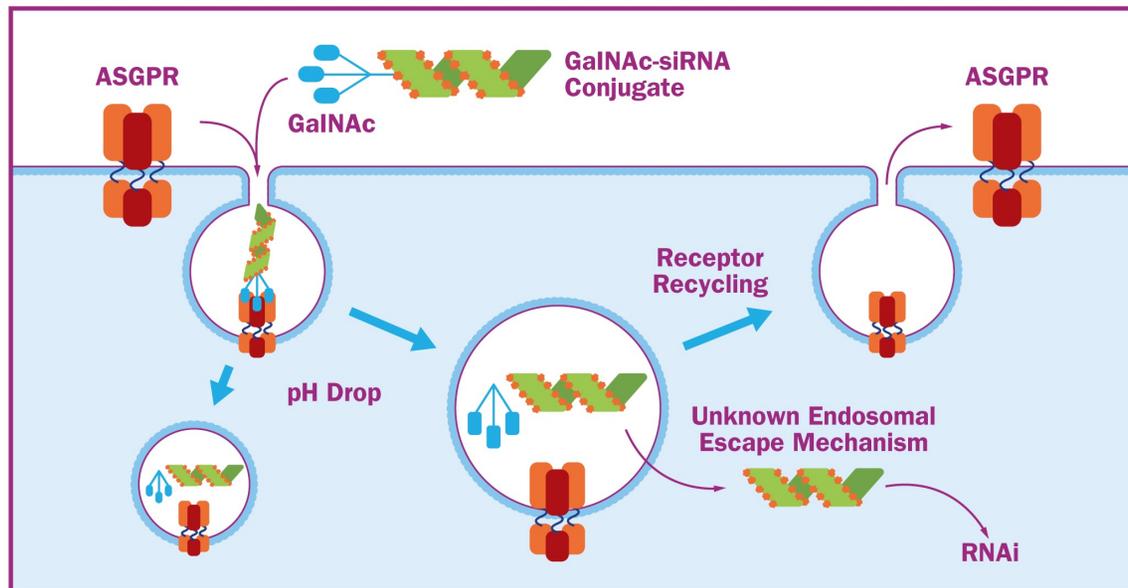


# Goal: an LNP delivery system that would enable ANGPTL3 editing in both patients with HeFH and HoFH



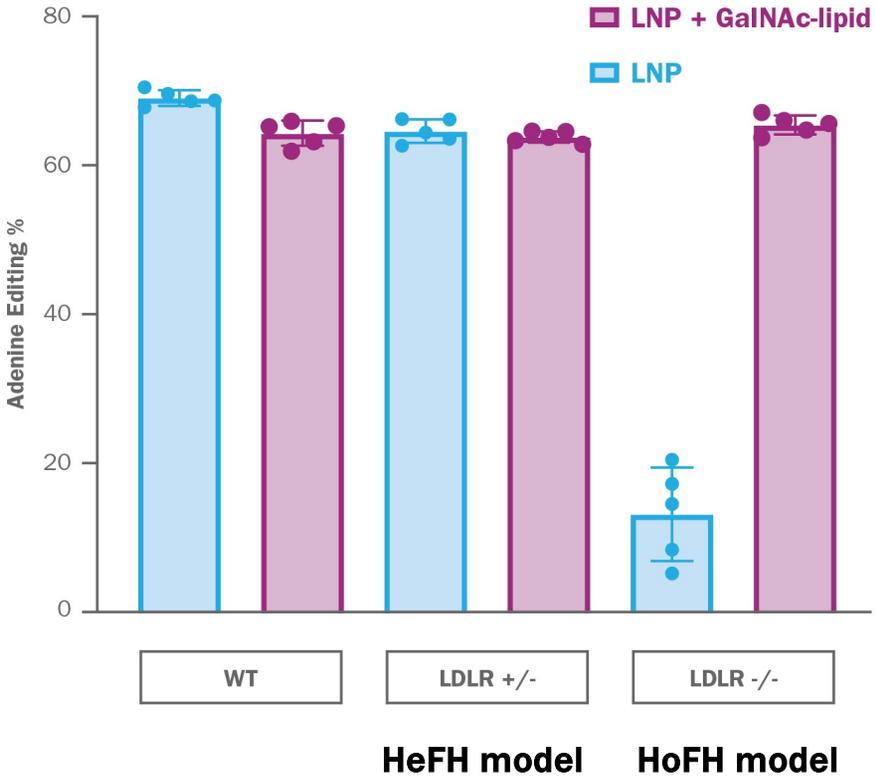
PROGRAM	INITIAL INDICATION	DEVELOPMENT STATUS			
		Research/ Lead optimization	IND-Enabling	Clinical	Development Milestones
<b>Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C)</b>					
<b>VERVE-101</b> <b>ABE-PCSK9</b>	Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IND Submission (2022)</li> <li>• Phase 1 Initiation (2022)</li> </ul>
<b>LDL-C and triglyceride-rich lipoprotein (TRL)</b>					
<b>ANGPTL3</b>	Familial hypercholesterolemia				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidate selection (2022)</li> <li>• Begin IND-enabling studies (2022)</li> </ul>

# Liver-specific ASGPR is an alternative receptor for entry into hepatocytes using a GalNAc ligand



Adapted from Springer and Dowdy, *Nucleic Acid Therapeutics* 2018, 28, 109

# Verve solution: ASGPR targeting proprietary GalNAc ligand that, when added to LNP, enables liver delivery in HoFH mouse model



Editing data are from analyses of liver necropsy specimens at 1 week



**Will GalNAc-LNP  
efficacy translate to  
larger animal models  
such as NHP?**

## Two proprietary GalNAc-LNPs created at Verve

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**LNP 1**

Ionizable lipid 1 + GalNAc-lipid LNP

**LNP 2**

Ionizable lipid 2 + GalNAc-lipid LNP

## Drug development problem: need for an NHP model of HoFH

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Translation of LNP delivery from mouse to human has historically been poor

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Will GalNAc-LNPs truly bypass LDLR in primates and humans?

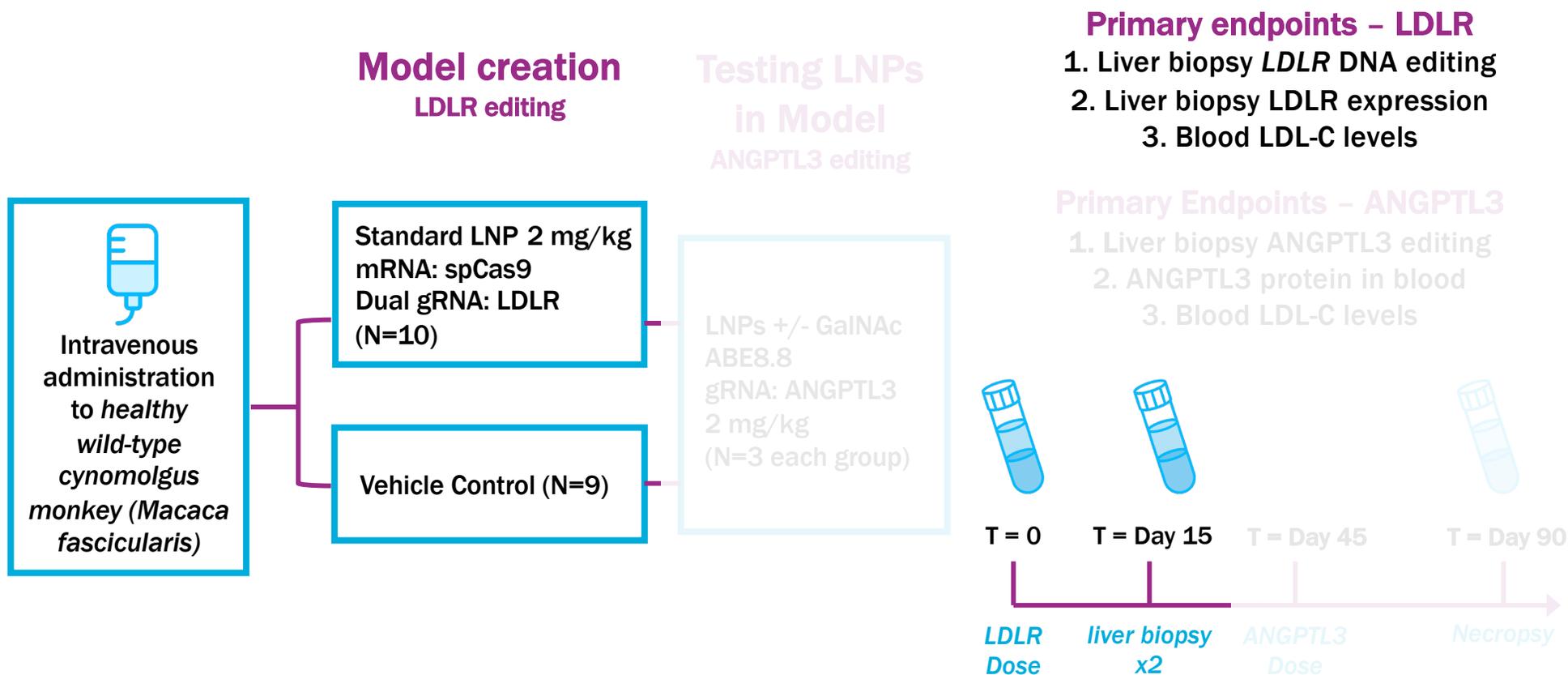
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Need a model of HoFH in NHP to evaluate if ANGPTL3 drug candidates are likely to allow delivery to HoFH patients (as well as HeFH)

## Creation of a HoFH model in NHP through liver editing

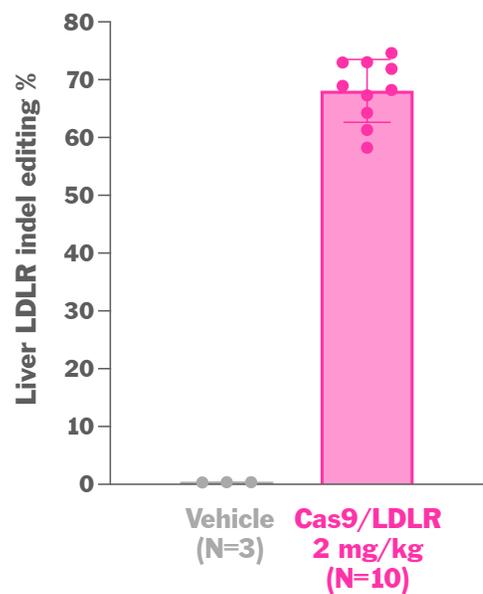
-  Eliminate LDLR protein expression just from the liver by targeted editing of the *LDLR* gene in hepatocytes
-  Use Cas9 and a dual gRNA strategy, encapsulated in LNPs that deliver to the liver, in wild-type NHPs to delete a ~50 bp portion of the LDLR gene and efficiently disrupt LDLR protein expression just in the liver

# Creating a model of HoFH in NHP



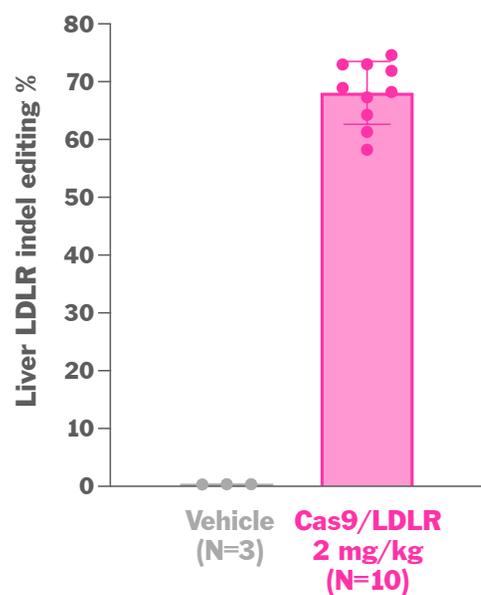
# Efficient disruption of LDLR gene in NHP liver

Liver LDLR editing %  
(indel creation) in liver biopsy

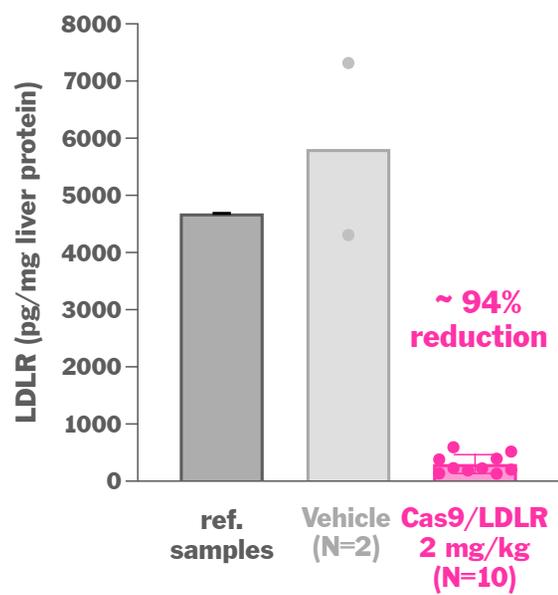


# Liver editing disrupts LDLR gene: 94% reduction in LDLR protein

**Liver LDLR editing %  
(indel creation) in liver biopsy**

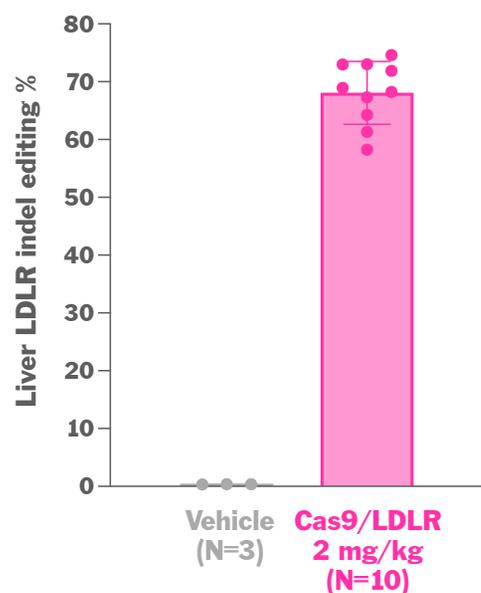


**Liver LDLR expression by  
protein ELISA on liver biopsy**

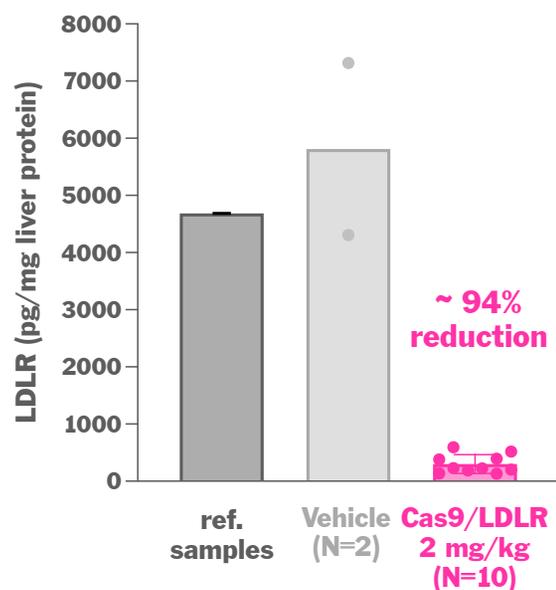


# Liver editing disrupts LDLR gene: blood LDL-C rises six-fold

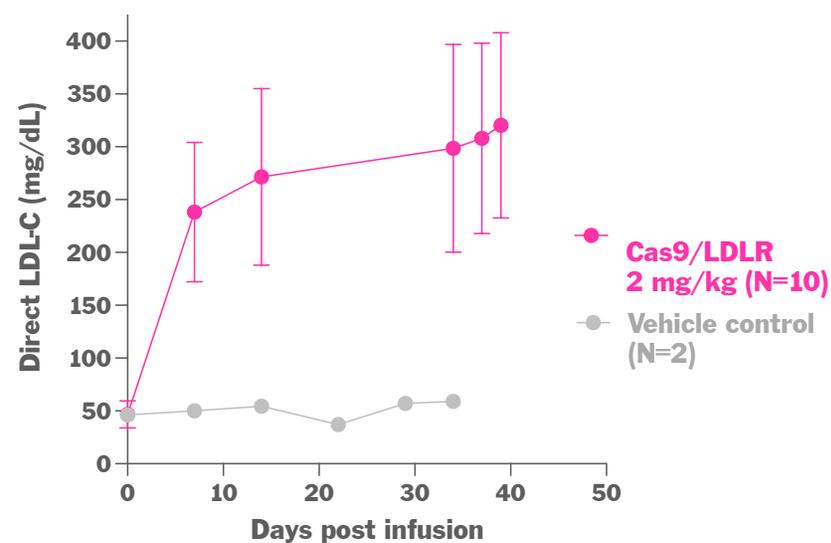
**Liver LDLR editing %  
(indel creation) in liver biopsy**



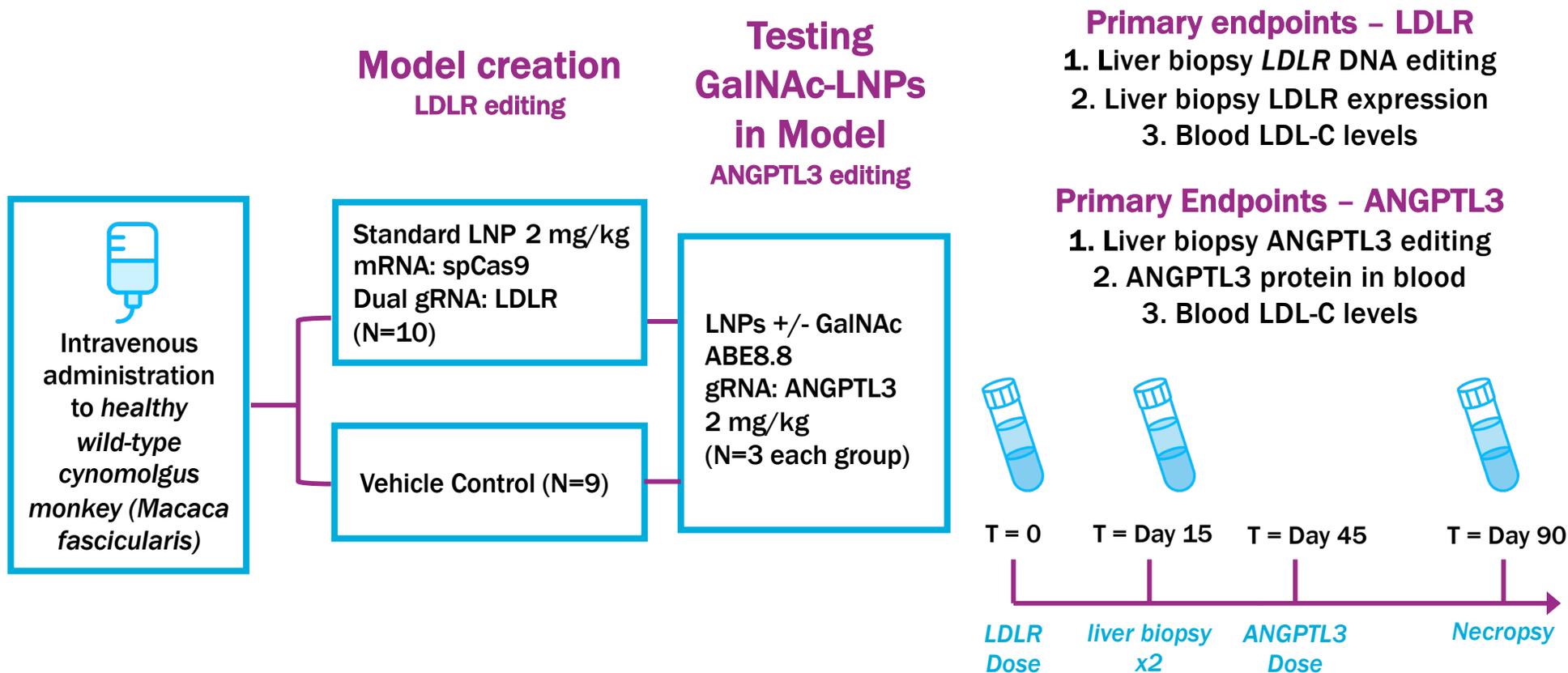
**Liver LDLR expression by  
protein ELISA on liver biopsy**



**LDL-C rises from ~50 mg/dL  
to more than 300 mg/dL**



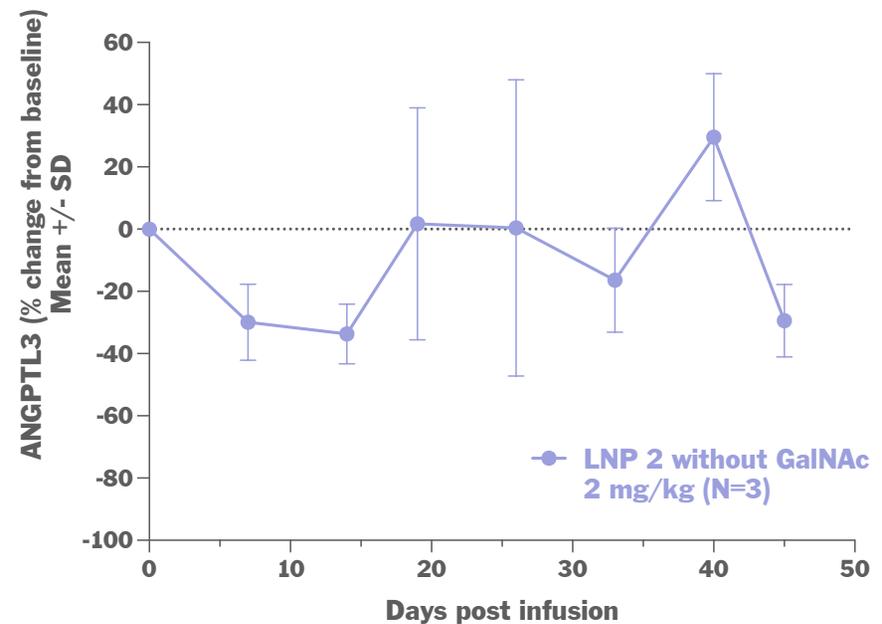
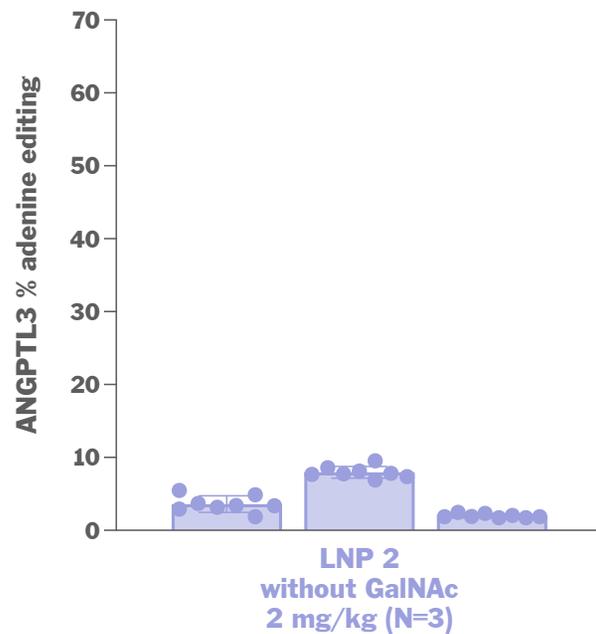
# Testing GalNAc-LNPs in a model of HoFH in NHP



# Standard LNPs (without GalNAc) do not achieve effective ANGPTL3 base editing in the liver of the HoFH NHPs



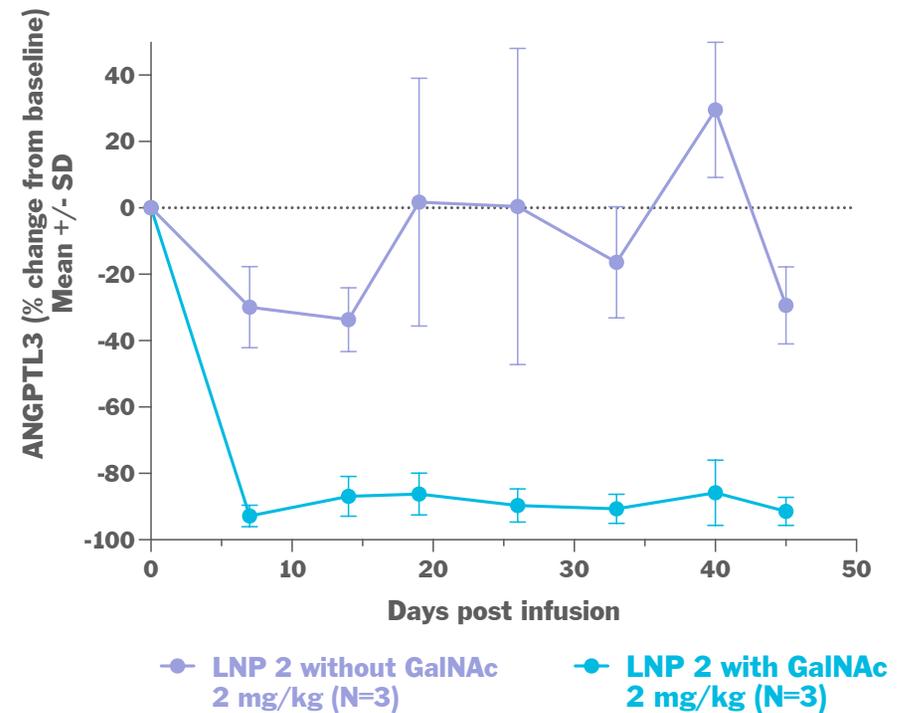
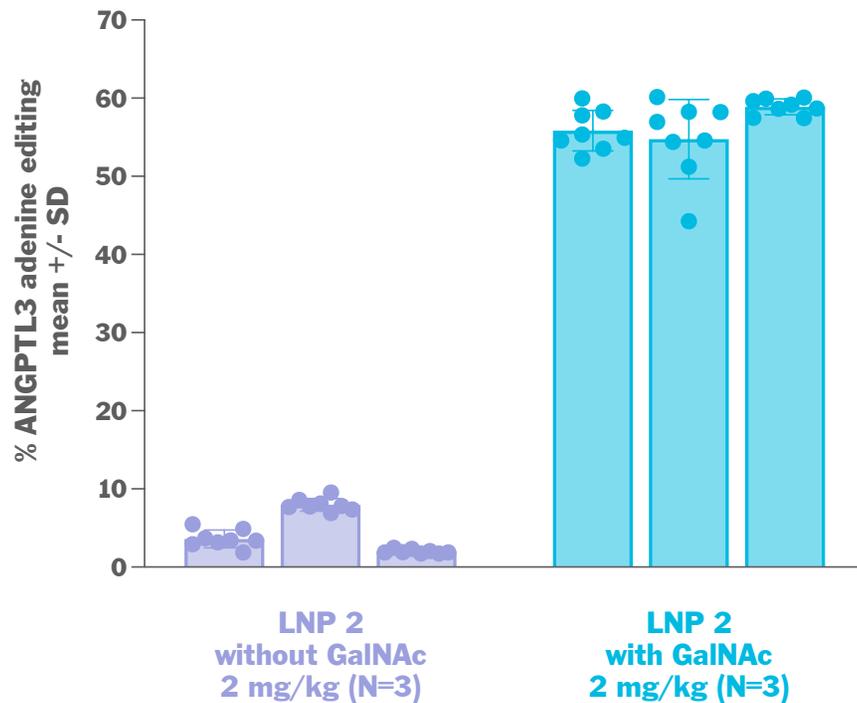
## Standard LNP in HoFH NHP model



# Verve's GalNAc-LNP achieves effective ANGPTL3 base editing in the HoFH NHP liver



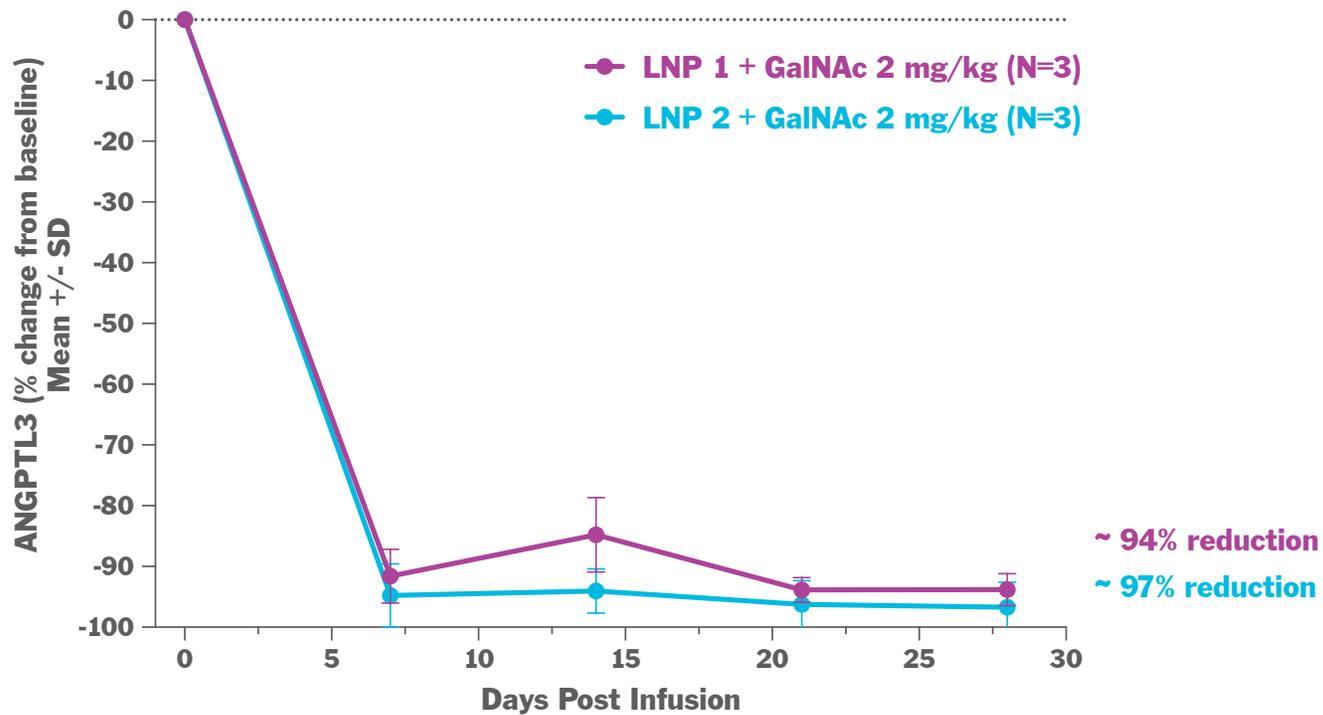
## GalNAc-targeting bypasses LDLR and achieves liver editing



# Base editing of ANGPTL3 via GalNAc-LNPs reduces blood ANGPTL3 by 94% - 97% in NHP model of HoFH



GalNAc LNPs (encapsulating ABE-ANGPTL3 base editing payload) dosed to HoFH NHPs that already have stable disruption of LDLR protein and markedly elevated LDL-C

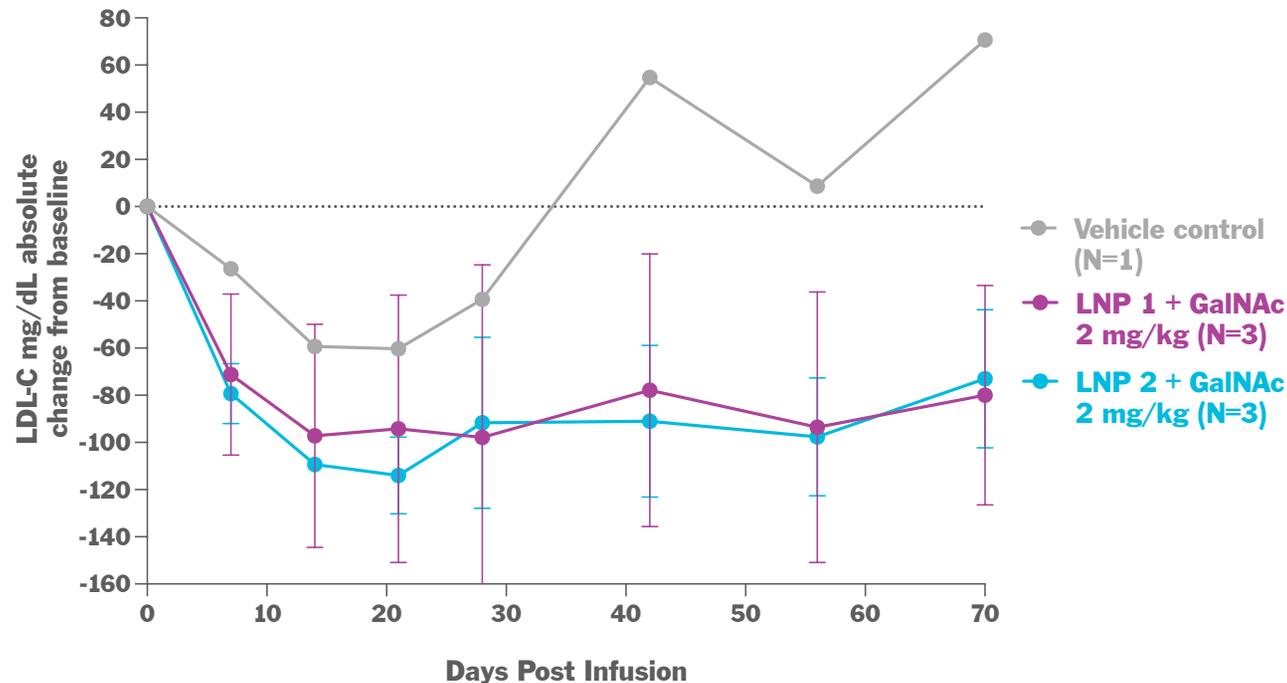


# Base editing of ANGPTL3 via GalNAc-LNPs reduces blood LDL-C in NHP model of HoFH



GalNAc LNPs (encapsulating ABE-ANGPTL3 base editing payload) dosed to HoFH NHPs that already have stable disruption of LDLR protein and markedly elevated LDL-C ~ 300 mg/dL

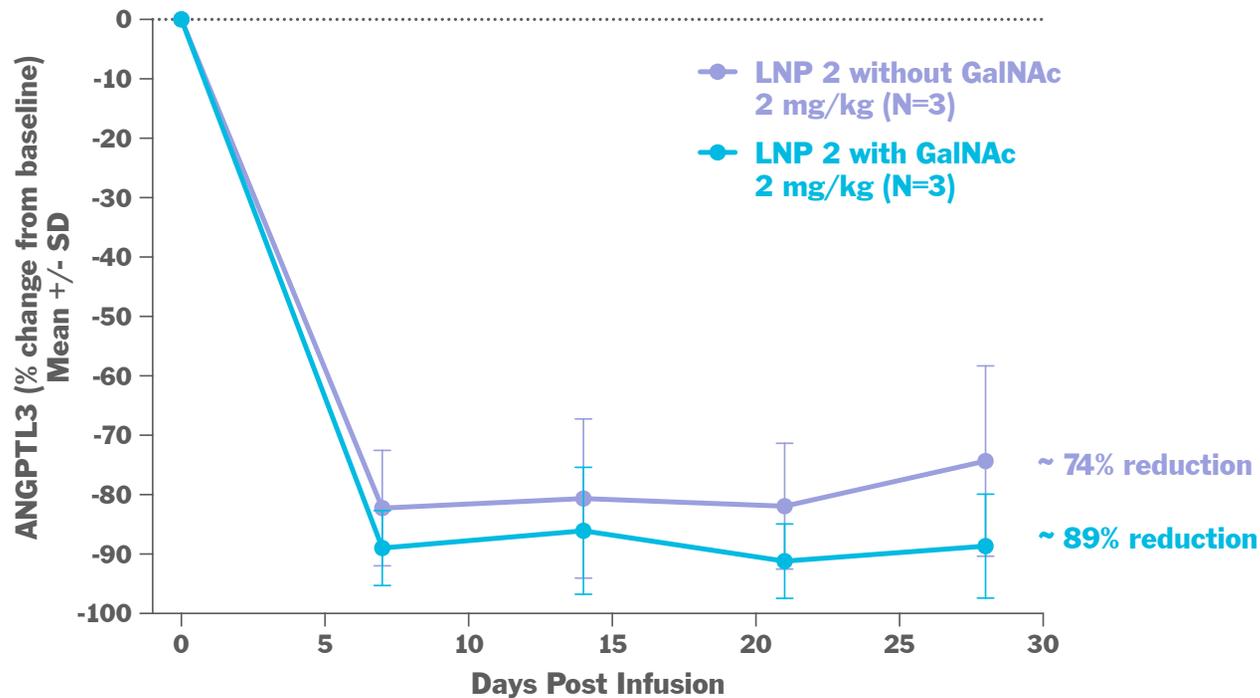
Baseline direct LDL-C ~ 300 mg/dL at time of test article dosing to HoFH NHPs



# Is there relevance of the GalNAc-LNP delivery system to normal liver? Yes, may have improved potency when compared to standard LNPs



Wild-type NHPs administered the same LNP with and without inclusion of GalNAc-lipid



Large confirmatory dose-response studies in wild-type NHPs are ongoing

# GalNAc-LNP delivery system will enable ANGPTL3 editing in both patients with HeFH and HoFH



Presented today



- **Creation of an NHP model that recapitulates two key features of homozygous FH**
  - Liver deficiency of LDLR to model uptake of LNPs in HoFH
  - Marked hyperlipidemia to model circulating lipids and how that might impact LNP uptake by the liver
- **Demonstration that GalNAc LNPs enable highly efficient delivery and ANGPTL3 editing in the liver of the HoFH model in NHP**

Next steps



- **Evaluation of dose response of GalNAc-LNPs as compared with standard non-GalNAc LNPs in wild-type NHP and mouse disease models**
- **Biodistribution and PK studies**
- **IND-enabling studies planned to initiate in 2022**



# Thank you to our world-class team of problem solvers

